

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST NDC UPDATED (2020-2030)

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

The present document is a summary of the updated version of the First Nationally Determined Contribution of Cuba, submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and is in accordance with the Articles 3 and 4 of the Paris Agreement, paragraphs 22 and 24 of the Decision 1 CP21.

1. Context of the updated version of the First Nationally Determined Contribution in Cuba

Cuba is highly committed to the global endeavors to combat climate change and its devastating effects. There is a proven political willingness in the Cuban government that is perceived in its ethical behavior, as well as in the permanent efforts towards the promotion and implementation of national actions to combat climate change and to honor international commitments. Cuba is also committed to the sharing of experiences and good practices with other nations as evidence of cooperation and solidarity advocated by the Cuban revolution.

In this context, the country has achieved important milestones, despite the prevalence of extreme challenges inherited from the condition of being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) under a sturdy economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, which has been intensified to record levels in the last few years by the Trump Administration – the latter being the main obstacle to the achievement of major progress when facing climate change and national development.

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Cuban Government reinforced its national efforts and has built an ambitious framework for actions and mitigation.

By stating its increased ambition in this update, Cuba reiterates its position that the content of the Nationally Determined Contribution is established by each country on a voluntary and non-prescriptive basis, and should be viewed in the broader context identified by Article 3 of the Paris Agreement.

The mentioned contributions are to be assessed in the context of the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities of the Parties of the Convention, meaning the claim of financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity building, in accordance with the obligations established in the UN Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement.

2. National circumstances pertinent to this Contribution

The new Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, approved by the people's referendum in 2019, explicitly mentions climate change in the context of international relations.

The Bases of the Economic and Social National Development Plan up to the year 2030, is the main tool to achieve prosperous development, that is economically and socially sustainable, resilient, and less intensive in carbon emissions.

The Guidelines of the Economic and Social Policy of the State and the Revolution approved by the People's Power National Assembly in July 2016, tackles as a priority, the issues related to climate change.

In April 2017, the Cuban Government adopted the State Plan to confront Climate Change, known as "Tarea Vida" (Life Task) as the main instrument to combat climate change.

2.1 Climate profile (vulnerabilities, adaptation)

The Cuban archipelago is highly vulnerable to global climate change, given its status of being a small island state located in the tropical area of the planet. Climate change is becoming worse and will continue to worsen in the future, gradually turning into a determining factor for sustainable development. Several currents and projected impacts are characterized in this update NDC.

2.2 Intensification of the economic, commercial and financial blockade and strengthening of the hostility from the United States government towards Cuba

As mentioned, the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed, for almost 6 decades, by the United States government on Cuba, is the main hurdle for development in the country, as it deleteriously impacts all spheres and sectors of Cuban life and society. Moreover, it has a negative impact on program policies and actions aimed at confronting climate change and its impact. The blockade, aggravated during President Donald Trump administration's, is the fundamental barrier for Cuba to access international financial resources, supplies and technologies.

3. General features of the Cuban Nationally Determined Contribution

The following table shows the general features of the updated Nationally Determined Contribution:

| INDICATORS | | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Goals | 1.1. Goals in adaptation | Voluntary |
| | 1.2. Goals in mitigation | Actions and policies type |
| 2. Period | | 2020 – 2030 |
| 3. Reference points | | In all contributions the base years or reference are specified. |
| 4. Scope and coverage | | Sectors: Energy; Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Uses (AFOLU) Gases: CO ₂ ; CH ₄ ; N ₂ O. |
| 5. Intensification of ambitions | | <p>Expressed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current goals are prepared in agreement with those established in the framework of public policies passed after 2015, which considers the basis of the country's projections of development that is resilient and less intensive in carbon emissions. • The update and accuracy of the principal lines of action with regard to adaptation will continue to be a priority when confronting climate change in the country. • The update and expansion of mitigation goals, in addition to what was expressed in 2015 with regards to renewable energy and energy efficiency, now includes contributions on transportation and forestry. • In the information related to the contributions on mitigation there is more precision (transparency). |

6. Other elements.

- There is no Measurement, Report and Verification system in place, in accordance with the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework, an objective that is being worked on today, in order to timely report on the progress of this contribution; in virtue of the finally agreed upon rules and in the context of the of flexibilities granted to SIDS.
- In the event that a satisfactory covenant is achieved in the negotiations under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, Cuba intends to use cooperative approaches that involve the use of mitigation results of international transfer in accordance with the mentioned Article.

3.1 Contributions in mitigation

Considering the sectors' contribution to the national inventory of greenhouse gases, agriculture and energy are currently the sectors that are prioritized for emissions reduction. It is in those sectors where all the efforts of the country are focused, to implement mitigation actions that will require financial support in technology transfer and capacity building. A summary of the contributions in mitigation, by sector, that constitute the NDCs is tabulated below:

| No. | Contribution | Sector | Expected results |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 1. | Increase to 24% of electricity generation based on Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in the Cuban electricity matrix by 2030. | Energy (electricity generation) | 24% of electricity generation based on renewable energy sources by the year 2030. It is estimated that the contribution will avoid the emission of 30.6 million ktCO ₂ eq. into the atmosphere in the period 2014 – 2030. |
| 2. | Increase of energy efficiency and saving | Energy (Other sectors: commercial /institutional, residential, agriculture) | It is estimated that the contribution will avoid the emission of 700 thousand ktCO ₂ eq. into the atmosphere in the period 2014 – 2030. |
| 3. | Less carbon intensive ground transportation | Energy (Combustion, moveable sources, land transportation). | It is estimated that the contribution will avoid the emission of one million ktCO ₂ eq. annually. |
| 4. | Increase of forest coverage in the country to 33% by 2030 | AFOLU (Forestry) | Increasing forest coverage by 165 000ha in the period 2019-2030. Removing 169,9 million tons of atmospheric CO ₂ in the period 2019-2030. |
| 5. | Reduction of greenhouse effect gases emissions in the swine industry in Cuba | AFOLU (Agriculture, Livestock) | Treatment of 100% of waste waters in the Cuban swine sector, reducing 8 million ktCO ₂ eq. in emissions annually in the period of 2020-2030. |

4. Cuba's contribution to the international cooperation

Taking into account accrued experiences, Cuba has shared outcomes with other developing nations, especially with other SIDS, by way of bilateral collaboration and actions supported by developed countries and international organizations.

Cuba considers that these are national actions that will contribute towards the effective implementation of the Convention and reaffirms the willingness of the country to keep collaborating in capacity development in order to confront the challenges of climate change. Several areas for cooperation are highlighted in the NDC.

5. Safeguards

Cuba, in correspondence with the national circumstances, will continue to be committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in the context of the application of the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and in the scope of its goals for sustainable development, as provided by the Paris Agreement.

The compliance and the perspectives of greater ambitions in the Cuban Contribution will depend on the fulfillment of international obligations established under the Convention.

In preserving its sovereign rights, Cuba has the right to adjust the Contribution:

- In the event of serious impacts due to natural extreme disasters or any other force majeure,
- In the event of inadequate financial support or technology transfer and capacity building, in agreement with the commitments undertaken for developing countries in the Convention and the Paris Agreement,
- As a consequence of the negative impact of the strengthening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America onto Cuba.