

## UNDP's Climate Promise Update Report as of April 2020

### BACKGROUND

Formally launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019, UNDP's Climate Promise supports over 100 countries to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Delivered in collaboration with a wide variety of partners, the Climate Promise is the world's largest offer of support for the enhancement of climate pledges.

While climate change impacts pose a risk for everyone and threaten to roll back decades of sustainable development gains, the poorest, marginalized and most vulnerable populations are disproportionately burdened. UNDP advocates for an inclusive approach to ensure ownership of climate actions across government and society, advance equality, and strengthen social and environmental sustainability.

UNDP is leveraging its extensive climate change portfolio, its Country Office network and global policy services to provide thematic technical support to countries and ensure that NDCs are fully aligned with national sustainable development priorities. The five service lines defined under UNDP's Climate Promise respond to major areas of demand from developing countries and can be tailored and scaled up for maximum impact to fit specific country needs.

### STATUS

**UNDP is currently engaged with 110 Governments<sup>i</sup>**, to support NDC enhancement under the Climate Promise. This includes 36 LDCs, 27 SIDS and 13 high-emitters

### COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

With support from the governments of **Sweden, Germany, Italy, the European Union, Spain**, and others, UNDP ensures its NDC enhancement support is complementary to, and leverages the mandates, comparative advantages and skillsets of a wide range of strategic partners. The Climate Promise is UNDP's direct contribution to the **NDC Partnership** and its **Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)** initiative. UNDP also collaborates with several key partners including **IRENA** on renewable energy, **FAO** on agriculture and land-use, **UNEP** on energy, nature-based solutions and resource efficiency, **UNICEF** on youth engagement, resilience and social protection, **UN-HABIAT** on urban/cities and local government, and the **World Bank** on adaptation, as well as with a global roster of climate change experts.

## I. April Executive Summary

**As of April 2020, four Climate Promise countries have submitted their updated NDCs to the UNFCCC. All four demonstrated significant enhancement compared to their first NDC.** These include Ecuador and Suriname which were submitted in 2019, and most recently Moldova and Chile who submitted in March and April 2020, respectively. UNDP provided comprehensive support in Ecuador, Moldova and Chile, and provided targeted contributions on adaptation and forestry in Suriname.

Almost all countries have indicated that the COVID-19 crisis will have a direct impact on their NDC enhancement process and the delivery of the Climate Promise activities. About half of all Climate Promise activities will be impacted, with only a low 1% of activities cancelled. Most postponed activities are related to key assessments and studies (26%), and key stakeholder engagements (20%).

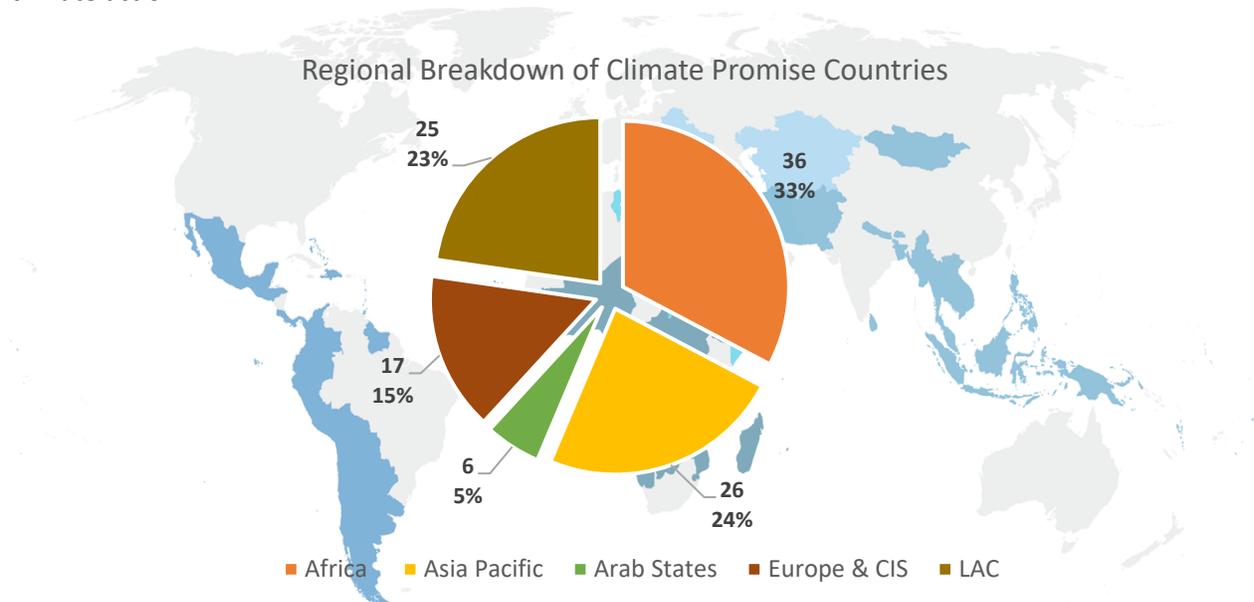
COVID-19 has led to the postponement of many planned NDC submission dates, but, as of April, most countries still aim to submit their enhanced NDC by the end of 2020. About a half of Climate Promise countries indicated a postponement between one and six months. Only 19 countries indicated a postponed submission until 2021 (one high-emitter, nine SIDS and six LDCs). Two countries will also submit earlier than originally planned.

UNDP continues to work with partners, including UNEP (energy, adaptation, resource efficiency, forestry and nature-based solutions), FAO (adaptation, forestry), IRENA (energy), UNICEF (youth and social protection), World Bank (adaptation), UN-HABITAT (local and regional governance, cities), and WHO (health) to deliver targeted technical support to countries. Close collaboration continues with the NDC Partnership, including sharing perspectives and data on the impacts of COVID-19 on NDC enhancement. In addition, the AOSIS Placencia Ambition Forum and joint events on Earth Day provided an important opportunity to work with partners to promote continued momentum for ambitious NDCs.

Given the COVID-19 crisis, key areas of work have been identified to support the alignment of NDC enhancement with response and recovery efforts. This work is embedded in UNDP's overall leadership on the socio-economic assessments and integrated development elements of the UN System's coordinated COVID-19 support to countries

## II. Climate Promise at a Glance

Overall numbers remain consistent, UNDP is working with **110 countries** to support enhancement of their NDCs. This includes **36 LDCs, 27 SIDS, 13 high-emitters**. Out of this total, **58 countries** are engaged in rolling out [Mission 1.5](#), an online gaming platform to encourage citizen engagement and robust, inclusive climate action.



## SUBMISSION OF ENHANCED NDC

**Four countries have submitted their enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC.** These include Ecuador, Suriname, Moldova, and Chile. UNDP played a major role in the submission of the **Ecuador's** enhanced NDC in 2019 thanks to the support provided under UNDP's global [NDC Support Programme](#). For **Suriname**, IADB was the lead institution supporting the revision process with contributions from other partners. **Moldova** was the first country supported in 2020 under the Climate Promise to have successfully submitted an enhanced and more ambitious NDC to the UNFCCC, primarily with support through the [EU4Climate](#) initiative. **Chile** shortly followed, submitting its enhanced NDC in April with UNDP's support under the NDC Support Programme, the CAEP, and other initiatives (see further information below). The recent submissions demonstrate the importance and power of collaborative approaches, whereby multiple partners and initiatives work together towards the same end result, in a country-driven manner.

### COUNTRY SNAPSHOT: CHILE

In its NDC revision **Chile** reaffirmed its commitment to the Paris Agreement by significantly increasing its ambition. While the initial goal of 30% emission reductions is maintained in the second NDC, Chile commits to a GHG emission budget not exceeding 1,100 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq between 2020 and 2030, with a GHG emissions maximum (peak) by 2025. In addition, Chile included actions that help reach this ambitious goal: reduce total black carbon emissions by at least 25% by 2030; double the number of hectares in the LULUCF sector (200k ha for reforestation, 200K ha for sustainable management) and reduce emissions from the forestry sector 25% by 2030 through reducing degradation and deforestation of the native forest. Chile has also included 8 commitments on adaptation related to capacity building, development of the national adaptation plan, adaptation plans for 11 prioritized sectors, and information management and monitoring mechanisms.



### REGIONAL SNAPSHOT: PARTNERSHIPS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

The Climate Promise is supporting NDC enhancement processes in eight Pacific Island Countries (PICs). To explore synergies, maximize impact and avoid duplication, UNDP is closely working with other partners including the Pacific NDC Hub member organizations (GIZ, GGGI, SPC and SPREP), the NDC Partnership and IRENA to coordinate and align NDC enhancement activities in PICs. Countries are actively taking ownership over the entire process and directing the various partners in a coordinated manner. For example, **Tonga** has already coordinated the planning phase of its NDC enhancement process, which includes the design of activities and requests for support, and are discussing with partners to further define support. As a result, Tonga was able to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan for revising/enhancing its NDC that includes a detailed scope of work for each implementing partner that aligns with Tonga's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

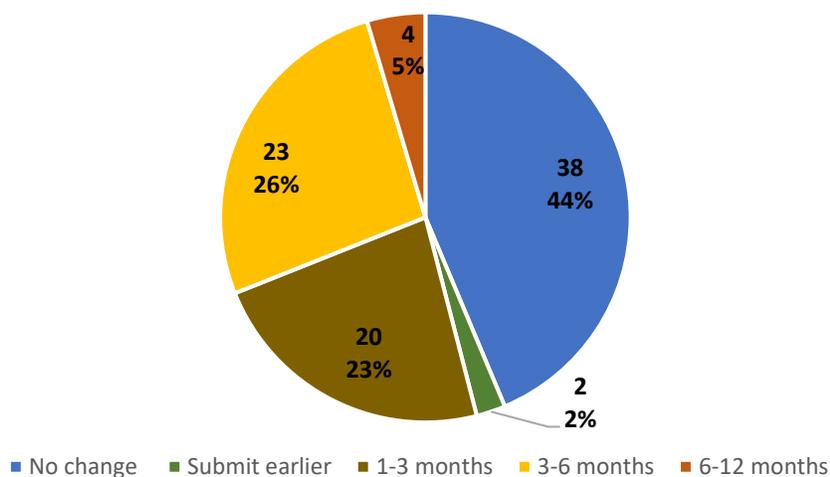
Beyond coordinating the assistance provided and sharing information, these partnerships are opening up new opportunities for future cooperation.

### III. The impact of COVID-19 on NDC enhancement

#### GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NDC SUBMISSION DATES

Eighty-three countries have communicated the impact of COVID-19 on their NDC submission dates. **About half of these countries indicate an intention to postpone submission, but not drastically, with most countries aiming to have their enhanced NDCs submitted in 2020.** As illustrated in the pie chart, a total of 43 countries have indicated a delay in submission (most between 1 and 6 months), 38 countries have re-committed to their original timelines, and 2 countries will submit earlier than originally planned.

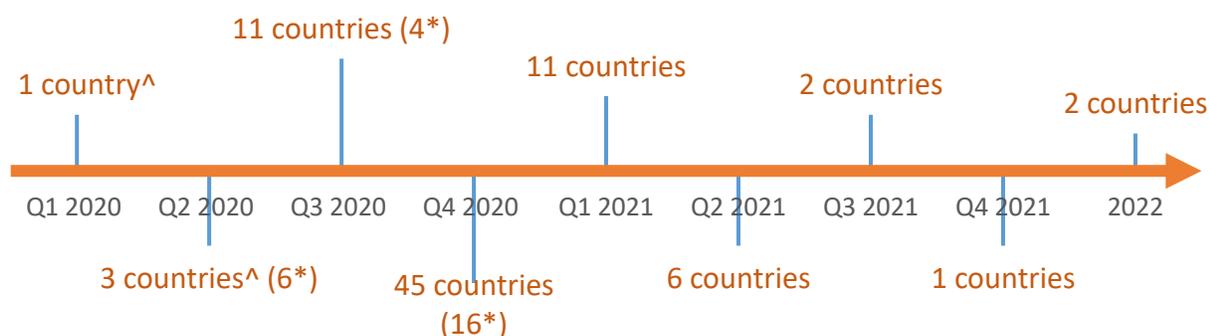
Global - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



Implication of change of submission dates on overall timeline of submission

Category (as of May 2020)	No. of countries
Expediting submission	2
Delayed submission, still intend to submit in 2020	26
Delayed submission, to 2021	19

Overall Indicative NDC submission timeline as of April 2020



Total of 107 countries (Ecuador and Suriname submitted in 2019; Turkey is not applicable)

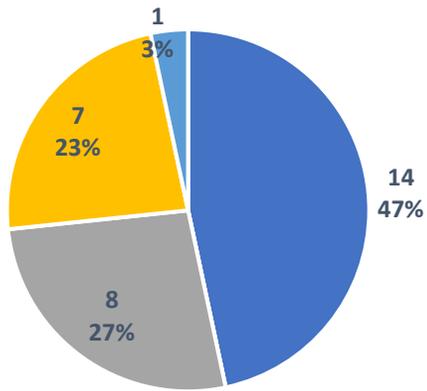
Note: <sup>^</sup> include countries that have submitted in 2020 - Q1: Moldova; Q2: Chile

\* number of additional countries that indicate this submission date but have not yet confirmed impacts of COVID-19

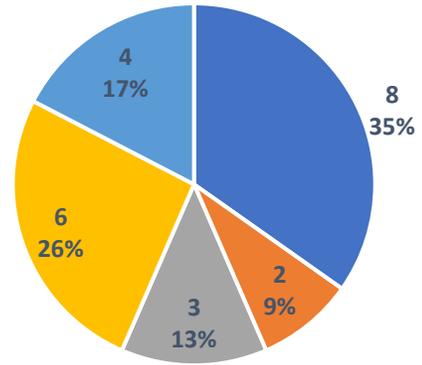
## COUNTRY GROUP ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NDC SUBMISSION DATES

■ No change ■ Submit earlier ■ 1-3 months ■ 3-6 months ■ 6-12 months

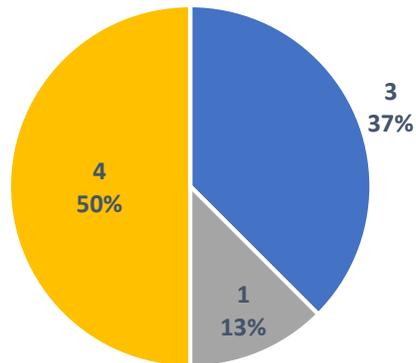
LDCs - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



SIDS - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



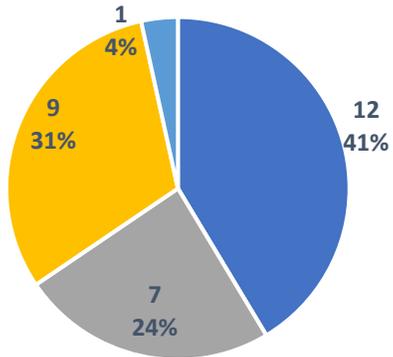
High Emitters - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



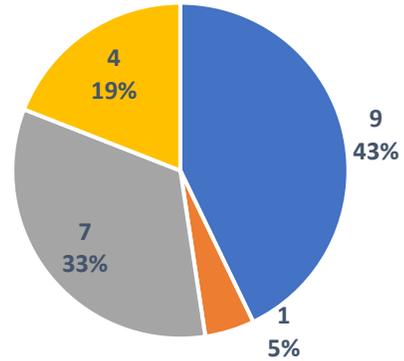
## REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NDC SUBMISSION DATES

■ No change   
 ■ Submit earlier   
 ■ 1-3 months   
 ■ 3-6 months   
 ■ 6-12 months

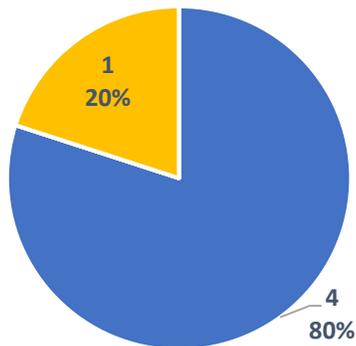
**Africa** - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



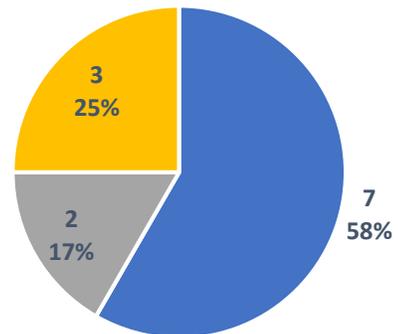
**Asia and Pacific** - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



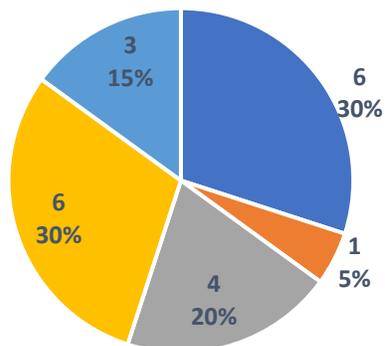
**Arab States** - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



**Europe and Central Asia** - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19

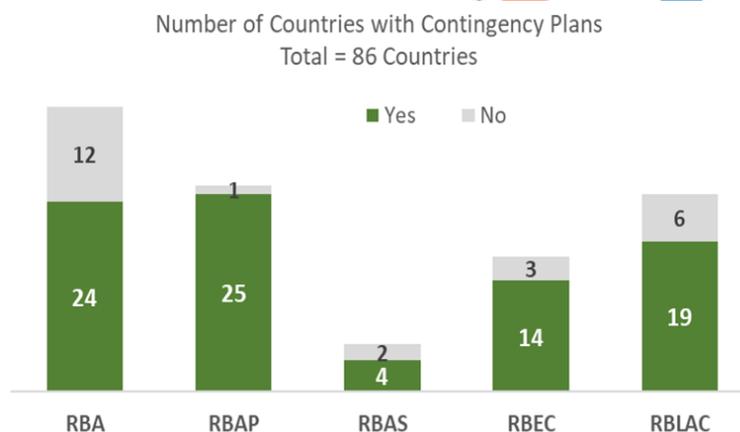


**Latin America and the Caribbean** - Change in submission dates due to COVID-19



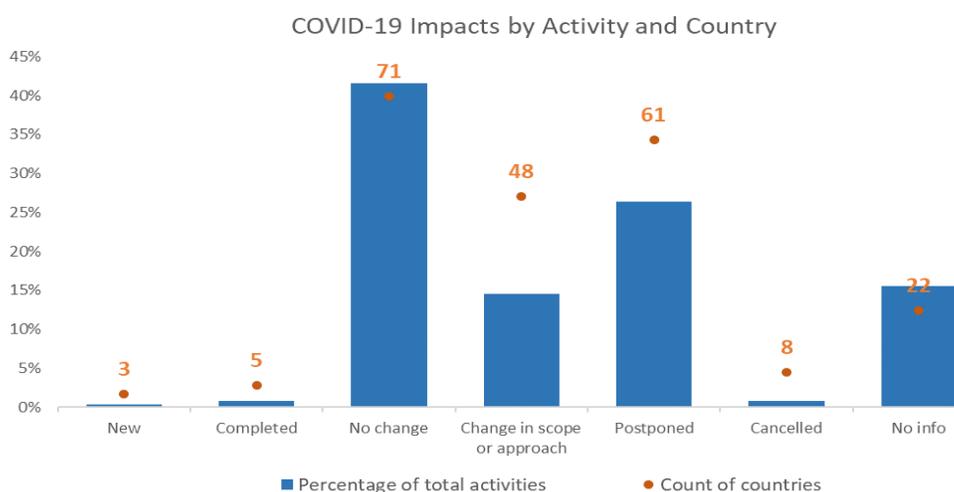
## ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN WORKPLANS:

Detailed country-by-country contingency planning is being undertaken in all countries to identify specific adjustments and put in place strategies to maintain momentum on NDCs in the context of the immediate COVID-19 response. Of all Climate Promise countries, **86 countries have submitted their contingency plans** which provide information on the impact of COVID-19 on plans for each activity.



## GLOBAL OVERVIEW

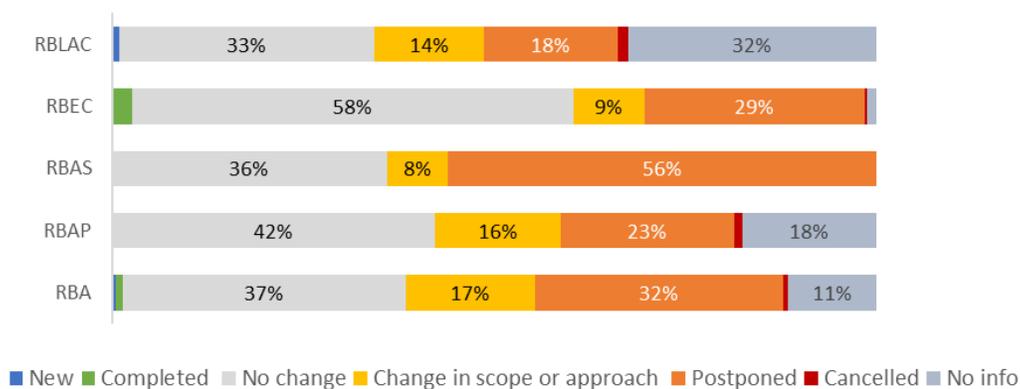
**Almost all countries have indicated that the COVID-19 crisis will have a direct impact on their NDC enhancement process and the delivery of the Climate Promise, with the exception of 6 countries.** Half of all activities to be implemented across the 86 countries are impacted, with 26% postponed, 15% adjusted in terms of scope and approach, and 1% cancelled (see figure below). Most postponed activities are related to key assessments and studies (26%), and key stakeholder engagements (20%). This is partially due to the delay of recruitment process for consultants, the difficulty of travel for delivering international support, and the challenges of conducting in-person consultations during the pandemic.



In response to these challenges, many countries will change the scope or approach of the activities. Out of 86 countries, 33 countries have plans to conduct virtual consultations or seek virtual technical support from international/local consultants. Only 7 countries plan to reduce the scope of their workplan, for example changing consultations to smaller groups, with only one country reducing the number of sectors addressed. Several countries will expand the sectoral coverage or add new activities, primarily due to reallocation of funds due to COVID-19 induced changes. For example, one country is planning to add a new activity on a gender analysis with new funds available, and another will now broaden the scope of an existing study on electric vehicles to be a more holistic approach to low emission vehicle roadmaps.

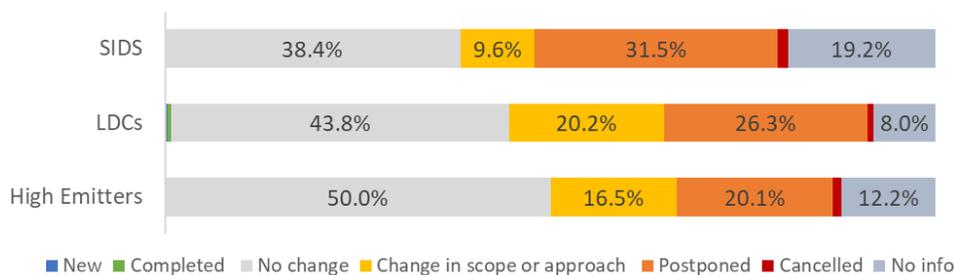
## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

COVID-19 impacts by Region



## COUNTRY GROUP ANALYSIS

COVID-19 impacts by Country Group



## ANALYSIS BY COUNTRY GROUP:

### 1. HIGH-EMITTERS

A total of **11 High emitters have submitted contingency plans** to date. More than a third of activities will be delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis. However, most countries are still committed to submitting in 2020, with three countries maintaining their original submission dates in Oct/Nov and others delaying but ensuring submission by end of 2020. Only one country has pushed their submission date from Nov. 2020 to Apr. 2021. In some countries, the COVID-19 crisis has led to an expanded scope of work to support strengthened resilience and promote sustainability. For example, in one country the government is now requesting support for updating the adaptation component of the NDC; while in another there is a shift in the planned economic analysis to look at fiscal mechanisms that can help to stimulate the economy.

## IRAQ'S VIRTUAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK



Despite the emerging COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting movement restrictions, the Government of **Iraq**, in cooperation with UNDP, convened a virtual NDC enhancement inception workshop on 16 April 2020. National stakeholders and key partners including representatives from the private sector and CSOs discussed the initial revised draft of the NDC and agreed on ways to strengthen the approach for NDC enhancement, building on the Government's decision to move the process forward. Momentum continues despite the challenging situation and multidimensional risks that Iraq faces,

including those increasingly triggered by the converging forces of climate change and protracted conflict.

Notably, a diversity of stakeholders were represented, with 40% of participants being women from various sectors. The virtual workshop discussed the co-benefits of raising NDC adaptation and mitigation ambition, including energy security, green jobs, economic diversification and transition towards climate-resilient and low-carbon development. The workshop helped to set up a roadmap for the entire NDC enhancement process. Additionally, one of the major outcomes of the virtual workshop was to incorporate comments by stakeholders into the initial revised NDC draft for review by National NDC Committee.

Given its success, the Government is exploring ways to scale up this experience. It was agreed that follow-up virtual workshops will be convened over the next 6 months to validate and enhance the next revised versions of the NDC before finalization for Cabinet approval by end of 2020.

## 2. SIDS

Of the 27 SIDS supported under the Climate Promise, **22 have developed COVID-19 contingency plans**. Several Pacific SIDS are currently recovering from Tropical Cyclone Harold and have placed workplans on hold. Caribbean SIDS are also now preparing for the upcoming hurricane season. In the Pacific, responding to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, support is being pursued through national and/or regional capacity hired to help implement activities, support data collection and facilitate stakeholder workshops. Activities requiring international consultants, including desk work and technical reviews are expected to be carried out remotely while securing adequate means for virtual consultations and data sharing. However, despite setbacks, the majority of SIDS remain determined and aim for a 2020 submission date. Two countries indicated that they will submit earlier than their original dates. Only 9 out of the 22 countries providing information indicate a 2021 submission date.

## VIRTUAL PLACENCIA AMBITION FORUM (20-22 APRIL)

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) hosted the virtual [Placencia Ambition Forum](#), which encouraged climate action and ambition of NDCs in the context of the current pandemic.



The outcomes of the Forum highlight key priorities for the group:

- 1 A call for ambitious, detailed, new or updated NDCs
- 2 New finance commitments that deliver on support and that reflect ambition for 1.5°C and long-term finance goal discussions at COP 26
- 3 Enhanced action in the near-term to protect the vulnerable

See a summary of the forum [here](#).

## 3. LDCS

Of the 36 LDCs, only **25 have developed contingency plans**. Nearly half of all activities under the Promise are being impacted by the COVID-19 crisis with close to a third postponing their activities until the situation improves. As a result, about 25% of countries have pushed their submission timeline to 2021.

### THE CHAIR OF THE LDC GROUP'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON NDC ENHANCEMENT AND SUBMISSION:

*Interview with Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi, Secretary of the National Environment Commission of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Chair of the LDC Group under UNFCCC*



Despite facing challenges during COVID-19, Mr. Sonam emphasized that many LDCs are committed to keeping the momentum on climate action and continuing their NDC and National Adaptation Plan preparation work. He indicated that some LDC countries have shifted to virtual engagement with experts, consultants, and stakeholders, benefiting from good connectivity infrastructure. LDCs also see an urgent need to address capacity constraints such as difficulty accessing finance and limited availability of in-country experts. The Chair called on international agencies and donors to simplify the process of funding approval and disbursement, and more flexible project management to ensure minimum disruption during the pandemic. As Governments are making plans for recovery, Mr. Sonam identified the importance of encouraging industrial decarbonization and mainstreaming sustainable climate-resilient investment. *(Full interview to be published shortly)*



## IV. Looking Forward - opportunities for support and collaboration

The evolving COVID-19 crisis continues to shape the support and direction of the Climate Promise. Looking ahead, key areas of work are being prioritized to advance opportunities for linking the Climate Promise and support for NDC enhancement to the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. In particular:

- **NDCs, Long-Term Strategies and COVID-19 Recovery**: Building on the experiences and information generated under the Climate Promise, policy papers are being developed that examine the role of NDCs in COVID-19 response and recovery. The papers explore the specific political, technical and financial “on ramps” for NDCs and LTS’ to inform recovery packages and will be used to provide countries guidance and policy recommendations to “build back better”. Entry points within the Climate Promise are also being identified for where best to apply this guidance and test approaches.
- **Socio-economic assessments of COVID-19 recovery efforts**: Given UNDP’s leading role within the UN system on supporting the socio-economic element of COVID-19 recovery, UNDP is working to ensure that the NDC enhancement process is integrated and aligned with socio-economic assessments. This includes contributing to UNDP’s socio-economic response framework, including indicators for UNDP’s COVID-19 response and supporting countries with analyses on the impact potential of climate-sensitive jobs packages and greened stimulus packages.



i

**AFRICA (36)**

- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Central African Republic
- Comoros
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (26)**

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Cook Islands
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Kiribati
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Niue
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Tonga
- Vanuatu
- Vietnam

**EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (17)**

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- North Macedonia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (25)**

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- St. Vincent and Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay

**ARAB STATES (6)**

- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Tunisia