

WEBINAR – Advancing the Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

9-10 December 2020, 10am UTC-5

Background

In 2015, during COP 21 in Paris, the different Parties agreed to pursue their best efforts to maintain the global temperature increase well below two degrees Celsius, or even further at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Parties committed themselves to achieve these long-term climate goals through nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and to revise these commitments every five years. Likewise, these successive NDCs are meant to represent a progression beyond each Party existing NDC, and reflect its highest possible ambition, according to the different national circumstances. In 2020, countries are expected to reassess their national commitments for the first time and are invited to communicate new or updated NDCs.

Emissions from the energy sector account for around two-thirds of the global greenhouse gas emissions. However, IRENA estimates that by 2050 the accelerated deployment of renewables and the implementation of energy efficiency strategies can potentially achieve 90% of the required emissions reductions. Thus, summing up efforts to decarbonise the global energy systems is vital to meet the climate mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has a great variety of renewable energy resources but in many cases still largely untapped. The region, with emissions representing less than 10% of the global total, is highly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. In addition to this, the current COVID19 pandemic has caused great social and economic disruption in LAC. The economic recovery that follows nonetheless provides a key opportunity to build back a more sustainable and climate-resilient economy and society. Therefore, aligning each government COVID response and recovery plans with the Paris Agreement objectives and NDCs can help accelerate this sustainable energy transition.

In that same line, as the incoming COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to increasing momentum on climate ambition as an essential component to a successful economic recovery, and to collaborating with LAC countries to increase ambition in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

IRENA in conjunction with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UK COP26 are hosting the webinar “[Advancing the Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean through Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#)” as a forum for regional discussion on raising the ambition of the national climate pledges in the lead up to COP26, through enhanced NDCs, and exploring in particular the key role this plays in LAC countries’ energy transitions and economic recoveries from COVID19.

Objective

This virtual event will be divided in two sessions, aiming to explore different areas of the NDCs review process, that countries are currently undertaken. The first part of the webinar will explore key drivers

behind the NDC enhancement measures undertaken by countries across the region and provide a better understanding of the process followed in elaborating their NDCs, including challenges and opportunities, towards the submission in 2020.

The second session of the meeting will delve into potential instruments of support for countries towards the NDC implementation once the national commitments are revised and submitted. Stakeholders will also engage in discussions about the deployment of end-user sector solutions, such as e-mobility and cooling.

The whole virtual event will serve as a platform for exchanging experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in the region as well as understand the role of NDCs in the post-COVID 19 recovery plans.

Audience

The event will gather participants from government institutions, development partners, media and non-governmental organizations. Zoom, a cloud-based video conferencing service will be used for this webinar with option of translation from Spanish to English

Programme

9 December 2020, 10am (UTC-5)		
Session 1		
10:00-10:30	Welcome Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Francesco La Camera, Director General, IRENA - James Grabert, Director, Mitigation Division, UNFCCC - H.E. Fiona Clouder, UK COP26 Ambassador for Latin America & Caribbean
10:30-10:45	<i>NDCs Enhancement in LAC</i>	Presentation: Binu Parthan, Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA
10:45-11:45	<i>Opportunities and challenges for the enhancement of NDC's in Latin America and the Caribbean.</i>	<p>Panel Discussion: <u>Moderator:</u> H.E. Fiona Clouder, UK COP26 Ambassador for Latin America & Caribbean</p> <p><u>Potential Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Omar Alcock, Senior Technical Officer (Mitigation) Climate Change Division Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica - Cassie Flynn, Strategic Advisor on Climate Change & Head of the Climate Promise, UNDP - Juan Pedro Searle, Chief of Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Energy, Chile - Pablo Vieira, Global Director, Regional Specialist Latin America and the Caribbean, NDC Partnership
11.45-12.00	<i>Closing Remarks - H.E. Fiona Clouder, UK COP26 Ambassador for Latin America & Caribbean</i>	

10 December 2020, 10am (UTC-5)		
Session 2		
10:00-10:10	Welcome Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA - Vintura Silva, UNFCCC/RCC St. George's Regional Lead
10:10-10:30	<i>NDCs Implementation</i>	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Daniel Galvan Perez, UNFCCC/RCC Panamá Vintura Silva, UNFCCC/RCC St. George's Regional Lead</p>
10:30-11:10	<p><i>Best practices and experiences on developing long-term energy scenarios and its link with the NDC development</i></p> <p><i>Challenges on the deployment of end-use sector solutions towards decarbonisation</i></p>	<p>Panel Discussion 1:</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Hugh Sealy, Lecturer, Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, The University of the West Indies</p> <p><u>Potential Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asami Miketa, Senior Programme Officer, Power Sector Investment Planning, IRENA - Diann Black-Layne, Director of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Health, Wellness & The Environment, Antigua and Barbuda - Beatriz Olivet, Environmental Advisor, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining, Uruguay - Devon Gardner, Programme Manager, Energy, CARICOM
11:10-11:50	<i>Engaging private sector in the financing of NDC's implementation post COVID-19 recovery</i>	<p>Panel Discussion 2:</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Maria Tapia, Climate Change Specialist, IDB</p> <p><u>Potential Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neha Mukhi, Senior Specialist – Energy and Climate Change, World Bank - Federico Fishe, Regional Coordinator Caribbean and Central, PFAN - Neranda Maurice-George, Division of Country Programming, GCF - Ahmed Badr, Acting Director, Project Facilitation & Support, IRENA
11:50-12:00	<i>Webinar Closing Remarks- José Torón, Regional Programme Officer – Latin America & the Caribbean, IRENA</i>	