

CLIMATE CHANGE: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

- Science is totally clear on the causes of climate change;
- Large-scale impacts already happening, everywhere;
- No country can address climate change alone → multilateral approach is essential, especially for vulnerable developing countries such as South Africa;
- Geopolitical challenges: USA due to exit the Paris Agreement – multilateralism under threat;
- Many developing countries face high debt, especially since COVID; climate impacts add costs, and risk reversing development gains;
- Strong commitment to multilateralism is critical – both to address a global problem, and to maintain the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.



SOUTH AFRICA HAS RATIFIED BOTH THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (1992) AND ITS PARIS AGREEMENT (2015)



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THE PARIS AGREEMENT “AMBITION CYCLE” – COUNTRIES MAKE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, REPORT, CONSIDER COLLECTIVELY WHAT PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, AND MAKE FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS



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NDCS UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF PARIS AGREEMENT

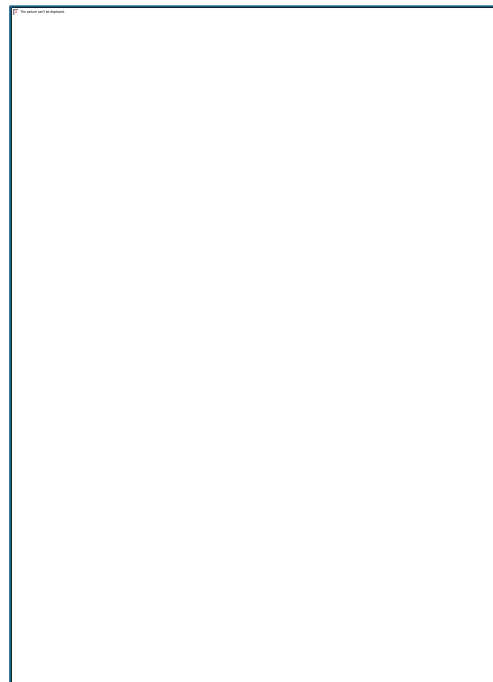
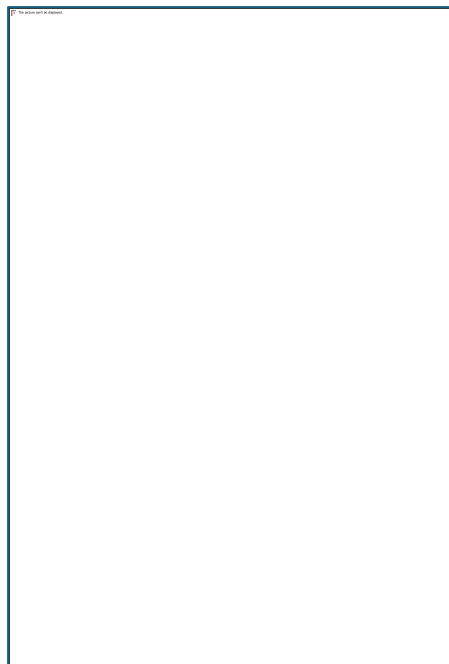
- Each NDC will be a progression (in ambition, coverage, form etc.) on previous NDCs (4.3)
- NDCs will reflect countries' "highest possible ambition", taking into account "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances" (4.3)
- It is explicit in the Paris Agreement that support will be provided to developing countries for implementation (4.5)
- Countries will consider GST outcome in their NDCs
- Parties must account for their NDCs, i.e. report on implementation and achievement

OUTCOMES OF FIRST GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (GST 1)

- Assessed collective progress in implementing Paris Agreement and achieving its long-term goals;
- Broad scope: temperature goal, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, response measures, and means of implementation and support;
- Equity and ambition, based on science (cross-cutting in GST)
- The GST found that:
 - 1.5 degree long-term temperature goal very important – impacts are far more severe at 2 degrees;
 - “..despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals”
 - We need more - in mitigation, adaptation and support, and especially in “this critical decade” (the 2020s) – at a national level and via enhanced international cooperation.
- Detailed outcomes for each area of climate action and support.



SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT - KEY MILESTONES



South Africa's
second NDC
Due to be
submitted to
the UNFCCC in
September
2025



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SOUTH AFRICA'S APPROACH TO DEVELOPING OUR NDC

Fundamentals: Multilateralism, science and equity inform ambition;

National circumstances: South Africa is a vulnerable developing country, climate action in context of addressing poverty and unemployment;

Responsible global citizen: fulfil all the legal requirements of Paris Agreement;

Fair and ambitious contributions: mitigation, adaptation, loss & damage. Will include concrete support needs for implementation, as a developing country, including finance/investment needs

National interest to submit a fair and ambitious second NDC: South Africa should continue to show leadership as a middle income developing country in supporting and strengthening the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement; without the multilateral regime, we will face climate change alone.



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HOW SA'S NDC2 DRAFT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY OUTCOMES OF GST1

- Countries have a legal obligation under the Paris Agreement to:
 - consider the outcomes of the GST in preparing their NDCs
 - explain in their NDCs how the GST has been taken into account;
- How we take the GST into account is up to us (“nationally determined”);
- The draft NDC responds to the GST:
 1. **1.5 °C** - global goal is relevant to mitigation, adaptation and finance
 2. **Mitigation:** NDC in the context of our just energy transition to net zero CO₂ around 2050
 3. Importance of **economic diversification**, including **green industrialisation**
 4. **Eight national adaptation goals**, in the multilateral context of the global goal on adaptation;
 5. **Reporting systems**, including better information on adaptation and L&D
 6. **Support:** extent to which SA can achieve highest ambition depends on extent of support mobilised

SOUTH AFRICA'S NDC PROCESS

TECHNICAL PHASE:

- Technical analysis to support development of NDC sections on South Africa's obligations under the Paris Agreement, on equity, and on mitigation, adaptation, support

POLICY PHASE:

Consultations with a broad range of stakeholders in nine provinces (in person and virtual mode for all)

Approval by Cabinet

SUBMISSION:

- Due in mid-September 2025

8 SA adaptation goals proposed for NDC2 with 36 ‘investable options’ being costed & prioritised

1. Adapt South Africa’s water and sanitation systems to drying conditions and drought and flood intensification, as water underpins human, plant and animal health and all economic and livelihood activities
2. Enhance disaster risk management, healthcare and sanitation provision, especially in informal settlements, to reduce impacts of flooding and heat stress on most vulnerable households
3. Upgrade critical transport infrastructure (roads, rail, ports) to maintain functioning under increased rainfall intensity, heat stress, wind speeds and storm surges
4. Enhance nutritious food access and affordability through support to agricultural and fisheries producers and distributors in adapting to warmer and windier conditions and changes in rainfall

8 SA adaptation goals proposed with 36 ‘investable options’ being costed & prioritised

5. Enhance climate services, with early warning and impact information made accessible to a wide range of users, tailored to different operational, language, gender, age and disability needs
6. Enhance ecosystem-based adaptation to heat and water stress, protecting South Africa’s natural heritage, biodiversity and improving ecosystem functioning that underpins our cultural identity, food systems, human wellbeing and our tourism economy
7. Capacitate all spheres of government to implement adaptation through enacting and enforcing all provisions of Climate Change Act
8. Enhance efforts to build climate resilient human settlements and resilient infrastructure

Why 320-380 Mt CO₂-eq for 2035?

- Takes various uncertainties into account, including uncertainties arising from policy implementation, limits to currently available data, economic growth, technology uncertainty, challenging geopolitics;
- Lower end of the target range is within equity-based range for an SA target consistent with a global trajectory to meet the 1.5 degree temperature goal –target level which will be achievable with sufficient international support, consistent with full implementation of existing policies
- Progression from first NDC to updated first NDC to second NDC target – significantly more ambitious than South Africa's 2011 “peak plateau decline” trajectory

Assessment of mitigation target range of 320- 380 MT
CO₂-eq against multiple considerations

Consideration	Assessment
National circumstances	Addresses climate in context of sustainable development and poverty eradication Consistent with existing policies
“Highest possible ambition”	Upper end of target range for 2030 was reduced by 30%; 380 Mt CO ₂ -eq up to 2035 is a 10% reduction against 2030 Achieving outcomes further down the range would not require additional measures
Equity: fair share contribution and just transition	Fair share analysis for 2035 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upper end of range not consistent with international “fair share” assessments of contributing to 1.5 °C - lower end IS consistent Just transitions to net zero CO ₂ emissions by 2050
Risk of not achieving the target	Low risk of not keeping GHG emissions below the upper end of the range
Consistency with policy goals	implementing existing policies implies emission well below upper end of range
International positioning	Challenges for SA position in future global low emission economy, at upper end

Assessment of mitigation target range of 320- 380 MT
CO₂-eq against multiple considerations

Consideration	Assessment
Progression	<p>Upper end of range, NDC1: 614 Mt by 2025, 2021 update: 510 by 2025, 420 by 2030: NDC2: proposed 380 Mt CO₂-eq by 2035</p> <p>For comparison: historical emissions in GHG inventory (incl LULUCF): peaked at 529 Mt in 2008 (incl LULUCF), in latest year: 435 Mt CO₂-eq in 2022. Future: net zero CO₂ emission means 0 in 2050.</p>
Outcome of first global stocktake	<p>Technical analysis considered GST outcomes, including relevance of 1.5 °C for mitigation (as well as for adaptation and finance)</p> <p>Mitigation including but not limited to the just energy transition package; considered fair shares and a just transition to net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050</p>
Hard-to-abate activities	Key industrial sub-sectors are not emissions-constrained and have demand opportunity, e.g. steel
Social/developmental considerations	<p>Consistent with economic diversification and green industrialisation</p> <p>Including SAREM and automotive industry development</p>
Just Transition	<p>Social protection needs addressed</p> <p>Just transition integrated as equity perspective on net zero emissions</p>
International carbon pricing	Higher risk of border tax adjustment from some trade partners, e.g. CBAM in EU and elsewhere

Some of South Africa's key Roles In Climate Change Negotiations

- South Africa negotiates in national capacity taking into consideration the national priorities of reducing unemployment, inequality, and poverty.
- South Africa is also part of the African Group of Negotiators. Africa's position is aligned on key priorities including mitigation, adaptation and FTC support needed. This is because of similar circumstances in Africa, hence the need to have Africa's special circumstances recognized.
- South Africa is also part of the Group of 77 and China (G77), alignment is mostly at strategic levels.
- Additionally, South Africa is also part of the BASIC Group, which includes Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- The principle of equity as well as common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities should always be respected, including historical responsibility.
- The role of South Africa is solution orientated, trying to find landing ground between developing and developed countries.

Key Priorities for COP 30/CMP20/CMA7

- Global Goal on Adaptation
- Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program
- United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Program
- Loss and Damage
- Finance Matters
- Transparency
- Gender

General Priorities for COP 30/CMP20/CMA7

Global Goal on Adaptation

- South Africa expects that the UAE-Belém work program will be finalised with 100 indicators or less to assess progress towards the UAE Framework for Climate Resilience's targets. Indicators should include those on Means of Implementation to track the provision of support, including finance for addressing adaptation gaps.

Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Program

- South Africa expects that through the Sharm El Sheikh MWP, there should be clear funding opportunities for programs and projects that contribute to accelerating mitigation ambition implementation. There should be blended financing for these projects through the investment focused events (IFE). The Platform proposed by the incoming Presidency for matchmaking mitigation projects from developing countries with investors is supported.

General Priorities for COP30/CMP20/CMA7

United Arab Emirates Just Transition Work Program

- South Africa expects that the JWP will result in a substantial outcome at COP 30, including the international dimension of just transitions, the need to have them adequately supported and not just to focus on the energy sector. The just transitions should encompass whole of economy and whole of society approach in line with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Loss and Damage

- Following the institutionalization of the fund at COP 29, South Africa expects the fund to start receiving proposals from developing countries. The Santiago Network should also deliver the needed technical assistance to developing countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

General Priorities for COP 30/CMP20/CMA7

Finance Matters

- South Africa expects the report summarizing the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T”, aiming at scaling up climate finance to developing country Parties to support low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development pathways and implement the nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans including through grants, concessional and non-debt creating instruments, and measures to create fiscal space, taking into account relevant multilateral initiatives as appropriate; as it concludes at CMA 7.
- South Africa also looks forward to the report back from SB Chairs on consultations on Article 9.1 of the PA
- Through the G20 Presidency, South Africa will advance the implementation of the NCQG,

General Priorities for COP 30/CMP20/CMA7

Transparency

- South Africa expects a substantial outcome on how the challenges of developing countries to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework will be addressed, including clear solutions, based on the experience shared in the submissions and during mandated events as well as information in the BTRs. Additionally, the term for the Consultative Group of Experts should be made permanent.

Gender

- South Africa expects the development of a robust work Program on the Gender Action Plan. This is important, also considering that South Africa is in the process of developing the Climate Change Gender Action Plan.

Conclusion

- The consultation sessions will lead to the finalization of the development of an NDC with a 2035 target, as it is currently being consulted. The 2035 target is in line with Common Time Frames as agreed by all Parties. The 2nd NDC is envisioned to be submitted by September 2025 and to be considered in the NDC Synthesis Report by the secretariat, which will be presented at COP 30.
- South Africa, as the Presidency of G20, is expected to demonstrate leadership on NDC ambition, here in South Africa and at COP 30.
- The COP 30 expectations for South Africa are still at a generic level as expressed in different submissions by South Africa and Africa to the UNFCCC. The detailed proposed position is yet to be developed and will be consulted later in the year.