



Background: What are intended nationally determined contributions?

In the negotiations leading up to the [Paris Agreement](#) governments, at COP 19 in 2013, agreed they would all initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions ([INDCs](#)) towards achieving the objective of the Convention. These would include, for example, the emission reductions that the country intends to undertake and could specify plans or policies in that respect; governments could include plans in areas such as adaptation to climate change. At COP 20 in 2014, Parties agreed on certain information to be included in the communication of INDCs, in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding.

By the time of the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the overwhelming majority of countries had submitted their INDCs, details of which can be found on the [INDC portal](#). In response to a request by the COP the secretariat prepared a [synthesis report](#) on the aggregate effect of the INDCs communicated by Parties by 1 October 2015. This report was published on 1 November 2015 and [updated in May 2016](#).