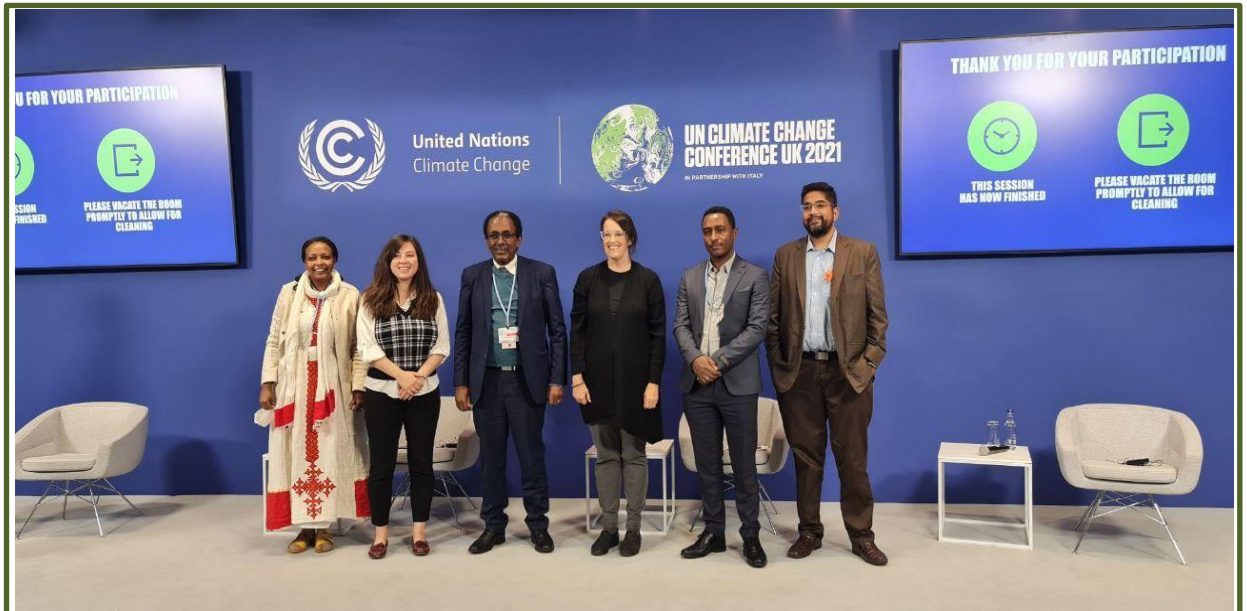


NDC Highlights is a bimonthly newsletter of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, focusing on disseminating information and knowledge on the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC.



Ethiopia's policies are informed by its climate resilient green economy strategy and incentivize green technologies

HE Prof. Fekadu Beyene, Commissioner, EFCCC

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NEWS

"It Is Time to Walk Our Talks" - Ethiopia's bold message to the world at COP26.

On November 10, 2021, Environment ministers from around the world made national statements. In his speech, HE commissioner Fekadu Beyene told the global community to "walk the talk on issues related to climate change". In his statement, he firmly stated that "we have no one to blame; we have no reason for lack of ambition and no justification for lack of action". He indicated that despite data clearly showing that the world has already warmed by 1.1°C, the global community is not on the right pathway to respond to this crisis.

He mentioned that Ethiopia has recently communicated one of the most ambitious NDCs that pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emission by almost 69% from the business-as-usual scenario by 2030. Further, the Ethiopian "Green Legacy Initiative" aims to plant 20 billion seedlings by 2022 and has managed to plant more than 15 billion seedlings in the last three rainy seasons. This clearly indicates the country's commitment and readiness to join hands with the global community to act now.

Cooperation for Net-Zero and Climate Resilience

In a side event at Glasgow entitled "Cooperation for Net-Zero and Climate resilience: Ethiopian and Chinese Perspective", Ethiopia shared the experience of its Productive Safety Net Program which aims to reduce land degradation, adapt to and mitigate climate change and improve food security and land productivity since 2005.

China's energy investment overseas was also discussed with a focus on the recent commitment to support green and low-carbon energy in developing countries by not building new coal-fired power projects. It was presented that Chinese investment so far depended on the demand of host country and Ethiopia was given as a good example of countries that have a menu of renewable energy options thus receiving substantial amount for climate-friendly energy development. It was stated that China is poised to lead a massive scale up of global renewable energy. [Source](#)

COP26 Outcomes: were Ethiopia's Expectations Met?

- ❑ Contribution from EFCCC

Ethiopia's commitment to respond to the climate change agenda started with the adoption of the UNFCCC in 1992 which was ratified by Ethiopia in 1994. Ethiopia's participation in the Conference of the Parties (COP) extends beyond national engagement, playing a leading role in the UNFCCC processes since its inception. To this end, Ethiopia chaired the Least Developed Country (LDC) group from 2016-2018 and continues to support the group by leading several technical and high-level discussions, chaired the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) from 2016-2018 and is currently a member of the CVF troika. Ethiopia also chaired the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) for two terms, beginning with COP15 in Copenhagen. During COP15, the chairperson was among the advocates who helped to secure a pledge of US\$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020.

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, took place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. Ethiopia actively participated in the conference and this article summarizes the major outcomes of the COP in relation to Ethiopia's expectations.

1. Expectations of Ethiopia from COP26

Ethiopia's key expectations from the COP26 were:

- Receive commitments to scale up financial supports and strengthen partnerships.
- Finalize the Paris rulebook.
- Renewed commitments on mobilization and provision of the \$100 billion annually from 2020 to 2024 from developed countries.

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- Submissions of updated/enhanced as well as ambitious NDCs by member countries.
- Allocation of additional resources for adaptation measures and balance between adaptation and mitigation finances.
- Finalization of ongoing discussions on enhanced transparency framework.
- Enhanced commitment for capacity building and technology transfer.

2. Key Outcomes of COP26

The main political outcome of COP26 is the Glasgow Climate Pact, which requests governments to revisit and strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) before the end of 2022 to bring these in line with the Paris Agreement’s temperature goal. To ensure global temperature don’t exceed an increase of 1.5°C, it will be absolutely essential that governments return to the table with significantly enhanced commitments ahead of COP27, which will take place at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022. Another key feature of the Glasgow Climate Pact is the reference to ‘accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phaseout of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.’ The Glasgow summit was also a crucial opportunity for enhancing ambition on climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage, as well as for finalizing the rules governing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

2.1 Mitigation

Common Timeframes for NDCs

Current NDCs fall far short of required mitigation measures to ensure the achievement of the 1.5°C global goal. As per the latest NDC synthesis report by the UNFCCC secretariat, the commitments in countries’ current NDC submissions will result eventually in increased emissions by 16%. Therefore, there is a need to update countries’ NDCs before the global stocktake

with a timeframe up to 2030, in line with the provisions of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

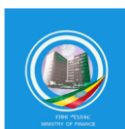
Outcome of COP26: Parties are encouraged to communicate in 2025 a nationally determined contribution with an end date of 2035 and continue to submit a ten-year NDC every five years thereafter.

2.2 Finance

Climate finance is a core priority for developing countries, who often lack the domestic financial resources to reduce emissions and support sustainable development, while sharing a disproportionate share of climate change impacts. **At COP26**, developing countries expressed their disappointment, frustration and anger at the failure of developed countries to realise their financial pledge, and underscored that trust had been severely eroded. They also emphasized the need to increase climate finance significantly beyond the \$100 billion pledge. While some developed countries did come forward with new commitments at COP26, it remains unclear when the goal will be met. The Glasgow Climate Pact notes ‘with deep regret’ that the \$100 billion has not yet been achieved, and urges developed countries to ‘fully deliver’ on the goal urgently by 2025.

COP26 also saw the start of deliberations on a ‘new collective quantified’ climate finance goal for the post-2025 period. It was never the aim to complete the process at the Glasgow summit, where parties agreed to launch a work programme for 2022–24 to continue the negotiations. A decision was also made to extend the ‘long-term finance agenda’ to 2027, which had been a key demand of developing countries, and the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance has been tasked with preparing a report ahead of COP27 on progress towards meeting the \$100 billion pledge.

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2.3 Article 6

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement relates to the development of an international carbon market to help accelerate the energy transition and lead to an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. **At COP26**, progress was made in creating an international carbon trading framework, with the adoption of Article 6.

2.4 Adaptation

Report of the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC) reports annually to the COP through the subsidiary bodies. While the AC has been utilizing different modalities to exercise its function, it was clear that it has not exhausted the tools at its disposal. Further, it was noted that the AC could enhance its effectiveness through establishment of specialized expert groups with more external experts to provide information and to undertake activities in certain specific thematic areas. Parties could also help enhance the effectiveness of the AC by ensuring that they nominate experts to the Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change.

Outcome of COP26: The COP welcomed the work of the Adaptation Committee in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and took note of the Adaptation Committee's 2019, 2020 and 2021 reports, however the review of the AC has been moved to next COP.

Nairobi work programme (NWP) on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

The NWP is a UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience. Parties' needs are addressed under the NWP in collaboration with over 425 partners representing a diversity of knowledge and expertise, coalitions and networks, constituted bodies, Parties and

experts working in different thematic areas, sectors, regions and countries.

Outcome of COP26: The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), a subsidiary body to the Convention, concluded its review of the Nairobi work programme.

Matters Relating to the Least Developed Countries

The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was established in 2001 and is currently mandated to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the preparation and implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the implementation of the LDC work programme. The LEG is also mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat. Furthermore, the LEG is mandated to engage a wide range of organizations in implementing its work programme.

The work of the LEG has been useful in supporting the LDCs in their response to climate change. With the additional reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement, and in the context of requisite enhanced climate action by all Parties, including LDCs, and the increased need to create coherence with SDGs and other related issues, it is the submission of the LDCs that the work of the LEG must continue.

Outcome of COP26: The COP resulted in an extension of the mandate that established the LEG, allowing provision for an additional period of 10 years with a mid-stocktake and allocated additional of 4 members (3 from LDCs and 1 from Annex I). The LEG has also been requested to develop its rules of procedures including rotation for members.

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EVENTS

Globally, in view of the continued spread and severity of the COVID-19 outbreaks, several climate change and environmental sustainability related events, continue to be digital. The following are a list of events that will be conducted online. These events are accessible to a broader audience. For further information on each event please click on the 'source' link.

- TerraFund for AFR100: Financing Innovators That Restore Africa's Landscapes, WRI, January 2022 | [Source](#)
- Foreign Policy Conference - On the Way to Carbon Zero, Heinrich Boell Foundation, January 2022 | [Source](#)
- Fifth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action, UNEP, February 2022 | [Source](#)
- Circular business models enabled by due diligence – testimonies from African textile SMEs UNEP, February 2022 | [Source](#)
- African Women Rights and their Role in Sustainable Development, International Experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange, March 2022 | [Source](#)
- Climate Week 2022: World Conference on Climate Change & Sustainability, Climate Links, August 2022 | [Source](#)

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National adaptation Plans

COP25 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 53 to discuss information from the reports of the AC and the LEG, including identified gaps and needs and the implementation of national adaptation plans, and to take further action as appropriate.

The LDC group identified 3 potential main areas for the discussions on NAPs including (i) support for the formulation of NAPs; (ii) support for the implementation of NAPs; and, (iii) addressing identified needs and gaps in NAPs formulation and implementation.

The group needs to maintain a balance between request for support for NAPs formulation and implementation to avoid signaling the precedence of one over the other, bearing in mind that countries are at various levels.

Outcome of COP26: SBI did not conclude its work on gaps and needs thus having a procedural decision to continue the consideration at the next subsidiary bodies. SBI was able to conclude on the review of national adaptation plans.

Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA)

In order to make a meaningful contribution to the Global Stocktake (GST) in 2023, there is a need to agree on how progress on the GGA will be accessed. But to effectively measure progress, there is also a need to collectively address conceptual, methodological and capacity issues.

This will involve identifying the concepts for a collective vision of the GGA on methodologies to assess adaptation and on the support needed to deliver on the GGA. It has been the LDC Group position that assessing progress on GGA cannot be solely achieved by using metrics alone due to the complexity of adaptation within the specific circumstances of various countries. The group also reflected on the methodological uncertainties as well as challenges related to the lack of information and data and concluded that these challenges should not hinder the progress of the GGA.

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In terms of process, the LDC Group agrees with the proposal from the African group proposing a standing agenda item for parties to launch a work-programme to fully operationalize the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP26. This will help address the broader issues identified.

Outcome of COP26: The group of countries who have signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, referenced as CMA, decided to establish and launch a two-year Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme that kicks off the remaining work on the global goal for adaptation.

The table below presents the status of relevant adaptation-related agenda items which remained a

priority for the LDC Group during COP26.

2.5 Transparency framework

There was a requirement to reach agreement at COP26 on the standardization for reporting on mitigation and finance. By finalizing the Enhanced Transparency Framework, agreement was reached on methodologies to track and communicate progress in tackling climate change as we implement the Paris Agreement. Parties agreed to adopt a package that will implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. This included a series of common reporting tables that will track Parties' emissions, support, and progress towards their nationally determined contributions.

Body	Agenda Item	Status
SBSTA and SBI	Report of the Adaptation Committee for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and Global goal on adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI adopted the conclusion as presented. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2021_L2E.pdf Parties didn't conclude their work and agreed to forward a draft text to the COP and CMA for further consideration. SBSTA Chair will inform the COP presidency.
SBSTA	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBSTA adopted the conclusion as presented. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NWP_conclusions.pdf
SBI	Matters relating to the least developed countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI adopted the conclusions as presented. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2021_L.12E.pdf https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2021_L.12a01E.pdf
SBI	National adaptation plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI adopted the conclusions as presented. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2021_L.11E.pdf https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2021_L.11a01E.pdf

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2.6 Gender and climate change

Gender-sensitivity, acknowledged in Paris Agreement, the preamble, Article 7 and Article 11 of the Agreement, calls on Parties to respect and promote human rights, local communities, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

The Draft Gender Action Plan five priority areas include: Capacity Building, Knowledge Sharing and Communication; Gender Balance, Participation and Women’s Leadership; Coherence; Gender-Responsive Implementation and Means of Implementation; and, Monitoring and Reporting.

Outcome of COP26: Parties adopted the gender action plan and take stock of and map progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the priority areas of the gender action plan.

2.7 Loss and Damage

Along with the challenges of mitigation and adaptation, there is the challenge of dealing with loss and damage arising from the impacts of climate change, which is growing in importance as climate impacts increase. Enhanced action to address loss and damage, including through the creation of a dedicated financing facility, was a key demand of developing countries at COP26. Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) was established at COP19 while Santiago Network for Loss & Damage was established at COP25.

Outcomes of COP26:

- Clear statements that the changing climate has already, and will increasingly, cause loss and damage were made. The need for more money to be provided to tackle loss and damage through existing sources was endorsed.

- The functions and funding arrangements for the Santiago Network, which will arrange and fund technical assistance to Parties to help avert, minimise and address loss and damage, were agreed.
- ‘The Glasgow Dialogue: Parties, civil society and technicians’ was founded.
- Consensus was not reached on a proposal from developing countries to establish a financing facility dedicated to loss and damage.

2.8 Capacity Building

Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB): The meeting focused on the implementation of the PCCB work plan for 2021–2024.

Outcomes of COP26:

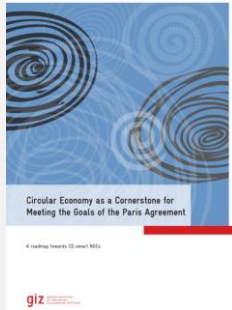
- Parties noted the importance of enhancing international coherence and coordination of capacity-building.
- Parties recognized the need to support developing countries to identify capacity-building gaps and find solutions to resolve these.
- Parties’ strong commitments to take forward action on capacity-building was acknowledged and welcomed.
- In addressing the capacity gaps in developing countries, the UN plans to start a post-graduation to facilitate implementation of the convention and the PA.

Conclusion: most of the expectations of Ethiopia in different thematic areas have advanced well. Though many more discussions and agreements remain to be made, the outcomes of COP26 resulted in encouraging commitments from stakeholders and demonstrated a willingness on the part of many to enact measures for climate action.



PUBLICATIONS

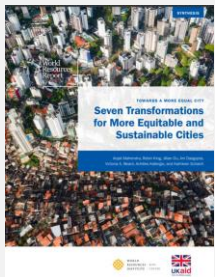
A roadmap for circular economy-smart NDCs



GIZ has released a roadmap for integrating circular economy action into NDCs under the Paris Agreement. It presents a classification of circular economy approaches, policy instruments to support implementation, methodologies for

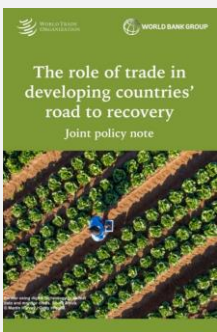
accounting impact, and processes for cross-sectoral and sub-national cooperation for planning circular economy-smart NDCs. [Source](#)

Seven Transformations for More Equitable and Sustainable Cities



This synthesis report from the World Resources Institute presents a roadmap for transformative change in cities based on six years of research from 160 authors and reviewers. [Source](#)

The role of trade in developing countries' road to recovery



A new policy note from the World Bank Group and World Trade Organization (WTO) focuses on the role of international trade and global value chains in poverty reduction, sustainable development and economic recovery from COVID-19. [Source](#)

Ethiopia's engagement at the side events of COP26: Nature and Land Use in the Delivery of the Paris Goals

□ Contribution from EFCCC

Apart from its active participation in the core negotiation thematic areas, Ethiopia has taken part in various side events, bilateral discussions and COP Presidency events that were organized at the sidelines of the COP26. This article presents Ethiopia's participation in one of the COP26 presidency events - Nature and Land Use in the Delivery of the Paris Goals.

The side event, held on November 6, 2021, was organized with the overarching intention to explore how governments, scientists and other actors are working with nature to enhance climate ambition and keep the 1.5 degree goal within reach, while maintaining biodiversity for the millions of people who depend on the land for their livelihood. Ethiopia was amongst the few government representatives invited by the COP26 Presidency to share its positive track record on nature and nature-based solutions. Accordingly, H.E. Prof. Fekadu Beyene, commissioner of EFCCC, shared with the audience the ongoing national endeavors to conserve, protect and restore nature, as part of its national commitment to combat climate change and also deliver the Paris Agreement.

The event included a robust exchange of ideas, tools, ambitions and on the ground initiatives from different countries, indigenous and local community networks, and institutions. Other countries that presented experiences included the Seychelles, Belize, Canada, Bangladesh and Bolivia. In addition, representatives of indigenous networks from Indonesia and Democratic Republic of Congo shared their experiences, challenges and recommendations.

During the event, Professor Fekadu explained how Ethiopia has well recognized the importance of nature in addressing climate change and biodiversity losses as well as developmental challenges. At the policy level, the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, which was launched in 2011, has stated unequivocally that the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands, as well as the conservation of existing forests, are critical to its goal of building a green and climate-resilient economy by 2030.

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Prof. Fekadu further elaborated that the subsequently launched policies and strategies, including the national REDD+ Strategy, the National Forest Sector Development Program, Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, National Adaptation Plan, the National Forest Sector Development Program, as well as the recently launched 10 Years Development Plan and updated NDC, have boldly demonstrated the importance of protecting and restoring nature and managing land sustainably. Moreover, Ethiopia's bold commitment to contributing to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the Bonn Challenge, and the New York Declaration on Forests by restoring 15 million hectares of degraded and deforested land was highlighted.

Ethiopia also shared its practical experiences on this platform. The various interventions that encompass both climate change mitigation and adaptation through large-scale tree planting campaigns, watershed rehabilitation and conservation, area closure, and biological soil conservation methods, which enhance the natural regeneration of indigenous vegetation, and expansion of tree farms as cash crops around farms and homesteads were presented. Moreover, the successful story of the Green Legacy Initiative, which was launched in 2019 as part of the country's national commitment to restore degraded land and preserve its biodiversity, with the ambition of planting 20 billion tree seedlings by 2022, was shared to the global audience.

In his concluding remarks, Prof Fekadu has reiterated Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to protecting and restoring nature as well as conserving biodiversity. He also called upon all stakeholders to share his unwavering commitment to living in harmony with nature.

The event showcased the importance of nature-based solutions and the need to closely work with local communities for climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, one of the key challenges is the fact that nature-based solutions receive only about 3%

of total global finance.

On the other hand, some promising trends were also raised, including the fact that a recent World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) report indicated that 92% of NDCs submitted by October 2021 included nature-based solutions, which is a 10% increase from previous submissions. The same report showed that 88% of submitted NDCs explicitly refer to indigenous and local communities.

With around 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions associated with land use, it is estimated that climate measures focused on nature and land have a potential to contribute 10 giga tones carbon emissions savings each year. This clearly shows that land use plays a significant role in addressing global climate change.

Furthermore, land and oceans support the livelihoods of millions of people and are essential to the challenge of climate change adaptation. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has shown that climate change and biodiversity loss must both be addressed concurrently. It was emphasized that nature-based solutions can only be done effectively if they are done in collaboration with local communities, who are already doing tremendous work in nature conservation.

The COP presidency representative shared the impressive commitments that were received from around the world, including the private sector, to contribute to nature-based solutions. This significant package that was secured during COP26 is expected to narrow the financial gap.

These commitments, if realized, are indeed great news for those countries whose NDC implementation greatly depend on financial support. Ethiopia's ambitious NDCs will be among those that will greatly benefit if financial commitments are kept, as 80% of the finance required to implement its strategies are expected to come from donors.





NDC Highlights

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