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RCC Caribbean

Collaboration for Climate Action

Introduction to the UNFCCC for Youth: Bodies, Processes and Treaties

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Please mute your microphones and turn off your camera unless you are speaking.

2. Please raise your (virtual) hand if you would like to take the floor or write question in chat.



3. Please have your mobile devices nearby to participate in the Mentimeter exercise.

4. The presentations and Mentimeter results will be shared after the webinar

5. At the end of the session, we ask that you kindly turn on your cameras for a group photo.

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Which country in the Caribbean are you from?

st vincent

grenada

st lucia

st kitts and nevis

2

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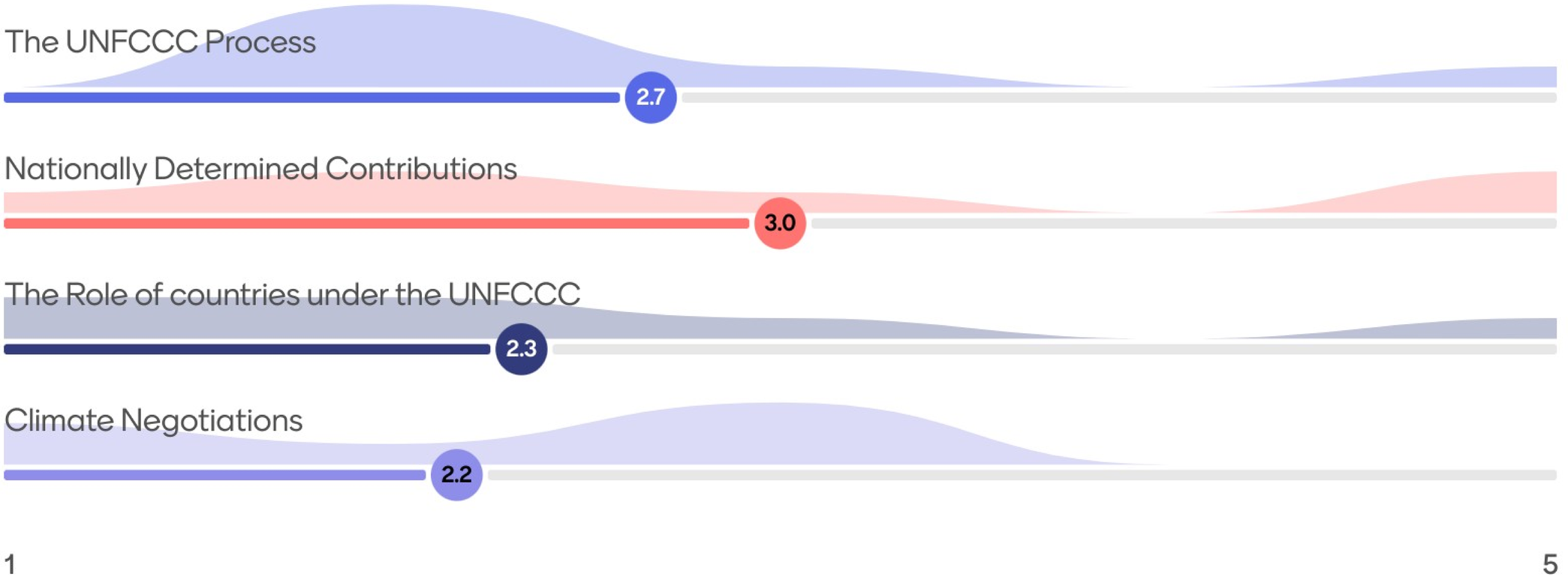

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Agenda

Time	Session	Moderator / Speaker
5'	Welcome and Opening remarks	Andrea Camponogara - RCC Caribbean Lead
5'	Introduction to the Webinar	Quianna Watson, Climate Action Officer, RCC Caribbean
30'	Understanding the UNFCCC: Bodies, processes and Treaties • Overview of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) • Overview of Key Climate Agreements • Introduction to what negotiations are and how they are conducted • Introduction of RCCs • Introduction to the Workstreams • Opportunities for meaningful engagement of youth under the UNFCCC	Rianka Chance - Chair of the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group – Moderator Quianna Watson, Climate Action Officer, RCC Caribbean – Presenter
30'	Overview of Nationally Determined Contributions • Key messages for the new round of NDCs 3.0 • Youth Engagement in NDCs (St. Lucia's experience)	Rianka Chance - Chair of the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group – Moderator Jason Williams - NDC and LT-LEDS Expert - Presenter Onika Benn, Saint Lucia NDC In-Country Facilitator - Presenter
10'	Question and Answer Session	Rianka Chance - Chair of the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Youth Advisory Group – Moderator
5'	Post event evaluation	Quianna Watson, Climate Action Officer, RCC Caribbean
5'	Closing remarks	Hasani McDonald –Co-chair of the Barbados and Eastern Caribbean YAG

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Overview of the UNFCCC

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a global treaty aimed at addressing climate change.
- The objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic(human-induced) interference with the climate system as defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Key Milestones of the UNFCCC



Adopted on 5 June 1992
at the Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro



Entered into force on 21 March 1994
and to-date 198 countries have ratified

- Why it matters
  - Laid the groundwork for the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015)
  - Convenes UN climate conferences (COPs), and the COPs are the supreme decision-making bodies of the UNFCCC



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Overview of Key Climate Agreements

- UNFCCC
  - Parent treaty to Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.
- Kyoto Protocol

To combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol aims to:

- Legally bind developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5% below 1990 levels during the 2008–2012 commitment period
- Establish flexible market mechanisms (Emissions Trading, Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation) to help countries meet their targets cost-effectively
- Promote sustainable development and international cooperation through technology transfer and support for climate-friendly projects in developing countries



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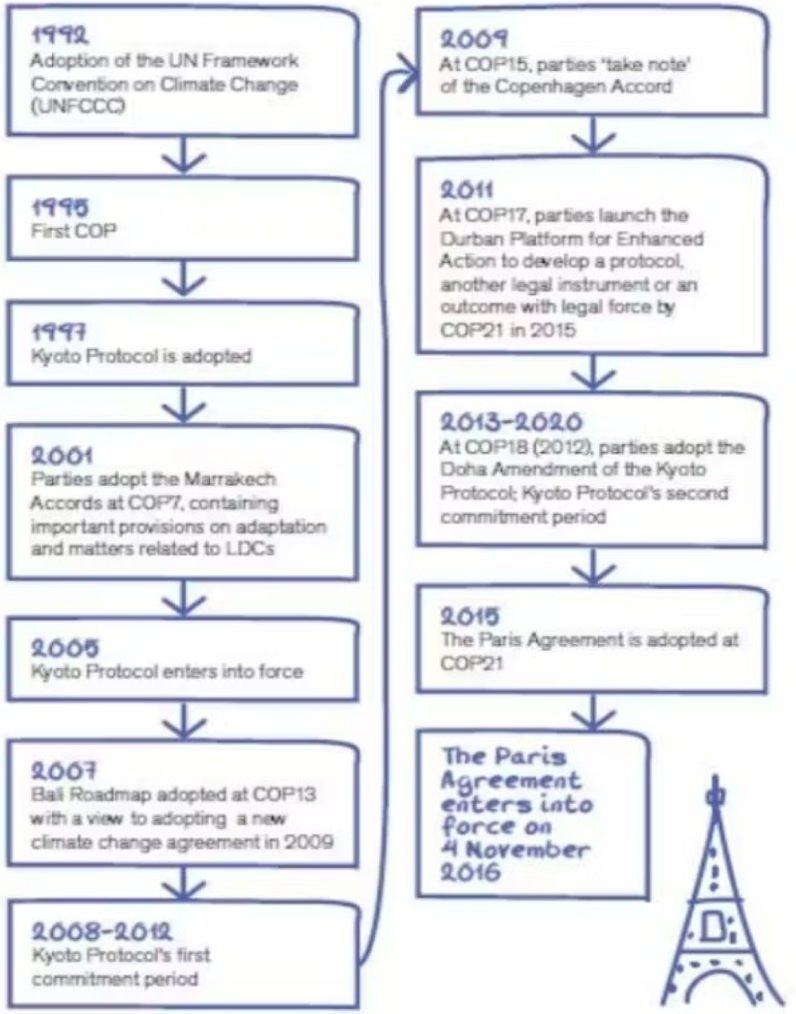
Overview of Key Climate Agreements

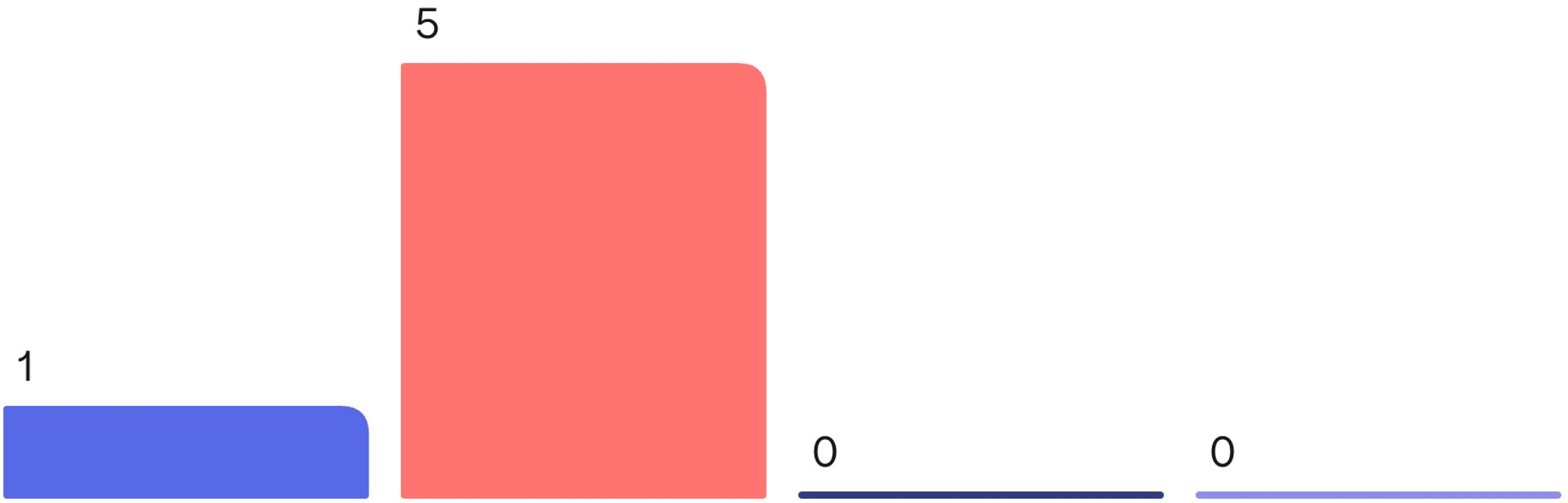
- Paris Agreement

To strengthen the global response to climate change,the Paris Agreement aims to:

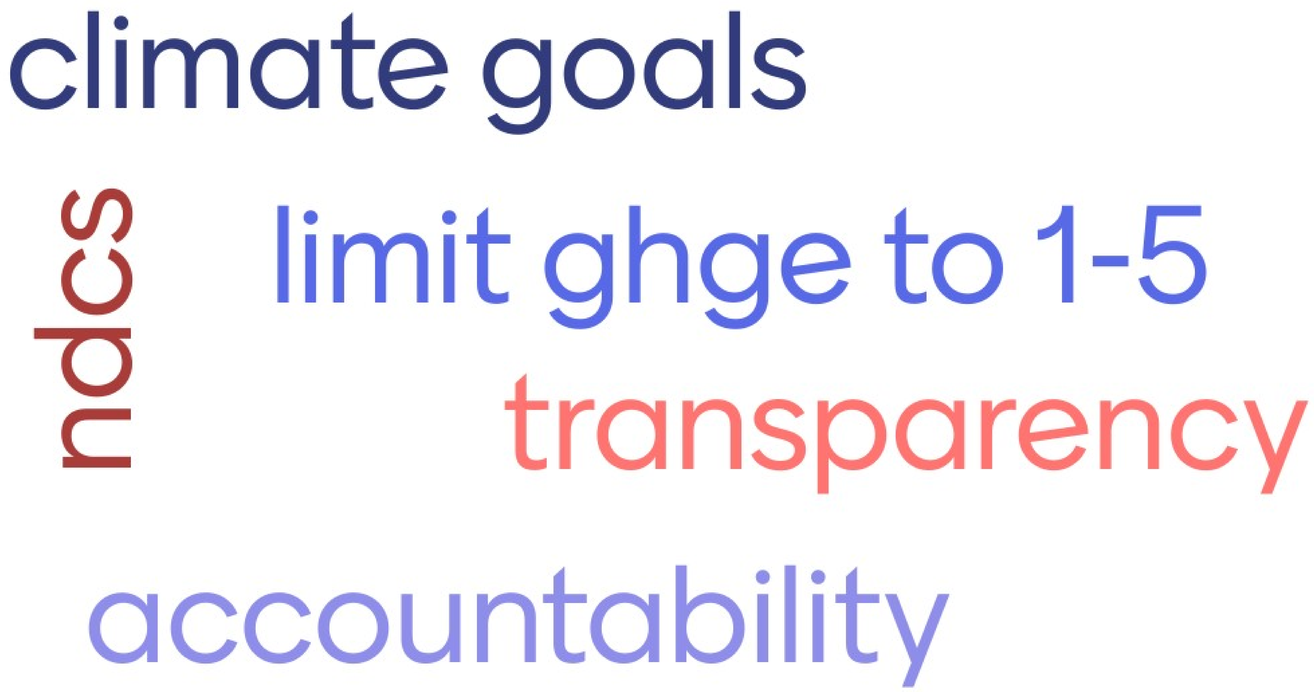
- Hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2ºC above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5ºC above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change
- Increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production
- Make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.



What is one of the key objectives of the UNFCCC



In one word, what do you think is the most important outcome of the Paris Agreement?



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Do you have any questions on the UNFCCC processes bodies and treaties?

1 question
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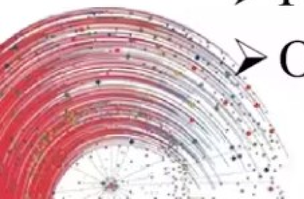
Introduction to what negotiations are and how they are conducted

- Climate negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are formal discussions between countries (Parties) aimed at achieving global consensus on actions to address climate change.
- Purpose of negotiations: To limit global warming, reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and mobilize finance and support—guided by principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.
- How They Are Conducted:
  - Preparation by Parties
    - Countries develop national positions based on technical input and national interests.
    - Coordination occurs within negotiating blocs (e.g., AOSIS, G77+China, LDCs).
  - Negotiation Platforms
    - Takes place during key sessions like COP, CMA, and SBs.
    - Involves plenary meetings, contact groups, and informal consultations.
  - Consensus Building
    - Text is negotiated line-by-line.
    - Facilitators or co-chairs help mediate disagreements.
    - Outcomes are adopted by consensus and recorded in decisions or agreements.



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Outcomes of Negotiations

- Key Actors
  - Parties (countries)
  - Presidency & Secretariat
  - Observers (youth, Indigenous peoples, NGOs, IGOs)
  - Constituency groups (e.g., YOUNGO, WGC, TUNGO)
- Legal/Political Frameworks
  - E.g. Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol
- Processes, Mechanisms and Frameworks
  - These are outcomes enabled by or reported through negotiations:
    - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
    - National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
    - Loss & Damage Fund (COP27/28)
    - Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)
    - Carbon market rules (Article 6)

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What are your thoughts on the negotiation process?

A bit complicated

Sometimes it's disheartening because something as simple as a full stop delays the process

Can be lengthy as previously explained

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What other questions do you have relevant to the negotiation process?

1 question
0 upvotes

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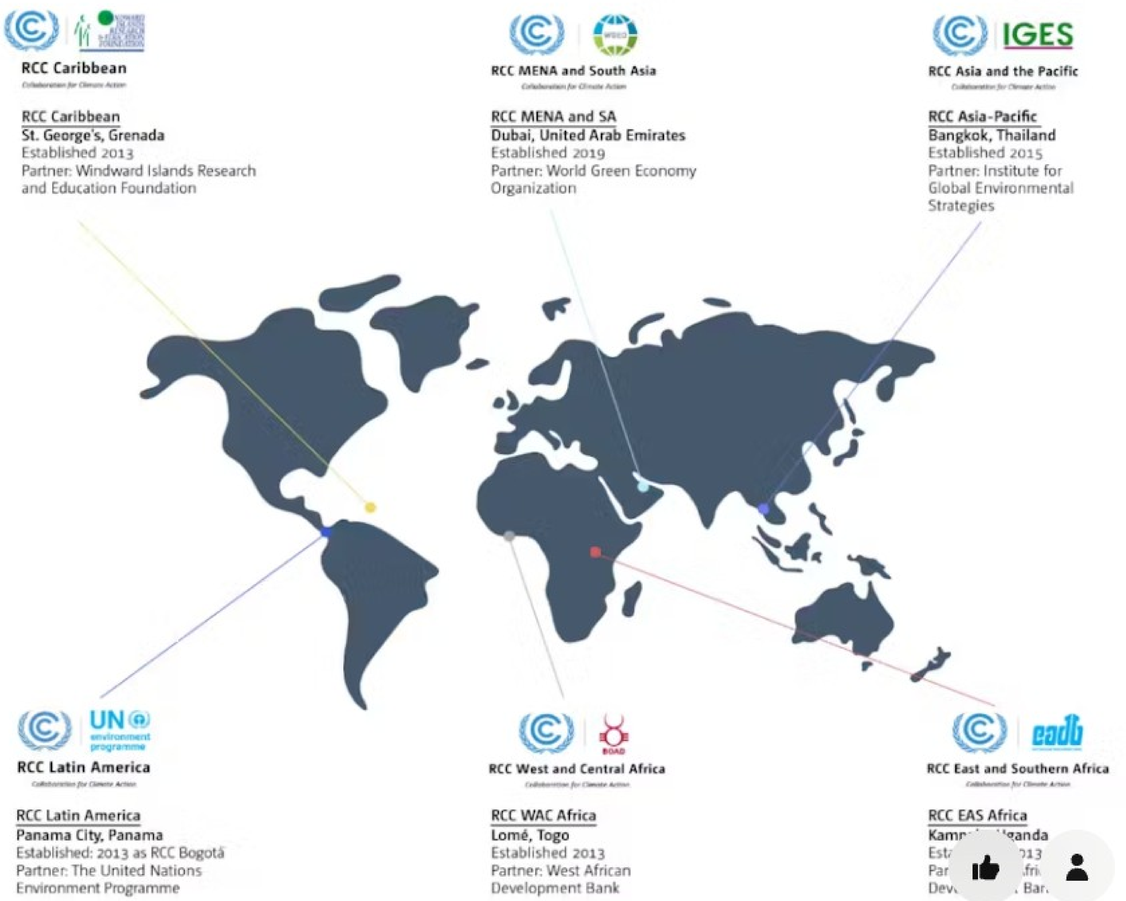
- The UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) were initially established to spread the benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- Since adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the RCCs have the broad task of supporting implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the agreement.
- **Three global goals:**

1. **Ambition**: Maximize the magnitude and extent of commitment to climate action
2. **Implementation**: Facilitate the implementation of climate action achieve commitments
3. **Oversight and Coordination**: Support mobilization and coordination of Climate Action in the Regions using the RCC infrastructure

- Diverse **project portfolio** covering issues at the heart of the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Fact Box

- 6 RCCs Since 2013
- 143 Countries
- Work in regions on all key areas towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement



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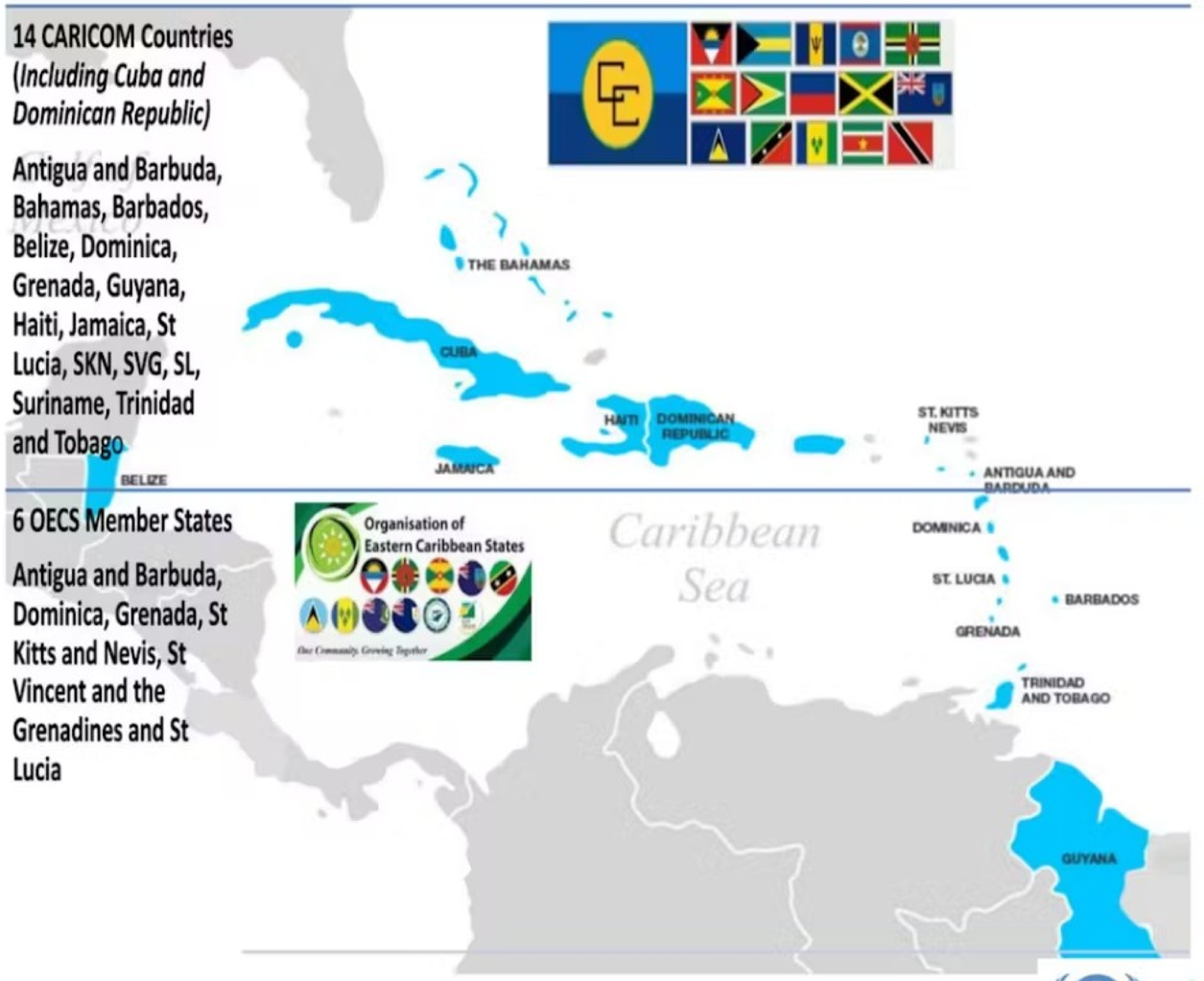
RCC Caribbean Snapshot

- Supports 16 countries in the Caribbean Region to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement.
- Established in 2013 by UNFCCC and the Windward Island Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF).



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RCC Caribbean Workstreams and Engagements

Adaptation

- *National Adaptation Plans*
- *Loss and Damage*
- *Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform*
- *Adaptation Committee*

Mitigation

- *NDCs and LT-LEDs*
- *Article 6 and Carbon Pricing*
- *Innovation*
- *Response Measures*

Transparency

- *Enhanced Transparency Framework*
- *Biennial Transparency Reports*
- *National Communications*

Means of Implementation

- *Climate Finance*
- *Technology*
- *Capacity Building*

ACE and Youth engagement

- *Youth engagement*
- *Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)*
- *Global Climate Action (GCA)*
- *Gender*



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What suggestions do you have for meaningful engagement of youth

1 question
0 upvotes

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Overview of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Jason Williams

NDC and LT-LEDS Expert
UNFCCC RCC Caribbean



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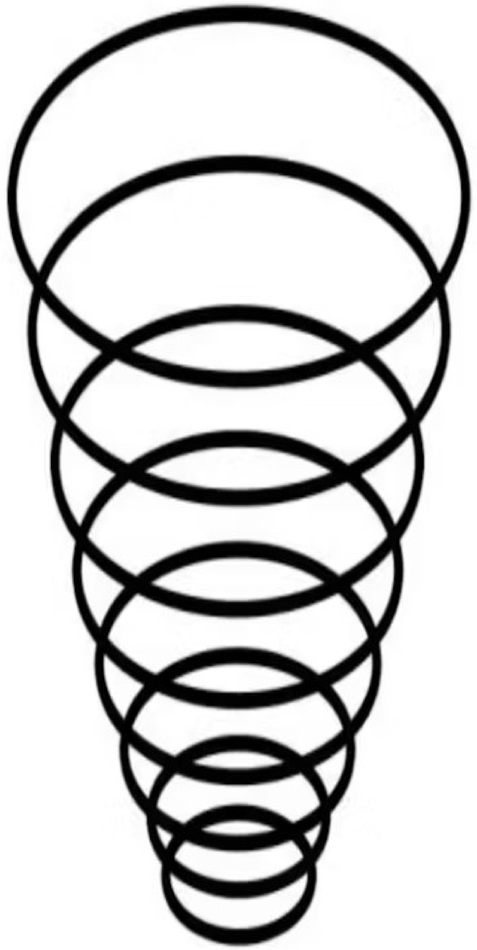
Increasing ambition over time - Reaching the long-term objectives



The Paris Agreement recognizes that its objectives will be achieved **through time**

It builds on aggregate and individual **progression/ambition**

It establishes a **mandatory cycle of NDCs:**

- First submission by **2015**
- Updated submission by **2020 with 2030 targets**
- Enhanced ambition submitted **every 5 years**
- **Next NDCs are due in 2025**

- Feedback Mechanisms
  - Global Stocktake
  - Enhanced Transparency Framework



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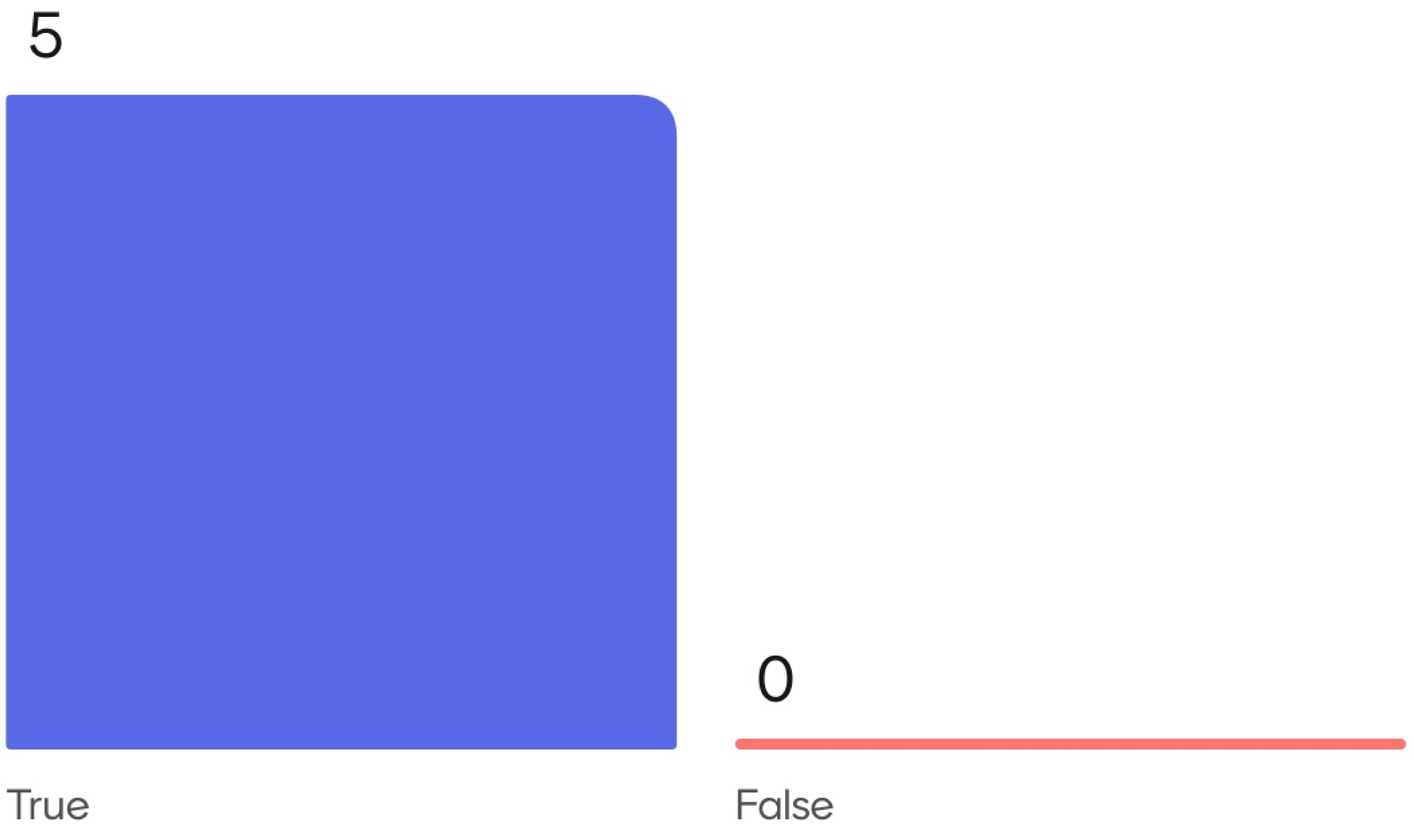
Nationally Determined Contributions are defined by the Individual Countries



Arrangements of the Paris Agreement

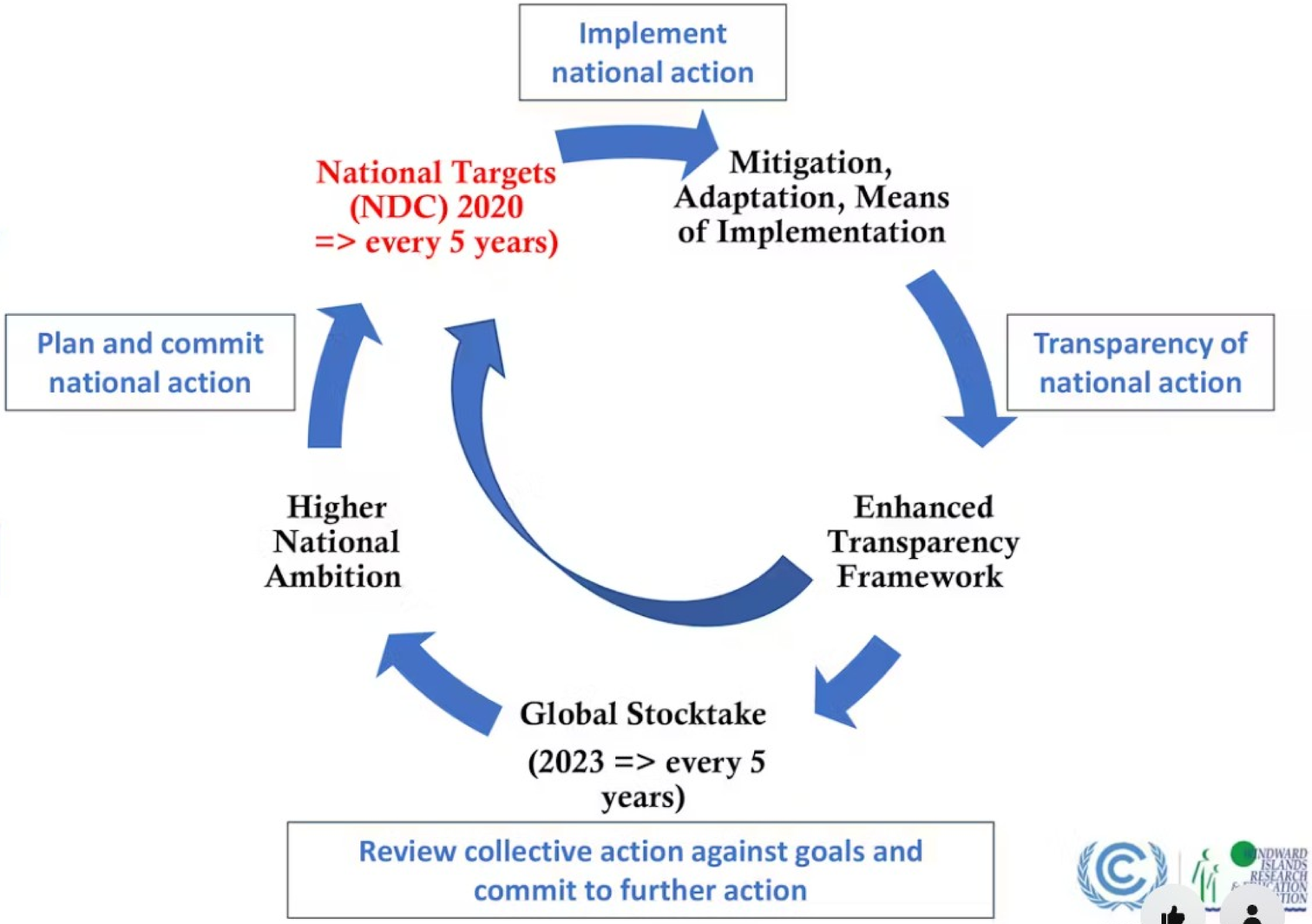
Paris Agreement Goals and Framework

Mitigation
keep temperature increase to well below **2 °C and 1.5 °C**

Adaptation
increase the ability to **adapt and foster resilience**

Finance flows **consistent** with path to low GHG emissions and resilient development

Ambition Cycle



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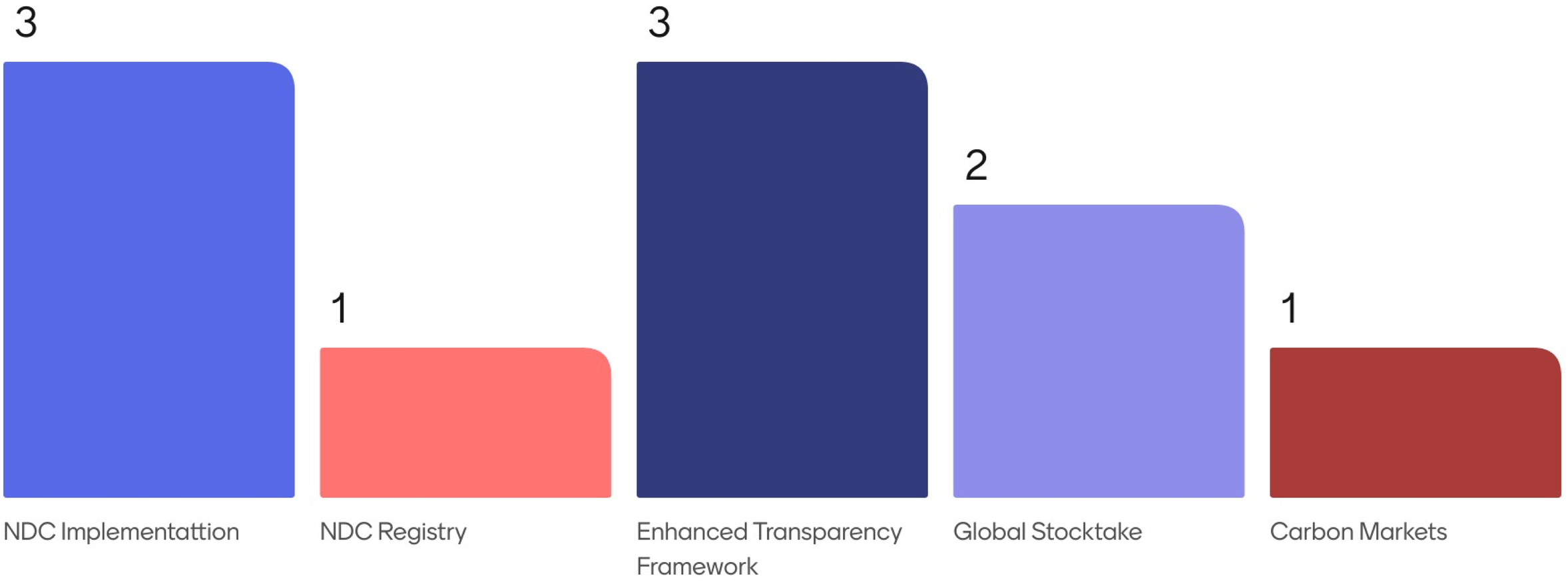
What is included in the Ambition Cycle?



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The NDC submission status

NDCs 3.0



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unfccc.int/NDCREG

United Nations Climate Change | Nationally Determined Contributions Registry

Login English

Home NDC information FAQ

NDC Registry.

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 12 of the Paris Agreement, NDCs communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.



Credit: Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Region
- Any -

Party
- Any -

Status
Active

Start
dd/mm/yyyy

End
dd/mm/yyyy

Apply

Clear



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Youth Engagement in NDCs (St. Lucia's Experience)

Onika Benn

NDC In-Country Facilitator



RCC Carib n
Collaboration for Climate Action

May 7, 2025



SAINT LUCIAN YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

"Engaging youth to develop and implement climate policy"

Presented By
MRS ONIKA BENN
NDC In-Country Facilitator
Department of Sustainable Developme

BASIS FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Commitment within the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
- Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Youth are key stakeholders in development



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HOW WERE YOUTH ENGAGED?



1. Members of the National Climate Change Committee

This is a national level multi-stakeholder coordinating committee that guides climate action in Saint Lucia. It is cabinet approved and mandated by the Climate Change Act of 2024

2. Youth Focused NDC Consultation

A consultation was held for youth-led organisations to give their perspectives on the contents of NDC 3.0, while reviewing climate actions currently under implementation

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YOUTH IN CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT



- Six (6) month project targeting children and youth from secondary schools and national youth-led organisations.
- Main objective to help youth understand Saint Lucia's NDC and actively engage them in its development and implementation

>>>> Key Achievements

- 800+ youth engaged
- 11 Internships for students
- 3 International conferences
- 500+ LED Bulbs distributed
- 15 Youth leaders trained
- National Energy Efficiency Pledge

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LESSONS LEARNT

1. Provide opportunities for meaningful participation, as opposed to tokenism
2. Recognize and amplify youth voices
3. Provide financial support for youth engagement (stipends or other support)
4. Plan with youth for youth



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OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE

1. Actively participate in the National Committees (climate, biodiversity, oceans etc)
2. Share your project ideas with agencies to leverage their resources and support
3. Apply to be a Climate Youth Negotiator or an AOSIS Climate Change Fellow



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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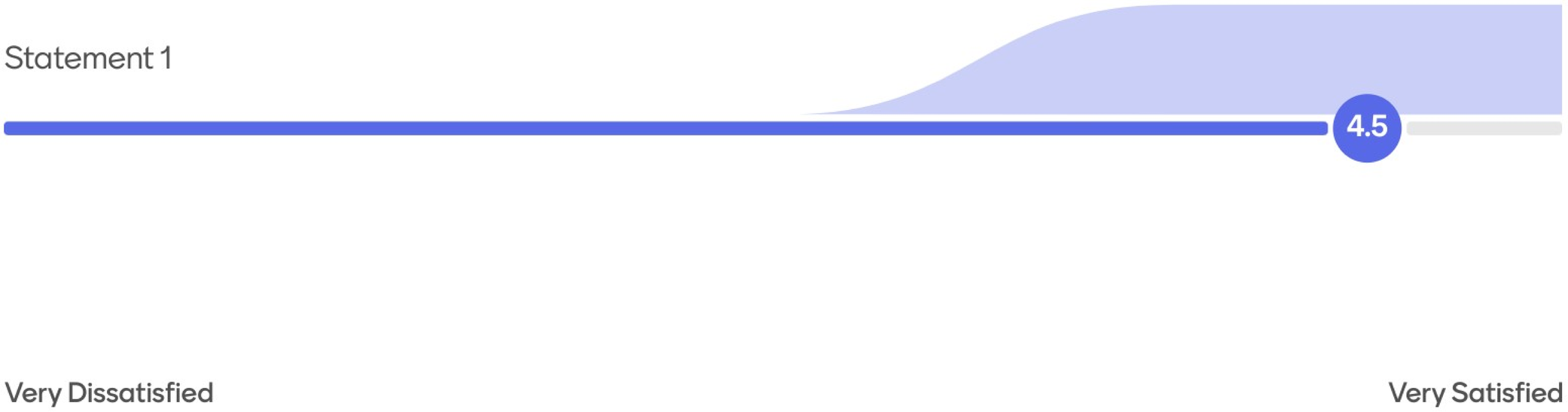
Do you have any questions relative to what was presented by Onika ?

1 question
0 upvotes

Overall, how satisfied were you with the session?



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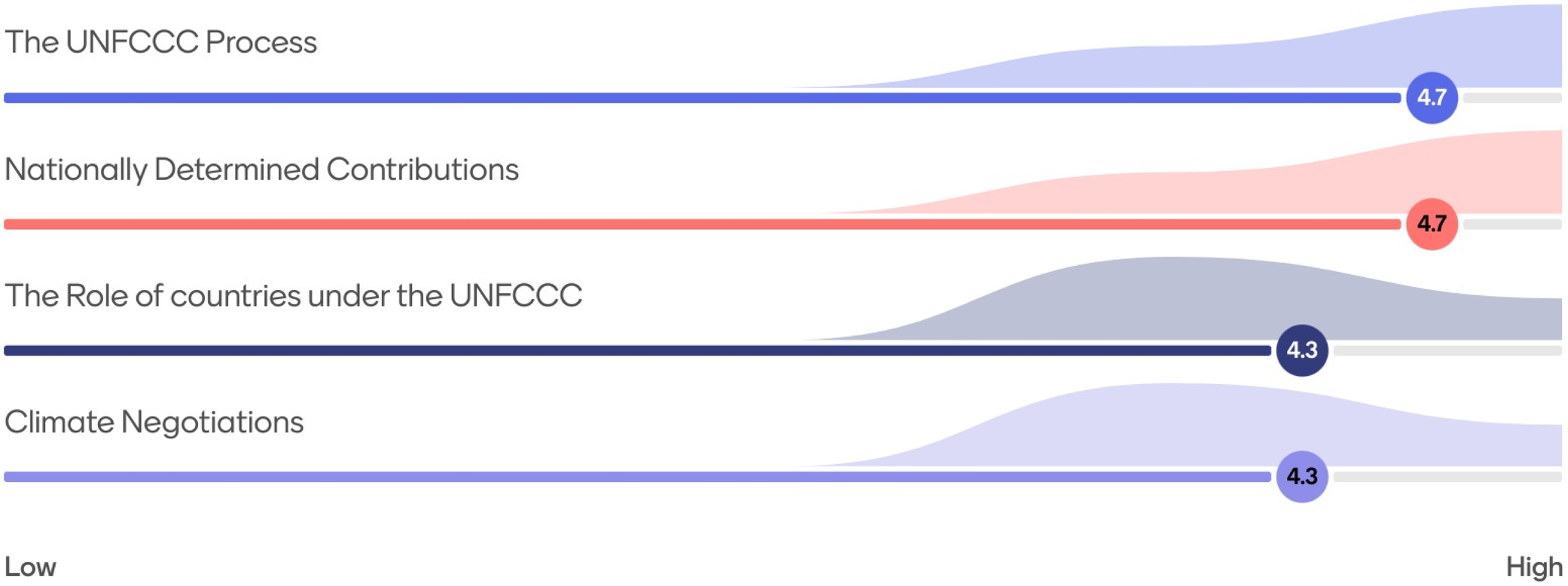

Drag the bar to indicate how useful the content of the sessions were

How useful was the content presented?



Not at all Useful

Extremely Useful

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What aspect of the session did you find most valuable?

Climate negotiations

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