



Background: What are intended nationally determined contributions?

In the negotiations leading up to the [Paris Agreement](#) governments, at COP 19 in 2013, agreed that they would initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions ([INDCs](#)) towards achieving the objective of the Convention. At the time, the intention was to avoid a situation in which the Paris Agreement would have been agreed with no specific actions and timeframes for all its Parties. As such, INDCs were intended to cover this gap by inviting countries to outline the climate efforts they would undertake in the context of the Paris Agreement. The word “intended” was meant to indicate that these contributions were “intentions” with a view to formalizing them once the Paris Agreement had been adopted

By the time of the adoption of the Paris Agreement, almost all Parties to the Convention had submitted their INDCs, all of which have been compiled on the [INDC portal](#). In response to a request by the COP the secretariat prepared a [synthesis report](#) on the aggregate effect of these INDCs. This report was published on 1 November 2015 and [updated in May 2016](#).