

Submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)
by CARE International, CIEL, Franciscans International, ATD Fourth World, International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Rainforest Foundation Norway and WEDO

Further guidance related to the Nationally Determined Contributions

(APA agenda item 3)

The NDCs constitute the keys to the implementation of domestic actions under the Paris Agreement. Ensuring that these commitments duly integrate the cross-cutting principles and obligations defined in the Agreement is therefore critical.

Features of nationally determined contributions

A number of INDCs submitted prior to the Paris Conference refer to the integration of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, to gender equality, to food security, to a just transition and to intergenerational equity, in climate action. We welcome the inclusion of this information. Yet, no INDC addressed all of these elements.

In order for the NDCs to enable a holistic implementation of the Paris Agreement and to provide a comprehensive vision of future climate, development and socio-economic policies, governments must articulate in their NDCs how they will further integrate effectively these principles when implementing climate actions. These commitments should highlight how governments plan on achieving two interconnected objectives: eradicating poverty and easing the climate impacts.

Additionally, given the importance of the NDCs in defining domestic climate policies of the parties, it is critical that the preparation of these documents be made with the participation of civil society. More specifically, this process should include the effective participation by all constituencies, including women, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, people with disabilities, people in vulnerable situations and people in extreme poverty. The COP should recall international commitments to public participation and access to information and request that parties to prepare their NDCs in a participatory manner.

Information to be included in the NDCs

The parties must include information in their NDCs related to commitments and processes to integrate effectively these cross-cutting principles throughout the implementation of the NDC. These practical commitments might include information related to future policies and programs, the allocation of resources, procedural and institutional settings and development. The secretariat, working together with relevant intergovernmental organisations, should be invited to develop guidelines identifying how these cross-cutting principles can be reflected in relation to climate commitments.

The decision adopted in Paris already provides that the NDCs may contain information regarding planning processes, among other information (para 27, decision 1/CP.21). Information related to planning processes must include a detailed description of the participatory nature of this process. In particular, it must contain information regarding steps taken to secure the participation of key groups of stakeholders including – among others – women, indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, peoples with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations. Planning and implementation for the NDCs must also include participatory processes at the local level. The COP requested similar type of information to be included in other national documents submitted to the UNFCCC such as the national communications and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action.

