



Integrating the Sustainable Development Agenda into the 2015 Climate Agreement

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Summary

The new global Sustainable Development Agenda (Agenda 2030), officially adopted on 25 September 2015 by all United Nations (UN) Member States, has for the first time produced a stand-alone and universal climate goal. This explicitly recognises that the solutions to climate change and sustainable development are inherently interconnected and calls for coordinated efforts to address both simultaneously. From ending poverty and hunger, to addressing health, water and energy insecurity, to protecting oceans, forests and other ecosystems and preventing conflict, addressing climate change is critical to our collective ability to deliver on the SDGs.

The 2015 Paris climate negotiations provide a key opportunity to build on momentum from the Agenda 2030 and to provide a complementary framework to tackle interlinked global challenges. The success of both processes will heavily rely on how the goals of two are integrated and how the Paris agreement enhances co-benefits related to emissions reductions, sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate adaptation, and resilience building.

The proposed preamble to the draft decision in the November UNFCCC negotiating text welcomes the outcome of the 2030 Agenda. The proposed preambular text to the draft agreement also recognizes the intrinsic relationship between climate change, poverty eradication and sustainable development and emphasises the importance of aligning action to address climate change with other SDGs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies.

Recommendations

To ensure that sustainable development and climate mitigation and resilience measures are undertaken in an integrated manner, Paris should agree that all countries should develop zero carbon climate resilient development strategies, with adequate public engagement and consultation

We recommend the following language to be incorporated in the Paris climate treaty, as a new article:

- 1. Parties shall recognise the complementarity of action on climate change with the 2030 Agenda. This shall be implemented through the national development of zero carbon climate-resilient strategies to facilitate national implementation of the SDGs relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation, in a mutually enhancing and collaborative manner, and to allow sustainable, low carbon development and economic diversification.*
- 2. These national strategies shall define an indicative emissions trajectory to achieve decarbonization by 2050, including indicative emissions targets for 2030 and 2040.*
- 3. These national strategies shall provide detail of how the Party is to achieve its INDC for 2025, including all relevant sustainable development policies and measures, and forecasts to show how these help to progress the Party towards the 2030 and 2040 indicative targets.*
- 4. These national strategies shall further define the policies and measures each Party intends to use to ensure that its development is sustainable and that its climate resilience needs are met.*

i. Integrating SDGs in national development strategies

Governments need to integrate Agenda 2030 into their long term strategic national strategies in order to streamline the implementation of climate and development agendas at the national level. This can be achieved through the development of sustainable development strategies that will increase efficiency and benefits for both poverty eradication and a just transition to zero emission development.

An integrated approach would also involve ministries that, in many cases, have not engaged with climate change and will require them to integrate climate considerations into their portfolios (such as energy, trade, industry, transport, health and agriculture). These strategic goals must be backed by mid-term targets and mechanisms for ensuring compliance.

Individually, all countries should develop zero carbon climate resilient development strategies in order to ensure their shift from a high carbon economic growth model to a sustainable development model that reaches near-zero emissions by 2050, including:

- Definition of an indicative emission reduction trajectory leading to decarbonization by 2050, including indicative targets for 2030 and 2040;
- Defining emission reductions goals for 2020 and 2025, in line with a system of five year commitment periods under the UNFCCC;
- Initiatives for more ambitious pre-2020 national mitigation pledges and actions in key sectors;
- Identification of policies and measures that the country has put in place to address emissions from all relevant sectors, and identification of national strategies, policies, and measures that aim to transform all relevant sectors of its economy;

Developing such plans will require adequate public engagement and consultation so that the plans are socially sustainable and do not cause adverse impacts.

ii. Effective Monitoring and accountability framework

In order to achieve the common agenda of effective climate compatible development, the accountability and review processes under the UNFCCC and post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda must be coordinated and mutually reinforcing. The Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system under the UNFCCC must, therefore, be robust and be coherent with the Agenda 2030's follow-up and review processes in the following ways:

- Through alignment of indicators and metrics for mitigation and adaptation where possible;
- Through effective reporting through alignment of timeframe and reporting protocols in order to measure implementation simultaneously;
- Through an effective MRV system that is based on the principles of human rights, good governance, gender equality, and the needs of particularly vulnerable groups;
- Through alignment with the principles of the Agenda 2030's follow-up and review processes, such as:
 - including stakeholders through 'open, inclusive, participatory and transparent reporting by all relevant stakeholders' (Para. 74.d);
 - a people-centred, gender sensitive process that respects human rights and has a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind (Para 74.e).



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