

NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK



SOUTH KOREA

MAKING SOUTH KOREA'S NDC MORE TRANSPARENT

December 2020



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The NDC Transparency Check provides recommendations on what information countries should provide in their 2020 NDC Update to ensure its clarity, transparency, and understanding.

This is done by evaluating existing NDCs and assessing the information provided the annex of 4/CMA.1 under Article 4.8. of the Paris Agreement, to come up with clear and practical recommendation on which information should be included in the 2020 NDC Update in order to be in full conformance with international agreements.

01

INTRODUCTION TO THE 'NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK'

The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 at the 21st United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP 21), and came into force a year later. Almost all countries are currently signatories of the Agreement¹.

The objective of the NDC Transparency Check is to provide a robust reference to assess whether Parties have communicated their mitigation efforts through Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) that are clear, transparent and understandable, in terms of the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement, its accompanying decision (1/CP.21) and Annex I to decision 4/CMA.1, which sets out the “information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions”.

Legally, the Annex is only binding from the second NDC onwards. However, Parties are “strongly encouraged” to apply the Annex to updated NDCs, due 2020.

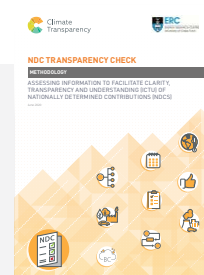
The government of South Korea will be revising the existing NDC to update its commitment in relation to the Paris Agreement's long-term goals, under the country's specific circumstances.

The NDC Transparency Check aims to provide information to support the NDC revision process, by identifying gaps in the information provided in previous NDCs on the South Korea's mitigation goals and their underlying policies and measures that is needed for clarity, transparency and understanding, and useful to provide greater clarity on the likely outcome of NDCs collectively.

While the approach taken for this assessment is based on conformance with the Annex, this 'NDC Transparency Check' aims to assess both:

- i. Conformance of a country's NDC with the Katowice Rule Book, and;
- ii. The extent to which a country has provided additional information in relation to each element of the Annex which enhances clarity, transparency and understanding.

The detailed methodology as well as other assessment are available on: www.climate-transparency.org



¹ A possible exception is the United States of America, which is currently a signatory, but has started the withdrawal process from the Agreement, and is expected to withdraw formally in November 2020. Yet, president-elect Joe Biden announced that under his presidency the US will re-join the Paris Agreement.

02

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In October, President Moon Jae-in made a pledge for South Korea to go carbon-neutral by 2050. On November 27, during an inter-ministerial meeting on 2050 carbon neutrality strategy, President Moon announced plans to enhance Korea's NDC by the end of his administration in May 2022. The government is still planning to submit an update of its NDC in December 2020 which is expected not to include a more ambitious target.

It has indicated that the updated NDC will be based on historical emission instead of "Business-As-Usual" estimation, while maintaining the GHG emission target for 2030. The government points to South Korea's heavy reliance on carbon-intensive industry as the most important challenges for meeting the current target. The increase in new coal power plants, especially the 7,000 MW under construction, is one of the most important reasons of lack of ambition. The President's announcement to enhance the NDC, may lead to actual discussions in 2021, on cancelling some new coal power plants under construction, reducing the life period of existing coal power plants and enhancing the 2030 renewable energy target.

The South Korean government plans to use carbon credits from international market mechanisms and carbon sinks in the land use, for which the rules have not been finalized under the Paris Agreement.

South Korea's current NDC target: 37% reduction from 2030 BAU (536 MtCO₂eq by 2030).

The NDC target needs to be communicated in a clear and understandable way in order to ensure clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDC. The South Korean Government has already indicated that the updated NDC may include more details on carbon sink and implementation period. This is a good first step, but more would be needed.

This assessment provides a detailed analysis of the existing NDC and highlights the opportunities for a transparent and enhanced updated NDC, based on the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement.

From a political perspective, South Korea's leadership is more important than ever. By raising its target in the updated NDC and increasing its transparency, South Korea would send an important signal to other big emitters, would underline its position as an important international player and would set an example for other countries.

South Korea's current NDC target

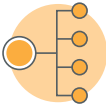








37% reduction from 2030 BAU

536 MtCO₂eq
by 2030

An assessment of the NDC target can be found in the Climate Transparency Report: www.climate-transparency.org
A detailed analysis is provided by the Climate Action Tracker: www.climateactiontracker.org

To enhance the transparency of its 2020 NDC Update, South Korea should implement the following key recommendations (further information on the recommendations can be drawn from the detailed assessment below):

ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update 2020
 Reference point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC contains the information that the source of the BAU trajectory is the BAU projection of The scenario is based on the BAU projection of KEEI-EGMS (the Korea Energy Economics Institute Energy and GHG Modelling System), but no references or further information is provided. The NDC contains no information on whether or how the BAU trajectory may be updated. 	<p>Provide information on whether or how the BAU trajectory may be updated.</p>
 Time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target is for the year 2030, so the timeframe is implied (ten years) but not stated, and the period of implementation is not stated. Implied single year target, but information not explicitly provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State timeframe and period of implementation. Provide explicit reference on whether the NDC is a single-year or multi-year target.
 Scope and Coverage	<p>The Korean NDC covers six gases, and all sectors other than LULUCF. The inclusion of LULUCF will be decided "at a later date". No information is included as to how this will be accounted for, and which categories will be included if it is.</p>	<p>In case LULUCF not included in the NDC Update, provide information explanation for not including LULUCF.</p>
 Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information was provided on domestic institutional arrangements and the NDC process, and limited information was provided on public participation. No information was provided on stakeholder consultations with local communities, indigenous peoples, and/or whether the NDC process was conducted in a gender-responsive manner. No information is provided on national circumstances, but some information is provided on experiences developing the NDC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide detailed information on domestic institutional arrangements and the NDC process, incl. public participation and stakeholder consultations. Provide information on national circumstances.


ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update 2020
 Assumptions, and methodological approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information provided on how South Korea will account for its NDC. It is implied but not stated that an inventory-based approach will be used, and since the land sector is currently not included, no information is provided on accounting for the land sector. • It is implied but not stated that Korea will use an inventory-based approach. 	<p>Provide detailed information on how South Korea will account for its NDC, incl. detailed information on whether / how South Korea will use an inventory approach.</p>
 Fairness and ambition	<p>Korea observes that it has “set a fair and ambitious target to the extent possible” but does not provide any grounds for why its targets should be considered fair and ambitious.</p>	<p>Provide detailed grounds for why the country considers its targets fair and ambitious.</p>
 Contribution to UNFCCC Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reference to Article 2 of the Convention. • The South Korean NDC contains a reference to the 2030 goal “expected to be in line with” recommendations for global emissions reductions by 2050 from the IPCC’s AR5, but no specific linkage to either Article 2.1.a or 4.1 of the Paris Agreement 	<p>Provide details on how the NDC contributes to Article 2.</p>

03

DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Note: The following assessment has been done on the basis of the Annex to 4/CMA.1, but it needs to be noted that South Korea's NDC assessed below was submitted before the Annex was agreed.

The NDC assessed is South Korea's NDC as contained in the UNFCCC's interim NDC registry, as submitted on 3 October 2016 (<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Democratic%20People's%20Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/DPRK-INDC%20by%202030.pdf>) and updated on 19 September 2019: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Democratic%20People's%20Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/2019.09.19_DPRK%20letter%20to%20SG%20special%20envoy%20for%20NDC.pdf

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 1. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year):			
(a) reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Reference year(s) – including for reduction against a baseline <input type="radio"/> Base year(s) <input type="radio"/> Reference period(s) <input type="radio"/> other starting point(s)	The Republic of Korea's (henceforth Korea) NDC has a target of reducing GHG emissions in relation to a BAU trajectory by 37% by 2030.
(b) Quantifiable information on the reference indicators, their values in the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s), and, as applicable, in the target year; (If 1 (c) is completed, this is not applicable)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Quantified – in CO ₂ or CO ₂ -eq or in other emissions units <input type="radio"/> Quantified – other units <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in CO ₂ or CO ₂ -eq <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable information provided – to quantify in other units <input type="radio"/> No quantifiable information	Korea's NDC provides BAU values for 2020, 2025 and 2030 (850.6 Mt CO ₂ -eq).
(c) For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or policies and measures as components of nationally determined contributions where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties to provide other relevant information; (If 1(b) is completed, this is not applicable, unless a country has provided policies and measures as well)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference points for relevant quantified goals for specific PAMs. <input type="radio"/> The country has provided reference point for qualitative goals for PAMs with non-quantified goals.	Not applicable.
(d) Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example in percentage or amount of reduction;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> % reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> % reduction from BAU <input type="radio"/> % intensity reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> Other	37% reduction in 2030 compared to BAU.
(e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	Source: <input type="radio"/> GHG inventory <input checked="" type="radio"/> Reference to underlying data sources <input type="radio"/> Other studies Enhanced conformance – traceability: <input type="radio"/> Source readily found	The NDC contains the information that the source of the BAU trajectory is the BAU projection of The scenario is based on the BAU projection of KEEL-EGMS (the Korea Energy Economics Institute Energy and GHG Modelling System), but no references or further information is provided.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(f) Information on the circumstances under which the Party may update the values of the reference indicators.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	GHG inventory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> How values may be updated <input type="radio"/> When Baseline projections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the baseline will be updated, when and why. Intensity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> If, whether and how the country will update its intensity reference indicator. 	The NDC contains no information on whether or how the BAU trajectory may be updated.



2. Time frames and/or periods for implementation:

(a) Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date, consistent with any further relevant decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA);	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 5 years <input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 10 years <input type="radio"/> Other stated time frame <input type="radio"/> Start date: 2021 <input type="radio"/> End date: 2030 	Target is for the year 2030, so the timeframe is implied (ten years) but not stated, and the period of implementation is not stated.
(b) Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Single-year target <input type="radio"/> Multi-year target 	Implied single year target, but information not explicitly provided.



3. Scope and coverage:

(a) General description of the target	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Key goals of the target – emissions reduction/limitation, intensity, BAU reduction, PAMs, mitigation co-benefits, in quantitative or qualitative terms. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Time frame, period of implementation, target year(s). 	General description provided – the Korean target is defined as a reduction from BAU by 2030 of 37%.
(b) Sectors, gases, categories and pools covered by the nationally determined contribution, including, as applicable, consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	Sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Energy <input checked="" type="radio"/> IPPU <input type="radio"/> AFOLU – specified separately for land use and agriculture <input type="radio"/> LULUCF (if specified separately from above) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Agriculture (if specified separately from above) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Waste <input type="radio"/> Other Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Categories and sub-categories used for each sector above in the NDC Gases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Carbon dioxide: CO₂ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Methane: CH₄ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nitrous oxide: N₂O <input checked="" type="radio"/> Perfluorocarbons: PFCs <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hydrofluorocarbons: HFC <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sulphur hexafluoride: SF₆ <input type="radio"/> Nitrogen trifluoride: NF₃ Pools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Aboveground biomass <input type="radio"/> Belowground biomass <input type="radio"/> Dead wood <input type="radio"/> Litter <input type="radio"/> Soil organic matter 	The Korean NDC covers six gases, and all sectors other than LULUCF. The inclusion of LULUCF will be decided "at a later date". No information is included as to how this will be accounted for, and which categories will be included if it is.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
<p>(c) How the Party has taken into consideration paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21;</p> <p>("(c) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it"; "(d) Parties shall provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded");</p>	<p>● Yes</p> <p>● Partly</p> <p>● No</p>	<p>● Comparison of categories of anthropogenic emissions and removal included in previous NDC and current NDCs.</p> <p>● Explanation for the omission of any categories.</p>	<p>The NDC contains all categories except LULUCF, which may be included at a later stage. No explanation is given for not including LULUCF. No comparison was made with previous targets (under the Convention).</p>
<p>(d) Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.</p>	<p>● Yes</p> <p>● Partly</p> <p>● No</p> <p>● n/a</p>	<p>Economic diversification:</p> <p>● Energy Efficiency</p> <p>● Renewable energy</p> <p>● Carbon Capture and Utilization/Storage</p> <p>● Utilization of gas</p> <p>● Methane recovery and flare minimization</p> <p>● Other</p> <p>Adaptation actions with mitigation co-benefits:</p> <p>● Water and waste-water management</p> <p>● Urban planning</p> <p>● Marine Protection</p> <p>● Reduced desertification</p> <p>● Other</p> <p>Mitigation co-benefits:</p> <p>● Stated – yes / no</p> <p>● Quantified</p> <p>● In t CO₂-eq</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 4. Planning processes:			
(a) Information on the planning processes that the Party undertook to prepare its nationally determined contribution and, if available, on the Party's implementation plans, including, as appropriate:			
(i) Domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	Domestic institutional arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided Public participation and engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided Information on stakeholder engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Information on engagement with local communities provided <input type="radio"/> Information on engagement with indigenous peoples provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Information on other stakeholder engagement provided Does the country report on whether the NDC process was conducted in a gender-responsive manner?: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided 	Some information was provided on domestic institutional arrangements and the NDC process, and limited information was provided on public participation. No information was provided on stakeholder consultations with local communities, indigenous peoples, and/or whether the NDC process was conducted in a gender-responsive manner.
((i).cont.) ..if available, information provided on a Party's implementation plans;		Implementation plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Some information provided Enhanced conformance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Detailed information on how implementation plans will achieve the objectives of its NDC. 	Some detail is provided on implementation, especially legislation and related programmes.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) Contextual matters, including, inter alia, as appropriate:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	a. Inclusion of relevant national circumstances, such as geography, climate, economy, sustainable development and poverty eradication <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided b. Reporting on best practices and experience related to the preparation of the nationally determined contribution; Best practices and experience shared: <input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Some <input type="radio"/> Many c. Information provided on other contextual aspirations and priorities acknowledged when joining the Paris Agreement: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	No information is provided on national circumstances, but some information is provided on experiences developing the NDC.
(b) Specific information applicable to Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of the agreement, in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Terms of the agreement to act jointly. <input type="radio"/> Emission level allocated to each Party within the relevant time period Enhanced conformance: <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of the basis for burden-sharing within the REIO.	Not applicable.
(c) How the Party's preparation of its nationally determined contribution has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Information on how the previous global stock-take (GST) informed the NDC: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Enhanced conformance: <input type="radio"/> Consideration of the Secretariat's synthesis paper in the 2020 update.	No information included on this.
(d) Each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement to submit information on:			
(i) How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the NDC.	Not applicable.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) Specific projects, measures and activities to be implemented to contribute to mitigation co-benefits, including information on adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover, but are not limited to, key sectors, such as energy, resources, water resources, coastal resources, human settlements and urban planning, agriculture and forestry; and economic diversification actions, which may cover, but are not limited to, sectors such as manufacturing and industry, energy and mining, transport and communication, construction, tourism, real estate, agriculture and fisheries.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<p>The NDC contains information on specific projects, measures and activities for adaptation which mitigation co-benefits in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Energy resources <input type="radio"/> Water resources <input type="radio"/> Coastal resources <input type="radio"/> Human settlements <input type="radio"/> Urban planning <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and forestry <input type="radio"/> Other <p>Specific projects, measures and activities for economic diversification actions in sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Manufacturing and industry <input type="radio"/> Energy and mining <input type="radio"/> Transport and communication <input type="radio"/> Construction, tourism <input type="radio"/> Real estate <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and fisheries <input type="radio"/> Other 	Not applicable.



5. Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals:

(a) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals corresponding to the Party's nationally determined contribution, consistent with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, and accounting guidance adopted by the CMA;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> A general description of the accounting approach. <input type="radio"/> Detailed description of how the country will account for the land sector in its NDC. 	No information provided on how Korea will account for its NDC. It is implied but not stated that an inventory-based approach will be used, and since the land sector is currently not included, no information is provided on accounting for the land sector.
(b) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures or strategies in the nationally determined contribution;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input checked="" type="radio"/> Detailed information provided 	Not applicable.
(c) If applicable, information on how the Party will take into account existing methods and guidance under the Convention to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 14, of the Paris Agreement, as appropriate;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will use existing methods and guidance. <input type="radio"/> The country has specified that they will not use existing methods and guidance. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The country has not provided any information on this. 	It is implied but not stated that Korea will use an inventory-based approach – inventory methodology is specified in the NDC via a reference to South Korea's first BUR – but since the land sector is not included at this stage, no approach to removals is specified.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(d) IPCC methodologies and metrics used for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The country has specified in their NDC whether they have used 1996 or 2006 IPCC guidelines for estimating emissions and removals, and/or other IPCC guidance. ● The country has specified which GWP values it is using (from which IPCC assessment report). ● The NDC target is not expressed in GHG emissions terms, and contains no relevant information on GHG emissions (not applicable). 	Korea has provided in its NDC details on which IPCC guidelines they used for the preparation of their NDC (1996 guidelines, and 2006 guidelines for rice cultivation and other waste categories), and on which GWPs were used (from the IPCCs second Assessment report).
(e) Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approaches consistent with IPCC guidance, as appropriate, including, as applicable:			
(i) Approach to addressing emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to addressing emissions and removals on managed lands reported in the NDC. ● No information included in the NDC. 	Not applicable – land sector not included in NDC.
(ii) Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to harvested wood products reported. ● No information included in the NDC. 	Not applicable – land sector not included in NDC.
(iii) Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approach to age-class structure in forests reported. ● No information included in the NDC. 	No applicable – land sector not included in NDC.
(f) Other assumptions and methodological approaches used for understanding the nationally determined contribution and, if applicable, estimating corresponding emissions and removals, including:			
(i) How the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including, where applicable, sector-, category- or activity-specific reference levels, are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No ● n/a 	<p>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a reference level, including emissions reference levels, base years, intensity targets etc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Method for estimating the reference level. ● Sources of data, as applicable. <p>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a baseline scenario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Base year ● Key assumptions (GDP, population, etc) ● Methodology (analytical tool) and ● Resulting projection at least up to the end year ● Data sources 	The Korean NDC contains extremely limited information on the BAU projection which forms the basis of their mitigation target. Values for only three years are included (2020, 2025, 2030), and the analytical tool is mentioned (The scenario is based on the BAU projection of KEEI-EGMS (the Korea Energy Economics Institute Energy and GHG Modelling System), but no further information is provided.


Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(ii) For Parties with nationally determined contributions that contain non-greenhouse-gas components, information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components, as applicable;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	Assumptions and methodologies for non-GHG components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Quantified in a manner where mitigation outcomes are clear. <input type="radio"/> Quantifiable, but requiring assumptions to understand mitigation outcomes. <input type="radio"/> Not quantifiable. 	Not applicable.
(iii) For climate forcers included in nationally determined contributions not covered by IPCC guidelines, information on how the climate forcers are estimated;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The NDC includes black carbon, and includes information on how it is estimated. <input type="radio"/> The NDC includes other short-lived climate forcers, and information on how these are estimated. 	Not applicable.
(iv) Further technical information, as necessary;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a	Further information provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Not Applicable 	Not applicable. No further information would be necessary if the information above were to be provided comprehensively.
(g) The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to participate in Article 6 activities during the NDC implementation period. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Information on whether the country intends to use ITMOs to achieve its NDC. Enhanced conformance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The extent to which the target depends on use of ITMOs. 	The Korean NDC states that Korea will make use of Article 6 to meet its target, but does not provide any further details.



6. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances:

(a) How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances;	Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Ambitious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is fair. <input type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is ambitious. 	Korea observes that it has “set a fair and ambitious target to the extent possible” but does not provide any grounds for why its targets should be considered fair and ambitious.
b) Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	The country has provided in its NDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> References to equity analyses by international experts. <input type="radio"/> References to equity analyses by in-country experts. <input type="radio"/> References to indicators found in equity literature. <input type="radio"/> References to the application of preferred equity indicators to other countries. 	Korea does not provide any grounds for considering its contribution to be fair.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
<p>(c) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement;</p> <p>("Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances");</p>	<p>Progression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No <p>Ambition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No <p>CBDRRRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No 	<p>Progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NDC contains a statement that the mitigation target in NDC is more stringent than the country's previous NDC or emissions target under the Convention or Kyoto Protocol. ● If a developing country, the target type has changed to an economy-wide absolute emissions target, and/or more sectors have been included in the target. ● An assessment of progression is provided, with reference to mitigation potential analyses. <p>Highest possible ambition, referring to 6 (a) above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A reference to ambition in terms of the 1.5 °C limit. ● A reference to ambition in terms of the "well below 2 °C" limit. ● A reference to a national mitigation potential analysis. ● An explanation in terms of national circumstances for the level of ambition chosen, with reference to the national mitigation potential analysis. <p>Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances (CBDRRRC-ILONDC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explanation of ambition in terms of common but responsibilities and respective capabilities. ● Explanation of ambition in terms of national circumstances. ● None. 	<p>No reference to progress from its previous target under the Convention is provided. No explicit reference relating Korea's contribution to a global temperature goal is provided other than a reference to the 2030 target, which is "expected to be in line with the recommendations of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 40-70% from 2010 levels by 2050", but no grounds are provided for this assertion.</p> <p>The NDC mentions Korea's national circumstances in terms of limited mitigation potential, given the change brought about by the Fukushima disaster in the prospects for expansion of nuclear power in Korea, but does not refer to either capability or responsibility.</p>
<p>(d) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;</p> <p>("Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances");</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed country NDCs – reference to leadership via economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. ● Developing country NDCs – reference to enhancing their mitigation efforts. ● Developing country NDCs – timing to move to an economy-wide emission reduction or limitation target indicated. 	<p>No reference to Article 4.4 in the NDC.</p>
<p>(e) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>("The least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions developing reflecting their special circumstances");</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● n/a 	<p>NDCs of LDCs and SIDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fairness addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. ● Ambition addressed in strategies, plans and actions communicated. ● Neither of the above. 	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
 7. How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:			
(a) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC refers to Article 2 of the Convention in relation to mitigation ambition. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how it contributes to the reduction of emissions in terms of Article 2 of the Convention. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how natural sinks are being maintained and enhanced.	The NDC refers to Article 2 of the Convention in relation to the NDC target ("towards achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as set out in its Article 2"), but does not provide any further detail on this.
(b) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to the peaking year – either when it occurred or when it is projected to be. <input type="radio"/> For countries whose emissions have peaked, the NDC provides grounds for the NDC target being consistent with "rapid reductions thereafter". <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a reference to a national policy goal of net zero emissions, and by which year. <input type="radio"/> The NDC contains a clear link between the Paris Agreement's Article 2.1(a) and the country's NDC.	The Korean NDC contains a reference to the 2030 goal "expected to be in line with recommendations for global emissions reductions by 2050 from the IPCC's AR5, but no specific linkage to either Article 2.1.a or 4.1 of the Paris Agreement.

For questions, please contact

Sejong Youn

Solutions for our Climate
sejong.youn@forourclimate.org

Sebastian Wegner

International Secretariat of Climate Transparency
swegner@governance-platform.org

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For further details please refer to the methodology which can be downloaded under www.climate-transparency.org.



Solutions for our Climate (SFOC) is a Korea-based group that advocates stronger climate policies and reforms in power regulations. SFOC is led by legal, economic, financial, and environmental experts with experience in energy and climate policy. SFOC works in close partnership with domestic and international civil society organization.

www.forourclimate.org



Climate Transparency is a global partnership with a shared mission to stimulate a "race to the top" in climate action in G20 countries through enhanced transparency. It convenes partners from Argentina (Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales), Brazil (CentroClima/COPPE UFRJ), China (Energy Research Institute), France (The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), Germany (Germanwatch HUMBOLDTVIADRINA Governance Platform, NewClimate Institute), India (The Energy and Resources Institute), Indonesia (Institute for Essential Service Reform), Mexico (Iniciativa Climática de México), South Africa (Energy Research Center/University of Cape Town) and the UK (Overseas Development Institute).

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