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A photograph of a field of yellow wildflowers in the foreground, with several wind turbines silhouetted against a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange near the horizon.

# DESIGNING AND COMMUNICATING INDCS

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ELIZA NORTHROP, WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

1. Designing and preparing INDCs – UNDP/WRI guidance
2. Designing mitigation commitments
3. Communicating an INDC transparently
4. Describing the fairness and ambition of an INDC



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# DESIGNING AND PREPARING INDCS

*WRI and UNDP*

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# IDENTIFY YOUR OBJECTIVES

- Getting on track toward the 2°C goal
- Demonstration of a political commitment
- Realization of non-climate benefits associated with climate action
- Strengthening institutional and technical capacity
- Policy integration
- Informing key stakeholders
- Communicating resource needs

# DEVELOP A NATIONAL PROCESS

- National leadership
- Clearly defined roles, responsibility and timeline
- Coordination
- Stakeholder engagement
- Capacity building



# IDENTIFY RELEVANT DATA AND ANALYSIS

- Start with the data you have: the data and analysis needed may already be available
- Collecting significant amounts of new data or conducting new analysis may not be necessary
- If there are data gaps, use whatever information does exist, and use proxy data to fill data gaps where necessary



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# DESIGNING MITIGATION CONTRIBUTIONS

*Part II: Technical Guidance*

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# CHOOSE ACTIONS AND/OR OUTCOMES

**OUTCOME:** An intent to achieve a specific result (for example, reduce GHG emissions to a specific level)

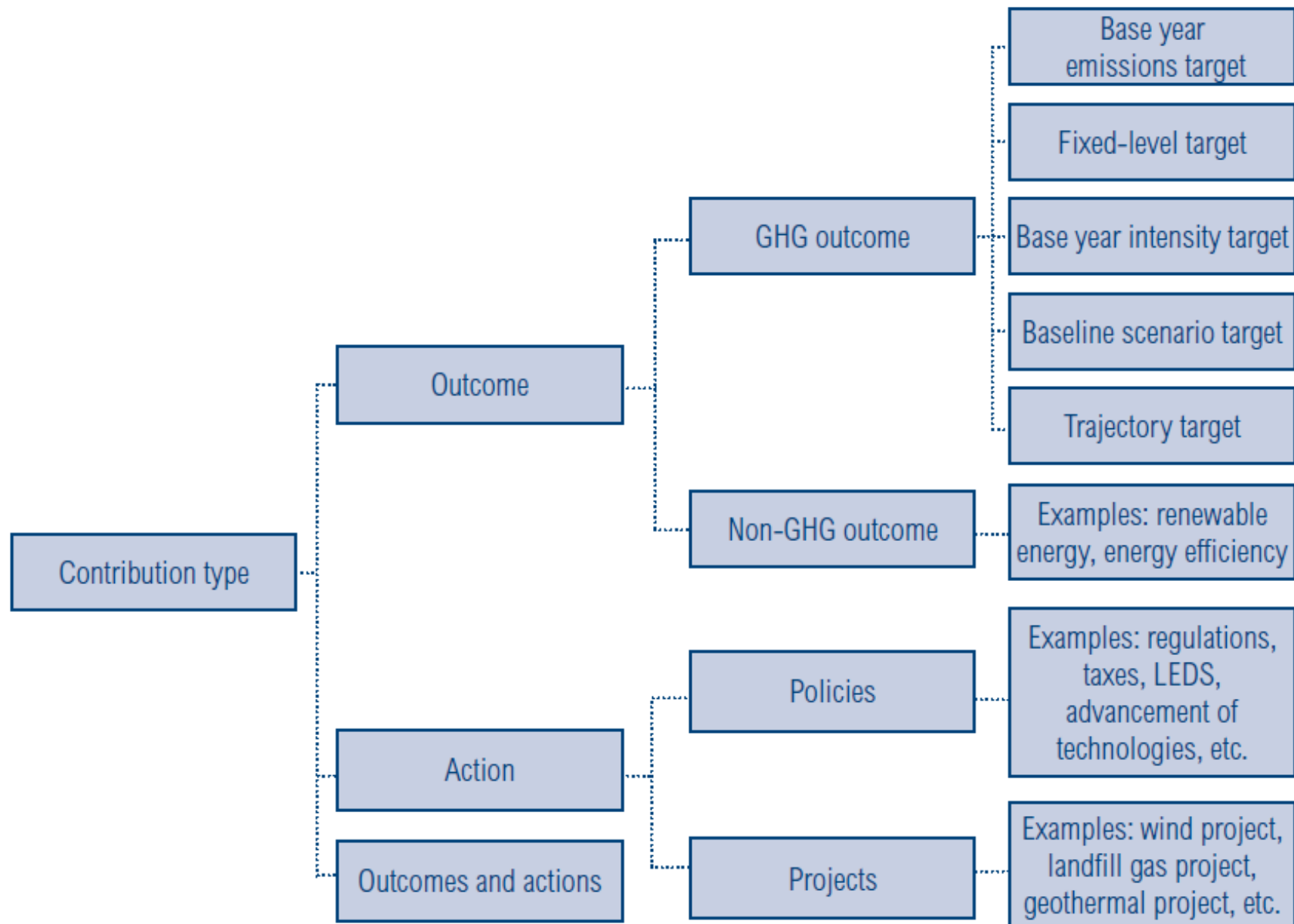
- GHG outcomes
- Non-GHG outcomes

**ACTION:** An intent to implement specific means of achieving GHG reductions, such as policies or mitigation actions

**BOTH:** A combination of action(s) and outcome(s)



# CHOICES FOR MITIGATION CONTRIBUTIONS



# ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES: NON-GHG OUTCOMES

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Provides flexibility</u> in how to achieve the outcome (as opposed to actions)</li><li>• <u>Relatively simple to track progress</u> by tracking key performance indicators (e.g., energy efficiency of sectors, renewable energy generation)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Poses challenges to aggregate</u> GHG reductions across Parties' contributions, since not stated in terms of GHG emissions reductions</li><li>• <u>Can restrict flexibility to a certain sector</u> (such as energy efficiency or renewable energy generation) (as opposed to GHG outcomes)</li><li>• <u>May offer less certainty that the contribution will be achieved</u> because underlying policies/actions may not be identified/communicated</li></ul>

# ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES: GHG OUTCOMES

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Offers the most flexibility</u> on how to achieve GHG reductions, through any policies/actions in any sectors, to be decided based on domestic circumstances, which may change over time, rather than committing to specific policies or actions internationally</li><li>• Depending on target type, <u>easier to track progress</u> toward than actions, since may only require national GHG inventory as the basis, rather than more detailed sector-level data</li><li>• <u>Enables aggregation</u> of GHG reductions across Parties' contributions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>May not offer clarify on specific means</u> of achieving GHG reductions, if underlying actions are not also communicated and as a result may offer less certainty of implementation</li></ul>

# ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES: ACTIONS

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Provides clarity on specific means</u> of achieving GHG reductions</li><li>• <u>Can offer implementing Parties more certainty that the contribution will be achieved</u>, since it is a commitment to implement an action rather than obtain a certain outcome</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Poses challenges to aggregate GHG reductions</u> across Parties' contributions since the contribution is not stated in terms of GHG emissions</li><li>• Where possible Parties should communicate an estimate of the GHG and/or non-GHG outcomes associated with the actions (which is <u>more resource-intensive</u> than tracking progress toward outcomes)</li></ul>



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# COMMUNICATING AN INDC TRANSPARENTLY

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# WHY DOES TRANSPARENCY MATTER?

- Main purpose:
  - Facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions
  - Enable assessment of whether all INDCs are collectively sufficient to meet the global 2°C goal – if not, by how much
- Can also be useful to:
  - Enable comparison across diverse INDCs (type, scope, fairness, ambition, etc.)
  - Enhance domestic implementation

# CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION FROM PARA 14

- The reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year)
- Time frames and/or periods for implementation
- Scope and coverage
- Planning processes
- Assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals
- How the Party considers that its intended nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2



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# FAIRNESS AND AMBITION OF AN INDC

*Paragraph 14, Lima Call for Climate Action*

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# WAYS TO THINK ABOUT A FAIR AND AMBITIOUS CONTRIBUTION

- Realizes the potential to act to the greatest extent possible  
*Given emissions responsibility, capabilities (including development needs and priorities), vulnerability and capacity to adapt, and opportunities available*
- Identifies and prioritizes those actions that place the country on an equitable, long-term low-carbon and climate resilient pathway
- Fits climate action into a broader sustainable development context

# A SUGGESTED APPROACH

- Based on both quantitative and qualitative data
- Identifies fairness and ambition in terms of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation
- Frames choices in light of economic, environmental, social and development capacity
- Identifies the country's potential for action and how the contribution relates to this potential
- Provides the opportunity to highlight co-benefits of action and alignment of contribution with development priorities

# FOLLOWING A CLEAR FRAMEWORK

1. Initial framing statement
2. Existing obligations under the UNFCCC
3. How the contribution is fair & ambitious, in light of national circumstances
4. How it contributes to the achievement of the objective of the Convention
5. Broader considerations

# 1. INITIAL FRAMING STATEMENT

**MEXICO** “is a responsible party committed to tackling global climate change by transforming its development route to a low emissions pathway”

**SWITZERLAND** “fairness considerations include various aspects and that no single indicator on its own can accurately reflect fairness or a globally equitable distribution of countries...the evolving nature of a country’s circumstances is to be reflected in fairness considerations”

**GABON** “Gabon does not want to limit its climate policy to the mere preservation of forests, with international financing mechanisms”. “Gabon can not commit to a reduction absolute value of its greenhouse gas emissions, but on a mastery of these as part of its development”.

## 2. EXISTING COMMITMENTS OR PLEDGES

- INDCs should be a progression beyond existing commitments
- To be transparent – Parties should include their existing commitments or pledges
  - Kyoto Protocol
  - Copenhagen Accord
  - Cancun Agreements



### 3. HOW THE CONTRIBUTION IS FAIR & AMBITIOUS, IN LIGHT OF NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Emissions profile & mitigation action
- Capabilities & development needs
- Vulnerability & capacity to adapt
- Co-benefits & opportunities
- Potential to act

# EMISSIONS PROFILE & MITIGATION ACTION

- Historical, current and future emissions
- Per capita emissions/total
- Comparison to global average
- Emissions intensity (relative to GDP)
- Projected action compared to BAU
- Projected action compared to needed global reductions
- Comparison to benchmarks for decarbonization

# CAPABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

- Current capabilities
  - GDP per capita
  - HDI Index Value
  - % of population below the poverty line
  - Expected population growth
  - % of population with access to electricity
  - Natural resource availability
  - Health
- Effect of current capabilities on ability to take climate action
- Prioritization of climate actions to address capabilities
- Strengthened capabilities through climate action



# VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY TO ADAPT

- Sectors or communities most vulnerable
- Current capacity to adapt
- Future projections of vulnerability and capacity to adapt
- Gaps, barriers and needs

# CO-BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Contribution to long-term development strategies and achievement of sustainable development goals
- Synergies between mitigation and adaptation contributions
- Co-benefits
  - air pollution reduction
  - energy access
  - natural resource/land restoration
  - employment and livelihoods
  - gender equality

# POTENTIAL TO ACT

- Mitigation potential, including for particular sectors
- Opportunities and costs associated with additional climate action
- Investment and support needed to achieve different levels of climate action

## 4. CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION

- Anticipated emissions in target year or period if contribution is achieved
- Quantified GHG impact of the contribution
- Long-term mitigation and adaptation goals or plans
- How the contribution contributes to sustainable economic development



## 5. BROADER CONSIDERATIONS

- Was there broad participation in the development of the INDC?
- Are the policies & actions equitable?
  - Protecting the most vulnerable
  - Building the capabilities of individuals and communities
  - Gender considerations
  - Human Rights

# THANK YOU!

Eliza Northrop  
[enorthrop@wri.org](mailto:enorthrop@wri.org)  
+1-202-729-7862

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WRI:  
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