



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



United Nations
Climate Change

Implementing the new NDCs: How can parliaments advance the climate agenda?

Online, Wednesday 5 March 2025, 14:00–15:00 CET (Geneva time)

Concept note

Background

Current global efforts are insufficient to address the growing severity of the climate crisis. A decade of increasing temperatures culminated in 2024 which was confirmed as the hottest year on record.¹ The effects of climate change are already having direct impacts on populations around the globe, including increased hunger, poverty and socioeconomic instability. Unless collective climate action is dramatically intensified, the long-term goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C outlined in the Paris Agreement will slip further out of reach. In this context, 2025 presents a unique opportunity to put the global community back on track towards a sustainable and climate-neutral world.

National climate action plans, also known as [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDCs), are central to the Paris Agreement. To ensure the Agreement's success, countries are required to submit a revised NDC every five years ([Article 4](#)). After the original NDCs in 2015 and second round in 2020/2021, the deadline for the next round of NDCs is 2025.

While countries are able to determine their national contributions and align them with their own national laws and budgets, each revised NDC is expected to show progress in relation to the preceding NDC and reflect the highest possible ambition. The NDCs revised in 2025 will play a critical role in determining whether the world will return to a trajectory in which greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal. In addition to formulating higher ambitions at the national level, this round of NDCs should prioritize accelerating implementation and contribute to unlocking climate finance, especially for developing countries.²

To beat climate change, plans and pledges must turn into action. Parliaments have an essential role to play in ensuring that their governments act on their climate commitments, including those outlined in the 2025 NDCs. Parliaments should not only ensure that NDCs are ambitious and inclusive, but that they are actionable, backed by appropriate budgets and legislation, and implemented in a timely manner. Without such critical oversight, the climate crisis will only continue to worsen.

Objectives

The IPU provides support to parliaments in taking an active role in their countries' climate efforts, including in implementing the NDCs. Following the publication of two recent IPU climate resources specifically designed for parliaments, [10 actions for stronger national climate commitments](#) and

¹ [World Meteorological Organization. "WMO confirms 2024 as warmest year on record at about 1.5° C above pre-industrial level". 10 January 2025.](#)

² [ndcpartnership.org/country-action/delivering-ambitious-ndcs-30](#)

[Parliamentary oversight of national climate commitments](#), and recognizing the key opportunities for climate action in 2025, including COP30 in Brazil, the IPU is organizing a virtual event to further enhance the role of parliaments in implementing the new NDCs. This event, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, will help identify which immediate and long-term actions parliaments can take to ensure their national climate commitments become reality. In particular, this event seeks to provide parliaments with an increased understanding of:

- The new NDC cycle and relevant global processes under the Paris Agreement, as well as the status of current NDC submissions.
- How parliaments can hold their governments accountable on the submission and implementation of new NDCs, ensuring they are ambitious and actionable.
- The steps parliaments can take to support implementation of new NDCs, including through legislation and appropriate budgeting.
- Existing best practices and lessons learned from around the world on parliamentary efforts to support NDC implementation.

The event will provide a useful platform for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to interact directly with climate experts on NDCs. It will also be an opportunity for parliaments to engage with each other and learn from each other's national experiences on climate change with a view to inspiring action, particularly on NDC implementation.

Participants and format

The event is open to all parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. Chairs and members of parliamentary committees on climate change and the environment, and related committees are particularly encouraged to join.

The event will take place on the Zoom platform. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish and Arabic will be provided.

Additional resources

[NDC Registry](#)

[2024 NDC Synthesis Report](#)

[NDC 3.0 webpage](#)

[NDC 3.0 Navigator](#)