

**Submission by the Republic of Mali on Behalf of the African Group of Negotiators**  
**on**  
**Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21**

**Introduction**

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN or African Group) welcomes the opportunity to provide further views on issues relating to further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21 on: (a) features of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as specified in paragraph 26; (b) information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 28; and (c) accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 31.

The African Group further welcomes the progress made by Parties in Bonn during the May 2017 sessions on further guidance of the NDCs under the Paris Agreement. The Group also acknowledges the Co-facilitators support for capturing the discussions and preparing the informal note to move this agenda item forward.

In responding to the call for submissions, the African Group would like to submit its views, also considering the issues and the elements raised in the informal note by the co-facilitators and noting that the previous submission is still relevant to this call:

**General Reflections**

- The Africa Group of Negotiators understands the scope of NDCs in terms of the Paris Agreement's Article 3, as encompassing mitigation, adaptation and means of support. Issues addressed in this submission, including references to features and information, cover only the mitigation component of NDCs.
- While NDCs reflect Parties' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, they should contain sufficient information to support aggregation for the global stocktake and for the tracking of progress.
- All countries' successive NDCs must represent their highest possible ambition, and progress beyond their current targets.
- Information provided by Parties should provide clarity, transparency and understanding (CTU) of NDCs, and enable the aggregation of NDCs. This will also enable an understanding of the effect of NDCs in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Guidance on NDCs features, information and accounting and the transparency framework needs to address linkages between accounting for mitigation efforts, and use of market-based mechanisms, to ensure the avoidance of double counting, and to support a credible global stocktake process.

- Guidance should apply to NDCs applicable to time periods beyond 2030; however, Parties should be strongly encouraged to apply any agreed guidance to their NDCs applicable to 2030 or before, and consider resubmitting their NDCs to this end.

**a. Features of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as specified in Paragraph 26:**

In this context *“Features”* are distinctive characteristics/attributes of the mitigation components of NDCs communicated by Parties in fulfilling their obligation under the Paris Agreement. “Features of NDCs were agreed in Paris, with the exception of common timeframes, which Parties shall consider at the first meeting of the CMA. Our view is that in order to fulfill obligations under Article 4.8, Parties should provide information on the following features. The nature of the information provided will be elaborated in the section on *“information”* below. Some of the features include:

- Demonstrating differentiation, progression and ambition;
- The mitigation component of NDCs should have a quantitative target for developed countries while developing countries should be working towards quantifying the targets depending on financial and technical support received.

Specific features in Article 4:

- 4.1 – long-term goals (peaking – slower for developing countries, and “a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks” by the second half of this century). “On the basis of equity”
- Each NDC should be a progression on the last NDC
- Parties’ NDCs should reflect the “highest possible ambition” in the light of national circumstances and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)
- In addition, the Africa Group takes note of Article 4.10 on common time-frames for NDCs, and of the discussions to be held under the SBI in November. Our view is that NDCs should be communicated every five years. Their period of applicability (implementation period) should be five years, and they should be communicated more than five years in advance of the beginning of their period of applicability. This is also in response to the call for submissions on timeframes under SBI.

**b. Information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 28:**

These are the minimum sets of information that should be submitted by Parties when they communicate their NDCs, in order to provide clarity, transparency and understanding of the NDCs.

- Flexibility shall be provided to developing countries based on their type of NDCs.

- Provide support to developing countries to improve their information reported to facilitate CTU over time;
- Parties may provide quantified information on the NDC and information on methodologies and assumptions that underpin the NDC, including any reference points, baselines, base year etc. and, as applicable, coverage (sectors and gases etc.).
- Information on support required by developing countries and support provided by developed countries.
- Information on how the NDC contributes to 4.1
- Information on how the NDC comprises an equitable contribution to the global goal (4.1)
- Information on how the NDC is a progression on a Party's previous NDC (4.3)
- Information on how the NDC "reflects its highest possible ambition" (4.3)
- Information on how response measures have been taken into consideration (4.15)
- Information on how the Party plans to account for its NDC

**c. Accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as specified in paragraph 31:**

In the view of the AGN, *Accounting for NDCs* means the processes for measuring progress towards, and achievement of, a Party's mitigation contribution. *Accounting methodologies* mean the specific technical approaches, parameters, formulae used to calculate a) GHG emissions, removals and reductions and / or b) non-GHG indicators.

- Accounting methodologies should be based on a common set of inventory guidelines (IPCC guidelines) and metrics;
- The scope of accounting and how guidance applies to different NDCs;
- Article 4.13 and 4.14 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 31 and 32 of decision 1/CP.21 define the basic guidance for accounting, including promoting environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency and ensuring the avoidance of double counting.
- The accounting framework should be developed taking into account the diversity of NDCs e.g. include what is applicable or relevant to each type of NDC, national circumstances and development priorities and objectives of Parties' different obligations and flexibility of Parties as in the Paris Agreement;
- Such guidance should be flexible and promote progression and ambition.