

Japan's views on Common Time Frames for Nationally Determined Contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement

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1. Introduction

Japan welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the common time frames for nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Paragraph 10 of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement states that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to Paris Agreement (CMA) shall consider common time frames for NDCs at its first session. In Japan's view, the establishment of common time frames for NDCs applicable to all Parties is crucial to the effective operationalization of the Paris Agreement.

2. Views on common time frames for NDCs

Japan is of the view that common time frames with 10-year implementation period should apply to all Parties' NDCs implemented from 2031 and subsequent NDCs.

When considering common time frames, it is important to take into account the following four viewpoints: (a) Synchronicity, (b) Timing of application, (c) Preparation period, and (d) Implementation period (time frame). It is also crucial that common time frames encourage Parties to set their emission reduction targets as ambitious as possible, taking into consideration the necessity to promote additional and enhanced measures and innovation in the areas of technology, policy, social, and business, in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement and in line with decision 1/CP.21.

Based on the above, Japan's views on common time frames are as follows. Japan reserves the right to provide further views on this matter.

(a) **Synchronicity:** NDCs of all Parties should have the same (uniform) common time frames.

- ✓ Synchronized common time frames are crucial to ensure comparability of NDCs across Parties, to estimate global total GHG emissions regularly and as accurately as possible, and to set a uniform target year (i.e. a uniform end year of the implementation period).

(b) **Timing of application:** Common time frames should apply to NDCs from 2031.

- ✓ In paragraph 23 of the decision 1/CP.21, those Parties whose INDC contains a time frame up to 2025 are requested to communicate a new NDC by 2020. In paragraph 24, those Parties whose INDC contains a time frame up to 2030 are requested to communicate or update these contributions by 2020. Considering that NDCs up to 2030 for all Parties will be communicated by 2020 based on the provisions above, it is appropriate to apply common time frames to NDCs from 2031 onwards.

(c) **Preparation period:** A sufficient preparation period (5 years) after communicating NDC and before the beginning of the implementation period is desirable.

- ✓ A five-year preparation period is necessary to develop policies and measures for the implementation and achievement of the new NDCs, including legal and procedural arrangements.

(d) **Implementation period (time frame):** The implementation period of NDCs should be 10 years.

- ✓ Consistently implementing long-term climate policies is essential for meaningful and ambitious GHG emissions reduction. The 10-year time frame would be appropriate to materialize policy effects of the implementation of climate policies and measures, and promote the establishment of more ambitious targets incorporating these impacts. The 5-year time frame of NDCs, however, would allow the emission reductions of NDCs to be merely a "projection" that can be predicted from the circumstance and existing policies at the time of the NDC communications. Such a “projection” would not be a "target" that takes into account the subsequent potential progression of policies and measures, given that the time required for the development of the infrastructure for new technologies and the diffusion of advanced low-carbon products that could achieve significant emissions reduction. As such, the 10-year implementation period would be more appropriate in order to enable more ambitious target in Parties’ NDCs.
- ✓ At the same time, in light of the 5-year cycle of global stocktake and communicating NDCs, Parties update NDCs five years after the communication year. This is similar to the precedent that (I)NDCs with a time frame up to 2030 communicated in 2015 will be updated by 2020 (Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 24).

Based on the above points, the NDC communication year and target year are as shown in the table below.

| NDC communication year* | New or Update | Implementation period | Target year | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----|
| 2015 | New | 2021~2025 | 2025 | **1 |
| | New | 2021~2030 | 2030 | **2 |
| 2020 | New | 2026~2030 | 2030 | **1 |
| | Update | 2021~2030 | | **2 |
| 2025 | New | 2031~2040 | 2040 | |
| 2030 | Update | 2031~2040 | | |
| 2035 | New | 2041~2050 | 2050 | |
| 2040 | Update | 2041~2050 | | |

* : In line with the paragraph 25 of decision 1/CP.21.

**1 : For Parties whose first NDC contains a time frame up to 2025

**2 : For Parties whose first NDC contains a time frame up to 2030