



2021-IP05

UNFCCC Synthesis Report on Nationally Determined Contributions

On the 26 February 2021, UNFCCC published its synthesis report on all the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The 2015 Paris Agreement requires countries to update their NDCs every 5 years, and for them to represent a progression from previous NDCs, and so 2020 was the first time for these updates. This report covers those submitted by 31 December 2020.

Juho Lipponen (CEM CCUS Coordinator) has summarised the key points as follows:

- The reports covers 48 new or updated NDCs, representing 28.8% of global emissions (2017)
- If implemented, the total GHG emissions would be around 13.67 GtCO₂eq in 2030, i.e. 2.8% lower than in the previous NDCs
- This would be equal to 0.5% lower than total emissions in 2010
- To remain on path for a 1.5 degree goal, emissions should be 45% lower in 2030 compared with 2010
- To remain on path for a 2.0 degree goal, emissions should be 25% lower in 2030 compared with 2010
- Parties' emissions might peak before 2030
- The report thus states that the estimated reductions from the new NDCs FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT IS REQUIRED
- Full analysis of the emissions impact of all NDCs will be available in a final synthesis report, to be published ahead of COP26
- Parties have included NDC targets into national legislative processes
- In general the listed mitigation measures include a full range of solutions: renewable energy, further electrification, energy efficiency, decarbonising transport etc. Circular economy and waste reduction were also mentioned. CCS also gets a mention in the NDCs analysed (the report does not provide details though).

The media release from UNFCCC summarises that this report is “*showing nations must redouble efforts and submit stronger, more ambitious national climate action plans in 2021 if they're to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise by 2°C—ideally 1.5°C—by the end of the century.*”

The report itself mentions CCS twice, under “economic diversification” actions, including in the oil and gas industry.

From my own analysis of the NDCs submitted (as of 6 Jan 2021) there are three that explicitly include CCS, those are Norway, UAE and Australia, and there are at least two that implicitly include CCS by including policies which explicitly include CCS themselves (UK and EU). For comparison, in the 187 NDCs submitted for the Paris Agreement in 2015, there were 10 that explicitly included CCS.

So with 48 NDCs new or updated from 75 countries (EU provides one NDC for 27 countries), there are still some 120 to come. And with an increasing number of countries pledging net zero by 2050, we would expect some more to include CCS, as these NDCs cover a country's activities up to 2030 and countries should be acting on CCS by then if they are to achieve net zero by mid-century.



Whether CCS is included in NDCs is also particularly significant for developing countries. The multilateral climate finance available to them looks to NDCs and to Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) for supporting evidence when considering applications for funding for a particular project or activity from a country.

The UNFCCC press release with a link to the report is here: <https://unfccc.int/news/greater-climate-ambition-urged-as-initial-ndc-synthesis-report-is-published>

The list of NDCs analysed is available here: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/NDC-submissions>

Reference. Nationally Determined Contributions Under the Paris Agreement.
UNFCCC/PA/CMA/2021/2 26 February 2021

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