

Jamaica

Nationally Determined Contributions

Executive Summary

Jamaica's most recent 2020 NDC is considered ambitious due to the increase in an unconditional commitment to emissions reduction with the target of achieving **60% by 2030** using the BAU model in line with IPCC-2006 Guidelines across **two main sectors**- Energy, Land Use Change and Forestry. This is considered a significant improvement compared to the first submission as the government has outlined its implementation plan which goes beyond the two sectors identified and has **included the Agriculture and Water Sectors** in its mitigation strategy.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Jamaica are advocates for climate action due to the socioeconomic impact climate change has on the country's infrastructure and its communities. This **requires strong action which is evident in the updated NDCs**. However, the updated NDCs **lack a critical component which is the full integration of different civil society groups namely women, girls and youth in the policy and implementation plans**. These groups should be considered a priority as research indicates that they are more vulnerable to climate change, especially women.

It was identified that there are several existing institutional arrangements and frameworks in Jamaica that support the inclusion of women and youth in national development policy formulation. However, the NDCs failed to effectively include the intersectionality of women and youth. Additionally, the **NDCs lack substantial references to youth and future generations and intergenerational justice and equity**. The exclusion of these groups highlights the government's inability to recognize that these groups can lead climate change action in Jamaica.

Introduction

Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) review was conducted through the lens of a **young Jamaican climate advocate** whose vision is to ensure that Jamaica **fulfils its mandate as a party under the Paris Agreement**. The analysis aims to review the inclusion of youth and gender in the NDCs while assessing the country's commitment to reducing its emissions. Given the nature of this NDCs updated submission, the National Adaptation Plans will also be assessed.

Jamaica and other Small Island Developing States (SIDs) are vocal about climate change due to the impacts on local livelihoods. Despite a lack of resources, the country is not excused from fulfilling its commitments under the Paris Agreement. Jamaica submitted its **first NDCs which were criticised as 'weak'** and the government saw the need to improve such assessment through its 2020 Submission.

The submission is considered ambitious due to the improvement made in several areas such as emissions reduction, sectoral coverage and adaptation. However, given the context of the review, it **failed to sufficiently capture and incorporate intersectional environmental justice and equity needs as it relates to gender and youth**.

The **Planning Institute of Jamaica** continues to report on improvements in the Jamaican economy post-COVID-19, due to the development in the manufacturing and construction sectors which have impacted the energy sector captured in the NDCs. The country has sought to assure the public due to the outcry of civil society groups over the past few years that it will prioritise the environment over the interest of investors who continue to show interest in protected areas.

Jamaica in its NDCs 2020 submission noted that it will reduce emissions by 24.4% (Unconventional) and 28.5% (Convention) by 2030 relative to the Business As Usual (BAU) policies. The submission indicates that this will be achieved through the two main sectors; **Forestry** and **Energy** covered in the NDCs.

SECTION A

Ambition

Emissions

Scope and Target

Jamaica's initial Nationally Determined Contributions identified the energy sector as the main sector to assist with the reduction of emissions. However, the updated NDCs included both the land use change and forestry sector with the energy sector to help with widening the scope. Particularly looking deeper into decarbonizing the energy sector as it covers electricity generation. Following the IPCC guidelines, the greenhouse gases identified in the energy sector include; Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Similarly, with the land-use change and forestry sectors; CO₂ is also identified in the report. The NDC did not quantifiably cover any other sector in its scope. To meet its target the government has indicated that steps will be taken to implement projects and activities in the Agriculture and Water Sectors.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Target

The NDCs did not express any base year relative to their target. However, the reference year for the target in the NDCs is 2030 using the relative to business as usual (BAU) model. The NDC had a BAU in the energy sector in 2030 at 8.2 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide (8.2MtCO₂e) which has comprehensively increased compared to the first submission. Additionally, using the BAU model, the land-use and forestry sector is set to the target of -1.0 Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide in the single year target of 2030. The targets are considered ambitious as the NDCs foresee emission reductions in both the forestry and energy sectors between 25.4% (unconditional) and 28.5% (with international support). Jamaica has improved on its efforts to meet these targets with the work that needs to be done on commitments this is through local actions supported by policy frameworks such as the Emissions Policy Framework for Jamaica and the Updated Climate Change Policy.

Level of Ambition

The updated NDC recognizes that the plan is ambitious and will require extensive climate financing to support the efforts of a SIDS country like Jamaica which will also be **dependent on capacity building and technological transfer** (Jamaica Information Service, 2021). After several reviews, it can be concluded that the target set by Jamaica has increased to over 60% in the country's commitment to reduce GHG emissions. This is considered bold and ambitious. While the plan is ambitious and may contribute to the 1.5-degree limit. Additionally, the data indicates that the country's emissions per capita will be lower than the global average. The NDC failed to completely state or indicate any intention on how civil society or youth would play a role in its NDCs Target. Though the NDCs were required to address the gender responsiveness of their planning processes, there was only a general review of the inclusiveness of civil society. The government should have taken a more inclusive approach in the designing of the NDCs in support of the intersectionality of gender and women given the role that both groups can play in achieving the goals in its implementation plan.

Fairness and Ambition

The Government of Jamaica understands its NDCs are ambitious given the fact that the country is covered mainly by forestry which they have since included in the sectors covered in the NDCs. The submission noted that compared to its first NDCs, the **updated submission is more ambitious despite Jamaica being a developing country and SIDS**. As stated, the country's emissions per capita will be lower than the global average stated in the NDCs. The country aims to ensure in its plans going forward, all its laws, guidelines, policies and programmes are designed to be more inclusive and fair.

Gender

Governments are required to address issues such as how they went on with their planning processes in Section 4 (A) which lead to the submission of the NDCs. As stated, it took several months to complete the process which had several consultations. In this section, the government through its NDCs submission was to report on gender responsiveness. It failed to address the issue of gender responsiveness in the planning process. However, under national circumstances, the NDCs made mention of the sustainable progress that the government has made **particularly in SDG 3- health and Well-Being, SDG 4-Quality Education, and SDG 5- Gender Equality**. As it coincides with the section on fairness and ambition of the updated NDCs, the Government of Jamaica noted that all its efforts in emission reductions channelled through laws,

policies, etc will also take into account the Code of Consultations and the National Policy on Gender Equity. The **Gender Equity policy requires** the Government to “Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels and integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development to minimise the differential effects of climate change and natural disasters (National Policy on Gender Equity, 2011). More needs to be done especially with enforcement as the updated NDC needs to include more implementation plans, especially for women and youth.

The NDC recognised that the policies do exist to support the inclusion of women in environmental policy discussions including the drafting of NDCs or co-designing NDCs. However, while it mentioned the National Policy on ‘gender equity, it did not state clearly whether women and girls were included in the process. Additionally, Jamaica’s Code of Consultations for the Public Sector once enforced should provide equal access to stakeholders including women, youth, locals, and indigenous be given the opportunity to be represented in these policy development processes.

Youth

Considering that youths are the current and future generations. The current NDC commitments are ambitious and it does date youth and future generations into consideration even under the current circumstances that the country faces. However, there was no mention of youth in the NDCs submission.

Technology

The Government’s ambition at its **60% GHG emissions target by 2030** requires bold actions, especially in the energy sector. The Government of Jamaica upon joining the Paris Agreement **noted the need for greater cooperation in the development of innovations to support emissions reduction efforts** especially as it relates to the production of more efficient and cleaner technologies. Additionally, emphasis is being placed on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Adding that these technologies must support low-carbon and climate-resilient development. It is no secret that countries of the global south are at a crossroads as it relates to advanced technologies. The NDCs **encouraged further cooperation between the global north and global south countries as the record and information available to governments** show that global north countries have more advanced technology that can be used to support development, especially for SIDS. The technologies would also assist with capacity building and data collection to support Jamaica’s calculation in some other sectors.

SECTION B- Analysis

Emissions

The emissions target of Jamaica is ambitious. The target which was presented in the NDCs is calculated in a single year which is 2030. To achieve its main targets the plans that the government of Jamaica has outlined cover sectors beyond **Land Use and Forestry as well as Energy**, because these sectors such as **Water and Agriculture** play a crucial role in meeting the 1.5-degree target. The NDCs state that Jamaica's 2015 Climate Change Policy Framework recognizes the Agriculture Sector as a crucial sector in both mitigation and adaptation. It further listed ways in which projects under these sectors such as the Yallahs Hope Project that will improve the conservation and management of biodiversity will add value to the protection of the 7% of island farmland. This is because there is an emphasis on the usage of renewable power, proper land management and other sustainable practices which the NDC stated will account for emissions reduction of more than **550,000 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) over four 4 years taking into account the single year of 2030.**

Additionally, the project is said to **significantly contribute to the forestry sector** since it will **avoid deforestation**. The project does have benefits at different levels both environmental and economic. This project will be supported by the government's push for a shift to cleaner energy. The government must state clearly its plans for a shift to cleaner energy. There must be a place of action in terms of if it will champion energy transition through the state-supported energy company the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) whose main income is gained through energy generation. "JPS produces electricity using steam (oil-fired), combustion gas turbines, combined cycle, diesel, hydroelectric, and wind which allow for a generation capacity in excess of 629 Megawatts" (Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology, 2019). The company has been investing over the years in renewable energy. However, it needs to move forward with the total phasing out of fossil fuels to ensure that Jamaica can better position itself to contribute to emissions reduction. USAID (2022) noted that Jamaica's energy sector is largely dependent on fossil fuels which results in high-cost electricity rates, negatively affecting the vulnerable population, particularly **under-resourced** Jamaicans.

Gender

There is no limit to the number of pages a country can submit for its NDCs. It should have been considered a priority of the government to ensure that emphasis is placed on

women and girls in the NDCs especially as there are many other processes at the national level that women and girls are required to be fully included and integrated into. The government should have clearly stated the diverse group of people that were involved in the co-designing of the NDCs which should reflect the national gender policies that are currently in place. There was no definitive plan on how women and girls would be included in crafting the actions to achieve the targets set for 2030. There are several gender focal points across ministries and the **Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport** should have also played a role in ensuring that the plan of action and NDCs were more inclusive.

Youth

The government drafted a plan in support of the 1.5-degree target. However, the **children and youth were not definitively** included in the policy. There was no reference to youth and future generations which is a cause for concern. The NDCs lack intergenerational equity as it seeks to focus on one aspect of the crisis which is mitigation. However, it should have included future generations. This review cannot state whether youth groups were included because in section (4) every stakeholder was placed under the civil society banner except the private sector, international development partners and government.

Climate Justice/Civil Society Inclusion

Jamaica's NDC did not make reference to the inclusion of marginalised voices or activists. It made no reference to climate justice and equity. However, it made reference to the 'code of consultations' that governs the inclusion of stakeholder groups including civil society in developing the NDCs.

SECTION C

Recommendations

The Updating Climate Policy Framework of Jamaica must be used to guide its implementation of the plans to support its emissions reduction target. The legislative framework will allow civil society to hold the government to account especially as it relates to implementation, enforcement and monitoring to assist with compliance across sectors. **The Government of Jamaica must utilise its membership in the UNFCCC to develop the capacity of civil servants that would allow them to be able to move forward with the calculation of emissions reductions in other sectors such as Agriculture and Water.** These two sectors are included in the implementation plan of the NDCs reduction strategy however, they are not included in the sectors covered by the NDCs in terms of quantifiable emissions reduction using the BAU model by 2030. The government of Jamaica must **develop a more robust and comprehensive plan on how they intend to fund initiatives identified in its NDCs aimed at reducing emissions by 2030.**

Additionally, the government should be **more transparent in reporting on the different types of civil society groups and stakeholders that participated in the co-designing** of the NDCs in line with Jamaica's Consultation Code of Practice for the Public Sector. The **Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport** must ensure that it is monitoring the implementation of gender-focused policies across Ministries, departments and agencies to ensure that issues related to the intersectional of women and girls are included in national development. The **Bureau of Gender affairs must play a more crucial role in Gender and Climate issues which was not evident in the co-designing of the NDCs.**

Conclusion

Jamaica is **far advanced with the inclusion of women and girls affairs in national development** issues which is evident through established institutional mechanisms. However, the **updated NDCs report suggested that women**, though they might have been included in the drafting of the NDCs captured under the general “Civil Society” , have been insufficiently included in the codesign of national plans aimed at reducing the impacts of climate change.

The government of Jamaica had to submit updated NDCs due to the weaknesses identified in the first submission aimed at producing emissions and mitigating climate change. The updated NDCs **lacked a gender-responsive approach** in the co-design. This indicates that Jamaica should advance its gender-responsive approach whether it's in tackling the climate crisis whether through the evaluation processes or the implementation plan of the NDCs.

Youth and future generations are crucial to addressing the climate crisis. However, the government needs to advance intergenerational equity in policies to address climate change which was missing in the NDCs.

The government of Jamaica has improved on its NDCs which now capture two main sectors for emission reduction that is the **Energy Sector and Land Use Change and Forestry Sector**. The inclusion of the forestry sector allowed the government to not over-report or rely on the emission reduction target set solely on the energy sector. Jamaica's ambition has increased by over 60% in unconditional commitment to reduce emissions by 2030 using the BAU scenario through both the Land Use Change and Forestry Sector and the Energy sector.

Sources

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