

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)

How to Influence the National Debate



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How to Influence the National Debate

Why Christian Aid thinks it is important to engage on INDCs at a national level:

All countries have committed to agree a new climate agreement in Paris. Countries are now preparing their national offers. This is an opportunity for us to influence national governments about the shape of their future development and economic pathway.

Each country has to put an offer before Paris at the latest. For Christian Aid, this is an opportunity to shape the decisions about the future development and resilience of the countries where we operate.

As countries prepare their INDCs, we should work to influence what these national offers should include. National contributions must be equitable in regard to both mitigation actions and the financial, technological and capacity building support for the mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries. It is vital that developed countries step up their support for developing countries' mitigation and adaptation actions in order to ensure a collective global climate effort to tackle the dangerous impacts of climate change.

Christian Aid's asks for INDCs:

To curb global warming and find a fair and ambitious solution, each country must contribute its fair share effort – based on the contribution each country has made to the climate problem and their existing capacity to tackle it and with a vision of growing sustainably in the future.

For developing countries, national contributions should include:

- Comprehensive adaptation as well as loss and damage scenarios, linked to the levels of global mitigation actions, and the related finance, technology and capacity-building support required for different levels of warming;
- Mitigation scenarios that should be tiered based on (a) the scale of global action needed, (b) the different levels of conditional action that is possible in their countries if the necessary support is forthcoming, (c) different levels of finance, technology, and capacity-building support made available by wealthy, developed countries;
- A long-term target to significantly phase out greenhouse gas emissions, and or a commitment to phase in a significant proportion of renewable energy;
- Unilateral, ambitious emission reduction commitments that reflect their fair share contribution to the global effort with five year cycles to increase ambition in order to create a durable agreement by ensuring countries ratchet up their commitments every five years.

What are INDCs?

At the end of 2015, 195 governments will come together to finalise a new global agreement under The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris.

The Paris agreement will be informed by 'intended nationally determined contributions' (INDCs). Basically, these are stated country commitments, in line with their common but differentiated responsibilities and country-specific capabilities, which will form the basis for not just the new climate agreement, but the future global climate regime.

For developing countries, INDCs should include the international support needed as well as their proposed domestic actions for both mitigation and adaptation, and loss and damage.

For developed countries (countries with greater responsibility and capabilities) only the sum of the two is defensible in equity terms. Christian Aid believes that the INDCs must be equitable with regard to both – domestic mitigation actions and the financial, technological and capacity building support for measures in poor developing countries.

Origins of the INDCs:

Parties at The Conference of the Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw decided that each country should table an 'intended nationally determined contribution' (INDC/offer) by the first quarter of 2015 for those that are able to do so.

On-going negotiations continue to consider what information should be included in those 'offers'.

In order to carry out a science-based equity review, it is important that the INDCs include as much information as possible, to ensure clarity, comparability, and to support objective science-based equity assessment.

Although final decisions are still yet to be made, it was agreed that INDCs:

- Will enable countries to put forward their contribution in line with their country responsibility and capabilities.
- Should include the methodologies and assumptions the country used when developing its INDC
- Should show how they are fair and ambitious in light of national circumstances.
- Need to include timeframes, a base year, what sectors the contribution covers and how it contributes to achieving the goal of the UNFCCC.
- Should not slide back from what they have already committed to in the past.

A key objective of the INDCs is for each country to cooperatively contribute to the global effort to prevent dangerous climate change. A contribution should be proportional to the responsibility, capability and sustainable development need of the proposing country.

Key Actions: What can you do to influence the national debate?

Think about what projects and issues you are working on that could inform the INDC decision making process in your country and decide whether you are working as an individual organisation or on a national platform with other organisations.

There are two phases you can engage in:

Phase one is from now until the end of March 2015 (or when a country tables its contribution to the UNFCCC). During this phase countries will be considering when and how their INDCs should be presented and what they should include. Depending on the country, its capabilities and responsibilities, we should look out for;

1. Adaptation and loss and damage
 - a. Vulnerable developing countries should include adaptation and loss and damage actions, as required in different warming scenarios dependent on global ambition, such as at 1.5C, 2C, and 3C.
2. Carbon mitigation
 - a. For more advanced economies, an absolute, economy-wide target for emissions reductions, including a base year. These must be more ambitious than earlier pledges to 2020.
 - b. For emerging economies, expect countries to choose between a national emissions cap, an intensity target or a reduction against a baseline; these targets may be nationwide, or target particular sectors. Critically, these countries must disclose their assumptions, for example what GDP growth rate their intensity target is dependent on
 - c. For all countries, they can offer policies and measures, such as providing renewable energy services for those without electricity, or reducing emissions in certain sectors. These types of commitments can link into national development and economic priorities.
 - d. Developing countries with less policy implementation capacity may offer particular policies, such as support for renewable energy, or measures such as action to curb deforestation.
3. Means of implementation.
 - a. Developing countries may list domestic resources, gaps in finance/technology/capacity building, assistance needed, at different levels of ambition.

This is a vitally important phase to engage in as it will be challenging to get fundamental changes in the offers once they are tabled. During this phase it will also be important for countries to pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and for some countries to proactively state what more can be done with finance.

Phase two is from the time the offer is put forward to the UNFCCC until the end of the COP21 in Paris. This phase is focused on trying to raise the ambition of national contributions. Many people believe that it will be difficult to raise ambition after the offer is tabled, therefore most effort should be focused on Phase One. However, we believe there will also be opportunities to raise ambition in Phase Two, most likely at Paris.

Here is how you can engage in them:

- STEP 1: Establish who to talk to.** Work out who the key figures for INDCs in your country are.
- Government: They could be Ministers in your national Environment Ministry (and/or other relevant ministries), national delegations to the UNFCCC, civil servants.
 - Civil Society: Also consider other civil society actors who may have information about the INDCs in your country.
 - Christian Aid partners and networks: consult your partners on the nature and content of the INDCs in

your country, (Partner meeting) engage them in advocacy with national governments on this issue,

STEP 2: Once contact established, what next? Set up a meeting with those you have identified and find out how, if at all, civil society is being included in the INDC decision-making process.

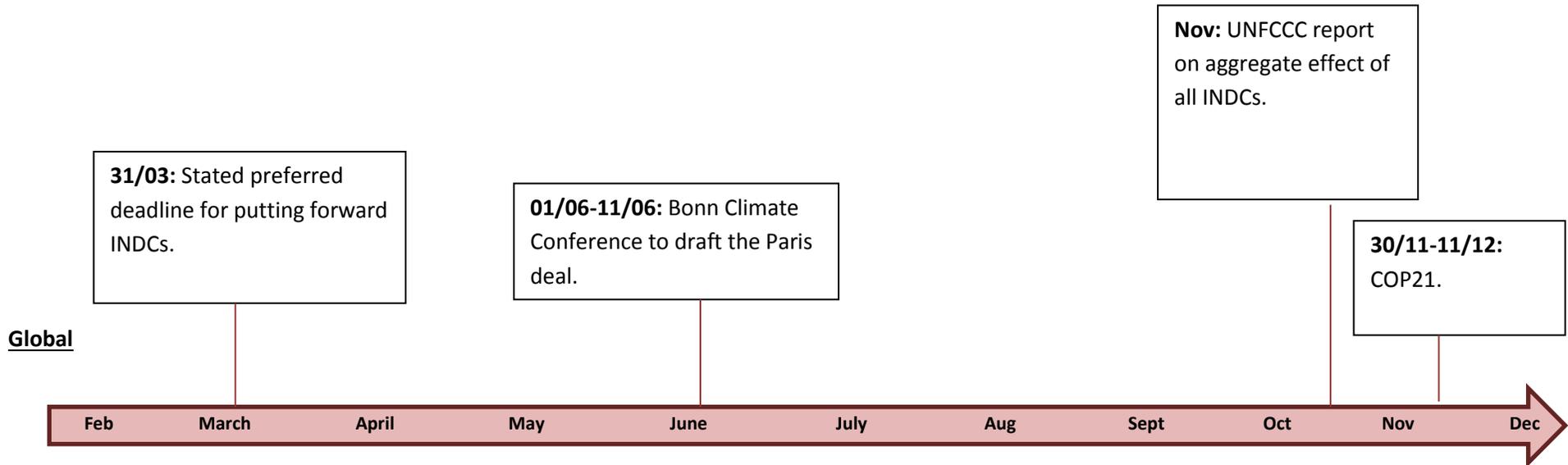
STEP 3: Plan what to say. Firstly, we want to track national preparations on INDCs. You could ask what the national timeline and process for putting forward contributions are, when the country has stated it will table its offer, and how civil society can take part in it? If it is useful, fill in the gaps in the timeline in appendix 1 to help you keep a record.

Secondly, you could share your messaging on the 6 elements included in the Warsaw decision on INDCs: mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building.

Key Dates in 2015:

- **31st March 2015:** Stated preferred deadline for countries to put forward their INDCs.
- **June 2015:** Bonn meeting. Paris agreement will be drafted.
- **1st November 2015:** UNFCCC prepare a synthesis report on the aggregate effect of INDCs put forward by 1st October.
- **30th November-11th December 2015:** UN climate talks in Paris (COP21).
- **Post-2015:** Follow up of INDCs.

Appendix 1:



Global

National



Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities in around 50 countries. We act where there is great need, regardless of religion, helping people to live a full life, free from poverty. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance in tackling the root causes of poverty as well as its effects.

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