

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

Informal note by the Chair

Background

- 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,¹ and Parties' discussions at subsequent SBI sessions have resulted in 10 potential proposals for consideration. As Parties were unable to agree conclusions at SBI 51 (rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure being applied), the latest note capturing Parties' proposals is from SBI 50 and is contained in the annex.² It is now time for Parties to find a solution that will enable agreement on common time frames to be reached at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP).
- Since SBI 51, 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.
- By COP 26, Parties will need to establish how a decision on common time frames can be aligned with the five-year cycle of 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 reflect the highest possible ambition. A key first step in 2021 is for Parties to consolidate the many options proposed. The aim of this note is to facilitate this process by laying the foundation for a solution by setting out all the existing options.

Possible elements in consolidating the options

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.

1. Nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement and communicated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, to be communicated from 2025 and every five years thereafter shall/will/should/may have common time frames of:

(a) Five years;

(b) Five years plus five years;

For NDCs to be implemented from 2031 onward, Parties shall/will/should/may communicate two successive NDCs with starting points of 1 January 2031 and 1 January 2036, respectively

(c) 10 years;

Parties whose NDCs to be implemented from 2031 onward contain a 10-year time frame shall/will/should/may include an indicative [waypoint] [target] at the five-year mark or shall/will/should/may update their NDCs five years after they were communicated so that their NDCs can be informed by the latest global stocktake

¹ Decision 6/CMA.1, para. 2.

² Also available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/197342>.

(d) 5 or 10 years.

Parties may choose either a 5- or a 10-year time frame for their NDCs

ANNEX

Possible elements of a draft decision, as reflected in the SBI 50 (June 2019) report,³ paragraph 34, footnote 24⁴

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,

³ FCCC/SBI/2019/9.

⁴ The footnote reads: The most recent informal document containing elements of a draft decision on this matter is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/197342>. The ideas expressed in that document are not exhaustive, do not reflect consensus or all views, and do not prejudge the views of Parties.

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.

APPENDIX

Parties expressed a range of proposals regarding which particular session of the CMA would consider and adopt a decision on common time frames applicable to the nationally determined contributions to be implemented from 2031 onward. Some of the proposals expressed at SBI 50 include:

- There is no need to designate a specific session for adopting the decision.
- The second session (December 2019).
- The third session (November 2020).
- The sixth session (December 2023) at the latest.
- A CMA session to be decided at SBI 51 (December 2019).
