

Highlights from Parties' Multilateral Assessment presentations during the 2020 Climate Dialogues

27 November, 30 November, and 2 December

Australia

- Australia also noted that it has met its initial target under the Kyoto Protocol, will meet its 2020 target, and is on track to meet its 2030 target.
- Australia reported that emissions intensity and emissions per capita in 2020 are at their lowest point in 30 years. This has been achieved, in part, due to recent efforts such as the 2019 installation of 6.3 GW of new renewable energy capacity, a 24 per cent increase over the previous year.
- Australia is also extending and deepening its support for clean technology through the launch of the Technology Investment Roadmap, which will help to drive further investment in low-emissions technologies, including clean hydrogen, electricity storage, low-emission steel and aluminum production, carbon capture and storage, and carbon sequestration.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Australia>

European Union

- The EU noted that over the 1990 to 2018 period, it has successfully increased GDP growth by 61 per cent while decreasing emissions by 23 per cent, thereby reducing GHG emission intensity by over half. The EU further noted that it was already halfway toward achieving its 2030 emissions reductions target, based on a “with existing measures” projection scenario.
- The EU noted its commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 for each of the 27 member states, noting that a new European Climate Law to make this commitment legally-binding is currently being discussed by the member states and the European Parliament.
- The EU noted that its climate actions have produced significant co-benefits, including energy savings, green growth, improved air quality, and job creation.
- https://unfccc.int/MA/European_Union

Finland

- Finland's long-term aim is to be carbon neutral by 2035, and carbon negative soon thereafter by accelerating its emissions reduction measures and strengthening its carbon sinks.
- Despite its cold climate, energy-intensive industrial sectors and low population density, Finland has successfully reduced its energy sector emissions since 1990 by increasing the share of renewable energy (up to 41 per cent in 2018).
- Finland is promoting renewable energy by establishing targets to achieve higher renewable energy content in final energy consumption mix and by increasing the use of biofuels for transportation.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Finland>

Germany

- In September 2019, Germany launched a new climate action plan which sets out a comprehensive package of measures, including targets, sector targets, and processes for measuring and monitoring progress.
- In 2019, Germany had reduced its emissions by 36 per cent compared to 1990. To progress towards its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 Germany has established decreasing annual emission reductions budgets for all sectors, apart from the energy sector. Germany has also established a new national emissions trading system in 2020 which covers the heating and transport sectors, which are not covered by the EU ETS.
- Germany is also working to phase out its coal-fired electricity generation, aiming to produce as much as 65 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, and fully phase-out coal-fired power by 2038.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Germany>

Italy

- Italy reported that it is on track to overachieve its 2020 target, noting that it does not intend to account any surplus amount toward its 2030 target. Italy further noted its support for the European Green Deal, including a political commitment to achieve carbon neutrality in the EU by 2050.
- Italy reported significant increases in renewable energy production since 2008, and indicated that it intends to phase out coal use for energy production by 2025.
- In 2021, Italy will play a key role in supporting the UK Presidency of COP26. Additionally, Italy is involved in preparations for the pre-COP and the Youth Climate Event in Milan.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Italy>

The Netherlands

- The 2019 Dutch National Climate Agreement established a target of a 49 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) in five key sectors (mobility, electricity, industry, agriculture and land use, and the built environment). More than 100 stakeholders contributed to setting this target, which has a widespread support in Dutch society.
- In parallel, the 2019 Dutch Climate Act set a long-term target of a 95 per cent reduction in emissions by 2050. This legal framework provides certainty to businesses and society at large about policy measures and progress towards emission reduction goals.
- The Netherlands noted that, with almost all existing housing heated by natural gas, it will need to implement a number of measures to reduce emissions in this sector, ranging from fuel switching from natural gas to green gas or hydrogen, to increased use of district heating, and increased use of insulation.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Netherlands>
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Norway

- Norway has committed to a 50 to 55 per cent emission reduction by 2030, and to achieve a climate neutral and a low-emission society by 2050. Norway plans to achieve this through various measures, including participation in the EU ETS, application of green taxes, and support for energy efficient and climate-friendly technologies, including carbon capture and storage (CCS).
- Norway plans to fully decarbonize the transport sector by 2025 through the promotion of electric vehicles and extension of its electric vehicle charging infrastructure to encourage greater uptake in rural and remote areas.
- Norway's state-owned enterprise Enova supports a range of climate-friendly technologies, such as renewable heating alternatives, charging infrastructure for electric ferries, and solar and wind energy infrastructure.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Norway>

Portugal

- Portugal showcased in its Carbon Neutrality Roadmap, which outlines how the country envisages to become carbon-neutral by 2050. Specific measures include decarbonizing power generation by phasing out coal-based power generation; achieving an energy transition through improvements in energy efficiency across all economic sectors; reducing emissions in industrial sectors through innovation and competitiveness; and decarbonizing mobility through increased public transit and other zero-emissions modes of transportation.
- Portugal also noted the importance of increasing the mitigation contribution from carbon sequestration through the expansion of conservation and precision agriculture, as well as through active sustainable forest management practices and measures that aim to reduce the area burnt by wildfire.
- To help achieve overall emissions reductions, Portugal reported a scaling up of investment in the energy system to improve efficiency gains, reduce energy dependence and boost economic competitiveness. Additional investments will then be used to move Portugal closer to its goal of carbon neutrality.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Portugal>

Sweden

- Sweden noted that it is on track to overachieve its contribution toward the EU 2020 target.
- Sweden further noted that it has successfully reduced its GHG emissions over the 1990 – 2018 period while maintaining its carbon sinks. This has been achieved as a result of a suite of measures that have been implemented over time, with some measures having been in place for more than 30 years (e.g. urban planning, district heating, public transportation, etc.) while others were added more recently (e.g. carbon taxes, waste restrictions, green electricity certificates, and investment programmes).
- Sweden also described its legislative framework, including the 2017 climate policy framework, which was passed with broad support and which will help to advance Sweden's implementation of the Paris Agreement. The framework includes long-term emission targets (including carbon neutrality by 2045 and negative emissions thereafter), a climate act (which establishes annual reporting requirements), and a climate policy council (to provide an independent assessment of progress).
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Sweden>

Switzerland

- Switzerland reported that, over the 1990 to 2018 period, its GHG emissions decreased by 14.3 per cent, while at the same time GDP increased significantly, highlighting its ability to decouple economic growth and emissions and reduce emissions intensity per capita.
- Switzerland's Parliament adopted the Third CO₂ Act in September 2020, which is now subject to a referendum, and if endorsed, will enter into force in 2021. As part of this, Switzerland confirmed its aim of reaching net zero emissions by 2050, which revises its earlier target of a reduction of 70 to 85 per cent. Switzerland also noted that it communicated an updated NDC in February 2020, indicating that it would provide the necessary information for clarity and understanding of its target once the deliberations on the third CO₂ Act have concluded.
- Switzerland aims to fund further emissions reductions via its new Climate Fund, established in the third CO₂ Act of 2020, which is supported through carbon and aviation levies, sanctions and auctions of emissions allowance in the ETS.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Switzerland>