

## Paris Agreement and India's INDC: Enhancing Preparedness for Implementation and Tracking of Mitigation Actions, Plans and Policies

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The international community agreed to a new global framework to combat the challenges posed by climate change in the form of the *Paris Agreement*. The agreement aims to limit the global temperature rise to well below 2°C<sup>1</sup>, adapt to adverse impacts of climate change, and make financial flows consistent with low carbon climate resilient development pathways. This framework puts in place a process, for achieving these goals, wherein countries are required to submit new and increasingly ambitious climate plans by 2020 and every five years after 2030 describing actions they intend to undertake to achieve these goals. Such plans should facilitate clarity and transparency amongst all Parties<sup>2</sup>. India has already submitted its INDC to the UNFCCC which aims to inter alia (i) reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005, (ii) achieve about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030<sup>3</sup>, and (iii) create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Now, all Parties are required to revisit and submit their first 'nationally determined contribution (NDCs)' before submitting its instrument of ratification, accession or approval of the Paris agreement. In doing so, it is pertinent to understand, 1) **what domestic actions, plans and policies** will enable India to achieve its INDCs, and 2) **what kind of transparency regime** could be put in place at the domestic level to measure/track the progress on these actions, plans and policies.

This **half day roundtable discussion** with relevant stakeholders aims to discuss various elements on these two critical questions so as to enhance preparedness to place India's climate policy in the context of the Paris Agreement. Some of the issues that will be discussed under each question are discussed as follows.

### 1) **Decoding India's INDC into sectoral domestic actions, plans and policies**

The goal of India's INDC is to reduce emission intensity of its GDP. However, it does not elaborate on the role, each sector of the economy will play in order to achieve this goal. While the final report of the expert group on low carbon strategies for inclusive growth outlines range of broad mitigation actions or policies in each sector, a much more nuanced understanding is required. For example to outline (i) scope and coverage of actions in the sector, (ii) required institutional architecture to mainstream and facilitate implementation of identified actions, and (iii) time frames and/or periods for implementation. It will also be important to understand what technology options are available for different sectors. This will also be important to estimate impact of actions in terms of GHG emissions reductions. Key questions for discussion will include:

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<sup>1</sup> With Parties encouraged to pursue efforts to limit the temperature rise further to 1.5°C

<sup>2</sup> In order to do so, these plans should be able to provide quantifiable information on: (i) Reference point (including, a base year), (ii) Time frames and/or periods for implementation, (iii) Scope and coverage, (iv) Planning processes, (v) Assumptions and methodological approaches, (vi) and how the Party considers that it as fair and ambitious.

<sup>3</sup> With the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF)

- What are the (i) existing, (ii) proposed, (iii) new policies, available/required actions, programs and policies to achieve the GHG emissions mitigation in respective sectors?
- What is the ease of implementation for these actions, programs and policies? Will the existing institutional capacity will be able to implement these or will new institutional capacities be required?
- What are the GHG and other SD impact of these actions, programs and policies? Is this impact measurable through data being generated?

## **2) Domestic transparency regime to track progress on these actions, plans and policies**

For effective implementation and successful achievement of India's INDC, it is pertinent to systematically track progress of actions, plans and policies. In doing so, first step will be to collect and monitor data on GHG emissions or other progress indicators<sup>4</sup> from various sectors and at different levels. There is a network comprising of 127 research institutions (INCCA), tasked with compiling a GHG inventory for the country at National level as part of the submission of the Biennial Update Report and the National Communications to UNFCCC. Many a times the network faces the challenges of availability of reliable and accurate data in timely manner. There are certain data available with the domestic institutions but need to be made specific and usable. For instance, plethora of information is collected in energy audits, EIAs, SIAs amongst others; the CEA and other agencies also collect data which may be relevant. However, these existing platforms of information collection need to be streamlined in order to provide specific and targeted information. The systemic organisation of data will provide a snapshot of historic emissions and their sources, datasets and methodology used for estimating emissions, uncertainties and improvements associated with them, and emissions projections. Key questions for discussion will include:

- What is the existing activity data generated by various departments at national/state/district levels?
- What other data would be required to increase the ease of estimating impact of actions, plans and policies? Is it possible to generate this data within the existing institutional framework?
- Is it possible to institutionalise systemic generation of this activity data every year? What does it take (challenges) to do this?
- Is the current review of information adequate, or new institutional mechanism is required?

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<sup>4</sup> Which will be used to assess GHG impact