



## DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENTING MEASURES UNDERPINNING RESOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE CARBON NEUTRALITY

In addition to ambitious long-term pledges, CNC member countries are also taking concrete short-term action. Here are some examples.

### CHILE

Chile is currently holding the COP25 Presidency.

In April 2020 in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chile presented a **significantly enhanced NDC**, which, in line with the Paris Agreement, targets a long-term vision of carbon neutrality by 2050.

The revised NDC included for the first time in an NDC a social pillar, with a **just transition strategy** for the decarbonization process, connecting each one of Chile's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. The sustainable recovery from COVID-19 includes a strong pillar of public investment and job creation, where 30% of all the added investments are specifically for sustainable climate action projects.

Concurrently, the country is developing its **Long-Term National Climate Strategy** which will establish emission budgets for each sector of the economy. Considering a 30-year horizon, it will define medium- and long-term guidelines to **achieve carbon neutrality and increased climate change resilience by 2050**.

The carbon neutrality commitment to 2050 is also established in Chile's draft **Climate Change Framework Law**, which has been submitted to the Congress after being approved unanimously by the Senate Chamber last August. The project also strongly expands the obligation to establish formal processes for citizen participation within all sectoral ministries and the development of their plans for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Alongside the significantly enhanced NDC and the elaboration of the LT-LEDS, Chile is developing a Green Hydrogen Strategy, a National Recovery Plan, as well as a **Coal phase-out and Just Transition Strategy** as measures to implement carbon neutrality domestically. The latter results from a June 2019 announcement by President Sebastián Piñera that an agreement had been reached between the Ministry of Energy and Chile's key power generation companies on the phase out of coal generation nationally.

### COSTA RICA

Costa Rica submitted in 2019 its **long-term strategy**, the National Decarbonisation Plan, in which decarbonization and resilience are recognized as the means to transform the current economic development model into one that is based on bioeconomy, green growth, inclusion, and on enhancing the well-being of all citizens.

The country has a **National Carbon Neutrality Program** in place, which is an official mechanism for organizations, products, events, and communities to join the country's long-term decarbonization goal of

having net zero emissions by 2050. The Program now also includes the Cantonal category allowing municipalities and districts to measure and manage emissions in their territories.

To ensure transparency of reporting, Costa Rica developed its National Climate Change Metric System (SINAMECC).

## **DENMARK**

In December 2020 Denmark announced it will stop issuing new licences for oil and gas exploration and **phase out the production of fossil fuels** by 2050.

In December 2019, Parliament agreed on a new national Climate Act. The act includes a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gases by 70% by 2030 (relative to 1990 level), a **target to reach net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest**, and to set milestone targets based on a five-year cycle with a ten-year perspective.

In accordance with the “Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action”, Denmark formally communicated this target to the European Commission in December 2019 in its National Energy and Climate Plans as well as its **National Long-term Strategy** which was submitted to the UNFCCC on 30 December 2020.

## **GERMANY**

In June 2020 the German Federal Government agreed upon the **economic stimulus package**, which further contributes to transforming Germany into a GHG neutral country and enhances its green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Considerable funds are earmarked for GHG mitigation measures, with a focus on the energy and mobility sectors.

Germany’s **Climate Action Plan 2050**, agreed upon in 2016, established extensive **GHG neutrality** as Germany’s long-term target to be achieved by 2050. As envisaged in this strategy, the German government agreed on a **Climate Action Programme** in 2019 with a set of specific measures to ensure that interim targets for the year 2030 will be met, and to further develop the governance of Germany’s climate policy. Until 2023, the Federal Government will invest 54 billion Euro related to the implementation of the Climate Action Programme 2030.

The **introduction of a carbon price** for fossil fuels burnt in the transport and building sector, taking effect from January 2021, is a major component of Germany’s revised climate policy. Under this programme, Germany is also providing attractive funding for modern heating systems and energetic refurbishment of buildings. The installation of oil-fired heating will be banned after 2026.

Germany also passed its **Federal Climate Act** in 2019 which defines annual maximum GHG emission levels and clarifies that GHG mitigation targets can never be decreased.

## **JAPAN**

Japan’s Prime Minister Suga declared in his Policy Speech to the 203<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary Session of the Diet in October 2020 that **by 2050 Japan will aim to reduce GHG emissions to net-zero** to realize a decarbonized society.

This goal complements the one in the **Long-Term Strategy** submitted to the UNFCCC in June 2019 which planned to accomplish a carbon neutral society and proclaiming the ultimate goal to achieve a “decarbonized society” aiming to accomplish it ambitiously as early as possible in the second half of this century.

Japan submitted its NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat in March 2020.

Japan will also publish a climate change impacts report this year, as requested under the **Climate Change Adaptation Law** which was enforced in December 2018. The reports are due on a five-yearly basis.

Building on the LTS, Japan formulated its **Environment Innovation Strategy** which consists of Innovation Action Plans, Acceleration Plans and Zero-Emissions Initiatives and aims to establish innovative technologies that enable global carbon neutrality and, further, reduction of the accumulated stock of CO<sub>2</sub> in the earth's atmosphere ("Beyond Zero") by 2050. Innovation Action Plans describe 16 technological challenges with cost targets, whilst Acceleration Plans show research frameworks and investment promotion policies. Zero-Emission Initiatives are collaborative works and outreach activities with global leaders for implementation in the society.

## **MONACO**

Monaco's first revised NDC, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020, includes a 55% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.

The vision of Monaco in 2050 is that of a country that remains in complete solidarity with the rest of the world, strongly committed to the international efforts for energy transition, in constant cooperation with the most fragile countries sharing sustainable innovations such as thalassothermal energy production and green hydrogen for maritime activities.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand's enacted in November 2019 its **Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act** which introduced a domestic framework to enable New Zealand to develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to global efforts to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and allow the country to prepare for, and adapt to, the effects of climate change.

The framework set the **net zero emissions for all GHG by 2050** target in legislation. It established a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target; require the Government to develop and implement policies to meet the emissions budgets; introduced a range of adaptation measures, including a National Climate Change Risk Assessment and a National Adaptation Plan; and established an **independent Climate Change Commission** to provide expert advice to Government on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to monitor progress towards its mitigation and adaptation goals. This was stood up in December 2019.

Work is underway on the first **Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP)**, which will be published by 31 December 2021. The ERP will be informed by advice from the Climate Change Commission and will describe how New Zealand will meet its first three emissions budgets and make progress towards its 2050 target. The ERP will include policies and strategies for specific sectors; a multi-sector strategy to meet emissions budgets and improve the ability of those sectors to adapt to the effects of climate change; a strategy to mitigate the impacts that reducing emissions will have on people and increasing removals will have on employees and employers, regions, iwi and Māori, and wider communities, including the funding for any mitigation action; and any other policies or strategies that the Minister for Climate Change considers necessary.

The **New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)** is the country's key policy tool for reducing emissions and meeting its emission reduction targets and future emissions budgets. In mid-2020, reforms were made to the NZ ETS to help New Zealand reach its emissions reduction targets. The changes will also provide more certainty for businesses, make the scheme more accessible and improve its administration. The Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act provides the legislative framework for the reforms. It enables regulations to be made which will contain the operational detail and settings for the scheme.

## NORWAY

Norway's climate targets are set out in the national **Climate Change Act** which aims at promoting the implementation of such targets as part of the transformation to a **low-emission society by 2050**.

Norway's **enhanced NDC** commits to emission reduction of at least 50% and up towards 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

Norway's **LT-LEDS** was adopted by Parliament in October 2019. A translated version was submitted to the UNFCCC on November 25, 2020. The national transition toward being a low emission society by 2050 is concretized with a **target of 90-95% emission reductions** compared to 1990 levels.

In parallel, Norway is pursuing a national target on **climate neutrality from 2030** onwards and achieve emission reduction abroad equivalent to the still remaining Norwegian GHG emissions.

Over 80% of Norwegian GHG emissions are today subject to **carbon pricing** and the government puts **climate risk analysis** at the heart of decision making.

The government is also giving increasing importance to carbon capture and storage, considering the launch of a first CCS project in Norway at a cement factory.

Lastly, the government released an action plan for green shipping, with a target of reducing by half emissions from domestic shipping by 2030 compared to 2005, as one of the sectors in which the government encourages the emergence of Norwegian winners.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korea's President Moon Jae-in announced that Korea will strive to become **carbon-neutral by 2050** in his 2021 budget speech in the national assembly on 28 October.

The Korean government announced the plan for a **Korean Green New Deal** on 14 July as a national development strategy to support the country's recovery from the pandemic crisis and lead the global action against structural changes.

The Green New Deal focuses on green energy transition, climate-resilient infrastructure, and green industry innovation with KRW 73.4 trillion of government budget planned to be invested by 2025. Targets to create more than 659,000 jobs and reduce 12 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 are also included.

On 24 September the Korean national assembly passed by bipartisan agreement a **resolution to call for emergency action for climate crisis**. The resolution commits to addressing the climate crisis by raising Korea's ambition level in its 2030 NDC and by **developing and submitting a LT-LEDS including the 2050 carbon neutrality target**. The latter was submitted to the UNFCCC on 30 December 2020.

The National Assembly will work to establish a parliamentary committee to closely cooperate with the Government to ensure Korea joins global efforts to tackle climate crisis as a responsible member of the international community.

## SPAIN

In the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Spain has developed a **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan** which has been submitted to the European Commission. This plan, which will guide the use of the 72,000 million Euro of European funds that will be mobilised in the coming 3 years, has the green and the digital transitions as two of the crosscutting vectors of the Spanish recovery, together with territorial cohesion and gender equality. The **National Integrated**

**Energy and Climate Plan** will provide the guiding framework for this investment and reform program for a fair environmental transition that develops the strategic capabilities of the green economy.

Spain has a **Strategic Framework for Energy and Climate** to put the economy on track towards **climate neutrality by 2050**.

Part of the Framework is the **Climate Change and Energy Transition Bill**, which is currently under discussion at the Spanish Parliament, determines by law, for the first time, that Spain should achieve climate neutrality no later than 2050. It also stipulates that by mid-century, Spain's electricity system must be 100% renewable.

The Bill establishes a series of instruments to promote climate action, from the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plans 2021-2040 (PNIEC), the **Long-term Strategy to 2050** or the Just Transition Strategy. The aim of the latter is to optimise the results for employment of the Green Transition and to ensure that people and regions make the most of the opportunities of this transition. Just Transition Agreements are key elements of the Strategy.

The Climate Change and Energy Transition Bill would also establish a Committee of Experts on Climate Change and Energy Transition, whose recommendations and evaluation will be reflected in an annual report to be debated in the Congress of Deputies.

Spain's LTS, submitted on 10 December 2020, aims to be a flexible instrument to guide the economic and energy transformation towards climate neutrality by mid-century. The concrete route for each decade will be defined in detail through the PNIECs, which will be developed every ten years and will be updated every five years. In the same vein, the Strategy will be updated every five years with the latest information available, so that sector- and technology-specific paths will vary.

## **SWEDEN**

The Swedish government adopted Sweden's **Long Term Strategy** on December 10, 2020. The strategy is based on the Swedish Climate policy framework and the Government's Climate Policy action plan. Sweden aims to be the world's first **fossil-free welfare nation by 2045** at the latest, with negative emissions thereafter. The transition to climate neutrality entails opportunities for new business models and markets, new green jobs and technological development – while leaving no one behind.

A long-term strategy provides a clear signal and direction for business and society at large. The Swedish strategy outlines measures and regulatory action in sectors such as industry, transport, agriculture and energy. The strategy also presents tools to support the transition, such as national climate goals and a Climate Act set by Parliament and a national Climate policy council.

The **Climate Act** imposes an obligation on current and future governments to pursue a policy based on the national climate goals, to regularly report to Parliament on developments and to present a Climate Policy action plan every four years. One key starting point for the Climate Act is enabling climate policy and budget policy objectives to interact with each other. Under the Climate Act, the Government is to present a climate report in the Budget Bill each year. The report makes it easier to monitor and evaluate the combined climate effects of all policy areas and must contain a description of emission trends in relation to the targets. The report is also to describe the most important decisions made during the year and the effects of these on the development of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and have to contain an evaluation of whether there is a need for further measures.

The **Climate policy council** is a cross-sectoral expert body tasked with assisting the Government with an independent evaluation of whether the combined policy decided by the Government is compatible with the climate targets. The role of the Council is based on the complexity of climate policy and the fundamental importance of all policy areas taking concerted and integrated responsibility. The Council

comprises members with a high level of scientific expertise in the fields of climate, climate policy, economics, political science and behavioural science.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister has set up a ministerial working group on climate, comprising the ministers for environment and climate, industry, finance, infrastructure, energy, rural affairs and financial markets and housing. The Government has also set up the **Fossil Free Sweden initiative**, in which a large number of sectors and industries have drawn up roadmaps towards very low or zero emissions. So far 22 roadmaps have been presented. The initiative is an important platform for dialogue and cooperation between key actors for a competitive climate transition.

### **THE NETHERLANDS**

The **Climate Act 2019** laid down national targets of reducing the Netherlands GHG emissions 49% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and a 95% reduction by 2050.

The Dutch Climate Act will be amended once the European Climate Law, calling for the EU to be climate-neutral by 2050, is adopted.

Under the Climate Act, the government is required to draw up a Climate Plan setting out measures to ensure that the targets stipulated in the act are achieved. The Climate Plan, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NCEP) and the National Climate Agreement together contain the policy and measures to achieve the climate goals.

Another key element of the deal is that the Netherlands makes optimal use of available time until 2050. Wherein the government opts for the most cost-effective and future-proof approach. Reaching the 2030 49% reduction goal is an important stepping stone towards **achieving climate-neutrality in 2050**. After reaching the 2030 goal the momentum and the trend will continue towards 2050.

### **THE UNITED KINGDOM**

On December 4, the Prime Minister announced a new ambitious target to reduce the UK's emissions by at least 68% to 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

The UK will also publish a comprehensive **Net Zero Strategy** ahead of COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK.

Within the decade, the Prime Minister is determined for the UK to be at the forefront of the **green industrial revolution** as it accelerates its progress towards net zero emissions by 2050.

Leading up to COP26 the government will be publishing a number of ambitious plans across key sectors of the economy, including an Energy White Paper, Transport Decarbonisation Plan and Heat and Buildings Strategy, which will raise ambition as the country outlines its path to hit its 2050 target. The government will also release its enhanced NDC well ahead of COP26.

The UK's Climate Change Act (2008) is the framework that sets out a system of legally binding carbon budgets restricting the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over each 5-year period.

In 2018, the UK submitted the **Clean Growth Strategy** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as its long-term low emissions development strategy (LTS). In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to make a legally binding commitment to end its contribution to global warming by 2050 by bringing all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero.