Session SB63 (2025)

Session starts: 10-08-2025 00:00:00 [GMT+1]
Session ends: 10-10-2025 23:30:00 [GMT+1]

Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress

A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Netherlands exported on 16-10-2025 by the UNFCCC secretariat

Question by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Question to Netherlands on coal power plants

Thank you, **Netherlands**, for the opportunity to comment on your 1 st Biennial Transparency Report. In your report you mention that you still have 3 remaining coal power plants open with the intention of closing all of them by 2030. Do you have a phase out plan for these and can you share your successes of energy transition following the closure of the plant in 2024?

Answer by Netherlands
The phase-out plan follows the so-called Dutch Coal Prohibition Act, which ensures a ban on the use of coal for electricity production from 2030 onwards. The phase-out of this plan includes two different stages. The first stage has introduced a ban on coal-firing power plants from 01-01-2025, and the second stage introduces a ban on the remaining coal-firing power plants from 01-01-2030 onwards.

The transition period is considered adequate and thus no rule is implemented for a compensation for each coal-firing power plant. The Dutch Coal Prohibition Act, however, includes a compensation for those coal-firing power plants that are disproportionately affected by the ban. Additionally, compensation can be given for damage that is a result of this ban if it is considered that this damage should not be paid by the operator.

With regards to the social aspects of the closing of the coal power plants the so-called Coal Fund has been established, which can be utilized for the upskilling and reskilling of employers in case that normal procedures are not sufficient. It can be used by coal-firing power plants that are closing, as well as by coal-firing power plants that transitioning to different production.

The coal ban is in line with the green energy transition and the transition from a fossil-fuels based energy system to one that centers around renewable energy. The first stage of the phase-out plan has led to one coal-firing power plant closing at the end of 2019, and another one has made the transition from coal and co-firing biomass to 100% biomass since 2025. From the coal-firing power plant that has closed, it has been

concluded that most of the employees have successfully relocated to new jobs, an important aspect for a just energy transition.

Question by Republic of Korea at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Support – DFCD, p. 168

The Netherlands has directed the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) primarily towards adaptation (65%) and least developed countries (25%), which is noteworthy. Could the Netherlands share the background and methodologies for establishing these allocation standard?

Answer by Netherlands
In determining these allocation requirements, we balanced our focus on adaptation and (to a lesser extent) the least developed countries while accommodating the flexibility needed for a demand-driven instrument. The DFCD was created as a general climate fund, and the increased focus on adaptation followed with a top-up of the Origination Facility. With this top-up we shifted to more adaptation, while building on the original characteristics. The allocation of 25% to LDCs underlines our commitment to supporting these countries while accepting the complexities of these countries for a fund focused on private mobilisation.

Question by Republic of Korea at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Support – inflows and outflows, p. 166

The Netherlands reported information on inflows to recipient countries as part of its efforts to avoid double counting in climate finance. Does the Netherlands have plans to

also report on outflows? If so, what elements would be considered essential in preparing such reporting?

Answer by Netherlands

For our bilateral climate finance we continue to report on inflows. However, in line with the agreements made at COP-29 on the NCQG we will report our share in public climate finance by the MDB's on outflows. In principle, this will be based on the Joint Report on Multilateral Development Banks Climate Finance. To avoid double-counting we will no longer report on inflows to MDB's.

Question by Japan at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Progress evaluation of individual policies and measures

According to the BTR1 (p. 59), the Netherlands uses the Climate Policy Dashboard, prepared by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), to monitor and track the progress of implementing policies and measures. However, it appears that the Climate Policy Dashboard does not necessarily evaluate the progress of all policies and measures. How does the Netherlands assess the progress of individual climate policies and measures? Could you share the specific methods used for progress evaluation?

Related pages : p59

https://unfccc.int/documents/645412

Answer by Netherlands

The Netherlands thank Japan for their question and interest in our monitoring methods.

The progress and results of adopted policies and measures are monitored during their implementation by various agencies on behalf of the national government. Many energy and climate related policies and measures are implemented and monitored by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), which collects and checks factual information during implementation (such as subsidy schemes, tax deductions and reporting on the implementation of energy saving measures). Methods to monitor the impacts used by

RVO are published on the RVO website:
https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/energieakkoord/rapportages-energie-en-klimaat.

The impact of policies and measures is also evaluated annually in the National Climate and Energy Outlook, developed by PBL (the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency). PBL is an independent governmental agency. Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and/or energy consumption and production levels in the KEV are, in general, calculated with a suite of sectoral models using parameters on economic (volume) development of sectors and prices of energy commodities and technologies, taking into account the impact of policies and measures. The quantitative impact of (individual) policies and measures is, however, not given in the KEV as usually multiple policies affect (sub)sectoral emissions. More information on the assumptions and methods used to calculate the expected impacts of policies and measures can be found in Annex 3 of our BTR.

Further, the government is by law required to evaluate their policies regularly. The effectiveness and efficiency of individual policies and measures are generally evaluated ex-post by independent parties (usually consultants) about once every five years. The coherency of policies and measures in a certain policy domain are evaluated ex-post every seven years by independent evaluators. Periodically a more comprehensive integrated evaluations are made of the policies in a specific policy domain (policy article in the state budget) by independent organisations. All policy evaluations are published on a single governmental website https://evaluaties.rijksfinancien.nl.

Question by Japan at Wednesday, 10 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Tailored approach for companies

According to the BTR1 (p. 73-74), the tailored approach provides companies with opportunities for customized support for their decarbonization efforts. Could the Netherlands explain how this support is customized? Could you share concrete examples of such support? Furthermore, the BTR1 states that more ambitious targets

and additional initiatives are required to qualify for the tailored approach. How does the government evaluate these commitments?

Related pages : p73-74

https://unfccc.int/documents/645412

Answer by Netherlands

As the proposed projects are usually company- and/or location specific, most of the support provided is therefore tailored to the project's specific conditions. This could be related to, for example, the permitting process, supporting grid connections, policy measures and financial support of the projects by finetuning and tailoring of existing subsidy schemes, setting up new subsidy schemes en providing individual support within the scope of the state aid frameworks.

Examples are:

- Yara received individual financial support for a CCS project. See https://www.yara.com/corporate-releases/yara-invests-in-ccs-in-sluiskil-and-signs-binding-co2-transport-and-storage-agreement-with-northern-lights--the-worlds-first-cross-border-ccs-agreement-in-operation2/

- Nobian received funding for sustainability projects provided by a tailored subsidy scheme and individual support. See https://www.nobian.com/news/european-salt-and-chemicals-producer-nobian-signs-tailor-made-agreement-with-dutch-government-to-accelerate-carbon-reduction

Based on the Dutch carbon levy system the companies have an annual, individual CO2 emission budget they are allowed to emit without having to pay the levy. The emission budget is based on the activity level, the EU-ETS benchmark and the reduction factor of the Dutch CO2 levy. The Dutch Emission Authority (NEA) determines the emission budget and is the authority for the levy. Together with the NEA, the government evaluates whether the proposed projects will lead to an emission reduction compared to the emission budget. In that case, the company qualifies for the tailor-made approach. See for more information on the Dutch carbon levy: https://www.emissieautoriteit.nl/onderwerpen/co2-heffing/co2-heffing-algemeen

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Question by New Zealand at Tuesday, 09 September 2025
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Further details on the Climate Policy Dashboard

New Zealand notes that the Netherlands uses a 'Climate Policy Dashboard' to monitor implementation of its climate plan. Could the Netherlands provide more information on this tool, including frequency of reporting, and whether the tool is used to track the implementation of individual policies and measures?

Answer by Netherlands
The Netherlands thanks New Zealand for their question and interest in our monitoring methods.

The Climate Policy Dashboard was developed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) on behalf of the Ministry of Climate Policy & Green Growth, in order to fulfill the monitoring requirements in the Climate Act. The dashboard monitors a multitude of indicators divided in 5 sectors (Electricity, Industry, Build environment, Agriculture, Mobility), as specified in the Climate Act. The tool is not used to track the progress of individual policies and measures, but is used to show a detailed picture of different indicators concerning climate goals and progress in the energy transition.

RVO collects the data for the dashboard from internal and external sources, and updates most information annually. The main indicators, shown on the homepage, are updated monthly. The information on the dashboard is used by the Ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth to write the Climate and Energy letter, that is published annually in September, in order to report progress on climate and energy goals to Parliament.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: New technologies in GHG Inventory development

How have you been able to leverage new technologies such as artificial intelligence to improve GHG inventory development?

Answer by Netherlands

As part of a multi-year strategic program to modernize the Dutch national inventory the use of different new technologies has been evaluated and partially implemented. In collaboration with academic partners, we established the use of inverse modelling and atmospheric observations for emission verification of CH4, N2O and HFCs as additional QA/QC measures, which led to the inclusion of an Annex in the NID2025. Furthermore, the applicability of AI for error detection in emission timeseries and spatial emission maps has been evaluated. This research will be continued in the following years.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: GHG Inventory methodologies and mitigation measures

What processes do you have in place to ensure inventory methodologies effectively reflect changes in activities/practices resulting from mitigation measures?

Answer by Netherlands

The inventory consists of seven task forces that are responsible for the calculations of the national emission data. Emissions experts from the participating organisations (partner institutes of the inventory consortium) take part in these task forces, where updates and knowledge is shared during task force meetings on a regular basis. The organisational arrangements of the inventory (see figure 1.3 of the NID 2024) shows there is close cooperation with the Ministries, so the inventory is informed about policy perspectives and developments.

Developments regarding emission reducing activities are closely monitored and prepared for to the extent possible. For example, carbon capture and storage will be in place in the coming years in the port of Rotterdam (Porthos) leading to significant

emission reductions (~Mtons). Another example is the inclusion of measures which sequester carbon in agricultural mineral soils. For this, a research programme was established to determine the impact of changing agricultural practices, and the LULUCF task force subsequently developed a new methodology to incorporate this in the inventory. The methodology has been included since NIR23. A similar process is currently underway for changing practices and mitigation measures in peatlands.

Calculation methods are updated every year according to the most recent scientific insights and reported accordingly in the corresponding methodological reports.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Archiving system of GHG Inventory

Could you please give a brief overview of key processes part of your national GHG inventory archiving system that support its efficient maintenance?

Answer by Netherlands
Regarding archiving systems, a number of points can be mentioned for key processes:

• Procedures are in place for the data collection process and for storing fixed datasets in the RIVM database. These procedures are described in the annual work plan of the PRTR (available in Dutch, for internal use only). Documentation of quality control (QC) checks is also archived. To enhance transparency, the implemented QC checklists have been documented and archived as part of the QA/QC plan.

• A shared online workspace (Microsoft Teams) is used during the preparation of the National Inventory Document (NID). This has improved traceability of comments and recommendations, as well as version control of the documents.

• The National Inventory Entity (NIE) maintains a website (www.rvo.nl/nie) and a central archive containing all relevant documents, including NIDs and Common Reporting Tables (CRTs) from all years, methodology reports, and the QA/QC program.

• Since the inventory is a joint partnership involving several institutes, some of these institutes (referred to as "outside agencies") also use their own archiving systems. More information can be found in the outside agency document: QAQC_outside agencies – Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory (2020 Update) [See:

https://legacy.emissieregistratie.nl/erpubliek/documenten/08%20National%20Inventory%20Report%20(NIR)/QAQC_outside%20agencies_Greenhous%20Gas%20Emission%20Inventory_update%202020.pdf] This document is updated every five years.

• Several key verification steps occur throughout the project cycle. An overview of these actions, their outcomes, and how they are documented is provided in Table 1.2 of the 2024 NID.

Question by Canada at Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 10 September
Title: Quality management system of GHG Inventory

Could you please share some examples of good practices used to ensure that QA/QC checks are done thoroughly for all sectors as well as for cross-cutting areas of the GHG inventory?

Answer by Netherlands

Data checks:

After the initial data upload, a snapshot of the database is made available to allow verification by the involved institutes and experts. As part of this process, a **joint workshop** is held to review the data (referred to as the ' *controlemoment definitieve cijfers* '). During this workshop, both sector-specific and cross-cutting issues are assessed.

Throughout this period, the Task Forces evaluate the comparability and accuracy of data for all gases and sectors, including comparisons with the previous year's dataset. In cases where significant discrepancies are identified, Task Forces perform a more detailed evaluation of the emissions data. The results of these checks serve as input for discussions at the **trend analysis workshop** and are subsequently documented in a shared action list, accessible to all work package leaders and Task Force chairs.

The trend analysis workshop is considered a valuable tool for discussing overarching trends and cross-cutting issues, as well as exploring sector-specific developments in greater depth.

Review improvements:

At the beginning of the project cycle, the National Inventory Entity (NIE) compiles a consolidated list of action points and recommendations for improvement drawn from various review processes (including UNFCCC, EU, peer reviews, and public reviews). These are organized per sector, with a separate list for general or cross-sectoral issues. This list is actively used by sectoral experts, as well as by the NIR project lead and the NIE, to monitor the status of each action point and ensure the corresponding updates are reflected in the NID chapters. Midway through the writing process, meetings are held with each sectoral expert to align on the status of these points and to determine whether additional actions are required. During these meetings, ongoing improvement points are also discussed.

Other examples of good QA/QC practices:

• **Methodology Reports** : Sector-specific methodology reports, prepared by Task Force experts, are reviewed and approved annually by the NIE and the PRTR project leader at RIVM.

• **Methodological Changes** : A procedure is in place for reviewing and approving proposed methodological changes that may significantly impact emissions estimates. These proposals are submitted to the NIE advisory board.

• **Annual Work Plan** : A detailed annual work plan outlines the PRTR process, including specific working procedures and timelines.

• **QA/QC Program** : The QA/QC program, developed by the NIE, focuses on ensuring compliance with quality principles and supporting continuous improvement. This program is updated annually as needed.

• **Guideline on Quality Assurance** : A quality assurance guideline for the Emission Inventory (' *Handreiking kwaliteitsborging Emissieregistratie* ', in Dutch and for internal use only) is currently under development. This document outlines key aspects of compliance with the quality system and is tailored to the various work processes within the Task Forces.
