

Relevance of INDCs for the 2015 Agreement



CLIMATE CHANGE MONITORING AND EVALUATION TEAM



environmental affairs

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Evolution of INDCs

Evolution

Process

Scope

Timing of the formalization / finalisation of INDCs and their assessment

Mitigation component of the INDCs

Broad views on treatment of Adaptation component in the INDCs

Progress of our understanding of INDCs

Needed progress of our understanding of INDCs

Evolution of INDCs

At COP 17 held in Durban, South Africa in 2011, Parties decided that work must immediately start on the development of a new global climate change treaty to be signed no later than 2015.

To facilitate the process, a new Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was established.

The term Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) was put forward in 2013 at the COP 19 in Warsaw.

Disagreements between Parties on the responsibility for reducing emissions resulted in the word 'commitment' used in previous negotiations to be replaced by 'contributions'.

Process of INDCs

It is expected that Parties will present a draft of their INDCs during COP 20 in Lima, Peru in 2014 – upfront information (UFI).

Communication of INDCs by the first quarter of 2015 (by 31 March) - for Parties in a position to do so.

Communicate no later than May 2015, if INDCs are going to be part of the 2015 Agreement

The INDCs will formally be part of the new global climate change agreement in Paris 2015.

Scope of INDCs

General Positions

Developed countries propose that the INDCs focus on:
must

- Mitigation actions
- Have robust transparency and MRV mechanisms
- All parties including developing countries should commit to emission reduction targets.

Several developing countries propose that INDCs should include:

- mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building as well as transparency of actions and support.

Timing of the formalization / finalisation of INDCs and their assessment

Broadly, two views:

- One view: formalization and finalisation become one step and this step should happen in 2015;
- The assessment would also happen in 2015

- Another view: formalization to take place in 2015, so that INDCs are part of the 2015 Agreement
- Finalization (for example, inscription in a Protocol) could happen in 2016.
- The assessment would happen in 2016

Mitigation element of INDCs

Despite the a general lack of clarity and understanding of what constitutes an INDC – many countries are beginning to understand that the INDCs should include a country's contribution towards a global mitigation goal

Global mitigation goal can be framed as a reduced growth in GHG emissions for both developed and developing countries.

The expert community is struggling to define what contributions towards a global GHG mitigation goal.

Mitigation elements of the INDCs

OPTIONS:

National goals:

These are economy wide or sectoral commitments to reduce or limit the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, or emissions intensity, by a defined amount and timeline.

National goals are broadly defined in two categories:

○ Firstly, the reductions or control in the increase of emissions by a certain quantity, relative to a baseline, relative to a base year, or by a fixed amount.

○ Secondly, they can also be reductions or control in the increase of emissions intensity, i.e., emissions per unit of another variable, typically GDP

Policies: These can be regulations, standards, taxes, charges, subsidies or incentives that will contribute to mitigation.

Projects: These may be large or small-scale projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Broad views on treatment of Adaptation in the INDCs

The importance of adaptation is stressed by almost all Parties

Some Parties highlight the need to balance mitigation and adaptation in the INDCs, especially when adaptation is a country's main priority.

Some Parties are calling for a distinction (separation) between

- the legally binding agreement as a whole and
- the INDCs as one part of this whole

And, to this end, are calling for further consideration on where Adaptation would best fit into the 2015 Agreement.

Progress of our understanding of INDCs

Climate change is a development issue for all countries.

An understanding is emerging that the INDCs should include a country's contribution to the global GHG emission goal

INDCs should vary according to national circumstances

INDCs should be consistent with and existing and on-going initiatives to reduce GHG emissions.

The concept of INDCs will be used to operationalize and quantify each country's action/response to the global climate change

INDCs should contribute towards a robust and ambitious international agreement on climate change.

Needed progress of our understanding of INDCs

How to make INDCs to be transformative at national and international level?

How to better understand the overall effect of INDCs?

How do we improve our approaches of understanding the 2° C global temperature goal – mitigation contribution also determines how much adaptation is needed

Some of the key issues of contestation

Some of the key issues of contestation:

- scope of INDCs - broadly: only mitigation vs mitigation-adaptation-support.
- Formalisation of INDCs – “when does the “C” return to mean “commitment/target”
- Another contentious issue was assessment.
 - Assessment is critical in comparing contributions – whether they add up to enough, and whether relative efforts are fair.
 - Assessment relates not only to numbers put forward, but also to rules.



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