



IEAGHG Information Paper: 2015-IP14; Rating Country Commitments to COP21

It is interesting to follow the INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution¹) submissions to the UNFCCC ahead of COP21. One central point for updated information is the Climate Action Tracker (CAT). CAT is an independent science-based assessment, which tracks the emission commitments and actions of countries. Their website (<http://climateactiontracker.org/>) provides an up-to-date assessment of individual national pledges, targets and INDCs, and currently implemented policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The CAT web site indicates that as of 13 July 2015, the INDCs of 12 countries have been analysed which covers 60% of global emissions in 2010. CAT has devised a transparent system to rate the submissions received. This is summarised in the figure below.

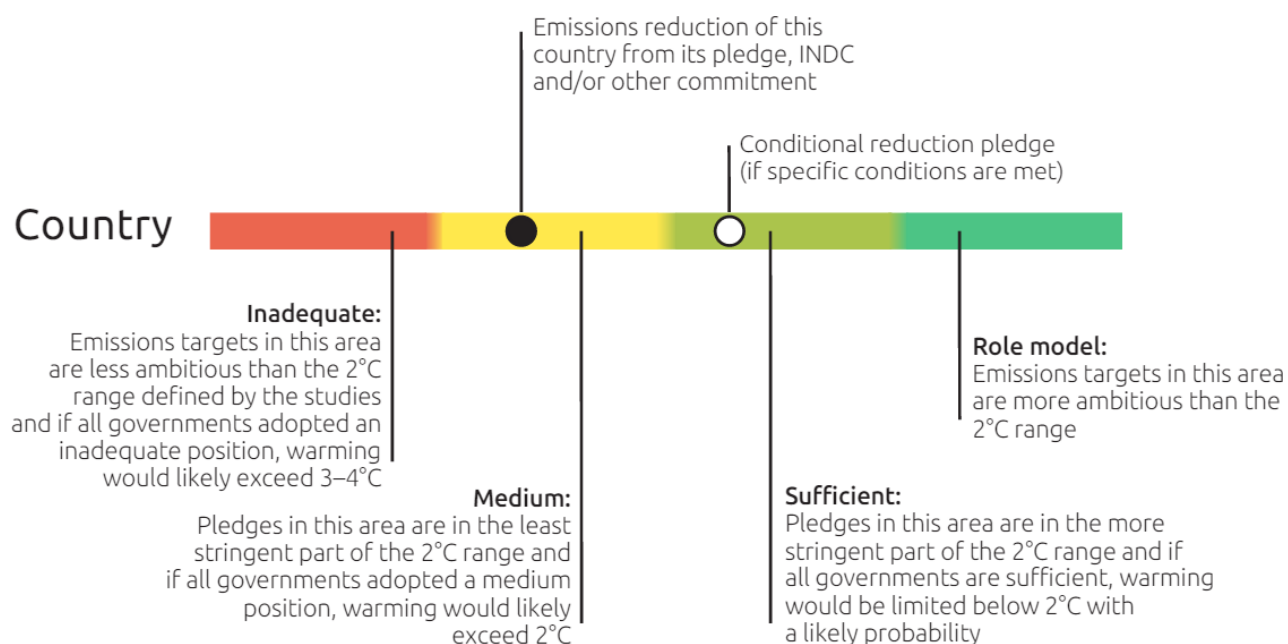


Figure 1: The Climate Action Tracker's (CAT) rating system

For those wishing to dig deeper into the details behind this rating system, please visit the website at <http://climateactiontracker.org/methodology/85/Comparability-of-effort.html>.

¹ Countries across the globe committed to create a new international climate agreement by the conclusion of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015. In preparation, countries have agreed to publicly outline what post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The INDCs will largely determine whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 agreement and is put on a path toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.



The countries assessed to date include:

Inadequate	Medium	Sufficient	Role Model
Russia	Switzerland	Ethiopia	
Canada	EU	Morocco	
South Korea	Norway		
New Zealand	USA		
	Mexico		
	China ²		
Japan ³	Peru ³		
Chile ³³			

Table 1: Countries assessed in the CAT

Another pledge tracker is the World’s Resources Institute (WRI) of the USA, which has developed a tool called the CAIT Climate Data Explorer (<http://www.wri.org/our-work/project/cait-climate-data-explorer>). The site hosts a Paris Contributions Map which allows users to get a quick snapshot of the INDC’s submitted to date. The CAIT pledge indicator indicates 18 INDC’s have been submitted, 3 more than CAT. Immediately I noticed two there were not listed on CAIT; those of Andorra and Serbia. It doesn’t provide the transparent rating that the CAT site does, but there are separate blogs on some of the INDC’s where WRI have critiqued the submissions of certain countries.

- The Russian INDC was covered, see <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/04/russia%E2%80%99s-new-climate-plan-may-actually-increase-emissions>. The headline was that the submission was disappointing and may see an increase in emissions.
- With respect to Mexico, WRI were generally complimentary, which can be found at <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/03/mexico-becomes-first-developing-country-release-new-climate-plan-indc>
- For information on China, see <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/07/closer-look-chinas-new-climate-plan-indc>. The overall summary from WRI can be described as could do better, they are not alone of course – they put the EU and USA in the same bracket.

In general, it seems the WRI blogs reflect the ranking in the CAT assessment.

Overall, this analysis in truth is a little depressing in that it suggests nobody is actually standing out as making a really ambitious submission to COP21. With 60% of emissions covered to date by those declared INDC’s, it seems that as it stands, we are not heading for stabilisation at 2⁰C.

John Gale
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² China was rated ‘medium with inadequate carbon intensity target’

³ These assessments are based on announcements of intended INDC’s, not actual INDC’s