United Nations
Climate Change

UN environment programme

Insights from the UNEP Emissions Gap report and the UNFCCC NDC and BTR synthesis reports

17 Nov 2026, 16:00-17:30
COP 31, Antalya, Türkiye (UTC+3)
Special Event Room 4 Perge

High-level remarks and presentation of key findings of the Emissions Gap Report 2026

Opening Remarks



Ms. Inger Andersen
Executive Director
United Nations
Environment Programme



Mr. Simon Stiell
Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change

Presentation of key findings



Ms. Anne Olhoff
Chief Scientific Editor of the
Emissions Gap Report 2026
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

Master of Ceremony



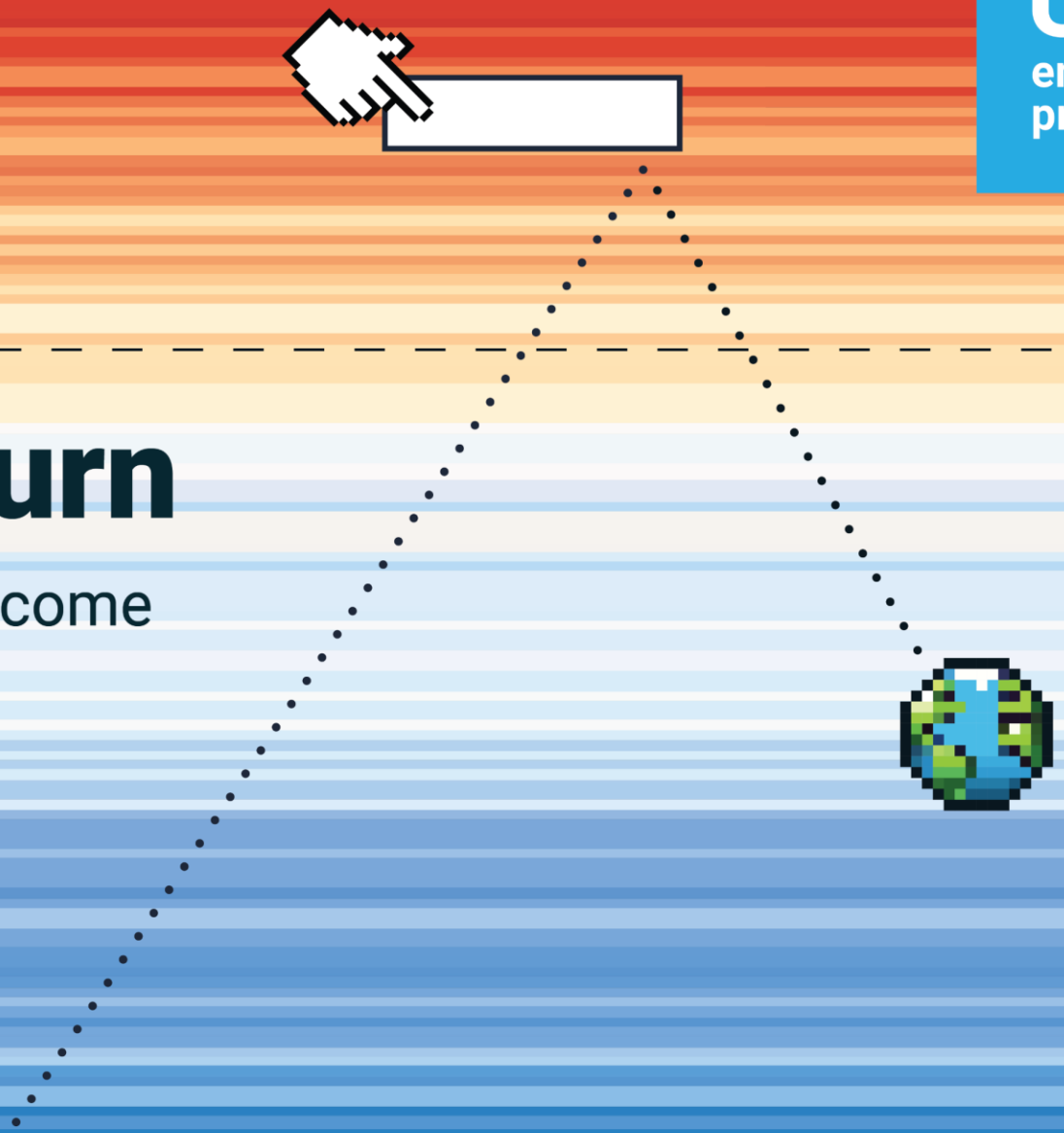
Mr. Martin Krause
Director
UNEP Climate Change Division

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Emissions Gap Report 2026

The point of return

Urgent emissions cuts needed to come back from overshoot of 1.5°C

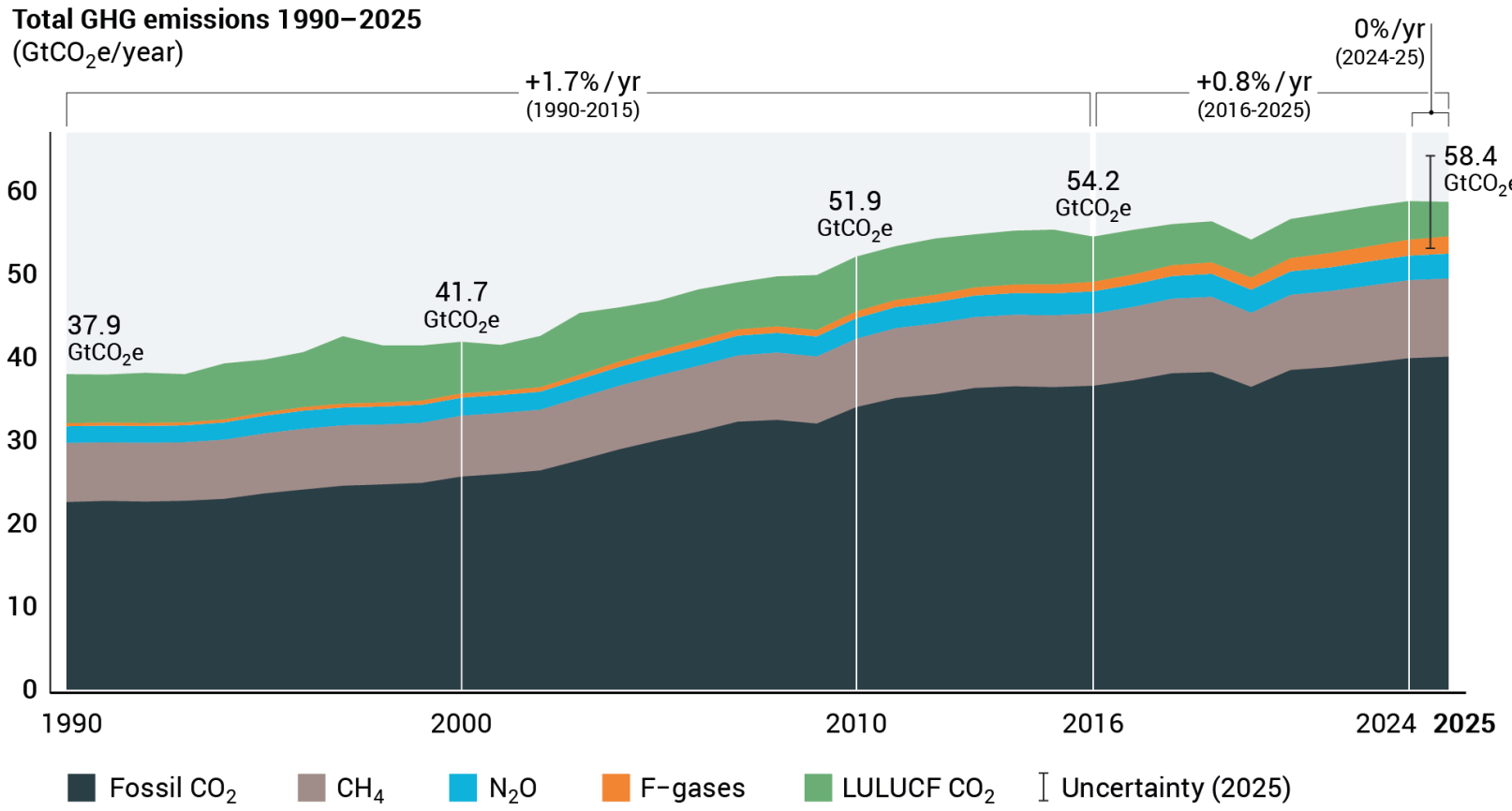


UNEP-UNFCCC High-Level Side Event | COP31, 17 November 2025

Decades of insufficient climate action makes exceedance of 1.5°C unavoidable – whether it will be temporary crucially depends on decisions taken today

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Global greenhouse gas emissions reached 58.4 $GtCO_2e$ in 2025



- 2025 level similar to 2024
- Diverges from growth trend of past decades
- Continued 0.4 $GtCO_2e$ increase in CO_2 emissions from fossil fuels, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases
- Offset by 0.5 $GtCO_2e$ reduction of emissions from Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

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The number of new NDCs has roughly doubled since last year, but global ambition has not kept pace

124 Parties
submitted new NDCs
by 1 September

76% of global GHG emissions covered

Up from 57 submissions covering 63% last year

Quality of NDCs is improving

- Base-year emissions targets
- Fixed-level emissions targets

Strengthens:
Transparency Comparability Accountability

Expansion of scope remains limited

- Economy-wide GHG targets
- Coverage of all sectors
- Coverage of all greenhouse gases

Modest progress despite global stocktake recommendations

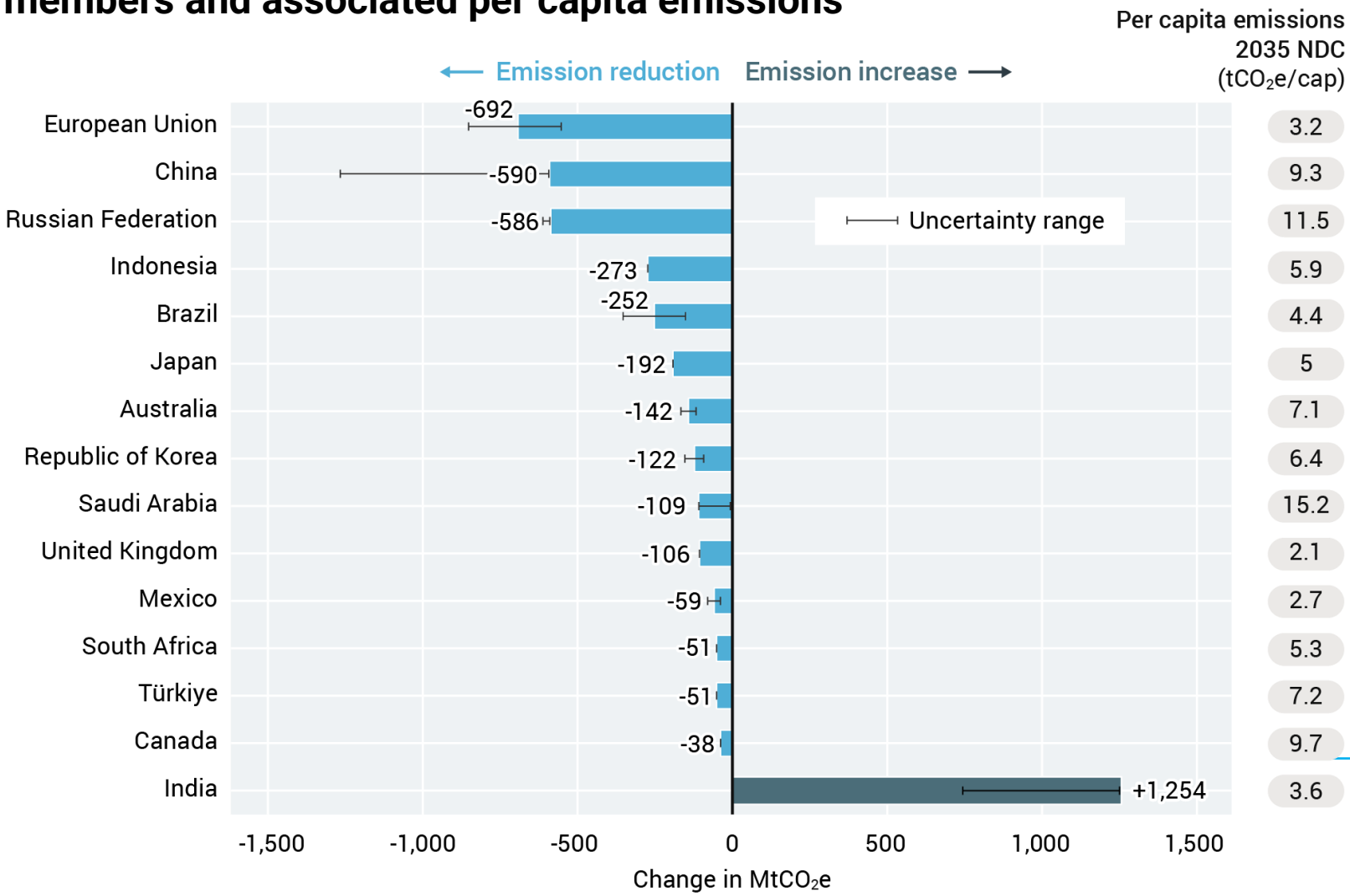
CO_2e

Full implementation of new NDCs estimated to reduce global emissions in 2035 compared with 2030 NDCs by **3.5–4 $GtCO_2e$**

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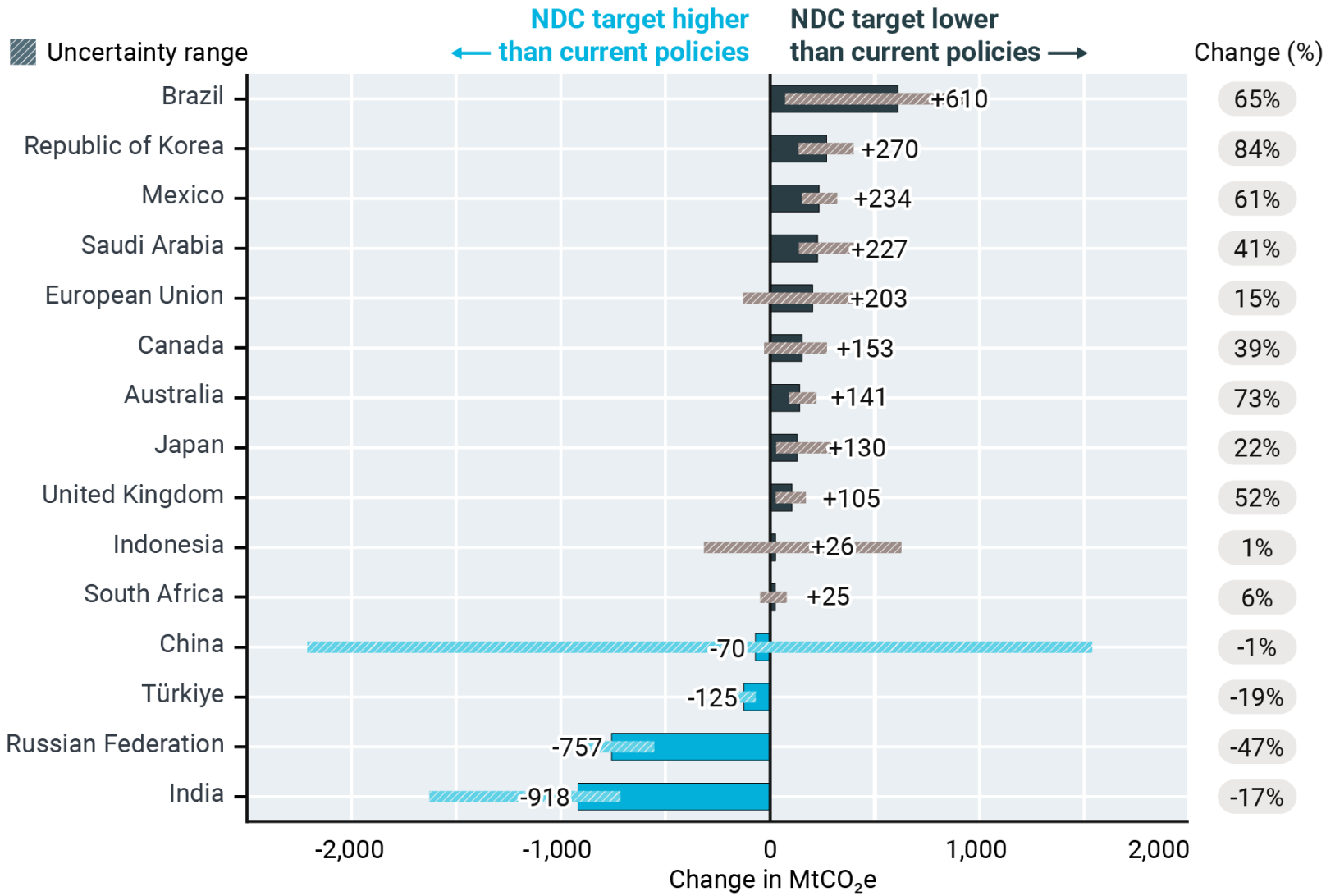
Most NDC targets for 2035 of the G20 members reduce emissions compared with 2030 NDC targets

GHG emissions in 2035 relative to 2030 levels resulting from the full implementation of the new NDCs of G20 members and associated per capita emissions

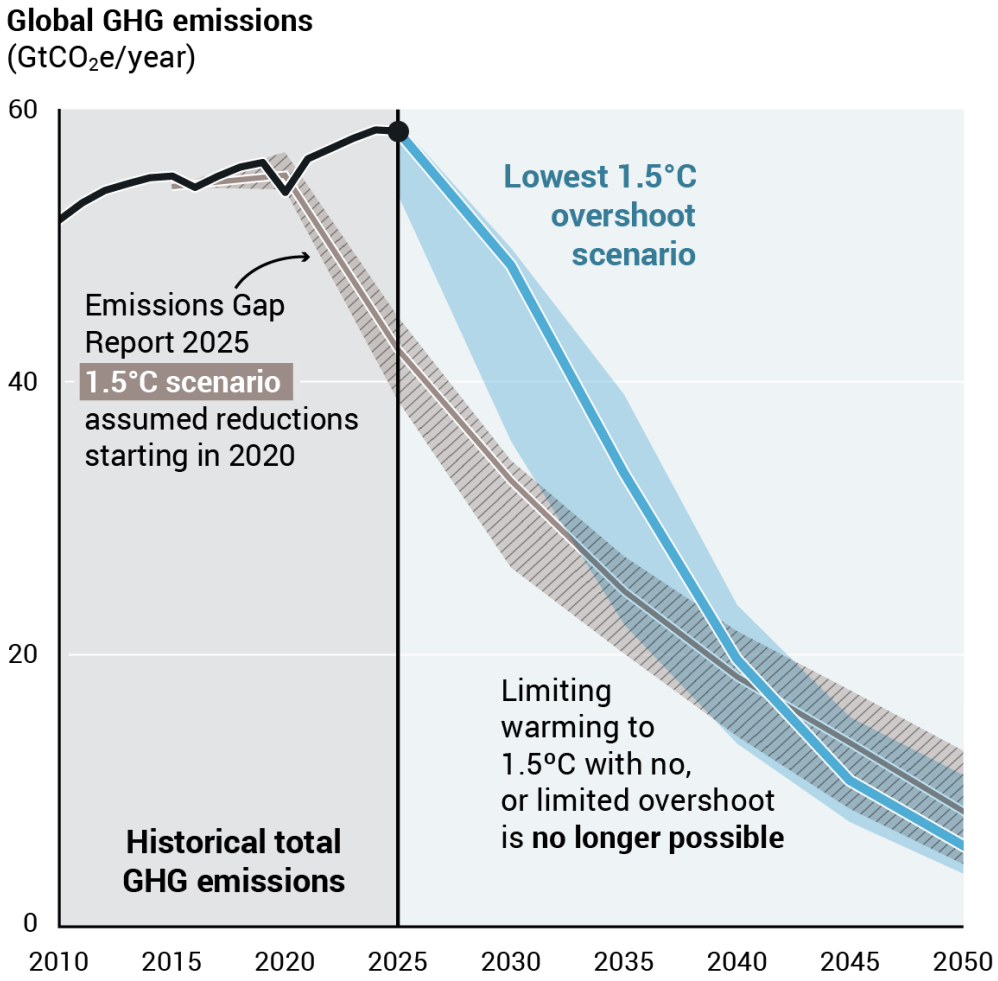


Ambition of NDC targets of G20 members beyond current policies projections varies

Emissions in 2035 implied by the new NDCs of G20 members compared with current policies projections



New lowest 1.5°C overshoot scenario minimizes peak and duration of overshoot and returns global warming to 1.5°C by 2100



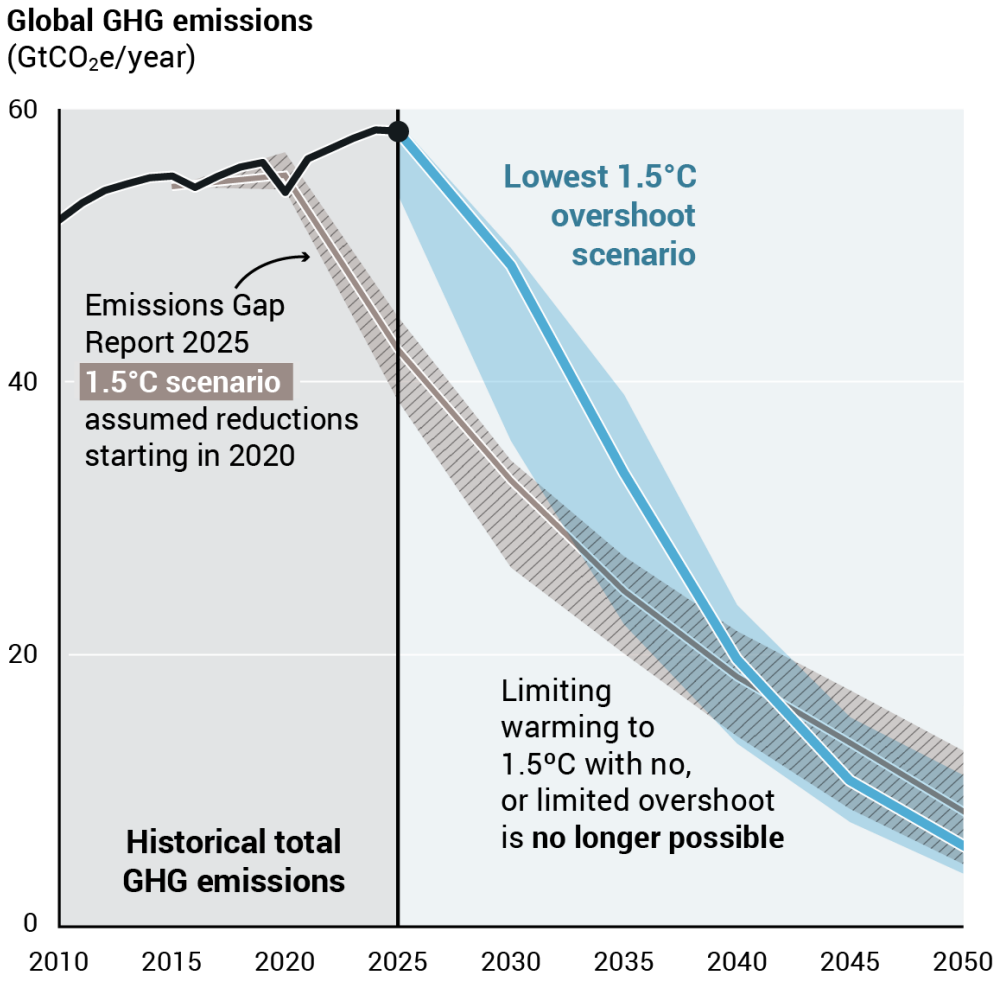
- Requires immediate and stringent mitigation action from **2025**
- Limits peak warming to **1.7–1.8°C** with a 66% chance
- Returns global warming to **1.5°C by 2100** with around 50% chance

Implies

- Reductions are steeper than the 1.5°C scenario with no or limited overshoot: **5.7% versus 5%** average annual emission reductions
- Catches up with and **crosses the 1.5°C scenario** with no or limited overshoot **around 2040**

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New lowest 1.5°C overshoot scenario minimizes peak and duration of overshoot and returns global warming to 1.5°C by 2100

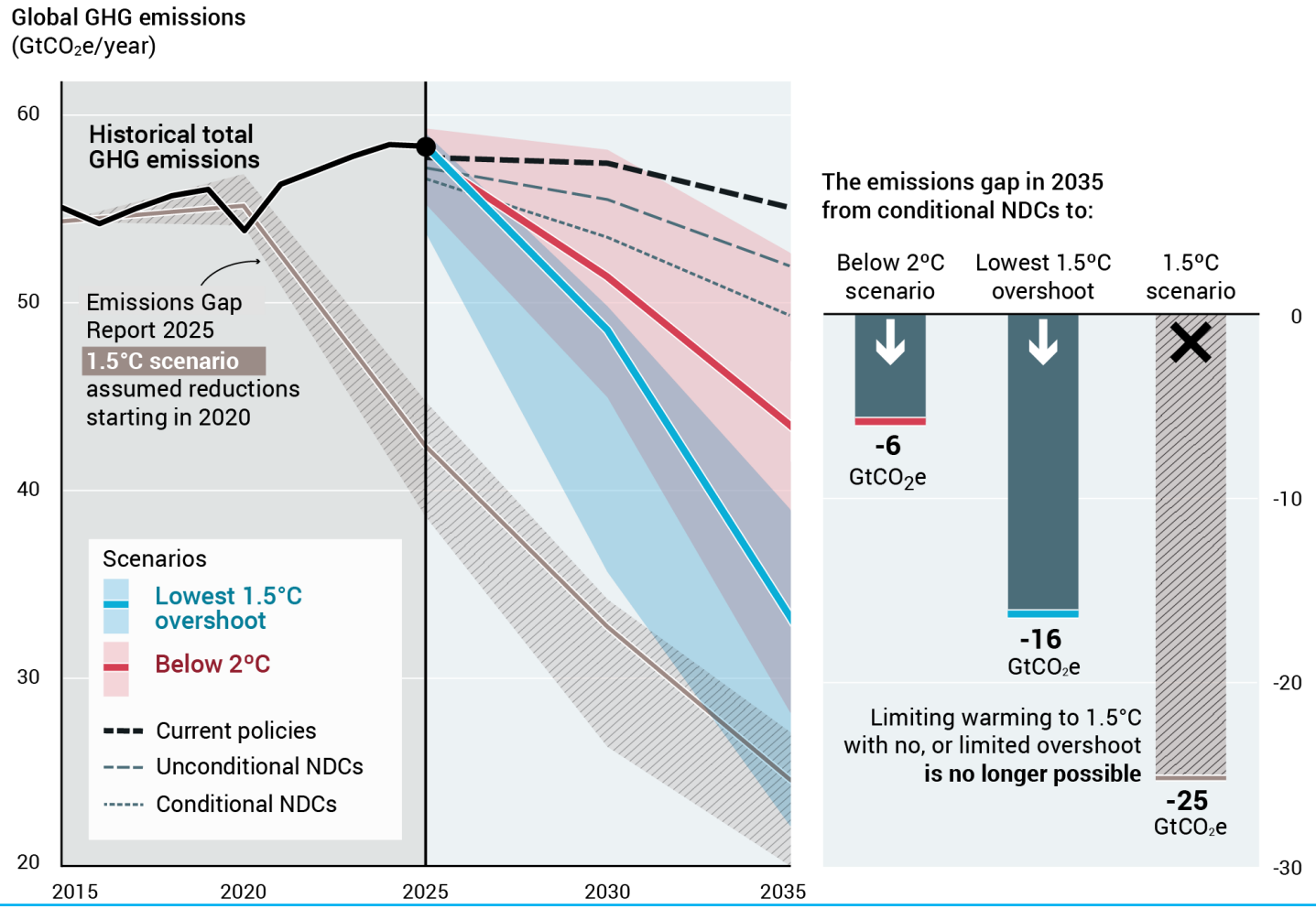


- Aggregate **CO_2 removal and permanent storage of roughly 330 $GtCO_2$** required to return warming to 1.5°C by 2100
- Such large-scale carbon dioxide removal is **uncertain, risky, and costly**
- **Every five years of delay** at current emission levels pushes **peak warming up by around 0.1°C**

Without stringent mitigation action from 2025, the lowest 1.5°C overshoot scenario available today will also slip away, undermining the possibility of achieving the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement

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The emissions gap is still large



Global GHG emission reductions implied by the full implementation of the NDCs:

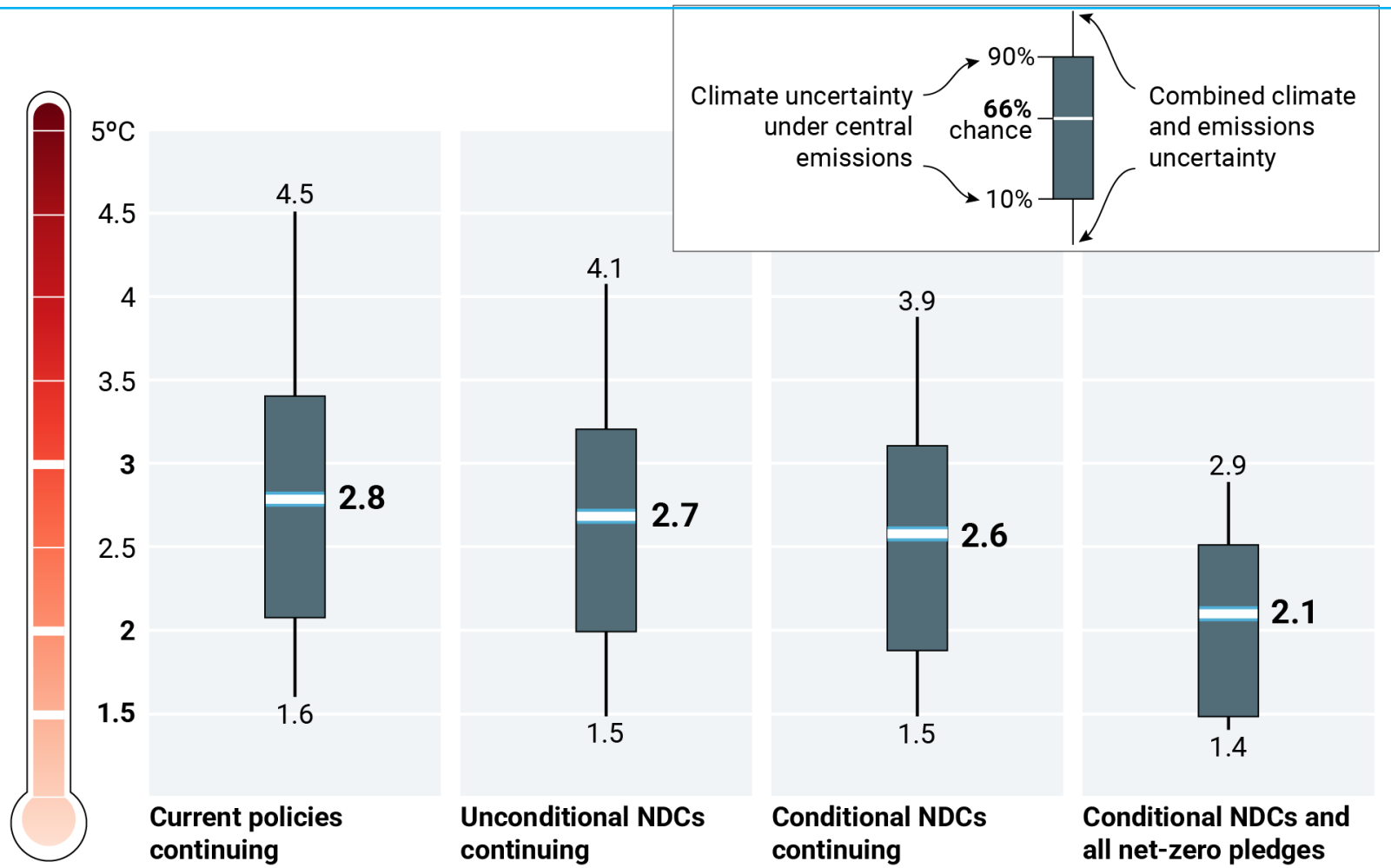
- 5–8% below 2025 levels by 2030
- 11–15% by 2035

Reductions aligned with the lowest 1.5°C overshoot scenario:

- 18% by 2030
- 45% by 2035

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Temperature projections remain far above the Paris Agreement goal

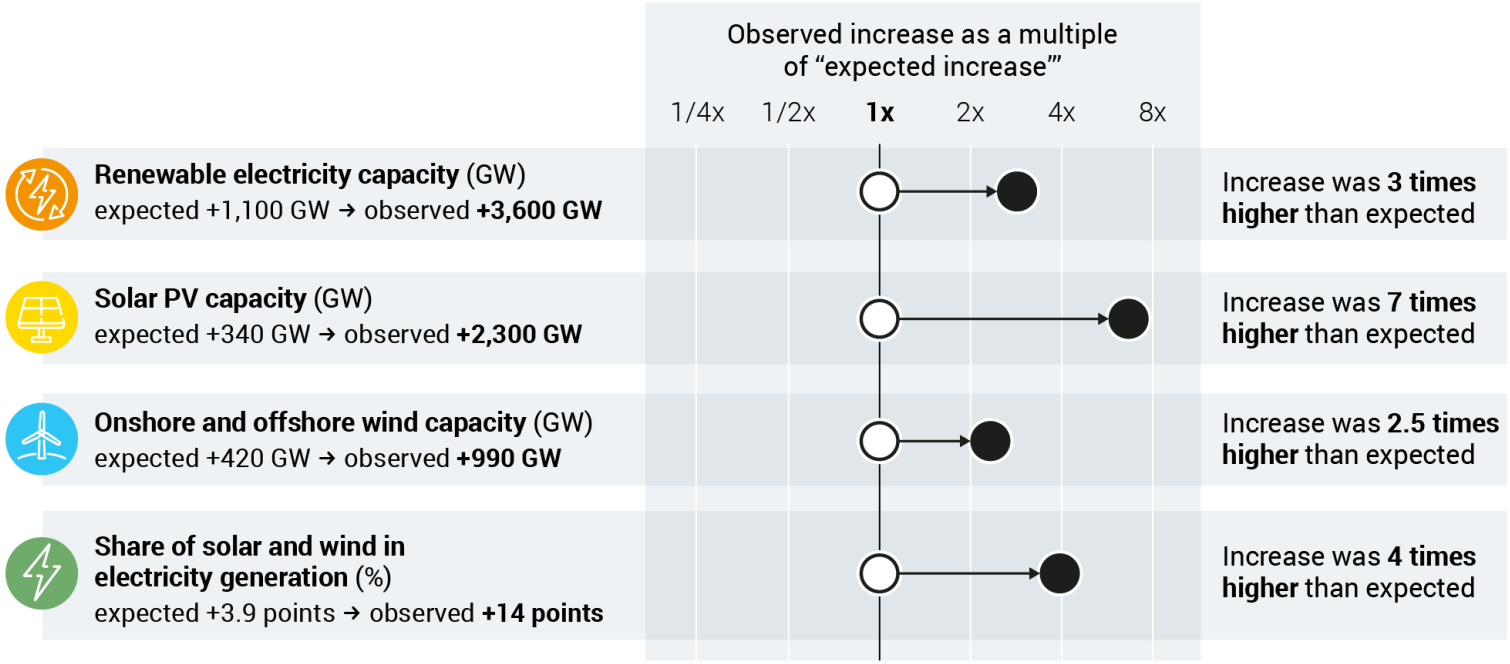


- Slightly higher warming projections than last year for all scenarios except current policies
- Immediate action and credible net-zero plans would significantly reduce global warming projections
- Ambition and action beyond existing pledges necessary to align with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement

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Progress is real but must be expanded and accelerated

Progress in renewable energy has outpaced expectations
(2013-2025)



Climate policies can and have reduced emissions

- Policy evaluations point to dozens of major shifts in emissions with emission reductions above 5% against no-policy baselines
- 220+ evaluations of causality show policies have cut emissions
- Few of the thousands of climate policies have been evaluated
- Emerging market and developing countries are underrepresented

Global benchmarks beyond 2030 can inform the second global stocktake

	Indicator	Minimum effort required to align with the lowest 1.5°C overshoot scenario, relative to 2025 levels	
		2035	2040
28 a) Triple renewable energy capacity globally and double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030	Renewable electricity capacity	**≥ x3**	**≥ x4.5**
	Primary energy intensity of GDP	**≥ 30% lower**	**≥ 40% lower**
28 b) Accelerate efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power	Coal generation	**≥ 75% lower**	**≥ 95% lower**
28 d) Transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science	Total energy supply from coal	**≥ 55% lower**	**≥ 75% lower**
	Total energy supply from oil	**≥ 15% lower**	**≥ 30% lower**
	Total energy supply from gas	**≥ 5% lower**	**≥ 35% lower**

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Thank you

on behalf of the authors,
the steering committee members
and the production team of the report

Anne Olhoff, Chief Scientific Editor
UNEP Climate Change Division
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

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www.unep.org
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

Panel discussion and Q&A



Ms. Louise Jeffery
NewClimate Institute



Ms. Ruta Bubniene,
UNFCCC secretariat



Mr. Oliver Geden
German Institute for International and Security Affairs



Ms. Lornaliza Kogler
UNFCCC Secretariat



Moderator

Ms. Anne Olhoff
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre



Ms. Mirey Atallah
UNEP



Mr. Takeshi Kuramochi
The University of Tokyo