

## **Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement**

### **Informal note by the Chair**

*The elements outlined in this note are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered final in any way. They are offered to assist Parties in advancing the discussions on this matter and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.*

### **Introduction**

- Under Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement, Parties agreed to consider common time frames for nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 23–24, refers to the communication and updating of NDCs in relation to their different time frames.
- Parties have made significant progress since starting their deliberations on common time frames at the forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). At the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, it was agreed to apply common time frames to NDCs to be implemented from 2031 onward,<sup>1</sup> and Parties' discussions at subsequent SBI sessions have resulted in 10 potential proposals for consideration. Parties were unable to agree conclusions at SBI 51 (rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure being applied).
- Parties continued making progress during this sessional period. On 15 June 2021, the co-facilitators published an informal note under their own authority intended to present elements of all the options put forward by Parties in a streamlined manner.<sup>2</sup>
- In recent consultations, Parties have shared ideas and exchanged views on many aspects pertaining to common time frames. I am confident that these informal exchanges have enriched Parties' perspectives on the matter and prepared them for further deliberations on a solution to common time frames. I am also aware that Parties have different views on how best to reach agreement at COP 26. For example, some Parties have called for further technical work, while others believe technical work is exhausted and have therefore indicated the need for higher-level political engagement.
- Over the past three weeks, I have heard and observed Parties' desire to reach agreement on this item at COP 26. To do so, Parties will need to establish how a decision on common time frames can be aligned with the five-year cycle of both the global stocktake (under Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement) and the communication of NDCs (under Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement), while catering to each Party's unique circumstances and ensuring that NDCs represent a progression beyond the Party's then current NDC and reflect its highest possible ambition.
- In reflecting on Parties' interventions, I can confirm that I heard all the views and options expressed, and can reassure that all options remain on the table. Parties' proposals have been compiled in the annex as submitted.
- The aim of this note is to further summarize and structure the views expressed, in the hope that this can facilitate further deliberations and eventually an agreement that is consistent with the relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 6/CMA.1, para. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/SBI-may-june-2021#eq-20>.

## Reflections on possible elements

*The elements below are without prejudice to the structure or elements of any draft conclusions or draft decision or to the placement of any provision within that structure.*

*The reflections on possible elements below, while aiming at capturing the options put forward by Parties, do not fully reflect all text in Parties' submissions or provide a transcript of any Party's particular submission or intervention made during previous sessions of the SBI or this sessional period.*

### (I) Existing guidance

Many Parties recalled provisions of the Paris Agreement and other decisions relevant to common time frames, including but not limited to Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 9–11, of the Paris Agreement; and decisions 1/CP.21, paragraphs 23–25, and 6/CMA.1.

### (II) Elements of the time frames

Parties expressed different views on the legal nature of common time frames for NDCs (e.g. whether Parties shall, will, should or may apply common time frames for NDCs).

In terms of common time frames for NDCs, Parties expressed a range of views, while recognizing that NDCs are nationally determined, which can be structured as follows:

#### *Five-year time frame:*

- Parties to communicate by 2025 their new NDCs with a time frame up to 2035, communicate by 2030 their new NDCs with a time frame up to 2040, and so forth every five years thereafter;

#### *10-year time frame:*

- Parties to communicate by 2025 their new NDCs with a time frame up to 2040, communicate by 2035 their new NDCs with a time frame up to 2050, and so forth every 10 years thereafter;
- Parties to communicate or update by 2030 their NDCs with a time frame up to 2040, communicate or update by 2040 their NDCs with a time frame up to 2050, and so forth every 10 years thereafter. Some Parties also suggested that, in doing so, Parties would be urged to increase the ambition of their NDCs;
- Some proposals were to invite Parties to communicate in 2025 an indicative waypoint/target for 2035, communicate in 2035 an indicative waypoint/target for 2045, and so forth every 10 years thereafter;

#### *Five-year + five-year time frame:*

- Parties to communicate by 2025 an NDC with a time frame up to 2035, plus an additional NDC with a time frame up to 2040, and, by 2030, an NDC with a time frame up to 2040, plus an additional NDC with a time frame up to 2045, and so forth every five years thereafter;

*5- or 10-year time frame:*

- Parties to communicate by 2025 an NDC with a time frame up to either 2035 (5 years) or 2040 (10 years), by 2035 an NDC with a time frame up to either 2045 (5 years) or 2050 (10 years), and so forth every 5 or 10 years thereafter;
- Some Parties also suggested that NDCs with a 10-year time frame up to 2040 would need to be communicated or updated in 2030, and NDCs with a 10-year time frame up to 2050 would need to be communicated or updated in 2040, and so forth every 10 years thereafter;
- Some Parties noted that ambition is related to the length of the time frame.

**(III) Other elements**

- Some Parties considered that the decision on common time frames should provide clarity on the starting dates of NDCs.
- Some Parties expressed that in the decision Parties should be invited to communicate in 2025 new NDCs with a time frame up to 2030, while others noted that decision 6/CMA.1 provides that Parties are to apply common time frames to their NDCs to be implemented from 2031 onward.
- Some Parties expressed the view that developing countries should have flexibility when applying common time frames for NDCs.
- Some Parties expressed that the decision on common time frames should be revisited at a later point in time, and that a possible decision taken in the near future would only apply to NDCs communicated in 2025 or 2030.

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**Annex**

**Proposals submitted by Parties**

*Option 1*

- (5 years): Decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be five years.
- (10 years): Decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be ten years.
- (5 and 10 years): Decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be five or ten years.

*Option 2*

*References to paragraphs are in APA-SBSTA-SBI.2018. Informal.2.Add.1(part 2)*

Option 1 (5 years): Decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be five years between the end points of two successive NDCs.

4. alt and 7 alt, merged: Further decides that Parties should communicate two successive nationally determined contributions, starting in 2025, with starting points of 1 January 2031 and 1 January 2036 respectively;

3. alt Urges Parties to communicate and update their nationally determined contributions in 2025 and every five years thereafter, consistent with progression;

### *Option 3*

#### **Draft Decision -/CMA.X**

#### **Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, Paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement**

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,*

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular its Article 4, paragraphs 9 and 10,

*Also recalling* the relevant paragraphs of decision 1/CP.21, in particular its paragraphs 22-25,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the consideration of common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “common time frames”) by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement at its first session;
2. *Decides* that Parties shall apply common time frames to their nationally determined contributions to be implemented from 2031 onwards;
3. *Invites* each Party to communicate by 2025 a nationally determined contribution with a time frame up to 2035 or 2040;
4. *Requests*:
  - (a) those Parties whose nationally determined contributions contain a time frame up to 2035 to communicate by 2030 their respective new nationally determined contributions with a time frame up to 2040; and
  - (b) those Parties whose nationally determined contributions contain a time frame up to 2040 to communicate or update by 2030 these nationally determined contributions;
5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its [X] session, to consider common time frames for nationally determined contributions to be implemented from 2041 onwards, with a view to making a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its [Y] session (*month year*);

### *Option 4*

#### **Draft Decision -/CMA.X**

#### **Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, Paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement**

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,*

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular its Article 4, paragraphs 9 and 10,

*Also recalling* the relevant paragraphs of decision 1/CP.21, in particular its paragraphs 22-25,

*Decides* that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be [5][10][5 and 10] years.

*Further decides* that Parties whose nationally determined contributions contain a 10-year time frame shall include an indicative waypoint at the 5-year mark;

*Further decides* that Parties shall apply common time frames to their nationally determined contributions to be implemented from 2031 onwards;

Requests the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its [50th][51st] session, to continue its consideration of the common time frames for nationally determined contributions with a view to making a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its [3rd][4th] session (month year);

#### *Option 5*

(5 plus 5 years): *Decides* that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be five plus five years. Parties shall communicate an NDC for an initial five-year period, plus an additional NDC for the subsequent five-year period.

#### *Option 6*

1. Reiterates the request:

(a) to those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2025 to communicate by 2020 a new nationally determined contribution and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;

(b) to those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2030 to communicate or update by 2020 the contribution and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;

2. Option A. Invites each Party to communicate by 2025 a nationally determined contribution with a time frame up to 2030, 2035 or 2040.

Option B. Invites each Party to communicate by 2025 a nationally determined contribution with a time frame up to [X], unless the Party concerned decides otherwise on timeframes.

Option C: Invites each Party to communicate by 2025 a new nationally determined contribution.

#### *Option 7*

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular its Articles 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11, and 6/CMA.1

1. *Decides* that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for the mitigation component of nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be [X] years.

2. *Also decides* that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for the adaptation component of nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, if applicable, shall be [X][Y] years. *{the same or different time frame(s) with/from the mitigation component}*

3. *Further decides* that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement for the provision of finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building support component of nationally determined contributions communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, if applicable, shall be [X][Y][Z] years. *{the same or different time frame(s) with/from the mitigation and/or adaptation component}*

4. *Urges* developed country Parties to communicate the support component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in paragraph 3 above, with a time frame consistent with the nationally determined contributions by developing country Parties, with a view to promoting the coherence between support and actions.

5. *Encourages* developing country Parties to maintain the consistency of the time frames for their mitigation and adaptation components, referred to paragraphs 1 and 2 respectively, as much as possible when communicating their nationally determined contributions, with a view to facilitating a balanced allocation of the support between mitigation and adaptation.

#### *Option 8*

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular its Articles 2, 3, 4.4, 4.5, 7.13, 9.1, 10.6 and 11.3, and 6/CMA.1

1. Decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated by developed country Parties in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be 5 years.

2. Requests each developed country Party to communicate by 2025 a nationally determined contribution with a time frame up to 2035.

3. Also decides that common time frames referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris agreement for nationally determined contributions communicated by developing country Parties in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, shall be 5 or 10 years, to be nationally determined by that developing country Party concerned.

4. Recommends developing country Parties to communicate by 2025 a nationally determined contribution with a time frame up to 2030, 2035 or 2040.

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