

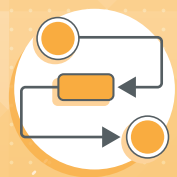
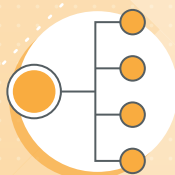
NDC TRANSPARENCY CHECK



SAUDI ARABIA

MAKING SAUDI ARABIA'S 2021 NDC MORE TRANSPARENT

October 2020



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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”.

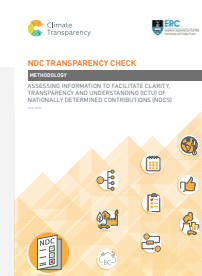
Legally, the Annex is only binding from the second NDC onwards. However, Parties are “strongly encouraged” to apply the Annex to updated NDCs, due 2020.

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 the Saudi Arabia's 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 assessments 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.

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, Saudi Arabia's leadership is more important than ever. By raising its target in the updated NDC and increasing its transparency, Saudi Arabia 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.

Saudi Arabia's current 2016 NDC target consists of a target to reducing greenhouse gas emissions up to 130 Mt CO₂-eq in relation to a non-quantified "dynamic baseline" by 2030.

Saudi Arabia's 2016 NDC target

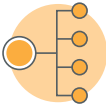








reducing greenhouse
gas emissions up to

130 Mt CO₂-eq

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, Saudi Arabia 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"> The NDC refers to a “dynamic baseline” on the basis of two development scenarios. It does not contain any quantifiable information on the baseline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear criteria on the baseline and information on the circumstances under which values of the reference indicators may be updated.
 Time frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stated time frame is 10 years. Neither the timeframe, nor the implementation period, are explicitly stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide timeframe and implementation period of NDC. Provide explicit information on whether target is single- or multi-year target.
 Scope and Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia does not explicitly provide information on coverage of sector and carbon pools. The NDC does not mention previous commitments or make any comparisons concerning which sectors were included. Some information is provided on the likely mitigation cobenefits in quantitative terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide explicit information on coverage of sectors and carbon pools covered. Mention previous commitments, incl. comparisons on included sectors. Include details on quantified information for the scale of the measures and targets contained in the NDC.
 Planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some information is provided on the process Saudi Arabia underwent to develop its NDC. The NDC emphasises the importance of international co-operation in addressing the impact of response measures but it is not clearly linked to the targets of the NDC itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide relevant details on domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner. Provide information on best practices / experiences developing the NDC. Clearly link the response measures with the targets of the NDC itself.
 Assumptions, and methodological approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saudi Arabia's NDC does not explicitly contain information on how it plans to account for its NDC, and track implementation and achievement. No mention of age class structures in forests. There is a lack of explanation as to how the land sector emissions were arrived at. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include information on how Saudi plans to account for its NDC. Provide information on GWP values. Mention harvested wood products and age class structures in forests. Provide additional information on how land sector emissions were arrived at. Include details on methodologies and assumptions for calculating the baseline.


ICTU Category	Current NDC	Room for improvements for NDC Update
 Fairness and ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saudi Arabia does not mention the concepts of fairness or equity in its NDC, and does not mention the concept of ambition either; the NDC therefore does not make any claim to be fair or ambitious. • Saudi Arabia's NDC does not mention its previous targets under either the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol, and makes no mention of progression. • There is no reference in the NDC to the long-term temperature goal. It does refer to the special circumstances of developing countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention and provide details on concepts of fairness or equity as well as ambition and provide details why the NDC should be considered ambitious and aligned to the "well below 2°C" target. • Mention previous targets (Kyoto) and provide assessment on progression.
 Contribution to UNFCCC Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saudi Arabia's NDC does not refer to a year in which emissions will or have peaked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to year in which the emission are planned to peak. • 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 Saudi Arabia's NDC assessed below was submitted before the Annex was agreed.

The NDC assessed is Saudi Arabia's NDC as contained in the UNFCCC's interim NDC registry, as submitted on 10 November 2016:
<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Saudi%20Arabia/1/KSA-INDCs%20English.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)	Saudi Arabia's NDC is defined in terms of the mitigation co-benefits of adaptation and economic diversification, which will have mitigation impacts of up to 130 Mt CO ₂ -eq in relation to a baseline 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 type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No quantifiable information	The NDC refers to a "dynamic baseline", but no other quantified information is provided on the baseline in the NDC, which states that "a dynamic baseline will be developed on basis of a combination of two scenarios", which are further detailed narratively below.
(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 to Saudi Arabia's NDC.
(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 type="radio"/> % reduction from base year <input type="radio"/> % reduction from BAU <input type="radio"/> % intensity reduction from base year <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other	A reduction of "up to 130 million tons of CO ₂ -eq avoided by 2030" in relation to a baseline.
(e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	Source: <input 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 NDC does not contain any quantifiable information on the baseline, and hence no sources either.

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"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	GHG inventory: <input type="radio"/> How values may be updated <input type="radio"/> When Baseline projections: <input checked="" 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 "dynamic" baseline (still to be determined) may be recalculated in terms of the two development scenarios outlined in the NDC. No clear criteria have been outlined for this.



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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Partly <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Stated time frame of 5 years <input checked="" 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	Timeframe covers period from 2021 to 2030. No explicit information on the period of implementation, but one assumes these are synonymous.
(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 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	<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).	The target is described in terms of 130 Mt CO ₂ -eq of mitigation as a result of mitigation co-benefits of adaptation policies, and mitigation co-benefits of economic diversification policies, in relation to a "dynamic baseline" which has yet to be defined.
(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 type="radio"/> Partly <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Sectors: <input type="radio"/> Energy <input type="radio"/> IPPU <input 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 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 type="radio"/> Carbon dioxide: CO ₂ <input type="radio"/> Methane: CH ₄ <input type="radio"/> Nitrous oxide: N ₂ O <input type="radio"/> Perfluorocarbons: PFCs <input type="radio"/> Hydrofluorocarbons: HFC <input type="radio"/> Sulphur hexafluoride: SF ₆ <input 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	Saudi Arabia does not specify which sectors, gases, categories and pools are covered by its NDC.

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 does not refer to which categories are included in existing or previous NDCs.</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>Saudi Arabia's NDC is explicitly formulated in terms of mitigation co-benefits of economic diversification and adaptation, and detailed information is provided on the relevant economic diversification and adaptation measures, but very little quantified information is provided on the scale of these measures / their targets, and no information is provided on the likely mitigation co-benefits in quantified terms.</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 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 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 type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided 	Saudi Arabia places the NDC within the context of overall economic planning in the Kingdom, but contains no other information on institutional arrangements, on stakeholder engagement, 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 of specific measures.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Some information is provided on national circumstances; no information is provided on experience and best practices.
(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 Saudi Arabia.
(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 as the Global Stocktake has not taken place yet.
(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:			

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(i) How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the nationally determined contribution;	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> The NDC contains information on how the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the NDC.	The Saudi Arabia's NDC contains a section on addressing response measures, which emphasises the importance of international co-operation in addressing the impact of response measures, in three respects: 1) socio-economic research on impacts; 2) R and D on technology options, and 3) economic diversification away from fossil fuels. The NDC does not make a direct link between the consideration of the impact of response measures and the targets of the NDC itself, except to make the linkage (earlier in the NDC) between oil export revenue and ambition of the NDC.
(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 checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Water resources <input checked="" type="radio"/> Coastal resources <input checked="" type="radio"/> Human settlements <input checked="" type="radio"/> Urban planning <input checked="" type="radio"/> Agriculture and forestry <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other <p>Specific projects, measures and activities for economic diversification actions in sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Manufacturing and industry <input checked="" type="radio"/> Energy and mining <input checked="" type="radio"/> Transport and communication <input type="radio"/> Construction, tourism <input type="radio"/> Real estate <input type="radio"/> Agriculture and fisheries <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other 	The NDC is comprised of mitigation co-benefits of economic diversification and adaptation, and contains specific information on adaptation measures which include water and waste management, urban planning, marine protection, and reduced desertification, and economic diversification measures which include energy efficiency, renewable energy, CCUS, gas utilization, and methane recovery / flare minimisation.



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	<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 Saudi Arabia will account for its NDC.
(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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No information provided <input type="radio"/> Some information provided <input type="radio"/> Detailed information provided	It is not clear how Saudi Arabia will track implementation and achievement of its NDC. It may opt to track specific policies.

Element of ICTU	Included in NDC	Category of assessment	Information in NDC and assessment
(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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Partly ● No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The country has specified that they will use existing methods and guidance. ● The country has specified that they will not use existing methods and guidance. ● The country has not provided any information on this. 	No information provided on this.
(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). 	Saudi Arabia has provided the information that its baseline will be developed on the basis of 1996 IPCC guidelines. No information is provided on GWP values.
(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. 	It is not clear whether any of the components of the NDC will involve land use emissions / accounting.
(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. 	No mention of harvested wood products. See above.
(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 mention of age class structures in forests (Saudi Arabia does have some forested land). See above.
(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 Saudi Arabia's NDC provides no information on methodologies or assumptions for calculating their baseline. Some narrative information is provided on the design of scenarios on which the baseline will be based.


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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Not quantifiable. 	It is not clear how Saudi Arabia will choose to track implementation and achievement of its NDC – either in terms of overall mitigation outcome or in terms of policies and measures.
(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 checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> n/a	Further information provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable 	Arguably, transparency would involve additional information to be provided in the Saudi NDC on whether the NDC consists in their aggregate mitigation outcome (130 Mt CO ₂ -eq savings) or in individual policies and measures.
(g) The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 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. 	No information is provided on this in the 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 type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" 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. 	Saudi Arabia considers its NDC to be fair, “..given that the sum of these contributions leads to a significant deviation from a business-as-usual emissions path for an economy that highly depends on oil and gas”. No other grounds are given, and no grounds are given for why the NDC should be considered to be 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. 	Saudi Arabia provides no substantive grounds to demonstrate that its NDC is fair, and no reflections on equity.

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; ("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>Saudi Arabia's NDC does not provide any information on progression, nor does it provide any information on ambition related to the long-term temperature goal. It does refer to the UNFCCC in regard of the special circumstances of developing countries (Article 3.2).</p>
<p>(d) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement; ("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 continuing enhancing its mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>(e) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement. ("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.	Saudi Arabia's 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 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 NDC does not contain any reference to a peaking year, to a year in which the country may reach net zero emissions, or a link between the long-term temperature goal and the country's NDC.

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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).

At the moment Climate Transparency does not have a partner organisation in Saudi Arabia. If you are interested in cooperation, please contact us at: info@climate-transparency.org

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