

Highlights from Parties' Multilateral Assessment presentations during the 2021 May–June UN Climate Change Conference

2nd, 4th, 12th and 15th June

Austria

- Austria met its 2020 target under the EU's Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) and is on track to meet its 2030 target. While decoupling from GDP and population growth is well under way, the transport sector constitutes a main driver of GHG emissions (31 per cent of total GHG emissions in 2019). The new government, who has taken office in early 2020, has agreed to work towards climate neutrality already by 2040, with the National Climate Act currently being under revision in order to align short- and medium-term targets and the administrative structure accordingly.
- **Austria is planning to phase out the use of fossil fuels for heating purposes with the overall goal to reach 100 per cent renewable energy for space heating by 2040 at the latest. This includes ending the use of: solid/liquid fuels by 2020 for new installations and by 2025 for existing installations (with a transition period up to 2035); and gas by 2025 for new installations and possibly by 2040 for existing installations.**
- Austria has a COVID-19 recovery plan which comprises investment support for recovery activities for 2020/21 of 3 billion Euros excluding support for fossil fuels. In addition, Austria will receive 3.5 billion Euros (2022-26) through the EU facility, of which almost half is planned to finance climate related mitigation and adaptation measures.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Austria>

Belgium

- Belgium's total emissions reduced by almost 20 per cent since 1990, with the biggest reductions achieved in the industrial sector. Belgium has decoupled its emissions from economic growth and population and achieved its ESD 2020 target, using the surplus of emission reductions that was accumulated between 2013 and 2016.
- **Belgium's long-term target set by the Federal government by 2050 is to achieve a climate neutrality for the country. As a complement to its nation-wide obligations as a member of the European Union, each of the competent authorities have set their own mid- and long-term targets. The Flemish region has the long-term target to reduce non-ETS GHG emissions by 85 per cent by 2050 compared to 2005, the Walloon region to reduce GHG emissions by 95 per cent compared to 1990, and Brussels region to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.**
- The federal government of Belgium has agreed in September 2020 a review of the Belgian constitution (Art. 7bis on sustainable development) in view of strengthening the cooperation of all the competent authorities on climate matters.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Belgium>

Bulgaria

- Bulgaria overachieved its national targets for the ESD sector for 2017 by about 2,5 per cent exceeding its national targets for the RES share in the total energy supply by 5 per cent for 2020.
- Bulgaria's Third National Action Plan on Climate Change (2013 – 2020) provided specific measures in all sectors. In the energy sector, cleaner production of electricity from existing thermo-power plants, the transition to a low-carbon networks for transmission and distribution of electricity and natural gas have led to reduction of GHG emissions.
- **Bulgaria is implementing a range of mitigation measures in the transport sector, such as the rehabilitation and modernization of the existing road infrastructure, the introduction of intelligent transport systems, the increase of the share of biofuels, as well as the share of public electric transport through rail, trolley, tram and metro. Currently, the share of biofuels in the final energy consumption in the transport sector is at 7,3 per cent compared to the EU target set in the Renewable Energy Directive of 10 per cent renewables in the transport sector by 2020.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Bulgaria>

Canada

- At the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, Canada announced a new, more ambitious 2030 emission reductions target of 40 – 45 per cent below 2005 levels. Canada has the goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and passed a Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (2020) which established a net-zero advisory body who will provide independent advice on pathways to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **Canada is investing in public transit and making zero emission vehicles more affordable and accessible, for instance through zero emissions vehicles rebates and funding for more charging stations.**
- Canada released its Strengthened Climate Plan (Dec 2020) which includes CAD 15 billion of new investment in clean growth and climate change. In addition, CAD 15 billion investment was allocated to public transit and active transportation projects such as cycling, and CAD 17.6 billion in green recovery measures under the Budget 2021. Up to CAD 1 billion Green recovery measures include tax and private investments incentives for large-scale clean technology projects.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Canada>

Cyprus

- With the planned Policies and Measures (PAMs) Cyprus plans to achieve its national target of 21 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2005. The PAMs include the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and the improvement of waste management.
- **One of Cyprus' greatest successes and an example of uptake of technologies is the use of solar thermal technology for water heating. This technology has been in use for 30 years and currently is installed in 80 per cent of households in the country.**
- Cyprus is working towards carbon neutrality by 2050 through further expansion of existing policies, the deployment of new technologies, as well as research and technology. Key challenges to address stem from the limited emissions reduction potential associated to the insularity and the high cost of implementation of PAMs due to the small size of the economy.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Cyprus>

Czechia

- Czechia is on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol target to reduce average annual GHG emissions during 2013-2020 by 20 per cent compared to 1990 and its target for the sectors not covered by the ETS (plus 9 per cent) for 2020, having achieved a reduction of GHG emissions of 38 per cent (excluding LULUCF) in 2019 compared to 1990. However, the LULUCF sector became a significant source of emissions in recent years due to long-term droughts and related wildfires.
- Czechia is addressing the challenges in the LULUCF sector through ongoing large-scale forest restoration and adaptation efforts.
- **Czechia is greening its economy by promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, public transport and cycling, electric vehicles, greening of agriculture and the utilization of biogas to reach its 2030 targets. Among the notable measures in the waste sector is the Waste Management Plan which has helped to reduce bio-waste, work towards a ban on landfilling (from 2024), increased recycling and energy utilization of waste.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Czechia>

Denmark

- Denmark met its ESD 2020 target, with an expected decrease of 21 per cent of emissions under the EU Effort Sharing Decision from 2005 to 2020. According to the 2021 inventory submission total GHG emissions without LULUCF are expected to decrease 42 per cent from 1990 to 2020 or a 34 per cent decrease from 2005 to 2020. The Danish Climate Act (2020) set a target of 70 per cent GHG emission reduction by 2030 compared to a 1990 baseline and a target of climate neutrality by 2050. In this context, Denmark also set a target for 2025 to reduce total emissions by 50-54 per cent.

- Denmark achieved the decoupling of GHG emissions and energy consumption from economic growth, with GDP steadily rising over the last decade, while GHG emissions and gross energy consumption followed a downward trend, with GHG emissions decreasing by 21 per cent between 2005 and 2020. This has been achieved through combined heat and power production, district heating, renewable energy and energy savings.
- **Denmark is putting strong emphasis on the involvement of the public and the business sectors in its Climate policy making and implementation. It has put in place several cooperation forums, such as the Citizens' Assembly, and government-internal processes, such as the Green Committee, which ensures that climate, environment and nature considerations are strengthened and integrated into the Government's policies.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Denmark>

Estonia

- Estonia is on track to meet its ESD 2020 target of limiting GHG emissions to a 11 per cent increase. Estonia's GHG emissions excluding LULUCF are expected to decrease about 76 per cent by 2040 compared to 1990 and intends to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- Estonia has managed to decouple economic growth from GHG emissions. While per capita GDP increased over 5 times since 1998, per capita GHG emissions (excluding LULUCF) have remained relatively stable and have even decreased substantially between 2018 and 2019.
- Estonia's key sectoral policies and measures are investments for constructions of wind parks, developing electromobility, the implementation of minimum requirements for nearly zero energy buildings, carbon sequestration through timely reforestation and developing a circular economy. **In Estonia, a central measure is the renovation of the heating system, increasing the efficiency of district heating networks and boilers and switching to renewable and/or local fuels. Considering the climatic conditions of the country and the fact that the system was rather old and inefficient, this measure has substantial potential to reduce GHG emissions.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Estonia>

Greece

- Greece reduced its emission by more than 17 per cent compared to 1990 by 2019 and is on track to meet its ESD 2020 target of 4 per cent reduction of 2005 emissions. In 2030, Greece is planning to reach a decrease of 56 per cent of total GHG emissions excluding LULUCF compared to 2005 levels. The national long-term strategy for 2050 is climate neutrality.
- **Greece enhanced e-mobility by reaching a share of 10 per cent of e-vehicles of the total registered vehicles in 2020. Among the key measures for 2030, Greece intends to counter forest fires by planting a total of 30 million trees until then.**

- Based on a revision of its National Energy Climate Plan of December 2019, Greece is planning to reach a lignite-free electricity production by 2025, three years earlier than initially foreseen.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Greece>

France

- France is likely to overachieve its 2020 target, as already in 2019 the GHG emissions were 20 percent (without LULUCF) below 1990 levels, the largest contributor to these reductions being the industry sector. France seeks for carbon neutrality by 2050 and backs up this goal with a long-term mitigation strategy.
- France focuses on emission reductions across all sectors and on developing a carbon sink, with the aim of only compensating residual emissions on the national territory from 2050.
- **Among its notable measures, France has a carbon tax with the energy excise fee, an energy savings certificate system, as well as investment schemes for the development of alternative fuels and their infrastructure.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/France>

Hungary

- Hungary decoupled GDP growth from the GHG emission trend and its per capita emissions are with 6 tons below the European average. It overachieved its 2020 target under the EU's Effort Sharing Decision, as Hungary could have increased its ESD emissions by 10 per cent compared to the 2005 levels by 2020, but so far decreased its ESD emissions by around 9 per cent, mainly in the energy sector.
- **Hungary has eight key actions to achieve the climate related targets by 2030 under its integrated energy and climate policy, including an innovative action to plant ten trees for each new-born baby in the country. Furthermore Hungary presented the coal phase out project which emphasizes on the sustainable and just transition of the last coal fired power plants and coal regions by 2030.**
- Hungary set the goal of a six-fold increase in the capacity of solar power plants by 2030 in its Climate and Nature Protection Action Plan (2019) and is currently developing a 2050 climate neutrality strategy.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Hungary>

Ireland

- Ireland will most likely meet its target under the ESD (using flexibility mechanisms), with emissions in the waste sector down by over 40 per cent in 2019 (compared to 1990 levels). Transport sector remains a key driver of emissions, which reflects the ongoing challenge of an increasing population as a result of economic growth and a continuing high reliance on private car travel and rurally dispersed settlement. The Climate Bill (2020) sets a goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.
- Ireland implements a number of mitigation measures including a carbon taxation reform. New legislation gives greater clarity and transparency on the carbon tax rates to 2030. Ireland seeks to achieve a Just Transition by, among others, using funding from the EU Just Transition Fund for innovative projects that contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Midlands Region, where longstanding peat-fired power stations have been closed, accounting for 26 million Euros by 2030 over three years.
- **99 per cent of Irish climate-related support will be allocated to adaptation in the form of grants with a focus on Least Developed Countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Small Island Developing States under “A Better World”, Ireland’s policy for international development of 2019. Ireland is committed to double its overall percentage of development assistance that counts as climate finance by 2030.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Ireland>

Japan

- Under the Convention, Japan made a commitment to reduce its GHG emissions by 3.8 per cent or more by the 2020 fiscal year below the 2005 fiscal year level. Japan’s presented that its GHG emissions level in 2019 is 12.3 below its 2005 level and that GHG emissions have fallen steadily over the last six years mainly due to the decrease in energy consumption and decarbonization of electricity. Japan’s 2030 GHG emission reduction target is a 46 per cent decline in GHG emissions compared to 2013 and Japan plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **Japan has measures in each sector including: voluntary emission reduction targets for industrial organizations; promoting compliance with energy saving standards for new buildings and homes, renovating existing buildings and homes to save energy and promoting net zero energy buildings and houses in the commercial and residential sectors; diffusing next generation automobiles and improving fuel efficiency in the transport sector; and expanding the use of renewable energy through feed-in tariffs. Japan is working towards the realization of a “hydrogen society”.**
- Japan is implementing the Joint Crediting Mechanism, a project-based bilateral offset crediting mechanism that facilitates the diffusion of low-carbon technologies in developing countries. Japan has also been promoting international cooperation in GHG emission reduction by supporting decarbonization in infrastructure development through public–private partnerships, mainly in the Indo-Pacific region.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Japan>

Latvia

- Latvia intends to meet its target for the Kyoto Protocol and its ESD 2020 target, having achieved almost 55.3 per cent GHG emission reduction in 2018 compared to 1990 and achieved 40.3 per cent share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption in 2018.
- Latvia has managed a decoupling between GHG emissions and economic growth, with GDP growing by a factor of 2.5 between 1995 and 2018, while GHG emissions have remained relatively stable just below 1995 levels.
- Among the challenging sectors are the agricultural sector with a significant share of agricultural emissions (22.2 per cent in 2018) which are projected to increase until 2030, as well as the transport sector (28.5 per cent in 2018) with one of the oldest car fleets in the EU. **Latvia is cutting emissions in the transport sector by developing the electric vehicles charging infrastructure and supportive initiatives regarding EVs usage, including tax exemptions, free parking and usage of the public transport lane. In agriculture, the key measures include precision fertilizer application, crop rotation, change in crops and better monitoring to improve measures.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Latvia>

Lithuania

- Lithuania has clearly decoupled economic growth and GHG emissions. GDP increased by 53 per cent compared to 1990, while GHG emissions decreased by 57.5 per cent in the same period. Lithuania will reach its ESD targets for 2020 of limiting emission growth to 15 per cent above 2005 levels. Lithuania set the national mid-term target to reduce total GHG emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 compared to 2005 and works towards climate neutrality in 2050.
- **Lithuania's key focus for measures in the transport sector, where emissions have increased over the last years, is its National Transport Development Programme (2014-2022) which led to the implementation of sustainable mobility measures in the cities. The estimated effect in 2020 is a reduction by 40.64ktCO₂e. Among the measures are: promotion of public transport, reducing urban congestion, improving intermodality, developing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and a upgrade of vehicle car fleet.**
- While implementing measures planned under the National Energy and Climate Plan (2019) for 2021- 2030 Lithuania intends to phase out of fossil fuels, remove fossil fuel subsidies, introduce a green tax reform and promote alternative fuels through the Law on Alternative Fuels (2021).
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Lithuania>

Malta

- Malta met its ESD 2020 target, using flexibility mechanisms. Malta stressed that its national circumstances as a small island make emission reduction challenging. The IPPU emissions have risen since 2000, due to increased uptake of refrigeration and air-conditioning due to the warm climatic conditions.
- Malta is strengthening its commitment to fight climate change by preparing its Low Carbon Development Strategy, which builds on carbon neutrality by 2050 being one of the five pillars of Malta's economic vision.
- **Malta's PAMs that lead to a significant decrease of GHG emissions include investments in more efficient generation capacity, a switch in fuel use towards now mainly natural gas, an interconnector to the European grid, and an increased RES contribution of 8,5 per cent of Gross Final Energy Consumption in 2019.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Malta>

Slovakia

- Slovakia's GHG emissions without LULUCF reduced by 46 per cent in 2019 compared to 1990 level and met its EU ESD 2020 target of maximum 13 per cent increase by 2020 compared to 2005. The country has achieved decoupling of GHG emissions from economic and population growth: carbon intensity has decreased by 69 per cent while GHG emissions per capita decreased by 47 per cent between 1995 and 2019. The emissions covered under the EU ETS keep decreasing and in 2020 for the first time the share of the ESD emissions was higher.
- **Slovakia puts extra efforts in reducing emissions from transport – the third largest GHG emission sector (20,2 per cent of total GHG emissions without LULUCF in 2019). Slovakia's Plan for Development of the Transport envisages a modal shift in passenger transport to public transport by 50 per cent by 2050, as well as a modal shift in freight transport to railways up to 35 per cent of transported goods by 2050.**
- Slovakia's Action Plan for the Development of Electromobility aims at achieving a strong uptake of electric cars and fuel cell cars, gradually replacing internal combustion engine cars.
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Slovakia>

Spain

- Spain has met its ESD 2020 target (of minus 10 per cent compared to 2005 levels). It has a new, more ambitious, national 2030 target of 23 per cent of GHG (compared to 1990) for the ESD sector. To meet the 2030 target Spain adopted (May 2021) the Spanish Law of Climate Change and Energy Transition, which includes a ban of new fossil fuel subsidies, exploration and production. Spain has committed to net carbon neutrality by 2050, which would be achieved by reducing GHG emissions by at least 90 per cent compared to 1990 and establishing 100 per cent renewable electricity system.

- Spain faces political and social challenges of acceptance of new climate change measures and intends to address those through improvement in inter-institutional governance, enhancement of the reporting and monitoring process, and greater involvement of its citizens in the climate change policy making.
- **The Spanish Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, includes “Green Transition” as one of the four pillars, with 40.3 per cent (28 billion Euros) of investments allocated to climate change projects and programmes. While most of this budget is focused on mitigation actions, there is a significant part targeting adaptation actions.**
- <https://unfccc.int/MA/Spain>

New Zealand

- New Zealand is on track to meet its Kyoto Protocol 2020 target to reduce gross emissions to 5 per cent below 1990. Differently from most of the developed countries, agricultural emissions account for the largest share (48,1 per cent) in the total GHG emissions. The agriculture sector remains in the focus of climate policy and by 2030, New Zealand intends to reduce biogenic methane emissions to 10 per cent below 2017 levels. By 2050, New Zealand intends to reduce all GHGs emissions, except biogenic methane, to net zero and reduce biogenic methane emissions to at least 24-47 per cent below 2017 levels.
- New Zealand has implemented mitigation measures in all sectors. Emissions from agriculture are planned to be reduced by additional fiscal measures as of 2025 and investment in mitigation research. In the energy sector, New Zealand plans to reach 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2035 by phasing out fossil fuels in process heat, mainly in the industry sector.
- **New Zealand has reformed its national Emission Trading Scheme (2008) to support New Zealand in meeting its NDCs and domestic emissions reduction targets, by introducing emissions cap in line with climate change targets, phasing out allocation to the industry sector from 2021 and introducing an auction of NZ emission units by the Government.**
- https://unfccc.int/MA/New_Zealand

Russian Federation

- Total emission of GHG in the Russian Federation in 2020 (without LULUCF) was about 65.8 per cent of the 1990 emissions. Russia’s national target for 2030 is a reduction of GHG emissions by 30 per cent compared to 1990 levels.
- Russia’s hydroelectric power stations currently produce about 18 per cent of electricity, nuclear power stations nearly 19 per cent. The energy strategy of the Russian Federation (2020) pays much attention to the development of hydrogen energy.

- **Russian Federation's new federal law on limiting GHG emissions from 2021 will set the framework for climate change policy at the national level. Among the new measures taken by the Russian Federation is the development of green bonds and the consideration of a draft law on green certificates. The introduction of a green certificate system will promote the development of renewable and low-carbon energy and help exporters to reduce the carbon footprint of products. At the regional level, the Sakhalin Regional Pilot Project for carbon neutrality in 2025 can become a model for the rest of the country.**
- https://unfccc.int/MA/Russian_Federation