

South Africa's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT - 2015



Climate Change and Air Quality



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BACKGROUND

- South Africa is expected to submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) as an undertaking towards a global effort on climate change.
- This undertaking is likely to form part of a legal agreement under the UNFCCC to be adopted in Paris in December 2015, with the legal agreement coming to effect in 2020.
 - The legal nature of such an undertaking is yet to be agreed.
 - The framework for South Africa's INDC is premised on our national position in the international climate negotiations, including the differentiated obligations of developed and developing countries, and a balanced consideration of development and climate imperatives.
 - The INDC further reflects South Africa's expectations for the outcome of the Durban Platform negotiations being a legal agreement that balances adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation.



STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER UNFCCC

- The contentious issues in the negotiation pertain to:
 - Firstly, a push for more symmetrical obligations by all Parties, which will result in limited differentiation between developed and developing country obligations.
 - Secondly, to a push towards a limited multilateral oversight and accountability on obligations by Parties, posing a risk of an outcome that is neither equitable nor effective.
- South African position supports a strong multilateral rules-based regime that enhances the implementation of the Convention obligations, and its principles and provisions.

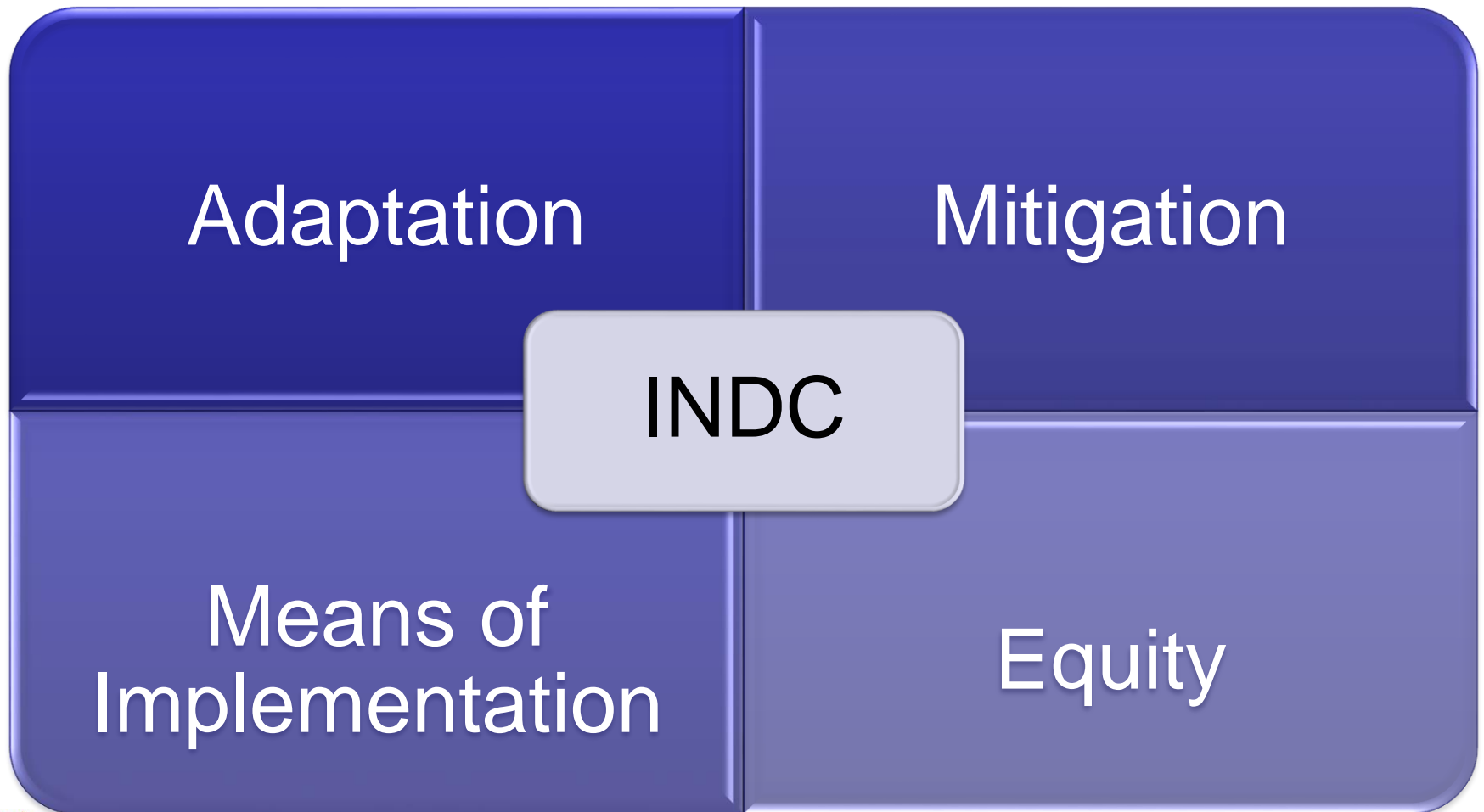


Framing of South African INDC

- The framing of the South African INDC is consistent with the guidelines adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) decision 15/8 adopted in Egypt on the 5th March 2015.
- South African INDC is based on the existing policy instruments and initiatives, and covers both mitigation, and adaptation with an additional component on support undertakings by developed countries.
- It is also informed by national development and poverty eradication imperatives, as well as climate change impacts and implications.
- The INDC further makes a case that South Africa's undertaking is consistent with the Convention principles of equity and fairness, as such an ambitious contribution to the global effort.



Intended Nationally Determined Contributions





Adaptation: Towards climate resilient society

- Adaptation Requires:
 - **ADJUSTMENTS** in ecological, social, or economic **systems** in response to **actual or expected climatic stimuli** and their **effects or impacts**.
 - **CHANGES IN PROCESSES, PRACTICES, and STRUCTURES** to **moderate potential damages** or to **benefit from opportunities** associated with climate change.
- Adaptation is vital for:
 - **reducing the impacts of, and vulnerability / exposure to climate change NOW** and
 - **increasing resilience to FUTURE impacts.**

Framing of South African INDC continued

Adaptation component:

- Builds on the National Climate Change Response Policy, as well as the Long Term Adaptation Scenarios.
 - Under an unmitigated global emissions scenario, climate change projections for South Africa up to 2050 and beyond, suggest warming as high as 5 degrees C over the South African interior.
 - The adaptation component presents a set of adaptation goals, building on existing national implementation programmes, focussing on integrating climate considerations in development planning



Framing of South African INDC continued

Adaptation component

- **Goal 1:** Develop a National Adaptation Plan as part of implementing the National Climate Change Response Policy by 2020
- **Goal 2:** Take into account climate considerations in national development, sub-national and sectoral policy frameworks by 2020/2025
- **Goal 3:** Build the necessary institutional capacity for climate change response planning, by 2025/2030
- **Goal 4:** Develop an early warning system for key climate adaptation sectors by 2025/2030, and reporting as part of a National Adaptation Strategy with rolling five-year implementation periods



Framing of South African INDC continued

Adaptation component

- **Goal 5:** Development of a vulnerability assessment and adaptation needs framework by 2020 to support a continuous presentation of adaptation needs
- **Goal 6:** Communication of past investments in adaptation for international recognition
- **Equity considerations:** Understanding climate impacts as being driven by global action/inaction on mitigation, the adaptation burden is therefore a global responsibility, which requires international cooperation in accordance with principles of the Convention. It is in that light that SA considers its investments in adaptation as a contribution to the global effort, which should be recognised as such.



Framing of South African INDC (2)

Mitigation component

- The mitigation component of the INDC is built on the NCCRP, and the 2009 Copenhagen pledge to take nationally appropriate mitigation action to enable a 34% deviation below the "business as usual" emissions growth trajectory by 2020, and a 42% deviation below the "business as usual" emissions growth trajectory by 2025.
- This undertaking provides for greenhouse gas emissions to increase in the short term, peaking between 2020 and 2025, plateau for approximately a decade and decline in absolute terms thereafter.



Framing of South African INDC (3)

Mitigation component

- The undertaking is however premised on:
 - Providing further clarity of the Copenhagen pledge that it represents the *full mitigation potential*, rather than what the country seeks to undertake on its own resources
 - Re-emphasising that, the ability to achieve the Copenhagen pledge is predicated on the extent to which *finance, technology and capacity building* support is provided to South Africa
 - The undertakings will be in the context of a *multilateral rules-based regime* which provides for a periodic assessment of undertakings, and adequacy of support for adaptation and mitigation



MITIGATION COMPONENT OF THE INDC (1)

Reference point	starting point for PPD is 2016
Implementation period	<p>Time-frames are 2025 (firm), 2030 (indicative) and 2050 (aspirational).</p> <p>SA envisages five-year periods of implementation at the national level for policy instruments under development</p> <p>Our aspiration in the long-term is that total annual GHG emissions will be in the range of 212 to 428 Mt CO₂-eq by 2050, having declined in absolute terms from 2036 onwards</p>
Scope and coverage	Economy-wide, all sectors, six greenhouse gases (GHGs), with a material focus on three GHGs
Planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches	<p>Planning processes: national climate policy and national development plan. Legislation related to climate policy and a carbon tax that is under consideration</p> <p>Assumptions: the extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources, capacity building and transfer of technology.</p> <p>PPD range: was used as the initial benchmark against which the efficacy of mitigation actions will be measured</p> <p>Methodologies for estimating emissions: 2006 IPCC guidelines, and a 100 year GWP was used</p>
Ambition and fairness of the INDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers that equity applies to mitigation, adaptation and support for both • PPD presents a trajectory that is consistent with a just transition to a low carbon future • Carbon budget are an important form of flexibility at the national level



Thank You



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA