

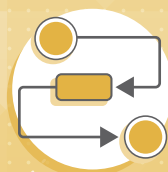
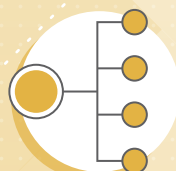
NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK



UNITED STATES

MAKING UNITED STATES' 2021 NDC MORE TRANSPARENT

March 2021



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The NDC Transparency Check provides recommendations on what information countries should provide in their 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 NDC Update in order to be in full conformance with international agreements.

01

INTRODUCTION TO THE 'NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK'

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

The objective of the NDC Transparency Check is to provide a robust reference to assess whether the communication of Parties on the proposed mitigation in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is clear, transparent and understandable, in terms of the requirements set out in the Paris Agreement, its accompanying decision (1/CP.21) and the Annex 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.

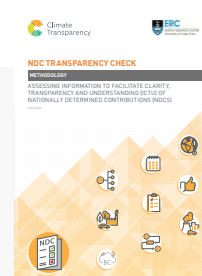
The United States’ government is revising the current NDC to update its commitment in relation to the Paris Agreement’s long-term goals, under the country’s specific circumstances.

In this context, the NDC Transparency Check provides information to support the process of a revision, especially in relation to the clarity of the proposed mitigation outcomes. This could help not only to provide additional clarity on United States’ mitigation goals and their underlying policies and measures, but also to provide clarity on the likely collective outcome of mitigation efforts as committed to in the NDCs’.

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



02

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Paris Agreement architecture is based on the continuous increase of the Nationally Determined Contributions' (NDCs) ambition and align global emissions to the long-term climate goals of restricting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

In 2016, the decision by the United States to exit the Paris Agreement was a setback for the US climate agenda and the trajectory of leadership shown to the international community. However, the ambitious U.S. goal (responsible for 13% of global emissions) of achieving zero net emissions by 2050, announced by Joe Biden before he was elected president (2020), expanded the possibilities of a new global dynamic to address climate change.

Since Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris took office, the climate agenda is a pillar of United States' national security. The US rejoined the Paris Agreement on 19 February 2021 and President Biden convened a leaders' climate summit on 22 April to unveil the new US Nationally Determined Commitment.

In this regard, transparency for the NDC revision process becomes indispensable to ensure high ambition and enable effective implementation. The NDC target needs to be communicated in a clear and understandable way in order to ensure clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDC.

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, United States' leadership is more important than ever. By raising its target in the updated NDC and increasing its transparency, the US would send an important signal to other major emitters, would underline its position as a key international player and would set an example for other countries.

United States' 2016 NDC target



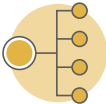




26-28%



reduction below its 2005 level

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 the NDC Update, United States 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
 Reference point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is indicated that the base year value will be recalculated, but it is not specified when or how. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on circumstances under which values of the reference indicators may be updated.
 Time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “end year” of the target is defined as 2025, implying a five year timeframe, and a single year target. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish timeline, including implementation period Provide explicit information on whether target is single- or multi-year target.
 Scope and Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC does not mention previous commitments or make any comparisons concerning which sectors were included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDC does not explicitly state that it will cover all the carbon pools listed. Include explicit comparison of the coverage of its NDC with its previous target.
 Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information is provided on either institutional arrangements for the development of the NDC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details on domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner. Provide information on national circumstances or best practices / experiences developing the NDC.
 Assumptions, and methodological approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US NDC does not explicitly contain information on how it plans to account for its NDC. There is a lack of explanation on the approach to addressing emissions and removals on managed lands reported. No mention of age-class class structures in forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicitly state which accounting approach it will use under the Paris Agreement, or whether it will continue to account for its target during US' withdrawal from the Agreement. Include approach to age class structures in forests. Provide additional information on how land sector emissions were arrived at.


ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update
 Fairness and ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US provided some information on why it considers its target to be fair and ambitious. • The NDC does not contain any comparative assessments of the fairness or equity of its NDC. • US NDC does not contain sufficient evidence to sustain the mitigation target is more stringent than the country's previous NDC. • No reference to Article 4.4 in the NDC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention and provide comparative assessments of the fairness of its target, by national or other experts, or any references to the equity literature. • Provide references to Article 4.4.
 Contribution to UNFCCC Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US NDC does not refer to Article 2 of the UNFCCC. • The NDC provides no grounds to believe that its target is consistent with "rapid reductions". The NDC does situate the target within the context of the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal, but does not provide any grounds to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to article 2 of the UNFCCC. • Provide grounds that the target is consistent with "rapid reductions" and references to national policy goals of zero emissions. • Provide grounds for situating the target within the context of the Paris Agreements long-term temperature goal.

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 United States' NDC assessed below was submitted before the Annex was agreed.

The NDC assessed is United States's NDC as contained in the UNFCCC's interim NDC registry, as submitted on September 3, 2016:
<https://bit.ly/3xu1xDs>

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 US NDC has a target of 26-28% reduction below its 2005 level.
(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 type="radio"/> Quantified – in CO ₂ or CO ₂ -eq or in other emissions units <input type="radio"/> Quantified – other units <input checked="" 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	Quantifiable information provided for a 2005 base year.
(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	26%-28% reduction from 2005 levels.
(e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	Source: <input checked="" type="radio"/> GHG inventory <input type="radio"/> Reference to underlying data sources <input type="radio"/> Other studies Enhanced conformance – traceability: <input type="radio"/> Source readily found	The US target is based in their GHG inventory.

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: <input checked="" type="radio"/> How values may be updated <input type="radio"/> When Baseline projections: <input type="radio"/> Information on whether the baseline will be updated, when and why. Intensity: <input type="radio"/> If, whether and how the country will update its intensity reference indicator.	The US NDC implies that the base year value will be derived from its GHG inventory, which would be recalculated as a matter of course, but the NDC specifically refers to updating GWPs.



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	<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	The "end year" of the target is defined as 2030, implying a ten-year timeframe. Neither the timeframe, nor the implementation period, are explicitly stated.
(b) Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Single-year target <input type="radio"/> Multi-year target	Implied single year targets (end year of 2030), but information not explicitly provided.



3. Scope and coverage:

(a) General description of the target	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<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 US target is an economy-wide reduction target reducing its GHG emissions by 26-28% by 2025 compared to 2005 levels.
(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: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Energy <input checked="" type="radio"/> IPPU <input checked="" type="radio"/> AFOLU – specified separately for land use and agriculture <input type="radio"/> LULUCF (if specified separately from above) <input type="radio"/> Agriculture (if specified separately from above) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Waste <input type="radio"/> Other Categories: <input type="radio"/> Categories and sub-categories used for each sector above in the NDC Gases: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Carbon dioxide: CO ₂ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Methane: CH ₄ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nitrous oxide: N ₂ O <input checked="" type="radio"/> Perfluorocarbons: PFCs <input checked="" type="radio"/> Hydrofluorocarbons: HFC <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sulphur hexafluoride: SF ₆ <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nitrogen trifluoride: NF ₃ Pools: <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 US NDC covers all seven gases, and all sector categories covered in its inventory. The NDC does not explicitly state that it will cover all the carbon pools listed, but this is implicit from its reference to the US GHG inventory.

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Comparison of categories of anthropogenic emissions and removal included in previous NDC and current NDCs. <input type="radio"/> Explanation for the omission of any categories. 	<p>The NDC implies that all categories are included in its NDC. There is not explicit comparison of the coverage of its NDC with its previous (2025) target 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> n/a 	<p>Economic diversification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Energy Efficiency <input type="radio"/> Renewable energy <input type="radio"/> Carbon Capture and Utilization/Storage <input type="radio"/> Utilization of gas <input type="radio"/> Methane recovery and flare minimization <input type="radio"/> Other <p>Adaptation actions with mitigation co-benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Water and waste-water management <input type="radio"/> Urban planning <input type="radio"/> Marine Protection <input type="radio"/> Reduced desertification <input type="radio"/> Other <p>Mitigation co-benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Stated – yes / no <input type="radio"/> Quantified <input type="radio"/> In t CO₂-eq 	<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 checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided Public participation and engagement: <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 Information on stakeholder engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" 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 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 	No information is provided in the US inventory on either institutional arrangements for the development of the NDC, or stakeholder engagement, or the NDC process in general. See below for information on implementation.
((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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	a. Inclusion of relevant national circumstances, such as geography, climate, economy, sustainable development and poverty eradication <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	No information is provided on either national circumstances, reporting on best practices/experiences or on context aspirations etc when joining the Paris Agreement.
(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 checked="" 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 to the US.
(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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> A general description of the accounting approach. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Detailed description of how the country will account for the land sector in its NDC.	The US NDC states that an inventory-based approach will be used to account for sources and sinks, and provides a specific note 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	<input type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input 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	<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.	The US will use an inventory-based approach, but has not explicitly stated which accounting approach it will use under the Paris Agreement, or whether it will continue to account for its target in the case of its withdrawal from the Agreement.

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;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> 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. <input checked="" type="radio"/> The country has specified which GWP values it is using (from which IPCC assessment report). <input type="radio"/> The NDC target is not expressed in GHG emissions terms, and contains no relevant information on GHG emissions (not applicable).	The US has provided information on which GWPs they used for their NDC (IPCC AR4), and have indicated that they may update these in the future. They have not explicitly stated which IPCC guidelines were used but noted that “the approach, and the definitions and metrics used, are fully consistent with our greenhouse gas inventory”, and provide a link to their inventory report for further reference.
(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:	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Approach to addressing emissions and removals on managed lands reported in the NDC. <input checked="" type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	No information included.
(ii) Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Approach to harvested wood products reported. <input type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	The US state in their NDC that they will be using a production approach to harvested wood products.
(iii) Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input type="radio"/> Approach to age-class structure in forests reported. <input type="radio"/> No information included in the NDC.	No mention of age class structures in forests.
(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;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> 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> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Method for estimating the reference level. <input type="radio"/> Sources of data, as applicable.	The US reference level (GHG emissions in 2005) is determined by its GHG inventory and associated methodologies.
		<p>If the Party has chosen a mitigation target relative to a baseline scenario:</p> <input type="radio"/> Base year <input type="radio"/> Key assumptions (GDP, population, etc) <input type="radio"/> Methodology (analytical tool) and <input type="radio"/> Resulting projection at least up to the end year <input type="radio"/> Data sources	


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 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 checked="" type="radio"/> The extent to which the target depends on use of ITMOs. 	The US NDC states that “at this time, the United States does not intend to utilize international market mechanisms to implement its 2025 target”. This does not rule out the US deciding at a later date to use market mechanisms to achieve its NDC.



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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Ambitious <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is fair. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Inclusion of grounds for why the NDC target is ambitious. 	The US has provided some information on why it considers its target to be fair and ambitious, which consists of a comparison of the rate of reduction of emissions compared to its previous rate in relation to its 2020 target. The US also claims that its target is consistent with a long-term “path to deep decarbonization”.
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. 	The US NDC does not contain any comparative assessments of the fairness of its target, by national or other experts, or any references to the equity literature.

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>The US claims that its NDC target represents a faster rate of decarbonization compared to its 2020 target, i.e. an accelerate decarbonization trend. The NDC also contains a claim that the target is part of a long-term decarbonization pathway which is compatible with the global goal of 2 degrees, but contains no substantiation of this. The NDC contains no references to mitigation potential analyses, and does not refer to its ambition in the light of the US's 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 type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	<input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how natural sinks are being maintained and enhanced.	The US NDC does not contain any references to Article 2 of the Convention.
(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 checked="" type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains a clear link between the Paris Agreement’s Article 2.1(a) and the country’s NDC.	The US NDC contains a graph of historical GHG emissions which demonstrates that US emissions has already peaked, but contains no basis for asserting that the NDC constitutes “rapid reductions”. The NDC contains no reference to a goal of net zero emissions, and/or a corresponding date for such a goal, and contains an assertion that the NDC is part of a long-term trajectory which is compatible with a global goal of 2 degrees, but without providing any grounds.

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For further details please refer to the methodology which can be downloaded under www.climate-transparency.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), Canadian Institute of Climate Choices (Canada), China (Energy Research Institute), France (The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), Germany (Germanwatch Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform, NewClimate Institute), India (The Energy and Resources Institute), Indonesia (Institute for Essential Service Reform), Mexico (Iniciativa Climática de México), Solutions for our Climate (SFOC), South Africa (Energy Research Center/University of Cape Town) and the UK (Overseas Development Institute).

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