



Climate Action Network Europe background briefing

Why an effective Adequacy Review of current INDCs by 2018 is necessary

Close to 150 countries' INDCs submitted, representing more than 80% of global emissions

On 19 October 123 INDCs have been submitted covering 150 countries.

Countries INDCs, if not revised, result in 2.7-3.5°C of warming

Early analysis¹ of the aggregate impact of the Paris INDCs conclude that even in case fully implemented INDCs would result global average temperature to increase at minimum to 2.7°C. World governments, including the EU, have committed to keeping global average temperature below 2°C, while keeping a maximum temperature rise of 1.5°C still in reach².

Countries agree that a revision of INDCs is necessary, but timing and effectiveness are still open

Despite the perceived inadequacy it seems unlikely that the proposed INDCs will be significantly revised before the end of the Paris Summit. Many countries have acknowledged this, and therefore a revision mechanism has become a central element of the Paris outcome. However the issue when this revision would happen and how to make it effective is still undecided. The draft COP Decision text³ for Paris includes references for a revision of current INDCs in 2018 or 2019.

Collective and individual adequacy review by 2018

While the outcome in Paris alone will not be able to guarantee a safe future without disruptive climate impacts, it is paramount that the Paris outcome does not close the door for staying below 1.5° nor 2°C. Therefore in Paris countries need to agree that there shall be a review of individual country commitments, based on the most recent scientific assessments of adequacy and equity by 2018.

Harmonizing different INDC timelines to 2025 in the context of the pre-2020 adequacy review

For a robust forward regime, all countries' commitments must have the same end date, and new targets must be negotiated at the same time. If countries intend to move forward at different paces, comparability, as well as the political pressure created by successive negotiating rounds within the UNFCCC process, will be lost. Without synchronised target setting, any review in the Paris agreement will be an ineffective way to increase ambition – as the experience of previous reviews in the UNFCCC shows.

Currently countries' INDCs have different end dates (2025 or 2030). The INDC adequacy revision in 2018 would also serve as a platform to harmonize the timelines for 2025, and result quantifiable economy-wide targets for the first commitment period of the Paris Agreement of 2021-2025. The next five-year revision by 2023 would deliver revised commitments for the second commitment period of 2026-2030.

Five-year commitment periods are the best tool for a regular revision of targets

To avoid the risk of locking in low ambition, CAN Europe supports five-year commitment periods as an integral part of the Paris protocol. Experience within the UNFCCC to date has demonstrated that to increase ambition in countries' commitments, the Paris agreement will need to include a clear mandate for 5 year commitments periods, mandating when the negotiations for the next commitment period shall begin, and what its result should be.

¹ e.g. Climate Action Tracker and Climate Interactive

² UNFCCC Copenhagen Accord and Cancun Agreement

³ Paragraph 18 of [the ADP Co-Chairs' non-paper](#)