



LESS TALK, MORE ACTION: RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS

WWF expectations for SB50
Bonn, 17 – 27 June 2019

Introduction and Background

COP24 in Katowice signaled the expectation that countries should come back with updated and improved Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020. The COP adopted a nearly complete package of rules to implement the Paris Agreement, leaving some gaps to be dealt with in Bonn at SB50 in June, and at COP25 in Santiago, Chile, in December.

The IPCC's *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* was at the center of COP24. It put our common challenge in stark terms: we need rapid and deep cuts to global greenhouse gas emissions to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The focus from COP24 on increasing ambition must continue in 2019. Countries must arrive at the UN Secretary General's (UNSG) Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019 ready to announce revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or plans to deliver them by 2020. These must be matched by ambitious new finance commitments to address mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. **COP 25 must respond to and build on the UNSG Climate Action Summit.**

The surge of youth activism on climate change around the world demands higher ambitions from countries and serves as an urgent reminder to the world leaders that we need systemic transformation. The UN Secretary General is convening world leaders at a climate action summit where they must bring 'concrete plans, not speeches', to "demonstrate a leap in collective national political ambition and massive low-emission movements in the real economy"¹.

Nature is also under threat, including from climate change, as illustrated by the Global Assessment Report by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).² The year 2020 represents a unique opportunity governments, international organisations, non-state actors, and civil society to align efforts to end loss of nature and biodiversity, strengthen climate change efforts, and make progress on meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WWF calls for a new deal for nature and people, with the aim of reversing the decline in nature by 2030 for the benefit of present and future generations.³

Priority # 1: Updated NDCs by 2020 in line with 1.5°C

With the rulebook largely agreed at COP24 and Parties having reaffirmed their determination to present updated and improved NDCs by 2020, 2019 is the year for governments to put national processes in place to ensure the updated NDCs are aligned with 1.5°C. The UNSG is convening leaders with an ambitious, but necessary call to action:

"I am calling on all leaders to come to New York in September with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero by 2050."⁴

Parties must pursue every opportunity this year to support this effort, including the mobilisation of finance and other means of support, and the urgent near term actions described below. Governments can also include in their NDCs international collaborations or joint initiatives, targets and action, including by sub-national and non-State actors, that contribute to global climate goals. And of course those countries with the greatest capacity and responsibility, especially developed countries, need to demonstrate and strengthen their leadership in reducing their emissions and mobilizing financial, technological and capacity-building support.

¹ UN, 2019, UN Climate Action Summit 2019, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>

² IPBES, 2019, Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, <https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policy-makers-pdf>

³ WWF, 2019: "WWF proposal on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework", <https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/Post2020/postsbi/wwf2.pdf>

⁴ Guterres, A., 15 March 2019: "The climate strikers should inspire us all to act at the next UN summit", <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/15/climate-strikers-urgency-un-summit-world-leaders>

There is unfortunately no dedicated space at SB50 to discuss NDC enhancement. However, the meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies, as well as the COP, CMA and other related bodies and initiatives provide a number of ways that Parties can collaborate to strengthen their climate actions and targets, including at SB50, and before and at COP25:

- Through SBSTA item 6(c), further engage and draw on the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, in order to create the shared understanding among parties needed to align NDCs with the collective global effort necessary to limit warming to 1.5°C, as well as mobilize the necessary financial and technical resources required.
- Contribute to an ambitious replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) that at the very least doubles the amount of contributions from the Initial Resource Mobilisation, in order to ensure sufficient financing for the GCF's growing pipeline of projects.
- Organise in session technical workshops during SB50 as space for Parties to share experiences in revising their NDCs and preparing their long term zero emission climate strategies.
- Acknowledge the role, importance and multiple benefits of protecting and restoring natural areas for halting the loss of biodiversity, building resilience and storing carbon. Such measures can contribute significantly to meeting climate objectives, as well as supporting the SDGs. This integrated vision of nature is the aim of the New Deal for Nature and People, mentioned in the introduction.
- Agree on a COP25 decision requesting the UNFCCC Secretariat to assess the aggregate impact of updated NDCs submitted by 1 September, 2020, on projected global emissions and temperature increase.

Priority # 2: Urgent actions and mobilizing multiple actors

NDCs and national level climate plans and targets are only one front in the battle against dangerous climate change. Urgent action is needed for global emissions to peak in 2020 and begin the rapid reduction needed to meet long-term climate goals and building climate resilience into all sectors.

The UNFCCC process has built up a number of processes to engage, mobilise and recognise the efforts of a range of actors and experts, including the Technical Examination Process (TEP) and its technical expert meetings which identify areas of high mitigation and adaptation potential, the Marrakesh Partnership, and the Global Climate Action Portal (also referred to as the Nazca Portal). This year the UNSG is creating a new set of initiatives and coalitions in the context of the UN Climate Action Summit, which should build on the experience and progress made through applicable UNFCCC initiatives. To unlock partnerships, collaborative action and sectoral actions at the scale required, Parties and leaders of these initiatives must:

- Ensure integration of TEP, Marrakech Partnership and the Nazca platform into one coherent and coordinated effort, through ensuring an effective mechanism for coordination, division of labour, information flow and shared responsibility. For example, technical expert meetings identify concrete policy options, practices and technologies with high potential for mitigation and adaptation action, bringing together a range of experts and stakeholders, which can then be proposed, launched and promoted under the Marrakech Partnership, and the results monitored through the Nazca platform.
- Ensure that the coalitions created as part of UNSG Climate Action Summit are informed by and, where possible build on the mechanisms identified above.
- Integrate to the extent possible collaborative initiatives in NDCs, especially where these can include sectors and actions that are not otherwise covered by the NDC, or where these initiatives can increase the ambition of sectoral or national targets or actions already covered by the NDC.
- Ensure scaled up and appropriate financial, technological and capacity building support to enable implementation, replication and expansion of pathbreaking and effective initiatives.

Priority # 3: Filling the gaps and strengthening institutions

Despite the progress on the rulebook at COP24, Parties were not able to agree on rules for Article 6 (carbon markets and non-market approaches) and on common time frames for NDCs. These two topics were deferred to be negotiated in Bonn in June at SB50, with the aim of concluding them by COP25. Other elements that were not part of the Paris Agreement Work Programme will now be slotted into the negotiations for SB50 and COP25, like discussions on loss and damage finance and the operationalization of the Global Goal for Adaptation. Some key elements that must be given focused attention include:

- **Carbon markets and non-market approaches under Article 6.** Parties must:
 - Ensure that corresponding adjustments will be applied for all internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) and for mitigation outcomes used for other purposes, such as under the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), to avoid double counting of emissions reductions. This is irrespective of whether they are in or outside the scope of a host Party's NDC.
 - Agree to the ITMO transfer accounting approach with the fewest environmental drawbacks--which is

likely the averaging approach. The averaging approach is when a country must apply a corresponding adjustment in the target year of their NDC, which corresponds to the average of annual net transfers over the covered NDC period.

- Require that baseline methodologies for the Article 6.4 Mechanism and baseline and crediting approaches falling under Article 6.2 are accurate and conservative and set at least at or below a legitimate counterfactual scenario which should be no less ambitious than a relevant policy trajectory consistent with achieving the host country's NDC and should accurately reflect existing and planned actions and policies which could impact emission levels, and set up modalities that ensure integrity of the baseline development process.
- Adopt a partial credit cancellation rate under Article 6.4 to deliver an Overall Mitigation in Global Emissions (OMGE) and establish a similar mandatory requirement for cooperative approaches under Article 6.2.
- Include a Matching Facility under Article 6.8 to mobilize international resources additional to the \$100 billion commitment to support scaled up emissions reductions in developing countries.⁵
- **Loss and Damage** under Article 8, by taking a decision at COP25 on:
 - Extending the mandate of the Warsaw International Mechanism of Loss and Damage (WIM) for a new cycle.
 - An agreement on a finance roadmap for L&D with a defined process laid out.
 - A decision to institutionalize the financial mechanism on L&D by COP26.
- **Global Goal on Adaptation** under Article 7.1, with a COP decision on operationalizing the global goals with clear process laid out on measuring it with adequate finance, capacity and technology support provided on achieving it.
- Agreement on **common time frames** of five years for revised or updated NDCs that would start in 2030.
- A new work program on the implementation of Article 2.1c, in order to make “finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development”, without diverting attention from the importance of climate finance mobilized and provided by developed countries.
- Agree on a process to bring oceans and marine and coastal ecosystems into the mainstream of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement deliberations, in order to better respond to impacts on oceans and explore related mitigation and resilience-building activities.

Conclusion:

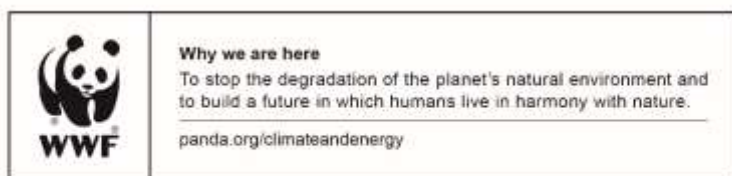
The climate stakes of the next two years could not be higher. If we fail to peak emissions by 2020 and close the projected 2030 gap enough to keep 1.5°C alive, we will risk putting the planet on a pathway to an irreversible and deepening climate crisis. To keep the promise of Paris alive we need to see significant advances in SB50 in June that lead to bold commitments at the UNSG Climate Action Summit in September and COP 25 in December.

Action by many non-State actors are necessary, but unless governments throw their full weight behind the shift to low carbon and climate resilient technologies and economies, the chances of success are close to zero. We have the perfect opportunity this year to kick off a coordinated global effort to create next generation 1.5°C compatible NDCs. If we succeed, we can earn the respect and admiration of our children and grandchildren. They will not look kindly on us if we fail.

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⁵ WWF, 2018: "Conceptualizing a "Matching Facility" to help countries meet the goals of the Paris Agreement - working paper", <http://bit.ly/2ASObEu>