

THE AMBITION CALL

The Ambition Call provides country recommendations for immediate climate action in response to the UN Secretary-General's request for countries to:

- present concrete, realistic plans that are compatible with the latest IPCC Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C
- enhance their NDCs by 2020 and
- reduce GHG emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero by 2050.¹

The 2019 Summit in Osaka saw the G20 countries (with the exception of the USA) reaffirming their commitments to fully implement the Paris Agreement.² Many have already announced their willingness to increase their mitigation targets, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050.

MEXICO



GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS
(INCL. FORESTRY) PER CAPITA
(tCO₂e/capita)



Data from 2015 | Source: PRIMAP 2018

GDP PER CAPITA
(PPP U\$ const. 2015,
international)



Source: World Bank 2017

HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
INDEX



Data from 2017 | Source: UNDP 2018

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

#1

Adopt the target of net-zero
emissions by 2050.

#2

Commit to a just transition
to phase out coal by 2030.



Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate a 'race to the top' in G20 climate action and to shift investments towards zero carbon technologies through enhanced transparency. Climate Transparency is made possible through support from the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), through the International Climate Initiative, ClimateWorks Foundation and the World Bank Group.

<https://www.climate-transparency.org/>



Iniciativa Climática de México is a grant making, think-tank and advocacy-strategic orchestrator organisation. Its mission is to catalyse world-leading climate policy at a national and city level, to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and compounds, and to promote low carbon growth in Mexico, focusing on climate policy, transport and energy.

<http://www.iniciativaclimatica.org/>

Adopt the target of net-zero emissions by 2050

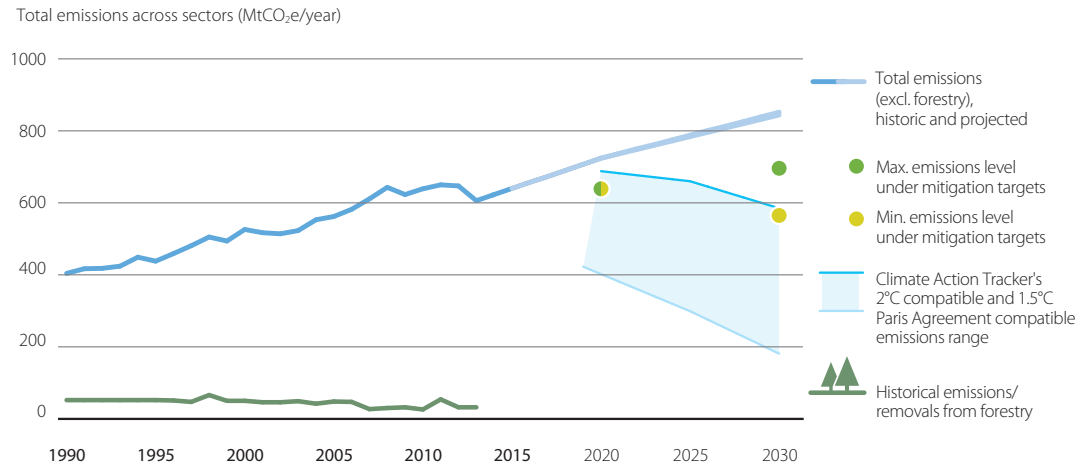
#1

Mexico's current NDC aims to unconditionally reduce at least 22% GHG emissions below a 'Business as Usual' (BAU) scenario by 2030, and up to 36% below BAU by 2030, conditioned to international support. By 2050, the government aims to reduce emissions 50% below 2000 GHGs levels.

These targets will not be sufficient to hold warming below 2°C, let alone to 1.5°C.³ To achieve the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal, global CO₂ emissions need to reach net zero by 2050.⁴

In light of the new findings of the IPCC Special Report on global warming of 1.5°C, Mexico's should review and revise the existing target to develop an ambitious and comprehensive long-term strategy for achieving

COMPATIBILITY OF CLIMATE TARGETS WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT



Source: CAT 2018; SENER 2018

net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050.⁵ This new strategy should be backed up by the implementation of the 2050 National Carbon Budget, based on sectoral

decarbonisation pathways, to increase mitigation ambition and comply with the Paris Agreement.



What does this mean?

Adopting the target of zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 and ratcheting up the 2030 emissions reduction goal, would not only align Mexico's

policies with the Paris Agreement temperature goal but also position Mexico as a global leader in climate action.

Additional development benefits



SDG 1

A net-zero economy will also mean increased access to energy and resources. This plays an important role in reducing unequal energy access and consumption.



SDG 3

Substantially reducing emissions when moving to a carbon-neutral economy will reduce air pollution from reduced fuel use, as well as associated diseases like respiratory problems.



SDG 9

Development and integration of new clean technologies supports sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure upgrading.



SDG 11

Switching to a carbon-neutral economy will contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities by reducing the amount of GHG and air pollutants from these areas.



SDG 12

Switching to a carbon-neutral economy requires sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

Good practice in other countries



In June 2019, **Chile** announced its plan to completely phase out coal by 2040 and aim towards carbon-neutrality by 2050.

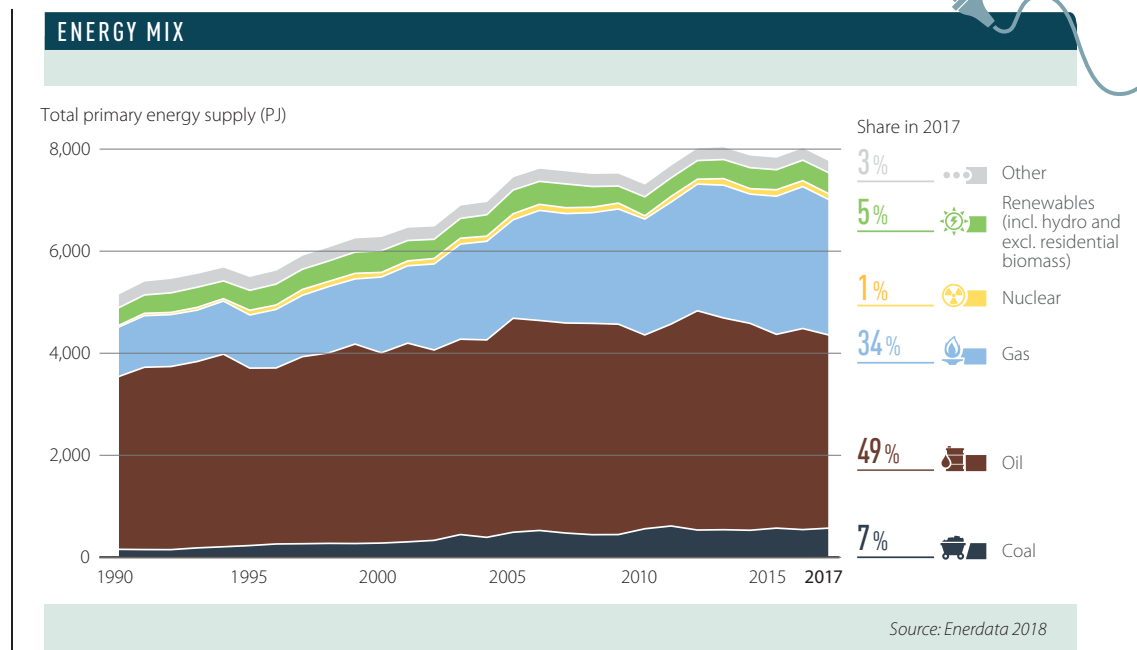


In June 2019, the **UK** government placed a law in parliament to move the UK to net zero emissions by 2050.

Commit to a just transition to phase out coal by 2030

#2

Mexico's government has taken a step backwards on climate by favouring fossil fuel over renewable energy generation. Some of these changes are driven by a new budget allocation to the 'modernisation' of coal, diesel, gas and oil-fuelled power plants, some of which were already scheduled for retirement by the previous administration. This move has come at the expense of a successful renewable energy programme.⁶ Although Mexico joined the Power Past Coal Alliance at COP23, the government still plans to add new coal-fired capacity in 2020.⁷ Its plans for the power sector – especially the decision to invest in coal – stands in stark contrast to what is required to comply with the recommendations of the IPCC Special Report



on global warming of 1.5°C. Mexico needs to take action to push for the urgent energy transition necessary

to comply with the Paris Agreement, and the first step is to move away from coal.



What does this mean?

International research has shown that low-cost policy options for enhancing Mexico's climate goals can not only reduce emissions but also lead to substantial long-term social benefits such as important

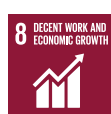
economic savings and preventing thousands of premature deaths.⁸ One study also shows that the early retirement of coal power plants alone will reduce around 9 MtCO₂e in 2030.⁹

Additional development benefits



SDG 3

Renewables reduce air pollution when displacing polluting energy sources, such as coal.



SDG 8

Mexico should measure economic growth beyond GDP and guarantee the proper conditions for well-being and sustainability, such as inclusive access to decent work that is supported by development of renewable energy.



SDG 9

Development and integration of new clean technologies supports sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure upgrading.



SDG 11

When displacing coal fired power plants, renewables contribute to reducing the environmental impact of cities by reducing the amount of GHG and air pollutants from power generation.



SDG 15

Renewables contribute to conservation of natural habitats through reduced air and water pollution and decreasing water consumption, especially when displacing more polluting or intensive alternatives, such as coal.

Good practice in other countries

By 2024, **Chile** will close eight of its oldest coal-fired power plants – equivalent to 20% of its current coal electricity capacity (currently 40% coal share in their electricity mix). Chile will phase out its remaining 20 coal plants by 2040.



The **UK** was the first national government to announce a commitment to phase out unabated coal use, setting a target date of 2025. Starting from 35% in 2005, the share of coal fired power generation went down to 9% in 2016.



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