



Deep Decarbonization Pathways

# NDC INSIGHTS

n°1

## Beyond pledges: are NDCs addressing the transformations we need?

### Why launch this newsletter now?

2025 is a critical milestone for the Paris Agreement: countries must submit their revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the global climate community will take stock of progress on that basis. In this context, the DDP analysis can serve as a benchmark to assess whether country strategies and policy processes are truly aligned with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

Drawing from our extensive work across the Global South and G20 nations, this newsletter will bring you insights from the DDP's research and discussions with leading experts to analyse NDCs and prepare effective action.

In this first edition of NDC Insights, we spotlight the latest IDDRI policy brief, "[Ambition for action: a framework for assessing NDCs](#)" and the first key transformation necessary for effective NDCs: Phasing out fossil fuels in a structured manner.

### Are NDCs addressing the transformations we need?

The latest IDDRI brief "[Ambition for action: a framework for assessing NDCs](#)," based on our work, offers a framework to guide the design of NDCs that drive action at national and international levels while also providing a tool to assess and improve existing commitments. As countries prepare their next NDCs, this brief provides critical insights to shape strategies that are both ambitious and grounded in local realities, contributing to global climate goals.

At the heart of this discussion is a critical shift in perspective:

- NDCs should not merely be emissions accounting exercises—they must guide national economies toward sustainable development pathways.
- A long-term vision is essential—incremental progress is not enough; transformation is required to align national policies with the Paris Agreement's goals.
- Differentiated yet ambitious commitments matter—G20 nations must lead by example, while support mechanisms must enable action in developing countries.

### Phasing out fossil fuels: Why structured strategies matter

While many countries have pledged to reduce emissions, few have outlined clear, sector-specific strategies for phasing out fossil fuels. Simply setting phase-out dates without concrete action plans will not be enough to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

The DDP scenarios are not forecasts, nor are they evaluations of current policies. Instead, they represent country-driven visions of how national development objectives can be achieved while aligning with the global goal of carbon neutrality. They aim to inform policy debates by illustrating what is technically and economically feasible under different national contexts.

These scenarios emphasize that each country's pathway will differ, but the direction of travel is shared: reducing fossil fuel dependency in a way that supports national development priorities and leads toward a carbon-neutral future.

#### Diverse pathways, a shared direction:

- The analysis of carbon neutrality scenarios in **Brazil** and **Argentina** highlights a steady decline in fossil fuel use, enabled by increasing electrification and renewable energy integration.
- In **India** and **Indonesia**, the scenarios illustrate a slower decline due to strong projected growth in energy demand, but a clear long-term shift remains central to meeting future targets.
- **Nigeria's** pathway reflects the need to first expand access to modern energy, with fossil fuel use rising in the short term and falling later in a second phase of development toward its 2060 neutrality goal.

#### Electrification as a central strategy:

- Scenarios for **South Africa** and the **United States** point to electrification of end-uses—such as heating, mobility, and industrial processes—as a key lever for transition, though implementation challenges remain.
- The scenario analysis in **Argentina** shows that the electrification of household energy use depends on addressing financial and policy barriers.
- **South Africa's** scenario also shows the potential for green hydrogen and electricity to support decarbonization in heavy industry, though deployment would need to be scaled significantly.

#### Case Study: urban shifts in Mexico


The scenario for **Mexico** highlights how changes in urban form and transport systems—such as more integrated planning, public transit investment, and support for non-motorized mobility—could reduce reliance on cars and fossil fuels while improving access and quality of life.



### Expert insights from Brazil: Prof. Emilio Lebre La Rovere

In this edition, we're featuring Prof. Emilio Lèbre La Rovere, Professor of Energy and Environmental Planning at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Director of the CentroClima.

As Brazil prepares to host COP30, in this exclusive video, Prof. La Rovere reflects on:

- 1 **How the climate conversation in Brazil has evolved** over the past 10 years since the Paris Agreement.
  - 2 **Brazil's priorities** for its next NDC, including insights on how the country is preparing for its leadership role at COP30.
-  [\[Watch the video here\]](#) where Prof. La Rovere highlights the urgent need to curb deforestation and address emissions from cattle farming—both technically and economically difficult sectors to transform. Prof. La Rovere also emphasizes that the energy transition is underway, with gas and coal playing only a backup role in an increasingly renewable system.

### What's next in NDC Insights?

Stay tuned for our next newsletter, we'll explore the role and limits of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) as part of fossil fuel phase-out. While CCS is often cited as a solution for reducing emissions, its real-world feasibility varies greatly by sector and country.

What role should CCS play in national strategies? Where does it add value, and where could it distract from more effective solutions? We'll dive into country-specific case studies and hear from experts who are grappling with these questions on the ground.

Stay tuned as we continue to unpack the complex pathways to net zero and share insights that drive real, transformative action.

### About the DDP and why this newsletter matters

The [Deep Decarbonization Pathways \(DDP\)](#) is an international initiative that has been shaping climate policy for over a decade. At its core, the DDP believes that **country-driven, bottom-up approaches** are essential to crafting climate strategies that are both **ambitious and realistic**.

Launched in 2013, the DDP empowers in-country experts to support the design by countries of strategies for reducing emissions and aligning with each country's development priorities.

By focusing on national realities while considering global objectives, the DDP helps ensure that climate strategies are not only ambitious on paper but also actionable on the ground.



### Stay updated with the country news, publications and events!

Argentina

Brazil

China

India

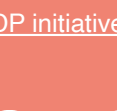
Indonesia

Mexico

Senegal

Nigeria

South Africa



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