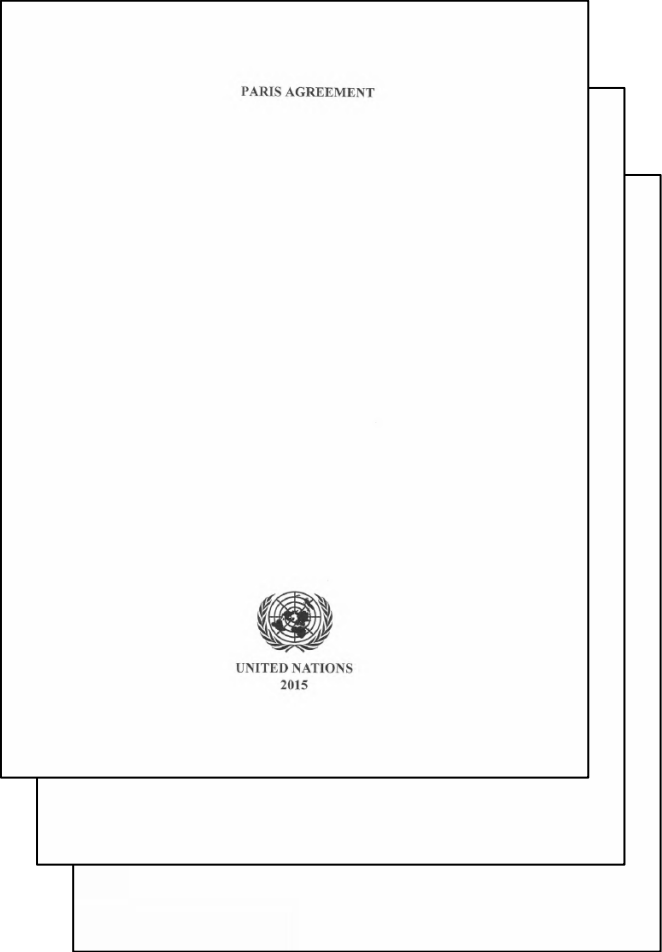


Regional NDCs: Arab Group

High-level Assessment and Key Findings

Arab countries' NDCs are grounded in the Paris Agreement and reflect national circumstances, implementation priorities and the principle of CBDR

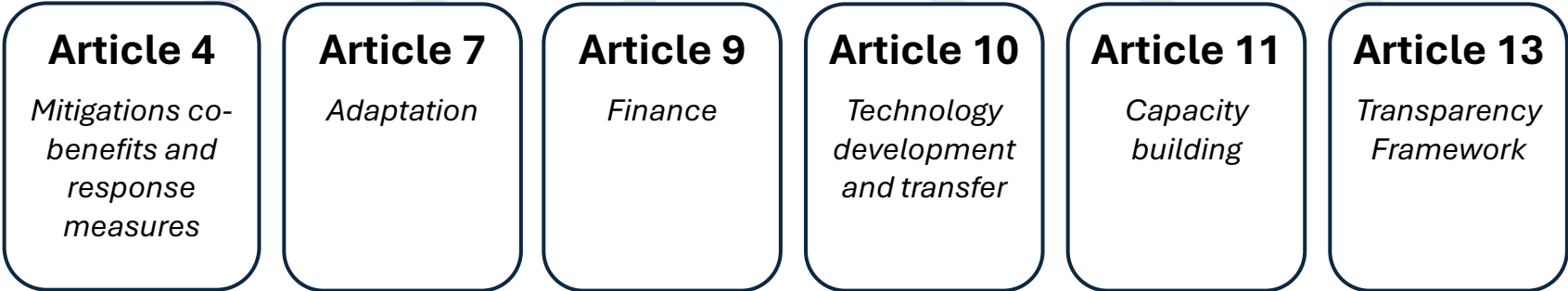
Overview of Paris Agreement's Article 3 – Nationally Determined Contributions



Article 3

*“As nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, **all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts** as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 with the view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement as set out in Article 2”*

Nationally Determined Contributions



The region's NDCs reflect developing-country circumstances, including population growth, economic development priorities, and limited historical contributions to global emissions

Despite the region's role in global trade and ongoing development needs, Arab countries have contributed relatively little to historical emissions while continuing to advance national climate ambitions

**Population
of 493M**

which is around
~6% of the global
population,
growing at nearly
twice the global
average

~15%

of global trade
passes through
the Arab region,
making it **a global
trade hub**

~2%

of historic global
GHG emissions,
~6% of annual
global emissions,
despite the
region's **essential
economic output**

Arab countries' NDCs show mitigation ambition, including through CCUS and green hydrogen projects that support emissions reductions across national pathways



Energy Efficiency

Every MENA NDC references energy efficiency and 18 countries have dedicated national plans. Measures across power, transport, buildings and industry can deliver 10–25% energy savings.



Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS)

Nine countries reference CCUS in their NDCs, and shared CCUS hubs are emerging to connect multiple emitters to common storage. The regional pipeline could reach ~35 MTPA by 2035.



Low-carbon Hydrocarbons

12 countries reference natural gas or low carbon fuels as a tool, switching from heavier fuels to cut emissions. Gas power plants and flaring-reduction projects to lower carbon intensity.



Renewable Energy

16 countries include an explicit 2030 renewable ambition, and solar PV could add 220–450 GW by 2035. Record-low auction prices near USD 13/MWh to demonstrate leadership in RE.

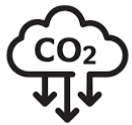


Clean Hydrogen

17 countries now reference hydrogen in national strategies, with regional output potentially reaching 5–10 million tons by 2040.

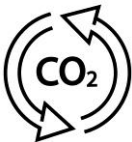
Natural sinks and CDRs are reflected as future balancing measures for CO₂ removal, while waste-to-energy offers an additional pathway for emissions reduction

“The deployment of CDR to counterbalance hard-to-abate residual emissions is unavoidable if net zero CO₂ or GHG emissions are to be achieved.” (IPCC AR6 WGIII, Summary for Policymakers, Ch11, 2022)



Natural Sinks

All MENA NDCs include reforestation, mangrove or land-restoration actions, with nine defining measurable targets. Programs increasingly use native species and satellite MRV.



Technological carbon removal (CDR)

Three countries reference engineered removal in their NDCs. Abundant storage, land and industrial capacity make it a future hub for durable removal.



Bio-energy and waste-to-energy

12 countries reference bioenergy or waste-to-energy, mostly within the waste sector, to be used a source for energy to ensure recycling and sustainability.



Electrification

Nine NDCs reference electrification, mainly in transport, for public use with its required infrastructure. Operational electric buses and metro fleets as the most popular options.

Given the region's vulnerability to climate impacts, adaptation measures are central to the Arab region's NDCs

Strengthen resilience, protect key sectors, and preserve countries' ability to pursue sustainable development; growing adaptation needs require a significant increase in adaptation finance

Water Scarcity and Management

Water availability is around 480 m³ per person per year, roughly ten times below the global average

All NDCs now include water-efficiency, non-conventional supply and integrated resource management, shifting focus from supply expansion to smarter use

Agriculture & Food Security

About 45% of the region's grain is imported, exceeding 90% in some arid economies, exposing food systems to global shocks.

Precision-irrigation practices, drought-tolerant crops and modernized logistics are being deployed to protect productivity and self-reliance

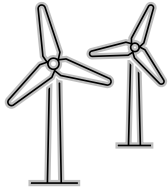
Bio-Diversity and Ecosystems

With 89% of land classified as dryland and roughly half of ecosystems degraded, biodiversity is highly specialized and vulnerable.

All NDCs commit to afforestation, rehabilitation or integrated land management, treating healthy ecosystems as a prerequisite for water, food and climate security.

Adequate and predictable financial support is essential to implement the region's climate plans, while external policies, including unilateral measures, create additional implementation barriers

Technology Transfer



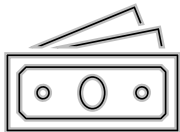
The region needs to move from importing technology toward co-development, localization and value-chain integration. Achieving climate ambition is dependent on the availability and affordability of tech

Capacity Building



Beyond finance and technology, human and institutional capacity form the backbone of durable climate action, shifting from ad hoc training to integrated systems. Arab countries require more capacity building, as per their NDCs

Finance



Access to finance is the main condition missing in most Arab NDCs to achieve ambition within a planned timeframe. Without adequate financial support, the region's climate plans will be at risk

Unilateral Measures



Some NDCs have warned against unilateral measures like CBAM and its negative impact on achieving national climate plans. Such measures will impose externally defined criteria while disregarding diverse national contexts

Arab NDCs reflect ambitious climate action shaped by regional circumstances and development priorities

Key Takeaways

Regional challenges: The region faces a range of interconnected challenges, including regional instability affecting implementation, water scarcity, desertification, growing adaptation needs, population growth and food security pressures.

Adaptation needs are growing: As a vulnerable region, adaptation is a central priority, particularly in strengthening resilience across water systems, infrastructure, food security and broader development pathways.

Unilateral measures and climate finance: Most NDCs identify finance and capacity-building as key enablers, while others highlight the potential impacts of external policies, including unilateral measures such as CBAM.

NDC flexibilities: The region's diverse national circumstances underscore the need for flexibility in NDC design and reporting, allowing countries to reflect their development priorities, capabilities and nationally determined pathways.

Thank you
