

Preliminary material in preparation for the first iteration of the informal note

Agenda item 3—Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21, on:

- features of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 26
- information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 28; and
- accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 31

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Upon request of Parties at the informal consultation on 9 November 2017, this is the Co-facilitators' attempt to informally capture views expressed by Parties, including in their submissions and at the round table. It has been prepared under the Co-facilitators' own responsibility and thus has no formal status. The content is not exhaustive and Parties may decide to add additional views to this note. It does not represent agreed views, ideas or text and nor does it attempt to draw any conclusions on possible areas of convergence or divergence. The order of the information contained in this note does not correspond to any hierarchy or sequencing of proposals according to convergence or importance. The Co-facilitators' also recognize that nothing is final until the guidance on NDCs is final. The Co-facilitators further recognize that there are varying views on the structure of the guidance, including differentiation and scope of NDCs. There is no intention to prejudge or prejudice any next steps relating to the preparation of a draft negotiating text or the position of Parties on further guidance and its contents.

I. Features

A wide range of strongly-held views on how to discuss the issues of scope of NDCs and differentiation were shared. While a number of Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed under features, a number of other Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed elsewhere under the process, and another number of Parties expressed the view that these issues were already treated within the overall architecture of the Paris Agreement.

A. Identify and list existing features

Option 1: no text

Option 2: compilation of features identified by various Parties

- Art 2.1: NDCs to achieve the purpose of the agreement, promote low emissions and climate resilient development, make financial flows consistent with this and accelerate the development and transfer of technology; context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;
- Art 2.2: equity, CBDRCC, national circumstances and differentiation;
- Art 3: National determination, include elements of mitigation, adaptation, financial support, technology development and transfer and capacity building;
- Art 4.1: long-term goals (peaking – slower for developing countries, and “a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks” by the second half of this century). “On the basis of equity”;

- Art 4.2: national determination, Parties pursue domestic mitigation measures, successive, maintain NDCs;
- Art 4.3: progression, highest ambition, national circumstances; CBDRCC;
- Art 4.4: economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets by developed countries, leadership by developed countries, encouragement for developing country Parties to move over time towards economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, differentiation;
- Art 4.5: support to developing country Parties, differentiation;
- Art 4.6: LDCs and SIDS to prepare and communicate plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development;
- Art 4.7: mitigation co-benefits;
- Art. 4.8: clear, transparent and understandable;
- Art. 4.9: communication every five years, informed by global stocktake, NDCs to be either for a 5 or 10-year period;
- Art. 4.10: common timeframes;
- Art. 4.11: upward adjustment;
- Art 4.12: registry;
- Art 4.13: accounting;
- Art 4.15: consideration of response measures;
- Art 4.16-4.18: collaborative or joint action;
- Art. 7.1: achieve the purpose of the agreement;
- Art 9.1: differentiation;
- Art 9.3: differentiation;
- Art 9.5: differentiation;
- Art 9.7: differentiation;
- Art 10: differentiation;
- Art 11: differentiation;
- Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 25: communication 9-12 months in advance of relevant CMA session;
- Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 27: reference years or periods, coverage in sectors and gases, metrics and guidelines.

B. New/additional features

Option 1: no text

Option 2: compilation of new features suggested by various Parties

- Identification of unaccounted sectors;
- Identification of sectors included in transactions of Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes;
- Quantified support assessment for developing country Parties;
- Quantified support disbursement and pledged;
- Summary of mitigation measures linked to bunker fuels;
- Low carbon and climate resilience development strategies;
- Low carbon long term development strategies;
- Quantifiability;
- Conditions and circumstances or specification of emissions reduction capacity without support;
- Coverage of all significant emission sectors and gases;
- Reflect a link to a Party's long-term strategy;
- To be based on real and meaningful data and/or baselines;

- Information related aspects: coverage of sectors and gases, reference years or periods, metrics and accounting applied.

II. Information

A wide range of strongly-held views on how to discuss the issues of scope of NDCs and differentiation were shared. While a number of Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed under information, a number of other Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed elsewhere under the process, and another number of Parties expressed the view that these issues were already treated within the overall architecture of the Paris Agreement.

A. Objectives

- Facilitate the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement
- Enhance the clarity, transparency and understanding of Parties' NDCs, or contribute to a better understanding of NDCs;
- Be a tool or reference document to assist Parties in preparing and communicating their NDCs in line with the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21;
- Assist Parties in providing the minimum or relevant information necessary for the clarity, transparency and understanding of their NDCs;
- Assist Parties' domestic preparation of their NDCs, facilitate the exchange of best practices among Parties and contribute to raising public awareness of what Parties are going to do about climate change in the future;
- Enhance the transparency and predictability of climate action and foster trust among Parties;
- Address the challenges the secretariat encountered in preparing the synthesis report on the aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions;
- Facilitate the tracking of progress, and the aggregation and synthesizing of NDCs, also with a view to facilitating the global stocktake;
- Not present an additional burden on Parties, especially developing country Parties;
- Not be prescriptive;
- Facilitate the provision of information;
- Not aim to enable the quantification of NDCs or provide quantitative information;
- Not impose a common type of, or format for, NDCs.

B. Capacity of developing countries

- Provide continuous and adequate support to developing country Parties to identify their capacity-building needs and increase their capacity for enhancing the clarity, transparency and understanding of their NDCs over time;
- Flexibility shall be provided to developing countries based on their type of NDCs;
- Incentive mechanisms should be established by the CMA to encourage and support developing country Parties to prepare, communicate and implement their NDCs and to provide relevant information in a successive and durable manner;
- Recognize different starting points and capacities;
- Work with partners to build the capacity to improve the provision of information over time and support the implementation of NDCs.

C. Procedural elements

a. Channel

- Vehicle for communications the NDC;
- Parties are to put forward the information of NDCs when communicating their NDCs;

- With the NDC, 9-12 month in advance of the relevant session of the CMA;
- The guidance should specify that the ICTU is to be provided in an information table that is annexed to the Party's NDC submission;
- Parties are encouraged to highlight the information as set out in the guidance in their NDCs documents;
- Parties may provide additional or updated information that are useful to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding at any time.

b. Timing

- Guidance on information should be applied to the Second and subsequent NDCs;
- Guidance should apply only to subsequent NDCs to countries who have already announced their NDCs. Para 23 and 24 of 1/CP.21 should guide in this regard;
- ICTU guidance should apply for NDCs that Parties are required to communicate or update by 2020 as required under 1/CP.21 paragraphs 23 and 24;
- Parties should apply the guidance for information of NDCs to their subsequent NDCs (with the timeframe from 2031 onwards);
- Guidance should not apply retrospectively to NDCs (or INDCs) already submitted;
- Parties may elect to apply such guidance to their existing NDCs (most of which are pre-2030);
- The ICTU for the first NDCs should be provided as well with communication or update of those NDCs by 2020;
- The guidance on information for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs should be applied by each Party as it communicates or updates its NDC in 2020.

c. Revision

- Parties shall apply this guidance for NDCs communications pursuant to Paris Agreement Art. 4.9, Art. 4.11, or para. 22 of 1/CP.21;
- LDCs and SIDS, in the light of their special circumstances, are encouraged to apply the guidance to the extent possible;
- The CMA shall define the year of the first review of the guidance, with a view to revising it on a regular basis.

D. Substantive elements

A wide range of strongly-held views on how to structure substantive elements for further guidance on information to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs were shared. Some Parties expressed the view that such elements should be organized in different structures, clearly separating proposals from different groups of Parties. Other Parties were of the view that all elements should be arranged within a single structure. It was not possible for Parties to reach a common understanding on how to structure these elements. For information purposes, only, clusters of ideas presented by Parties are compiled in Appendix 1.

III. Accounting

A wide range of strongly-held views on how to discuss the issues of scope of NDCs and differentiation were shared. While a number of Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed under accounting, a number of other Parties expressed the view that these issues should be discussed elsewhere under the process, and another number of Parties expressed the view that these issues were already treated within the overall architecture of the Paris Agreement

A. Understanding of accounting

- Being responsible for NDCs, which is understood in the context of the Paris Agreement that Parties should explain their NDCs in the communication and implementation stage in a responsible manner;
- Being responsible for their 'Nationally Determined Contributions' with the purpose to promote transparency of action and support with a view to enhance the mutual trust among Parties. The information is of ex-ante nature, i.e., before the NDCs are implemented;
- Being responsible for their NDCs by giving an explanation through certain methodologies and approaches, such as which sectors and gases will be included in their NDCs and what the meanings of relevant reference, parameters and other aspects of NDCs are. Accounting is also an important issue related to transparency;
- The process where Parties use information from their national greenhouse gas inventories and other sources to track progress and compare outcomes against NDCs. Guidance for accounting should promote TACCC and environmental integrity, and help Parties accurately understand and track progress toward NDCs;
- Based on the indicators identified to assess the progress and achievement of the targets by Parties, Parties compare the intended value of the indicators in the target year reflecting their NDCs, with the actual value in the year of tracking progress or target year;
- A set of methodologies used to measure implementation of NDC including anthropogenic emissions/removal of GHG;
- Involves clarifying the mitigation targets set out in NDCs by providing the CTU information on the reference point, and assumptions and methodological approaches;
- A procedural obligation for all Parties as set out in Article 4.13 of the Paris Agreement. However, the specific methodologies and approaches are not common, "one size fits all" or mandatory for all;
- While under the Kyoto Protocol accounting is equivalent to compliance and counting units, under the Paris Agreement "accounting for" is equivalent to accountability, to the "information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution under Article 4";
- Demonstrating the achievement of the objectives by providing through the biennial reports under the transparency framework, information on implemented results (e.g., national GHG inventory data, information on ITMOs, and other relevant information corresponding to the attributes of the mitigation targets) in relation to the target year(s);
- A common tool for having NDC implementation progress being monitored, tracked, and aggregated;
- A robust system to:
 - Understand the expected mitigation effects of Parties' planned NDCs and the impacts of any overlaps between Parties' pledged efforts;
 - Track progress toward meeting pledged efforts and aggregate goals;
- Assess what has been accomplished, after considering use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes, and emissions and removals from the land sector, and the avoidance of double counting.

B. Objectives

- Ensure that the principles contained in Article 4, paragraph 13, of the Paris Agreement are implemented in the process of reporting and tracking progress with implementing and achieving NDCs.
- Promoting environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency and ensuring the avoidance of double counting;
- Promote mutual trust among Parties and to provide the public a clear, accurate and comprehensive explanation on what Parties are planning to do on climate change;
- Help/assist Parties in fulfilling existing obligations under the Paris Agreement Article 4. No new obligations will derive from the guidance;
- Have clear methodological approaches to estimate data related to these specific moments is crucial to report the progress on the implementation of Parties' NDCs under the enhanced transparency framework;
- Provide support on how a Party could undertake a quantitative assessment on the achievement of its NDC;
- Link between the NDCs and the information provided under the Enhanced Transparency Framework;
- Allow Parties to demonstrate that their most recent emission levels are consistent with targets, in accordance with the parameters and indicators they have set out in their own NDCs;
- Require Parties to clearly indicate (either in the NDC itself or in the transparency reports under article 13) which of these the Party will adopt to track progress of their efforts, noting that developed country parties may not backtrack from existing requirements. The adoption of further requirements to developing countries is contingent upon the provision of new, additional and adequate resources to meet their agreed full costs;
- Clarify the contents of NDCs, progress made, and whether or not NDCs have been achieved in a rigorous and objective way;
- Assist each Party to demonstrate it is meeting this responsibility to account for its NDC;
- Facilitate aggregation of the impacts of NDCs in relation to the long-term goal, and to support the tracking of progress;
- Be flexible and promote progression and ambition.

C. Capacity of developing countries

- In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 14 and Article 13, paragraph 15, support shall be provided to assist developing country Parties in the accounting of their NDCs, including integrating and incorporating accounting elements in national MRV systems;
- Continuous and adequate support shall be provided to developing country Parties to increase their relevant capacities on implementing the guidance for accounting;
- Incentivizing mechanisms should be established by the CMA to encourage and support developing country Parties to apply the guidance for accounting;
- Support is addressed further under other APA and SBSTA agenda items;
- Capacity concerns must be addressed through strong and sustained capacity building support and frameworks for developing countries – not in the guidance, which should be common and applicable to all.

D. Drawing from approaches under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol

- The guidance for accounting for mitigation targets in the NDCs by developed country Parties could be on the basis of the experience from the application of the accounting rules for quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, bearing in mind the

difference between single-year targets in the NDCs and multi-year targets under the Kyoto Protocol;

- Build on valuable experience and lessons learnt from the development and implementation of previous accounting frameworks (Article 4.14). The structure of the Paris Agreement and the nature of Parties' contributions are different to previous frameworks and the additional guidance provided under this item are necessary to allow Parties to account for NDCs in accordance with Article 4.13 and decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 31;
- Use of GHG inventories under Article 13(7)(b) for the accounting for their NDCs when NDCs are expressed in terms of GHG emissions;
- Guidance related to emissions and removals from LULUCF that refers to approaches under the Convention and its legal instruments on which Parties could draw from;
- Approaches and institutional arrangements established under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol offer valuable lessons and approaches for the development of an accounting system under the Paris Agreement.

E. Principles

- Guidance to promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and to ensure the avoidance of double counting;
- Reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, stated in Article 2.2 of the Paris Agreement, particularly in line with differentiated NDCs of developed and developing country Parties;
- Consistent with the scope of NDCs and covering both actions and support component of NDCs in accordance with Article 3 of the Paris agreement;
- Parties should strive to increase coverage over time;
- Flexibility to be provided to developing country Parties in the scope and level of details related to application of the relevant guidance, with specific accounting approaches in developing country Parties' NDCs to be nationally-determined by the Parties concerned, in line with the general guidance referred to in Article 4.13 of the Paris Agreement and paragraph 31 and 32 of decision 1/CP.21;
- Guidance to promote environmental integrity, the contribution from forest and land use must represent real, permanent and verifiable emission reductions that would not occur irrespective of the Party's actions. Permanence is particularly important with respect to contribution from forest and other land use, as removals is a slow process, while carbon from the terrestrial stock can be quickly released, e.g. due to change of policies and natural disasters;
- A number of processes could give rise to the risk of double-counting, including during the estimation of national inventories and the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs). While specific guidance for these scenarios should be discussed under the appropriate agenda items, Parties should also develop general guidance on how to avoid double-counting under this sub-item;
- Information used to be consistent with, and underpinned by, inventory;
- The differentiated framework of accounting guidance for developed country Parties needs to be rich in nature of information being accounted, types of information being accounted, and the level of details of the information being accounted. The information sought needs to be reasonable and commensurate to the capacities of the developed country Parties. Such a framework will ensure that developed country Parties are able to demonstrate the lead that they have been mandated to take under Articles 4.4 and 9.3. These levels of details will also inspire confidence in developing country Parties to undertake further ambitious NDCs;
- Developed countries to use comparable methodologies and approaches to explain their other aspects of mitigation component of NDCs, including domestic emissions, policies and utilization of

international transferred mitigation outcomes, and to ensure methodological consistency between the communication of NDCs and reporting on implementation and developing countries to be allowed to utilize their own methodologies and approaches to explain other references, parameters and other aspects of content in their NDCs, as appropriate, while making their best endeavor to ensure methodological consistency between communication and implementation;

- The guidance shall preserve the national determination of NDCs by respecting the accounting approaches embedded in their NDCs, which correspond to their different capacities and national circumstances;
- There must be clear provisions on how to avoid double-counting, for example to prevent potential double-claiming under the UNFCCC, ICAO, IMOs, in different or multiple time-periods, between different types of domestic programmes, or, for those NDCs that will use market-based units to meet their contributions, between host and acquiring countries;
- A robust accounting framework is a pre-requisite for use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes or use of market-based units toward NDCs under Article 6, in order to ensure the avoidance of double counting of emission reductions or units between Parties. A robust accounting framework is also needed to assess the impact of NDCs that include the land sector, since the land sector involves a mix of anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic emissions. An accounting system is also needed to address the fact that some NDCs present target emissions levels for a single year (e.g., 2025 or 2030) while some use budgets or multi-year targets;
- Provide an 'accounting balance'. Measuring the final inventory figures against the stated objective of the NDC in the achievement phase would facilitate clarity with respect to achievement of the NDC.

F. Procedural elements

a. Channel

- Report the relevant information related to paragraph 31 (a)-(d) of decision 1/CP.21 in their NDCs documents and ensure the methodological consistency in their reports on the implementation under the transparency framework;
- Reporting the accounting related to NDCs under the information provided under the enhanced Transparency Framework (Article 13 of the Paris Agreement);
- The number and timing of the reports to be submitted by Parties at several stages;
- The guidance on reporting on accounting is inherently different from guidance on transparency, and is intended to give a sense of the planned actions by Parties, which can then be evaluated against actuals in the transparency framework.

b. Timing

- In accordance with 1/CP.21 paragraph 32, accounting guidance will apply to second and subsequent NDCs;
- In accordance with paragraph 32 of decision 1/CP.21, Parties shall apply the guidance for accounting in their subsequent rounds of NDCs (from 2030 onwards). Parties may elect to apply the guidance for accounting in their NDCs up to 2030;
- The first iteration of the guidance, to be adopted in 2018, should be sufficient to give confidence to national policymakers that their NDCs communicated after 2020, and corresponding accounting activities, will comply with rules and principles of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement as well as the mitigation section of 1/CP.21. Consistent with paragraph 32 of decision 1/CP.21, Parties may also elect to apply this guidance to their pre-2020 NDCs on a voluntary basis;
- Each Party shall apply the following guidance for accounting of NDCs for the first NDC on the basis that:
 - they voluntarily elect to apply the guidance for the first NDC; or

- they wish to avail themselves of Article 6, paragraph 2 or Article 6, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement in the achievement of the first or subsequent NDC.

c. Revision

- Review and, if necessary, revision of guidance at a future point following experience with implementation;
- Subsequent updates to the guidance could address any outstanding gaps and/or make further incremental improvements, based on insights from collective review processes such as the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue and 2023 global stocktake;
- The CMA shall define the year of the first review of the guidance, with a view to revising it on a regular basis.

G. Specific elements

A wide range of strongly-held views on how to structure substantive elements for guidance on accounting of NDCs were shared. Some Parties expressed the view that such elements should be organized in different structures, clearly separating proposals from different groups of Parties. Other Parties were of the view that all elements should be arranged within a single structure. It was not possible for Parties to reach a common understanding on how to structure these elements. For information purposes, only, clusters of ideas presented by Parties are compiled in Appendix 2.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Information

Cluster 1.1

A. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year)

- Quantifiable information on base year or base period, reference year or reference period, as applicable tailored to the type of target and indicators determined by the Party:
 - Absolute emissions reduction target:
 - Emissions levels for the base and target year in terms of CO2 eq.;
 - Headline number in terms of emission reduction in %.
 - BAU target:
 - Baseline, including emissions level in terms of CO2 eq.;
 - Emissions level for the target year in terms of CO2 eq.;
 - Headline number in terms of emission reduction in %;
 - Intensity target:
 - Quantified target level of emissions or emission reduction per unit of GDP, unit of product/output or population, or another indicator;
 - Base and target years;
 - Intensity level for the base year;
 - Headline number in terms of intensity reduction in %;
 - Expected emissions level for the target year;
 - index value for the base year.
 - Policies and measures:
 - Actions, including adaptation co-benefits;
 - Qualitative description of the policies and measures;
 - Quantitative information on expected emissions reductions from the policies and measures (if possible);
 - Emission Peaking target:
 - Peak year;
 - Indicators the party will use to assess the attainment of the objective;
 - Estimated emissions level in the peak year;
 - Emissions trajectory towards peak year.
- Information on the conditions and point in time under which the base year/baselines/reference level will be updated, if applicable;
- Parameters and their values used to define the mitigation contribution, including information on related data sources and methodologies as relevant (e.g. emissions, GDP, population, policy metric, etc.);
- Information on the base year(s) used to define relevant baselines, including the base year(s) for policy objectives that are part of the contribution such as increasing energy efficiency or forest cover;
- Gas by gas total GHG emissions and removals in the reference point/period (base year or starting year of the BAU or peaking projection);

- quantifiable data on base-year greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Party's national inventory for the applicable year(s);
- NDCs that refer to emissions trends or trajectories would need to provide or cite quantifiable information on the assumptions and methodologies used to construct these trajectories;
- NDCs that refer to mitigation policies and measures that are not reflected in national inventories should provide, for each such policy and measure, an estimate of the resulting GHG emissions reduced or avoided as a result of the policy or measure, in aggregable units;
- Information about reported emission level changes due to improvements in transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency of data, if applicable;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on finance, including on the base year;
- Relevant quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year) in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide quantifiable information on the reference point for means of implementation;

B. Time frames and/or periods for implementation

- Time frame and/or period for implementation, including end year; (in accordance with Article 4(10) on common timeframes, to be considered by the CMA);
- Target year;
- If a Party has referred to an absolute emission reduction target: approach used (e.g. specify whether single year target or multi-year emissions trajectory or budget);
- NDCs that use single-year GHG targets would need to specify a base year and a target year;
- NDCs that use multi-year emissions averages or "carbon budgets" would need to specify which years they intend to use for those purposes;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on finance, including on the period for implementation;
- Relevant information on time frames and/or periods for implementation in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide information on time frames and/or periods for implementation for means of implementation.

C. Scope and coverage

- Sectors, categories, pools and gases covered and definitions used, explaining how indicated sectors and categories are defined with respect to categories from IPCC guidance on national greenhouse gas inventories;
- If an NDC was planned considering different sectors from those identified by the IPCC, the Party has to clarify how sectors correspond to IPCC categories;
- Definition of the sectors and/or the categories, if there is difference with the definitions used in the national inventory report;
- Whether categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals reflect continued coverage of categories covered in previous NDCs;
- How the NDC has considered the encouragement to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals;
- Information on excluded sectors, gases or categories, and any considerations on the timeline for economy-wide coverage, and if available, provide information on the significance of that gas or sector in national emissions;

- Whether the Party intends to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6;
- Information on geographical coverage;
- Information on whether NDCs include mitigation, adaptation and/or means of implementation;
- Relevant information on scope and coverage in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide information on scope and coverage of means of implementation.

D. Planning processes

- Information on the (domestic) planning processes conducted in the design of the NDCs; and to achieve the objectives of the NDC; incl. considerations related e.g.:
 - how different public agencies and levels of government helped design the NDC;
 - institutional responsibilities;
 - development of implementation measures;
 - stakeholder consultations;
 - indigenous peoples and local communities;
 - elders and youth;
 - just transition;
 - gender;
 - human rights;
 - other important considerations.
- Information on the (most important) laws, policies, legal and institutional frameworks, plans and processes relevant for the implementation of NDCs;
- Information on how the Party's NDC has been anchored in domestic mitigation measures;
- Information on how the Party's NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake;
- Information on any conditional element beyond headline number;
- Description of information gaps, barriers or issues that the Party faced during NDC design process;
- Information relating to long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies submitted under Article 4(19);
- If applicable, how the NDC relates to other development plans or strategies;
- Relevant information on planning processes in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide existing and envisaged policies and measures to support the implementation of their emission reduction targets;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on planning processes for means of implementation.

E. Assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals

- Information on the accounting approaches and relevant emissions estimation methodologies to be used, in accordance with guidance on accounting adopted by the CMA, including on:
 - how the Party will draw from existing approaches;
 - how the approach is consistent with the NDC and the Party's national circumstances;
 - how the approach is consistent with the accounting guidance and the Article 4.13 principles.
- Methods and assumptions related to main drivers of national GHG emissions that allow to understand the evolution of those emissions as well as their expected value in the target year;

- Information on how base years, baselines, reference levels or projections were constructed – including key assumptions and parameters; relevant estimation methodologies; where projection based baselines and/or reference levels are used, information on policies and measures included and projection methodology;
- Metrics and methodologies used to estimate emissions (in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA), consistent with 1/CP.21 paragraph 31(a);
- Quantification of emission reductions in tonnes of CO₂ or CO₂ equivalent;
- To ensure consistency, comparability and to facilitate aggregation Parties shall use the most recent IPCC Guidelines and any further methodological guidance from the IPCC if adopted by the CMA;
- Information on how the Party will ensure the methodological consistency between the communication and implementation of its NDC;
- For common metrics, Parties shall continue to use the well-established GWP-100 values from the IPCC, if adopted by the CMA;
- Intended use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6, in accordance with the guidance decided by the CMA, including the intended accounting approach to be used in accordance with relevant guidance;
- Developed countries to provide intentions to use ITMOs under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
- All Parties that include the LULUCF sector in their NDC should provide information on accounting methodological approach used to estimate emissions and removals towards their NDC and clarify which sources and sinks are not accounted for;
- If the Party has included the LULUCF sector in its NDC:
 - Treatment in NDC (e.g. accounting like any other sector, sectoral target);
 - Accounting approach (e.g. land-based vs. activity-based, in accordance with the guidance decided by the CMA, use of base years/base periods/reference levels);
 - Coverage of activities/categories or sub-categories/pools (including HWPs)/fluxes/gases (comprehensive/partial);
 - Intention to exclude emissions from natural disturbances and provisions to be applied;
 - Information on reference level, if this accounting approach is used, and its relation to the overall baseline;
 - Treatment of HWP, Natural disturbance, Legacy, Other;
 - Linkage to IPCC categories/pools;
 - If using managed land proxy, specify which land is classed as managed;
 - Construction of any specific baselines for land use categories/activities.
- If a Party has referred to an absolute, economy-wide target
 - Further information to help understand the NDC;
 - Multi-year or single year targets, (budget-based or single year approach)
- If Party has referred to a BAU baseline or scenario:
 - Assumptions used and sources for data series that form part of the NDC target (e.g. GDP, population, energy use, type of model used if NDC is based on projected values, past trends);
 - Model used to develop BAU baseline;
 - Whether the baseline scenario is static or dynamic;
 - Which policies and measures are included/excluded in the baseline, and on what basis? (e.g. does the baseline include policies/measures adopted up to a specific point in time?);
 - Timing of updates and parameters that will be updated.
- If a Party has referred to emission intensity (e.g. emissions per capita or per GDP):

- Data sources used to calculate the index (e.g. population or any other macroeconomic indicators);
- Source and type of GDP used, if applicable;
- Past trends;
- Projections, if available;
- Timing and parameters of updates.
- If a Party has referred to an emission peaking target:
 - Intended date of the peak;
 - Expected peak emission level, if available;
 - Expected rate of emissions decline after peak, if available.
- If a party has referred to the implementation of policies and measures (intended or proposed):
 - Detailed list and scope of intended or proposed policies and measures to be implemented, with sectors and gases involved;
 - Implementation milestone;
 - Estimated quantified emissions impact (if available) and underlying assumption;
 - Explanation on how to track the progress in implementation of the contribution, including, if applicable, identifying quantifiable indicators.
- If a Party has referred to achieving carbon/emission neutrality:
 - Information explaining the Party's definition of carbon or emission neutrality;
 - Accounting approach used for carbon neutrality;
 - How emissions from the land sector will be accounted for;
 - Explanation whether and to what extent units from international market mechanisms or other compensation activities/credits will be used to reach target.
- Further technical information on mitigation contributions as necessary – e.g. any additional technical information the Party deems relevant to specify their GHG and/or non-GHG mitigation contributions, including related mitigation co-benefit resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, and other kinds of contributions;
- Any changes that may occur during implementation and that affect the NDC should be reflected in the progress report as referred to in Art. 13.7 (b) of the Paris Agreement;
- Relevant information on assumptions and methodological approaches in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide information on relevant assumptions and methodologies for accounting the financial resources, estimating public finance, identifying resources mobilized by public interventions and other policies and attributing private investment;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on relevant methodologies and assumptions on estimating their support;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on assumptions and methodological approaches related to the means of implementation.
- Parties may provide quantified information on the NDC and information on methodologies and assumptions that underpin the NDC, including any reference points, baselines, base year etc. and, as applicable, coverage (sectors and gases etc.).

F. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2

How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious

- How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances;

- Information on fairness considerations of efforts such as approaches and concepts that the Party has used to operationalize equity and fairness considerations, and emissions levels or trajectory under the NDC compared to the appropriate counterfactual;
- Information on how the Party considers that its NDC represents a progression beyond current NDC as per Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement;
- Information on how the NDC reflects the Party's highest possible ambition reflecting its CBDR-RC in the light of different national circumstances; e.g. using illustrative indicators such as past emission trends, projections, national circumstances, mitigation costs, mitigation potentials or domestic mitigation targets;
- A Party with an absolute emissions reduction target should provide information on how its NDC compares with its BAU projection;
- Guidance should recognize that progression on ambition is co-terminus with progression on support provided;
- Information on how inputs from the best available science was considered in the Party's NDC, in a view of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement goals;
- A Party's national circumstances may include any features of its geography, climate or economy that set practical limits on its ambition;
- Information on how the NDC has been informed by the outcome of the global stocktake in accordance with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement, or the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue as relevant;
- Information on how the Party has addressed Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement and Article 4.6 of the Paris Agreement:
 - How the developed country Party considers that its economy-wide absolute emission reduction target reflects that the Party continues to take the lead;
 - How the developing country Party envisions to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets;
 - How the special circumstances of Parties that are SIDS and LDCs are reflected in the Party's NDC or strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development;
 - Developed countries to provide how the mitigation component of their NDCs could demonstrate their leadership in mitigating climate change.
- Relevant information on fairness and ambition in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide information on fairness and ambition relating to the provision of financial support including why such financial resources are new and additional and how such financial support will assist developing country Parties to implement their NDCs;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on fairness and ambition, including how support will assist developing country Parties to implement their NDCs and increase their access to climate related technologies;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on fairness and ambition, including how support will assist developing countries to strengthen their capacities on combating climate change;
- Developed country Parties to provide information on how the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances, in relation to the means of implementation;

How the Party considers that its NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:

- Information on how the NDC is a contribution towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;
- Information on how the NDC is consistent with the agreed global temperature goal as described in Article 2.1(a) of the Paris Agreement and the collective aim to reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible and undertake rapid reductions thereafter (Article 4.1);
- Information on how the Party considers that its efforts are strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;
- Information on how the Party considers that its efforts foster low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- Information related to intended or proposed domestic mitigation measures that the Party will pursue to implement its NDC in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement (including for example whether and how mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans as referred to in Article 4.7 of the Paris Agreement contribute to mitigation outcomes);
- Once a Party presents its LT-LEDS, it should present information on how its NDCs are in line with its long-term mitigation goal. This mitigation goal should be aligned with the long term global mitigation goal set by Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement;
- Relevant information on how the Party considers that its NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2, in relation to the adaptation component (if applicable for developing countries);
- Developed country Parties to provide information on how the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2 in relation to the means of implementation.
- Information on how the NDC comprises an equitable contribution to the global goal under Article 4.1 of the Paris Agreement.

G. Additional general information on the NDC

- Information on best practices and experience related to the preparation of the NDCs;
- Information on potential climate benefits and co-benefits in other areas resulting from the implementation of the NDCs;
- Information on measures and policies related to the implementation of the NDCs;
- Specific information applicable to Parties that decided to act jointly under Article 4(2), including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of this agreement, in accordance with articles 4.16-18;
- Information on compliance to implementation;
- Information on review & verification;
- Developed country Parties to indicate whether their NDCs include mitigation, adaptation and/or support to developing country Parties through information on "scope" referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21.
- Information on how Parties take into consideration the concerns of Parties with economies most affected by the impacts of response measures, particularly developing country Parties;
- Information on economic diversification plans.

H. Additional information on the mitigation target of the NDC

- Description of the target/of each of the different targets if there are several
 - General description of the target(s), including type(s) (e.g. absolute, intensity, reduction from BAU, policies and measures etc., including information on how the contribution is expressed – e.g. as point target, carbon budget, or multi-year target) and/or mitigation efforts;
 - Information should be quantified or quantifiable, to the extent possible, as applicable to the type of target and indicators determined by the Party;
 - Extent of the mitigation contribution (e.g. headline percentage reduction, and/or policy objective);
 - For all type of quantified mitigation targets, Parties should include information on expected emissions trajectory that will be followed by the Party to meet its mitigation goal;
 - Provide a forward-looking estimate of its future economy-wide emissions that would be consistent with the achievement of its NDC (tCO₂ eq);
 - Provide indicator(s) that the Party intends to use to track progress and account for its NDC;
 - Explanation on conditional part of the contribution, if relevant;
 - Sub-targets and sectoral mitigation plan;
 - Criteria for determining targets;
 - Developed country Parties should provide the information on their economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, in accordance with paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21, and other information as set out in decision 2/CP.17 and 19/CP.18;
 - Developing country Parties should provide the information on their enhanced mitigation efforts, in accordance with paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21;
 - Developing country Parties are encouraged to provide information on possible benefits and effects to be achieved correspondent to different scales of support to be received.
- Quantified impacts of policies and measures;
- Developed countries to provide the quantitative estimated effects resulting from the mitigation component of their NDCs;
- Voluntary information on indicators/parameters which are deemed necessary by Parties, considering national capacity and needs;
- Information, if applicable, on how adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans contribute to mitigation outcomes of the NDC;
- Mitigation costs.

I. Additional information on adaptation

- Parties should provide information on the adaptation component of their NDCs, both on actions and support provided and needed, as appropriate, in accordance with Articles 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement;
- The information on adaptation component of NDCs could be informed by the discussions under APA Agenda Item 4, the outcomes of which will form part of the guidance for information;
- Developed country Parties to provide relevant information as set out in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21 and information related to the adaptation communication referred to in Articles 7.10 and 7.11 of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the outcome of APA agenda item 4;
- Developed country Parties to provide relevant information on adaptation activities including experience in various aspects of adaptation, considering Articles 7.1, 7.7, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11 and 7.13 of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the outcome of APA agenda item 4.

J. Additional Information on support

- Developed country Parties are to provide indicative quantitative and qualitative the information on provision and mobilization of support in accordance with Articles 3, 4.5, 4.8, 9.5, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement and paragraph 27 and 55 of decision 1/CP.21, as well as taking into account relevant information requirements as set out in decision 19/CP.18;
- Further guidance for information on finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed country Parties could be informed by the discussions under the relevant COP/SBI Agenda Items, the outcome of which shall be available as part of the package of guidance for information under the Paris Agreements, well in advance of the adoption of such guidance;
- Developing country Parties are encouraged to provide information on finance, technology and capacity-building support needed related to implementation of their NDCs. They may share information on voluntary support to other developing country Parties;
- Information on how enhanced support will allow for higher ambition in the developing country's efforts.
- Information on support provided by developed countries.

- Additional Information on finance
 - Information on the developed country's communication on funding to be provided, referred to in article 9.5, including as a summary, an attachment or a weblink, as applicable;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on quantitative amount in the following two years and five years;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on sources, including ratio between public and other resources;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on relevant amount of financial resources to be provided;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on delivery channels;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on areas and priorities of support;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on actions to make available the public finance, policies to attract finance flows from other resources and the causality between public interventions and mobilized investments.

- Additional information on technology
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on types of support;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on relevant amount of financial resources to be provided;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on delivery channels;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on areas and priorities of support;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on programmes and projects to be conducted by public agencies;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on plans and policies to encourage the participations by business and research institutes;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on measures on incentivizing innovation, promoting international collaboration on R&D, demonstration and deployment and facilitating the access to technologies and address barriers to their transfer to developing countries.

- Additional information on capacity building
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on types of support;

- Developed country Parties to provide information on the relevant amount of financial resources to be provided;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on delivery channels;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on areas and priorities of support;
 - Developed country Parties to provide information on policies, programmes and projects in different areas of capacity building.
- Information on support needs/received
 - Developing country Parties to be encouraged to provide information on the costs and barriers on implementing their NDCs and needs on finance, technology and capacity-building support;
 - Expected need for financial support (for developing countries);
 - Developing country Parties are encouraged to provide information on possible benefits and effects to be achieved correspondent to different scales of support to be received;
 - Developing country Parties would require a differentiated framework in projecting their needs for resources for achieving their NDCs and the different types of contributions.
 - Information on support required by developing countries.

Cluster 1.2

A. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year)

- Quantifiable information on base year or base period, reference year or reference period, as applicable tailored to the type of target and indicators determined by the Party:
 - Absolute emissions reduction target:
 - Emissions levels for the base and target year in terms of CO₂ eq.;
 - Headline number in terms of emission reduction in %.
 - BAU target:
 - Baseline, including emissions level in terms of CO₂ eq.;
 - Emissions level for the target year in terms of CO₂ eq.;
 - Headline number in terms of emission reduction in %;
 - Intensity target:
 - Quantified target level of emissions or emission reduction per unit of GDP, unit of product/output or population, or another indicator;
 - Base and target years;
 - Intensity level for the base year;
 - Headline number in terms of intensity reduction in %;
 - Expected emissions level for the target year;
 - index value for the base year.
 - Policies and measures:
 - Actions, including adaptation co-benefits;
 - Qualitative description of the policies and measures;
 - Quantitative information on expected emissions reductions from the policies and measures (if possible);
 - Emission Peaking target:
 - Peak year;
 - Indicators the party will use to assess the attainment of the objective;
 - Estimated emissions level in the peak year;
 - Emissions trajectory towards peak year.
- Information on the conditions and point in time under which the base year/baselines/reference level will be updated, if applicable;
- Parameters and their values used to define the mitigation contribution, including information on related data sources and methodologies as relevant (e.g. emissions, GDP, population, policy metric, etc.);
- Information on the base year(s) used to define relevant baselines, including the base year(s) for policy objectives that are part of the contribution such as increasing energy efficiency or forest cover;
- Gas by gas total GHG emissions and removals in the reference point/period (base year or starting year of the BAU or peaking projection);
- quantifiable data on base-year greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Party's national inventory for the applicable year(s);
- NDCs that refer to emissions trends or trajectories would need to provide or cite quantifiable information on the assumptions and methodologies used to construct these trajectories;
- NDCs that refer to mitigation policies and measures that are not reflected in national inventories should provide, for each such policy and measure, an estimate of the resulting GHG emissions reduced or avoided as a result of the policy or measure, in aggregable units;

- Information about reported emission level changes due to improvements in transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency of data, if applicable;

B. Time frames and/or periods for implementation

- Time frame and/or period for implementation, including end year; (in accordance with Article 4(10) on common timeframes, to be considered by the CMA);
- Target year;
- If a Party has referred to an absolute emission reduction target: approach used (e.g. specify whether single year target or multi-year emissions trajectory or budget);
- NDCs that use single-year GHG targets would need to specify a base year and a target year;
- NDCs that use multi-year emissions averages or “carbon budgets” would need to specify which years they intend to use for those purposes.

C. Scope and coverage

- Sectors, categories, pools and gases covered and definitions used, explaining how indicated sectors and categories are defined with respect to categories from IPCC guidance on national greenhouse gas inventories;
- If an NDC was planned considering different sectors from those identified by the IPCC, the Party has to clarify how sectors correspond to IPCC categories;
- Definition of the sectors and/or the categories, if there is difference with the definitions used in the national inventory report;
- Whether categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals reflect continued coverage of categories covered in previous NDCs;
- How the NDC has considered the encouragement to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals;
- Information on excluded sectors, gases or categories, and any considerations on the timeline for economy-wide coverage, and if available, provide information on the significance of that gas or sector in national emissions;
- Whether the Party intends to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6;
- Information on geographical coverage;

D. Planning processes

- Information on the (domestic) planning processes conducted in the design of the NDCs; and to achieve the objectives of the NDC, incl. considerations related e.g.:
 - how different public agencies and levels of government helped design the NDC;
 - institutional responsibilities;
 - development of implementation measures;
 - stakeholder consultations;
 - indigenous peoples and local communities;
 - elders and youth;
 - just transition;
 - gender;
 - human rights;
 - other important considerations.
- Information on the (most important) laws, policies, legal and institutional frameworks, plans and processes relevant for the implementation of NDCs;
- Information on how the Party’s NDC has been anchored in domestic mitigation measures;
- Information on how the Party’s NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake;

- Information on any conditional element beyond headline number;
- Description of information gaps, barriers or issues that the Party faced during NDC design process;
- Information relating to long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies submitted under Article 4(19);
- If applicable, how the NDC relates to other development plans or strategies.

E. Assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals

- Information on the accounting approaches and relevant emissions estimation methodologies to be used, in accordance with guidance on accounting adopted by the CMA, including on:
 - how the Party will draw from existing approaches;
 - how the approach is consistent with the NDC and the Party's national circumstances;
 - how the approach is consistent with the accounting guidance and the Article 4.13 principles.
- Methods and assumptions related to main drivers of national GHG emissions that allow to understand the evolution of those emissions as well as their expected value in the target year;
- Information on how base years, baselines, reference levels or projections were constructed – including key assumptions and parameters; relevant estimation methodologies; where projection based baselines and/or reference levels are used, information on policies and measures included and projection methodology;
- Metrics and methodologies used to estimate emissions (in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA), consistent with 1/CP.21 paragraph 31(a);
- Quantification of emission reductions in tonnes of CO₂ or CO₂ equivalent;
- To ensure consistency, comparability and to facilitate aggregation Parties shall use the most recent IPCC Guidelines and any further methodological guidance from the IPCC if adopted by the CMA;
- Information on how the Party will ensure the methodological consistency between the communication and implementation of its NDC;
- For common metrics, Parties shall continue to use the well-established GWP-100 values from the IPCC, if adopted by the CMA;
- Intended use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6, in accordance with the guidance decided by the CMA, including the intended accounting approach to be used in accordance with relevant guidance;
- All Parties that include the LULUCF sector in their NDC should provide information on accounting methodological approach used to estimate emissions and removals towards their NDC and clarify which sources and sinks are not accounted for;
- If the Party has included the LULUCF sector in its NDC:
 - Treatment in NDC (e.g. accounting like any other sector, sectoral target);
 - Accounting approach (e.g. land-based vs. activity-based, in accordance with the guidance decided by the CMA, use of base years/base periods/reference levels);
 - Coverage of activities/categories or sub-categories/pools (including HWP) /fluxes/gases (comprehensive/partial);
 - Intention to exclude emissions from natural disturbances and provisions to be applied;
 - Information on reference level, if this accounting approach is used, and its relation to the overall baseline;
 - Treatment of HWP, Natural disturbance, Legacy, Other;

- Linkage to IPCC categories/pools;
- If using managed land proxy, specify which land is classed as managed;
- Construction of any specific baselines for land use categories/activities.
- If a Party has referred to an absolute, economy-wide target
 - Further information to help understand the NDC;
 - Multi-year or single year targets (budget-based or single year approach).
- If Party has referred to a BAU baseline or scenario:
 - Assumptions used and sources for data series that form part of the NDC target (e.g. GDP, population, energy use, type of model used if NDC is based on projected values, past trends);
 - Model used to develop BAU baseline;
 - Whether the baseline scenario is static or dynamic;
 - Which policies and measures are included/excluded in the baseline, and on what basis? (e.g. does the baseline include policies/measures adopted up to a specific point in time?);
 - Timing of updates and parameters that will be updated.
- If a Party has referred to emission intensity (e.g. emissions per capita or per GDP):
 - Data sources used to calculate the index (e.g. population or any other macroeconomic indicators);
 - Source and type of GDP used, if applicable;
 - Past trends;
 - Projections, if available;
 - Timing and parameters of updates.
- If a Party has referred to an emission peaking target:
 - Intended date of the peak;
 - Expected peak emission level, if available;
 - Expected rate of emissions decline after peak, if available.
- If a party has referred to the implementation of policies and measures (intended or proposed):
 - Detailed list and scope of intended or proposed policies and measures to be implemented, with sectors and gases involved;
 - Implementation milestone;
 - Estimated quantified emissions impact (if available) and underlying assumption;
 - Explanation on how to track the progress in implementation of the contribution, including, if applicable, identifying quantifiable indicators.
- If a Party has referred to achieving carbon/emission neutrality:
 - Information explaining the Party's definition of carbon or emission neutrality;
 - Accounting approach used for carbon neutrality;
 - How emissions from the land sector will be accounted for;
 - Explanation whether and to what extent units from international market mechanisms or other compensation activities/credits will be used to reach target.
- Further technical information on mitigation contributions as necessary – e.g. any additional technical information the Party deems relevant to specify their GHG and/or non-GHG mitigation contributions, including related mitigation co-benefit resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, and other kinds of contributions;
- Any changes that may occur during implementation and that affect the NDC should be reflected in the progress report as referred to in Art. 13.7 (b) of the Paris Agreement.

F. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2

How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious

- How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances;
- Information on fairness considerations of efforts such as approaches and concepts that the Party has used to operationalize equity and fairness considerations, and emissions levels or trajectory under the NDC compared to the appropriate counterfactual;
- Information on how the Party considers that its NDC represents a progression beyond current NDC as per Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement;
- Information on how the NDC reflects the Party's highest possible ambition reflecting its CBDR-RC in the light of different national circumstances; e.g. using illustrative indicators such as past emission trends, projections, national circumstances, mitigation costs, mitigation potentials or domestic mitigation targets;
- A Party with an absolute emissions reduction target should provide information on how its NDC compares with its BAU projection;
- Information on how inputs from the best available science was considered in the Party's NDC, in a view of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement goals;
- A Party's national circumstances may include any features of its geography, climate or economy that set practical limits on its ambition;
- Information on how the NDC has been informed by the outcome of the global stocktake in accordance with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement, or the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue as relevant;
- Information on how the Party has addressed Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement and Article 4.6 of the Paris Agreement:
 - How the developed country Party considers that its economy-wide absolute emission reduction target reflects that the Party continues to take the lead;
 - How the developing country Party envisions to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets;
 - How the special circumstances of Parties that are SIDS and LDCs are reflected in the Party's NDC or strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development;

How the Party considers that its NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:

- Information on how the NDC is a contribution towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;
- Information on how the NDC is consistent with the agreed global temperature goal as described in Article 2.1(a) of the Paris Agreement and the collective aim to reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible and undertake rapid reductions thereafter (Article 4.1);
- Information on how the Party considers that its efforts are strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;
- Information on how the Party considers that its efforts foster low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- Information related to intended or proposed domestic mitigation measures that the Party will pursue to implement its NDC in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement (including for example whether and how mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans as referred to in Article 4.7 of the Paris Agreement contribute to mitigation outcomes);

- Once a Party presents its LT-LEDS, it should present information on how its NDCs are in line with its long-term mitigation goal. This mitigation goal should be aligned with the long term global mitigation goal set by Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement;

G. Description of the target/of each of the different targets if there are several

- General description of the target(s), including type(s) (e.g. absolute, intensity, reduction from BAU, policies and measures etc., including information on how the contribution is expressed – e.g. as point target, carbon budget, or multi-year target) and/or mitigation efforts;
- Information should be quantified or quantifiable, to the extent possible, as applicable to the type of target and indicators determined by the Party;
- Extent of the mitigation contribution (e.g. headline percentage reduction, and/or policy objective);
- For all type of quantified mitigation targets, Parties should include information on expected emissions trajectory that will be followed by the Party to meet its mitigation goal;
- Provide a forward-looking estimate of its future economy-wide emissions that would be consistent with the achievement of its NDC (tCO₂ eq);
- Provide indicator(s) that the Party intends to use to track progress and account for its NDC;
- Explanation on conditional part of the contribution, if relevant;
- Quantified impacts of policies and measures.

Cluster 1.3

A. Basic information list for all Parties – As set out in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21

B. Further information guidance for developed country Parties

- a. General information of NDCs
 - all the items listed in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21;
 - in particular, indicating whether their NDCs include mitigation, adaptation and/or support to developing country Parties through information on “scope” referred to in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21;
- b. Information on mitigation component of NDCs
 - The entire information in relation to their absolute economy-wide emission reduction targets and measures relevant to the implementation of their targets at the domestic and international levels, including the general information in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21 and other information as set out in decision 2/CP.17 and 19/CP.18;
 - Information on domestic measures, including both existing and anticipated additional laws, plans and policies;
 - Information on international measures, including joint implementation as set out in Articles 4.16-4.18 of the Paris Agreement and the intention to use international transferred mitigation outcomes under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
- c. Information on adaptation component of NDCs
 - Relevant information as set out in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21 and information related to the adaptation communication referred to in Articles 7.10 and 7.11 of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the outcome of APA agenda item 4;
- d. Information on support to be provided component of NDCs
 - Indicative quantitative and qualitative information in accordance with Articles 4.8, 9.5, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 27 and 55 of decision 1/CP.21, as well as taking into account relevant information requirements as set out in decision 19/CP.18;
 - Specifically, the information on finance may include, inter alia:
 - base year,
 - period for implementation,
 - quantitative amount in the following two years and five years,
 - sources, including ratio between public and other resources,
 - delivery channels,
 - areas and priorities of support,
 - relevant assumptions and methodologies for accounting the financial resources, estimating public finance, identifying resources mobilized by public interventions and other policies and attributing private investment,
 - actions to make available the public finance, policies to attract finance flows from other resources and the causality between public interventions and mobilized investments, and

- fairness and ambition including why such financial resources are new and additional and how such financial support will assist developing country Parties to implement their NDCs.
- The information on technology may include, inter alia:
 - types of support,
 - relevant amount of financial resources to be provided,
 - delivery channels,
 - areas and priorities of support,
 - programmes and projects to be conducted by public agencies,
 - plans and policies to encourage the participations by business and research institutes,
 - measures on incentivizing innovation, promoting international collaboration on R&D, demonstration and deployment and facilitating the access to technologies and address barriers to their transfer to developing countries,
 - relevant methodologies and assumptions on estimating their support, and
 - fairness and ambition, including how such support will assist developing country Parties to implement their NDCs and increase their access to climate related technologies.
- The information on capacity-building may include, inter alia:
 - types of support,
 - relevant amount of financial resources to be provided,
 - delivery channels,
 - areas and priorities of support,
 - policies, programmes and projects in different areas of capacity-building,
 - relevant methodologies and assumptions on estimating their support, and
 - fairness and ambition, including how such support will assist developing countries to strengthen their capacities on combating climate change.

C. Further information guidance for developing country Parties

- a. General information of NDCs
 - Paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21 as a reference list for developing country Parties when preparing their NDCs and providing their information;
 - Information on several or all of the items listed in paragraph 27 of decision 1/CP.21 at their discretion, taking into account their diversified NDCs, national circumstances, capacities, data availability and support received for preparation and communication of the NDCs;
- b. Information on mitigation component of NDCs
 - taking into account the general information of NDCs above, if applicable;
- c. Information on adaptation component of NDCs
 - taking into account the general information of NDCs above, if applicable and the outcome of APA agenda item 4;
- d. Information on support needed related to NDCs
 - to be encouraged to provide information on the costs and barriers on implementing their NDCs and needs on finance, technology and capacity-building support.

Appendix 2: Accounting

Cluster 2.1

A. Parties account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA (decision 1/CP.21, para. 31(a))

- National GHG Inventories will be significant tools for monitoring NDCs. Therefore, Parties should use the more appropriate and scientifically accurate methodological approaches and metrics for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals provided by the IPCC, in order to reduce uncertainty.
- The CMA should update periodically metrics and methodologies that Parties should use to communicate and track progress of their NDCs;
- Use IPCC guidance as adopted by CMA;
- Developed countries to apply the IPCC 2006 guidelines and continue taking the lead in applying any updated good practice methodologies accepted by the IPCC and ensure methodological consistency, including base years, baselines, reference levels, and assumptions, between the communication of NDCs and inventory and report on progress and developing countries to follow the IPCC methodology by choosing the most appropriate IPCC guidelines in light of their different capacities and circumstances;
- Adopt 2006 IPCC guidelines for GHG inventories as basis for GHG inventories under Article 13(7)(b);
- Parties who communicate GHG targets as their NDCs will need to ensure consistency between their NDC accounting and their national GHG inventories. Similarly, Parties that refer to economic or demographic indicators (e.g. GDP, population) in their NDCs should ensure consistency with their national economic accounts and demographic statistics, as appropriate;
- Guidance on how to promote of environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, ensure the avoidance of double counting;
- Guidance on how to aggregate NDCs: including comparability aspect of various NDCs (with various: base year, intensity-based, methodologies and assumptions, etc.);
- Guidance on fair and ambition of NDC and contribution to achieve the objectives the Convention;
- Parties should use the same methodologies and metrics throughout the time frame of their NDC. If a Party makes a change to any of these during the time frame, it is critical that it is done in a way that ensures comparability and the fulfilment of the other TACCC-principles;
- Parties should use GHG emissions reported in the most recent national inventory reports under the transparency framework of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement based on the methodologies and metrics defined by the reporting guideline under the transparency framework;
- Methodological approaches to account for GHG goals under NDCs:
 - For all types of mitigation targets, it could be important to provide common guidance for estimation of GHG emissions and removals (based on IPCC guidelines and aligned with decision on modalities, procedures and guidelines for estimation and reporting of national GHG inventories under the enhanced transparency framework);
 - The report of the national GHG emissions and removals should be complemented by indicators and other information that allows to understand progress on implementation of policies and actions that have the most significant impact on the NDC emission levels. Thus, accounting guidance could include methodological approaches to develop appropriate indicators to fulfil this task.
- Methodological approaches to account for non-GHG goals under NDCs:

- Additional guidance for Parties with mitigation targets that are based on strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emission development (or adaptation actions that could take the form of mitigation benefits) should be provided for the design of tracking indicators (i.e.: increase of renewable energies installed capacity (GW)) and the estimation of GHG impacts of policies or actions implemented. Despite the difficulty of fulfil this task for Parties with some NDCs not expressed in terms of GHG emissions, Parties should strive to quantify their mitigation efforts in order to have comparable information about progress of all Parties' NDCs.
- Accounting guidance should help Parties to measure and track progress in the implementation and achievement of mitigation goals through the comparison of actual emissions and removals and/or indicators ex-post estimated against a baseline, reference point/period or expected emission level in the target year/period (according to the type of mitigation goal);
- Each Party shall prepare a national inventory and shall complete a national inventory for each year subsequent to the year nominated as the reference or base year for the NDC;
- Parties who are unable to use the most recent methods and guidance for any particular estimation or accounting process should explain how they are striving to improve their practices over time;
- GHG mitigation contributions to be expressed in terms of tCO₂e;
- Adopt common metrics to calculate CO₂ equivalent emissions for the reporting of GHG inventories for the assessment of individual and aggregate progress;
- The guidance should also adopt the metrics assessed by the IPCC to quantify emissions from different gases, the Global Warming Potential (GWP) and the Global Temperature Potential (GTP). In this context, Parties would be required to clearly indicate which metrics and values (i.e., from which Assessment Report) have been adopted to track progress of their NDCs, as well as to continue to report GHG inventories on a gas-by-gas basis and in units of mass.

B. Parties ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions (decision 1/CP.21, para. 31(b))

- Maintain consistency in accounting approaches, choice of assumptions and definitions used between communication of NDC and implementation; and throughout implementation period;
- Methodological consistency helps ensure that reported results reflect a real change in outcome, and not simply a change in methodology. For this reason, if a Party wishes to make improvements to its accounting approach or methodologies, it would need to apply any necessary recalculations to its initial reference points and baselines, as well as to how it measures its results. The guidance should explain to Parties how to apply these recalculations in practice;
- Developed countries to use comparable methodologies and approaches to explain their other aspects of mitigation component of NDCs, including domestic emissions, policies and utilization of international transferred mitigation outcomes, and to ensure methodological consistency between the communication of NDCs and reporting on implementation and developing countries to be allowed to utilize their own methodologies and approaches to explain other references, parameters and other aspects of content in their NDCs, as appropriate, while making their best endeavor to ensure methodological consistency between communication and implementation;
- Where updated data and parameters are used before the end of the implementation period, they should be used consistently both to calculate outcomes and to update relevant base year indicators, baselines reference levels or projections (i.e. maintain time series consistency);

- Describe any updates to data and parameters used during an implementation period; Describe any changes in approaches and assumptions, as relevant, between implementation periods;
- Guidance should elaborate what methodological consistency means and how it can be ensured based on existing IPCC guidance and answer questions such as how consistency can be applied to specific methodologies, and what ‘communication’ and ‘implementation’ means in paragraph 31;
- Accounting guidance should establish procedures that Parties should follow in case of methodological inconsistencies;
- Accounting guidance should establish procedures for how technical corrections to baselines/reference levels(s) to ensure consistency should be communicated and implemented;
- Guidance on reference levels and/or baselines:
 - Reference level(s)/baseline(s) to be transparent, real, verifiable and robust, including where applicable forest reference (emission) levels;
 - Procedural guidance on updating/changing reference levels and/or baselines and on ensuring methodological consistency.
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Construction
 - Avoid overestimating or underestimating and use verifiable information sources;
 - Where projections used, take into account all relevant policies and measures in place at time of construction, explaining exclusions;
 - Demonstrate that parameters and values used are consistent with historical and publicly available data;
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Update
 - Should periodically update the base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and/or projections as appropriate, taking into account new information, trends and incorporating any changes to coverage and methodologies;
 - Report any updates at the earliest opportunity.
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Comparison against outcomes
 - Parties to describe how they will compare outcomes against their base year indicator(s), baseline(s), reference level(s) and/or projection(s);
 - Maintain method of comparison throughout implementation period.
- Parties that use reference points or baselines in their NDCs may construct them from historical averages, extrapolations, or modelled projections, as appropriate, including “off-the-shelf” and country-specific methodologies. These Parties would need to provide a description of the data sets, approaches, methods, models, and/or assumptions used to construct these reference points or baselines, including a description of the policies and plans that are integrated within them. Methodological consistency between the communication of a NDC and its implementation is important for assessing whether and to what extent implementation action has led to achievement of the target(s) set out in the NDC;
- To ensure methodological consistency in accordance with paragraph 31 (b), methodological elements such as definitions, parameters, conditions and assumptions on the construction of reference points should preferably remain unchanged between the communication and the implementation of the NDC. If, however, changes are made during the time frame of a NDC, methodological consistency would, as a minimum, require a description of the changes and their consequences for the target(s);
- In order to ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions, Parties must in their accounting include information on:

- Any additional/new information and/or changes/updates that could affect consistency, e.g. on target(s), scope/coverage, base-year, definitions, methodologies, parameters, conditions, assumptions and accounting approaches during the NDC time frame;
 - For the construction of baselines and reference levels, Parties should include information that allows for reconstruction, and include which and how historical and projected data have been taken into account.
 - Guidance for the reference point/period and projections: This guidance could answer questions such as:
 - What criteria were employed to select reference point/period?
 - How to calculate/set a baseline (in the case of NDCs based on deviation from BAU emissions)?
 - How and when should a baseline be re-calculated or updated?
 - Parties should be provided with general guidance for estimation of projections of GHG emissions and removals;
 - Parties may update the projected emission level periodically or taking into account the latest socioeconomic circumstances, improvement of methodologies, data and other related assumptions during the timeframe and/or periods for implementation. In such cases, Parties should provide explicit explanations of why and how they update the projected emission level and the change in the methodologies and assumptions. These updates should not lower ambitions of the Parties' NDCs;
 - Projected baseline
 - Parties construct the projected emission level in the target year, identifying the scope of the policies and measures included if applicable;
 - Parties may update the projected emission level periodically or taking into account the latest socioeconomic circumstances, improvement of methodologies, data and other related assumptions during the timeframe and/or periods for implementation. In such cases, Parties should provide explicit explanations of why and how they update the projected emission level and the change in the methodologies and assumptions. These updates should not lower ambitions of the Parties' NDCs.
 - Emissions intensity
 - Parties identify the indicator used to calculate GHG emissions intensity, including GDP and population, and its value in the base year and the target year.
 - Non-GHG contributions including implementation of policies and measures
 - Parties should explain how to track the progress in implementation of the contributions, including, if applicable, identifying the quantifiable indicators.
- C. Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it (decision 1/CP.21, paras. C) and d)**
- Consistently to include all categories (gases, activities, pools) of anthropogenic emissions or removals;
 - Developed countries to account for their economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, with a view to ensuring all gases, sectors, sinks and activities included and developing countries to be allowed to choose the categories of emissions and removals, including sectors and gases covered in their NDCs, in a nationally determined manner;
 - Accounting guidance should clarify that 'all categories of emissions and removals in NDCs' on the one hand refer to those categories for which methodologies are provided in IPCC Guidelines;

- As there are also NDCs that refer to categories of emissions that do not exist as categories/sectors/gases in the IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories, Parties that include categories that are not part of the IPCC guidelines, should define those categories and explain which methods they intend to apply for their estimation. Where a different organization of emissions is used (e.g. “deforestation” or “renewable energy”) the categories used should be defined, and an explanation provided as to how they relate to existing categories from the IPCC guidelines;
- Accounting guidance should specify where and how Parties indicate which categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are included in their NDCs;
- Each Party should strive to include all emissions sectors, categories, pools and gases in its NDC, preferably as an economy-wide GHG target (Art. 4.4). In doing so, Parties should prioritize their most significant and/or fastest growing emissions for inclusion, while also taking care not to over- or underestimate their real emissions;
- There are some situations where Party might exclude a category of emissions or removals from consideration in its national inventory, and by extension, from the GHG target in its NDC. In this case, the Party should clearly indicate the sources and sinks that are not considered and explain the reasons for such exclusions;
- Any mitigation goal that cannot be captured in a Party’s national inventory can nevertheless be communicated as a separate component of the Party’s NDC, alongside the Party’s GHG target. However, the Party would need to explain how it is striving to broaden the coverage of its NDC, with a view to moving over time toward an economy-wide GHG target (Article 4.4);
- Once a source, sink, gas, land category or activity is included in a Party’s NDC, this shall be included in subsequent NDCs, provided that it still occurs.

D. Operationalization of the principles of the Article 4 paragraph 13 and paragraph 31 of the decision 1/CP.21

- Transparency
 - During the entire NDCs implementation period, Parties should provide or update (inform changes on) information on sectors, methodologies, metrics and assumptions used to measure and track progress made in implementing and achieving their NDCs (in line with what was communicated in their NDCs).
- Accuracy
 - Parties should increase over time the accuracy of emissions and removals estimates used to set mitigation goals and track progress of the implementation and achievement of these goals under NDC. This implies, therefore, that GHG emissions and removals should not be over-or under-estimated.
- Consistency (according to Article 13 of the PA and the paragraph 27 b) of the Decision 1/CP.21)
 - Parties should ensure consistency between the methodological approaches used to set the mitigation goal under its NDC (and also baselines/reference point) and the methodological approach used to measure and track progress in the implementation of NDC;
 - Also, when baselines or a reference point/period and mitigation goals under their NDCs are set, Parties have to ensure consistency between methodological approaches and data used to calculate National GHG Inventories and those used to calculate baselines or reference point/period and set mitigation goals;
- Completeness (according to Article 13 of the PA and the paragraphs 31 c) and d) of Decision 1/CP.21)

- Parties should strive to include all IPCC categories and estimate all anthropogenic emissions and removals included in their NDCs across the entire NDCs period. Once a Party includes a source or sink in its NDC, it should continue to include it;
- Parties should provide an explanation (when communicate their NDCs or report progress in their implementation) of why any sector or category of emissions or removals is excluded.
- Comparability
 - In order to ensure comparability amongst NDC and to facilitate assessment of collective progress towards the achievement of global goals, Parties should use common metrics (for example GWPs) and methodologies provided by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA. The CMA should update periodically metrics and methodologies that Parties should be used to communicate and track progress of their NDCs.
- Environmental integrity and double counting
 - In the accounting guidance, there should be clarity on the use of units derived from the implementation of Article 6, in order for their accounting to be assigned to one Party only. This work should take into account the discussions taking place under SBSTA related to Article 6 of the Agreement.

E. Article 6 related accounting

- A robust accounting framework is a pre-requisite for use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes or use of market-based units toward NDCs under Article 6 in order to ensure the avoidance of double counting of emission reductions or units between Parties;
- The work should be informed by the discussion on ITMOs under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Joint consultations between APA Agenda Item 3 and the relevant SBSTA Agenda Item could be conducted if needed;
- Parties must ensure coherence and relevant cross-references with the texts being prepared under Article 6. For example, the use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6 must be transparently reflected for the tracking of progress with NDCs;
- Guidance should cover avoidance of double counting in relation to use of Article 6 outcomes toward NDCs. Further topics may include guidance relating to how Article 6 outcomes are applied toward NDCs;
- The Article 6 guidance should define corresponding adjustments that take into account the diversity, such as type and target year/period of NDCs;
- Parties that decide to utilize the approaches defined in Article 6, paragraphs 2 and 4, towards their NDCs must be subject to additional and more stringent accounting rules. These are to be developed within the modalities and procedures being negotiated under SBSTA agenda item 11.
- With a view to avoid duplication of work, the discussion on “accounting for” NDCs should refrain from elaborating on the use of market based mechanisms;
- The guidance relating to Art. 6 deals with the issuance, transfer and use of ITMOs towards the achievement of NDCs, including the avoidance of double counting in relation to the issuance, transfer and use of ITMOs;
- In addition to paragraph 31 accounting guidance, Parties that intend to use mechanisms under Article 6 should be required to report on various aspects associated with it.
- Accounting guidance in relation to Article 6.2 will have to address the promotion of sustainable development, and how environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance, will be ensured. It will also have to establish systems and tools to avoid the double counting that may

arise in many ways, and be integrated with rules established in relation to other Article 6 provisions;

- Internationally-agreed guidance must be in place at the international level before mitigation outcomes are transferred between Parties for use toward NDCs, and the proper application of this guidance must be a condition precedent for the recognition of transferred outcomes.

F. LULUCF, forests and REDD+

- A robust accounting framework is needed to assess the impact of NDCs that include the land sector, since the land sector involves a mix of anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic emissions;
- Parties should account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in the land sector consistent with paragraph 31 of decision 1/CP.21, and while taking into account existing methods and guidance as agreed under the Convention. May cover natural disturbance and other land related topics not sufficiently covered by other guidance;
- There are Kyoto Protocol rules on accounting for developed countries. Under the Convention, arrangements for forest and REDD+ are available for developing country Parties. When developing the guidance for accounting under the Paris Agreement, Parties should avoid using the language without consensus, such as “AFOLU” or “land sector”. The terms acceptable under the Convention and its related legal instruments are “LULUCF” for developed country Parties and “forest or REDD+” for developing country Parties;
- Developed countries to apply relevant rules under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and guidelines accepted by the IPCC, with the improvement of the existing rules on LULUCF to close any loopholes and developing countries may account for their actions on forest and REDD+ in accordance with the relevant arrangements under the Convention if their NDCs include such aspects, without implicitly or explicitly leading to any requirement to undertake mitigation actions in agriculture;
- Guidance should include a section on accounting for land sector that ensures that the estimation of sources and sinks in land sector, as included in the NDCs and considering mitigation goals, are consistent with National GHG Inventories and address some specific issues, inter alia:
 - Natural disturbances in unmanaged lands, considering that natural disturbances in managed lands should be included in National GHG Inventories;
 - Consistent application of the IPCC guidelines across countries for estimating CO₂ emissions from harvested wood products;
 - Treatment of lagged emissions to avoid committed approaches, in line with the accuracy required for the National GHG Inventories.
- Developed: LULUCF related accounting – to apply relevant rules under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and guidelines accepted by the IPCC; for developing, forest related accounting for developing country Parties – may account for their actions on forest and REDD+ in accordance with the relevant arrangements under the Convention if their NDCs include such aspects, without implicitly or explicitly leading to any requirement to undertake mitigation actions in agriculture;
- Parties can account emissions and removals from land sector based on the following two approaches: 1) to incorporate the emissions and removals from land sector with estimation of emissions from other sectors or 2) to separate the emissions and removals from estimation of emissions from other sectors. Parties should clarify which approach is applied;
- Harvested wood products are accounted based on a common accounting approach in order to ensure avoiding global double counting;
- Parties are encouraged to include the land sector in their NDCs;

- Parties that choose to include the land sector in their NDCs shall continue to include it.
- Where possible, guidance for accounting for emissions and removals from the land sector should be able to be covered by accounting guidance in a general manner. However, there may be some accounting specificities unique to the land sector (for example, how to treat natural disturbances, legacy effects, or harvested wood products).

G. Accounting for adaptation

- Accounting for adaptation component of NDCs could be informed, if needed, by the discussions under APA Agenda Item 4 and the Adaptation Committee, the outcomes of which may form part of guidance for accounting as appropriate.

H. Support component of NDC

- Developed countries to account for their NDCs on financial support in accordance with the modality to be developed referred to in paragraph 57 of decision 1/CP.21, in order to ensure the requirement of “new and additional” and avoid double counting on financial support;
- Developed countries to account for their NDCs on technology development and transfer and capacity-building, with a view to clarifying the definition and scope of technology development and transfer and capacity-building support, developing the appropriate methodologies to count and calculate the scale and possible effects of such support and avoiding the double counting, and developing countries to be encouraged to use clear, concise and transparent methodologies or approaches to explain the costs, barriers and support needed related to their NDCs.

I. Harmonization of accounting rules with those developed by ICAO and IMO

- At this point, there is no clarity on how ICAO and IMO will progress their respective obligations, with the exception of ICAO and their CORSIA mechanism. Any specific accounting rules adopted by both specialized UN agencies, should be user friendly, and be harmonized with the current IPCC rules developed for calculating emissions from international bunker fuels. This is to ensure that there is transparency, clarity and understanding of what is reported by IMO and ICAO and it can clearly accepted by National Climate Change authorities as authentic in nature.

Cluster 2.2

A. Parties account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA (decision 1/CP.21, para. 31(a))

- National GHG Inventories will be significant tools for monitoring NDCs. Therefore, Parties should use the more appropriate and scientifically accurate methodological approaches and metrics for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals provided by the IPCC, in order to reduce uncertainty.
- The CMA should update periodically metrics and methodologies that Parties should use to communicate and track progress of their NDCs;
- Use IPCC guidance as adopted by CMA;
- Adopt 2006 IPCC guidelines for GHG inventories as basis for GHG inventories under Article 13(7)(b);
- Parties who communicate GHG targets as their NDCs will need to ensure consistency between their NDC accounting and their national GHG inventories. Similarly, Parties that refer to economic or demographic indicators (e.g. GDP, population) in their NDCs should ensure consistency with their national economic accounts and demographic statistics, as appropriate;
- Guidance on how to promote of environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, ensure the avoidance of double counting;
- Guidance on how to aggregate NDCs: including comparability aspect of various NDCs (with various: base year, intensity-based, methodologies and assumptions, etc.);
- Parties should use the same methodologies and metrics throughout the time frame of their NDC. If a Party makes a change to any of these during the time frame, it is critical that it is done in a way that ensures comparability and the fulfilment of the other TACCC-principles;
- Parties should use GHG emissions reported in the most recent national inventory reports under the transparency framework of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement based on the methodologies and metrics defined by the reporting guideline under the transparency framework;
- Methodological approaches to account for GHG goals under NDCs:
 - For all types of mitigation targets, it could be important to provide common guidance for estimation of GHG emissions and removals (based on IPCC guidelines and aligned with decision on modalities, procedures and guidelines for estimation and reporting of national GHG inventories under the enhanced transparency framework);
 - The report of the national GHG emissions and removals should be complemented by indicators and other information that allows to understand progress on implementation of policies and actions that have the most significant impact on the NDC emission levels. Thus, accounting guidance could include methodological approaches to develop appropriate indicators to fulfil this task.
- Methodological approaches to account for non-GHG goals under NDCs:
 - Additional guidance for Parties with mitigation targets that are based on strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emission development (or adaptation actions that could take the form of mitigation benefits) should be provided for the design of tracking indicators (i.e.: increase of renewable energies installed capacity (GW)) and the estimation of GHG impacts of policies or actions implemented. Despite the difficulty of fulfil this task for Parties with some NDCs not expressed in terms of GHG emissions, Parties should strive to quantify their mitigation efforts in order to have comparable information about progress of all Parties' NDCs;
- Accounting guidance should help Parties to measure and track progress in the implementation and achievement of mitigation goals through the comparison of actual emissions and removals

and/or indicators ex-post estimated against a baseline, reference point/period or expected emission level in the target year/period (according to the type of mitigation goal);

- Each Party shall prepare a national inventory and shall complete a national inventory for each year subsequent to the year nominated as the reference or base year for the NDC;
- Parties who are unable to use the most recent methods and guidance for any particular estimation or accounting process should explain how they are striving to improve their practices over time;
- GHG mitigation contributions to be expressed in terms of tCO₂e;
- Adopt common metrics to calculate CO₂ equivalent emissions for the reporting of GHG inventories for the assessment of individual and aggregate progress;
- The guidance should also adopt the metrics assessed by the IPCC: The Global Warming Potential (GWP) and the Global Temperature Potential (GTP). In this context, Parties would be required to clearly indicate which metrics and values (i.e., from which Assessment Report) have been adopted to track progress of their NDCs, as well as to continue to report GHG inventories on a gas-by-gas basis and in units of mass;
- Emissions intensity
 - Parties identify the indicator used to calculate GHG emissions intensity, including GDP and population, and its value in the base year and the target year.
- Non-GHG contributions including implementation of policies and measures;
- Parties should explain how to track the progress in implementation of the contributions, including, if applicable, identifying the quantifiable indicators.

B. Parties ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions (decision 1/CP.21, para. 31(b))

- Maintain consistency in accounting approaches, choice of assumptions and definitions used between communication of NDC and implementation; and throughout implementation period;
- Methodological consistency helps ensure that reported results reflect a real change in outcome, and not simply a change in methodology. For this reason, if a Party wishes to make improvements to its accounting approach or methodologies, it would need to apply any necessary recalculations to its initial reference points and baselines, as well as to how it measures its results. The guidance should explain to Parties how to apply these recalculations in practice;
- Where updated data and parameters are used before the end of the implementation period, they should be used consistently both to calculate outcomes and to update relevant base year indicators, baselines reference levels or projections (i.e. maintain time series consistency);
- Describe any updates to data and parameters used during an implementation period; Describe any changes in approaches and assumptions, as relevant, between implementation periods;
- Guidance should elaborate what methodological consistency means and how it can be ensured based on existing IPCC guidance and answer questions such as how consistency can be applied to specific methodologies, and what ‘communication’ and ‘implementation’ means in paragraph 31;
- Accounting guidance should establish procedures that Parties should follow in case of methodological inconsistencies;
- Accounting guidance should establish procedures for how technical corrections to baselines/reference levels(s) to ensure consistency should be communicated and implemented;
- Guidance on reference levels and/or baselines:
 - Reference level(s)/baseline(s) to be transparent, real, verifiable and robust, including where applicable forest reference (emission) levels;

- Procedural guidance on updating/changing reference levels and/or baselines and on ensuring methodological consistency.
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Construction
 - Avoid overestimating or underestimating and use verifiable information sources;
 - Where projections used, take into account all relevant policies and measures in place at time of construction, explaining exclusions;
 - Demonstrate that parameters and values used are consistent with historical and publicly available data;
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Update
 - Should periodically update the base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and/or projections as appropriate, taking into account new information, trends and incorporating any changes to coverage and methodologies;
 - Report any updates at the earliest opportunity.
- Base year indicators, baselines, reference levels and projections: Comparison against outcomes
 - Parties to describe how they will compare outcomes against their base year indicator(s), baseline(s), reference level(s) and/or projection(s);
 - Maintain method of comparison throughout implementation period.
- Parties that use reference points or baselines in their NDCs may construct them from historical averages, extrapolations, or modelled projections, as appropriate, including “off-the-shelf” and country-specific methodologies. These Parties would need to provide a description of the data sets, approaches, methods, models, and/or assumptions used to construct these reference points or baselines, including a description of the policies and plans that are integrated within them. The descriptions provided must be sufficient for a third party to reconstruct the reference point or baseline using publicly available data. Methodological consistency between the communication of a NDC and its implementation is important for assessing whether and to what extent implementation action has led to achievement of the target(s) set out in the NDC;
- To ensure methodological consistency in accordance with paragraph 31 (b), methodological elements such as definitions, parameters, conditions and assumptions on the construction of reference points should preferably remain unchanged between the communication and the implementation of the NDC. If, however, changes are made during the time frame of a NDC, methodological consistency would, as a minimum, require a description of the changes and their consequences for the target(s);
- In order to ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions, Parties must in their accounting include information on:
 - Any additional/new information and/or changes/updates that could affect consistency, e.g. on target(s), scope/coverage, base-year, definitions, methodologies, parameters, conditions, assumptions and accounting approaches during the NDC time frame;
 - For the construction of baselines and reference levels, Parties should include information that allows for reconstruction, and include which and how historical and projected data have been taken into account.
- Guidance for the reference point/period and projections: This guidance could answer questions such as:
 - What criteria were employed to select reference point/period?
 - How to calculate/set a baseline (in the case of NDCs based on deviation from BAU emissions)?
 - How and when should a baseline be re-calculated or updated?

- Parties should be provided with general guidance for estimation of projections of GHG emissions and removals;
- Parties may update the projected emission level periodically or taking into account the latest socioeconomic circumstances, improvement of methodologies, data and other related assumptions during the timeframe and/or periods for implementation. In such cases, Parties should provide explicit explanations of why and how they update the projected emission level and the change in the methodologies and assumptions. These updates should not lower ambitions of the Parties' NDCs;
- Projected baseline
 - Parties construct the projected emission level in the target year, identifying the scope of the policies and measures included if applicable;
 - Parties may update the projected emission level periodically or taking into account the latest socioeconomic circumstances, improvement of methodologies, data and other related assumptions during the timeframe and/or periods for implementation. In such cases, Parties should provide explicit explanations of why and how they update the projected emission level and the change in the methodologies and assumptions. These updates should not lower ambitions of the Parties' NDCs.

C. Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it (decision 1/CP.21, paras. C) and d)

- Accounting guidance should clarify that 'all categories of emissions and removals in NDCs' on the one hand refer to those categories for which methodologies are provided in IPCC Guidelines;
- As there are also NDCs that refer to categories of emissions that do not exist as categories/sectors/gases in the IPCC guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories, Parties that include categories that are not part of the IPCC guidelines, should define those categories and explain which methods they intend to apply for their estimation. Where a different organization of emissions is used (e.g. "deforestation" or "renewable energy") the categories used should be defined, and an explanation provided as to how they relate to existing categories from the IPCC guidelines;
- Accounting guidance should specify where and how Parties indicate which categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are included in their NDCs;
- Each Party should strive to include all emissions sectors, categories, pools and gases in its NDC, preferably as an economy-wide GHG target (Art. 4.4). In doing so, Parties should prioritize their most significant and/or fastest growing emissions for inclusion, while also taking care not to over- or underestimate their real emissions;
- There are some situations where Party might exclude a category of emissions or removals from consideration in its national inventory, and by extension, from the GHG target in its NDC. In this case, the Party should clearly indicate the sources and sinks that are not considered and explain the reasons for such exclusions;
- Any mitigation goal that cannot be captured in a Party's national inventory can nevertheless be communicated as a separate component of the Party's NDC, alongside the Party's GHG target. However, the Party would need to explain how it is striving to broaden the coverage of its NDC, with a view to moving over time toward an economy-wide GHG target (Article 4.4);
- Once a source, sink, gas, land category or activity is included in a Party's NDC, this shall be included in subsequent NDCs, provided that it still occurs.

D. Operationalization of the principles of the Article 4 paragraph 13 and paragraph 31 of the decision 1/CP.21

- Transparency
 - During the entire NDCs implementation period, Parties should provide or update (inform changes on) information on sectors, methodologies, metrics and assumptions used to measure and track progress made in implementing and achieving their NDCs (in line with what was communicated in their NDCs).
- Accuracy
 - Parties should increase over time the accuracy of emissions and removals estimates used to set mitigation goals and track progress of the implementation and achievement of these goals under NDC. This implies, therefore, that GHG emissions and removals should not be over- or under-estimated.
- Consistency (according to Article 13 of the PA and the paragraph 27 b) of the Decision 1/CP.21)
 - Parties should ensure consistency between the methodological approaches used to set the mitigation goal under its NDC (and also baselines/reference point) and the methodological approach used to measure and track progress in the implementation of NDC;
 - Also, when baselines or a reference point/period and mitigation goals under their NDCs are set, Parties have to ensure consistency between methodological approaches and data used to calculate National GHG Inventories and those used to calculate baselines or reference point/period and set mitigation goals;
- Completeness (according to Article 13 of the PA and the paragraphs 31 c) and d) of Decision 1/CP.21)
 - Parties should strive to include all IPCC categories and estimate all anthropogenic emissions and removals included in their NDCs across the entire NDCs period. Once a Party includes a source or sink in its NDC, it should continue to include it;
 - Parties should provide an explanation (when communicate their NDCs or report progress in their implementation) of why any sector or category of emissions or removals is excluded.
- Comparability
 - In order to ensure comparability amongst NDC and to facilitate assessment of collective progress towards the achievement of global goals, Parties should use common metrics (for example GWPs) and methodologies provided by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA. The CMA should update periodically metrics and methodologies that Parties should be used to communicate and track progress of their NDCs.
- Environmental integrity and double counting
 - In the accounting guidance, there should be clarity on the use of units derived from the implementation of Article 6, in order for their accounting to be assigned to one Party only. This work should take into account the discussions taking place under SBSTA related to Article 6 of the Agreement.

E. Article 6 related accounting

- A robust accounting framework is a pre-requisite for use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes or use of market-based units toward NDCs under Article 6 in order to ensure the avoidance of double counting of emission reductions or units between Parties;

- The work should be informed by the discussion on ITMOs under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Joint consultations between APA Agenda Item 3 and the relevant SBSTA Agenda Item could be conducted if needed;
- Parties must ensure coherence and relevant cross-references with the texts being prepared under Article 6. For example, the use of voluntary cooperation under Article 6 must be transparently reflected for the tracking of progress with NDCs;
- Guidance should cover avoidance of double counting in relation to use of Article 6 outcomes toward NDCs. Further topics may include guidance relating to how Article 6 outcomes are applied toward NDCs;
- The Article 6 guidance should define corresponding adjustments that take into account the diversity, such as type and target year/period of NDCs;
- Parties that decide to utilize the approaches defined in Article 6, paragraphs 2 and 4, towards their NDCs must be subject to additional and more stringent accounting rules. These are to be developed within the modalities and procedures being negotiated under SBSTA agenda item 11.
- With a view to avoid duplication of work, the discussion on “accounting for” NDCs should refrain from elaborating on the use of market based mechanisms;
- The guidance relating to Art. 6 deals with the issuance, transfer and use of ITMOs towards the achievement of NDCs, including the avoidance of double counting in relation to the issuance, transfer and use of ITMOs.
- In addition to paragraph 31 accounting guidance, Parties that intend to use mechanisms under Article 6 should be required to report on various aspects associated with, inter alia:
 - Their national governance system, including their national transaction log;
 - How they will avoid double counting;
 - How they will avoid environmental impacts of such mechanisms;
 - How these mechanisms will contribute to sustainable development and not have adverse consequences for sustainable development;
 - How the mechanisms are additional to what would have occurred in the absence of the mechanisms;
 - How the use of any mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is consistent with the international accounting framework established by SBSTA through its work on developing rules, modalities and procedures for Article 6 mechanisms;
 - Such Parties should be required to indicate the national transaction log system they intend to use and how they will avoid double counting, and ensure environmental integrity.
- Accounting guidance in relation to Article 6.2 will have to address the promotion of sustainable development, and how environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance, will be ensured. It will also have to establish systems and tools to avoid the double counting that may arise in many ways, and be integrated with rules established in relation to other Article 6 provisions;
- Internationally-agreed guidance must be in place at the international level before mitigation outcomes are transferred between Parties for use toward NDCs, and the proper application of this guidance must be a condition precedent for the recognition of transferred outcomes.

F. LULUCF, forests and REDD+

- A robust accounting framework is needed to assess the impact of NDCs that include the land sector, since the land sector involves a mix of anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic emissions;

- Parties should account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in the land sector consistent with paragraph 31 of decision 1/CP.21, and while taking into account existing methods and guidance as agreed under the Convention. May cover natural disturbance and other land related topics not sufficiently covered by other guidance;
- Guidance should include a section on accounting for land sector that ensures that the estimation of sources and sinks in land sector, as included in the NDCs and considering mitigation goals, are consistent with National GHG Inventories and address some specific issues, inter alia:
 - Natural disturbances in unmanaged lands, considering that natural disturbances in managed lands should be included in National GHG Inventories;
 - Consistent application of the IPCC guidelines across countries for estimating CO₂ emissions from harvested wood products;
 - Treatment of lagged emissions to avoid committed approaches, in line with the accuracy required for the National GHG Inventories.
- Parties can account emissions and removals from land sector based on the following two approaches: 1) to incorporate the emissions and removals from land sector with estimation of emissions from other sectors or 2) to separate the emissions and removals from estimation of emissions from other sectors. Parties should clarify which approach is applied;
- Harvested wood products are accounted based on a common accounting approach in order to ensure avoiding global double counting;
- Parties are encouraged to include the land sector in their NDCs;
- Parties that choose to include the land sector in their NDCs shall continue to include it.
- Where possible, guidance for accounting for emissions and removals from the land sector should be able to be covered by accounting guidance in a general manner. However, there may be some accounting specificities unique to the land sector (for example, how to treat natural disturbances, legacy effects, or harvested wood products).

Cluster 2.3

A. Specific accounting guidance for all Parties

- a. Common metrics
 - to apply common metrics, as appropriate;
- b. Article 6 related accounting
 - to avoid double counting when a Party use the ITMOs to implement the mitigation component of its NDC, with further guidance to be elaborated under the SBSTA agenda Item “matters related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement”.

B. Specific accounting guidance for developed country Parties

- a. Accounting for mitigation component of NDCs
 - Methodologies on GHGs – to apply the IPCC 2006 guidelines and continue taking the lead in applying any updated good practice methodologies accepted by the IPCC and ensure methodological consistency, including base years, baselines, reference levels, and assumptions, between the communication of NDCs and inventory and report on progress;
 - Methodologies and methodological consistency on other aspects of mitigation component of NDCs – to use comparable methodologies and approaches to explain their other aspects of mitigation component of NDCs, including domestic emissions, policies and utilization of international transferred mitigation outcomes, and to ensure methodological consistency between the communication of NDCs and reporting on implementation;
 - Categories of emissions and removals – to account for their economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, with a view to ensuring all gases, sectors, sinks and activities included;
 - LULUCF related accounting – to apply relevant rules under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and guidelines accepted by the IPCC, with the improvement of the existing rules on LULUCF to close any loopholes.
- b. Accounting for support to be provided component of NDCs
 - Finance component of NDCs – to account for their NDCs on financial support in accordance with the modality to be developed referred to in paragraph 57 of decision 1/CP.21, in order to ensure the requirement of “new and additional” and avoid double counting on financial support;
 - Technology and capacity-building component of NDCs – to account for their NDCs on technology development and transfer and capacity-building in accordance with the modalities and methodologies to be further developed under this sub-item, with a view to clarifying the definition and scope of technology development and transfer and capacity-building support, developing the appropriate methodologies to count and calculate the scale and possible effects of such support and avoiding the double counting.

C. Specific accounting guidance for developing country Parties

- a. Accounting for mitigation component of NDCs
 - Methodologies on GHGs – to follow the IPCC methodology by choosing the most appropriate IPCC guidelines in light of their different capacities and circumstances.

- Methodologies and methodological consistency on other aspects of mitigation component of NDCs – to be allowed to utilize their own methodologies and approaches to explain other references, parameters and other aspects of content in their NDCs, as appropriate, while making their best endeavor to ensure methodological consistency between communication and implementation.
 - Categories of emissions and removals – to be allowed to choose the categories of emissions and removals, including sectors and gases covered in their NDCs, in a nationally determined manner;
 - Forest related accounting for developing country Parties – may account for their actions on forest and REDD+ in accordance with the relevant arrangements under the Convention if their NDCs include such aspects, without implicitly or explicitly leading to any requirement to undertake mitigation actions in agriculture.
- b. Accounting for support needed related to NDCs by developing country Parties
- To be encouraged to use clear, concise and transparent methodologies or approaches to explain the costs, barriers and support needed related to their NDCs.
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