

Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through Urban Climate Action

DARING
CITIES
2020

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Mission

UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action to leave no one and no place behind



Reduced spatial
inequality and
poverty in
communities across
the urban-rural
continuum



Enhanced shared
prosperity of cities
and regions

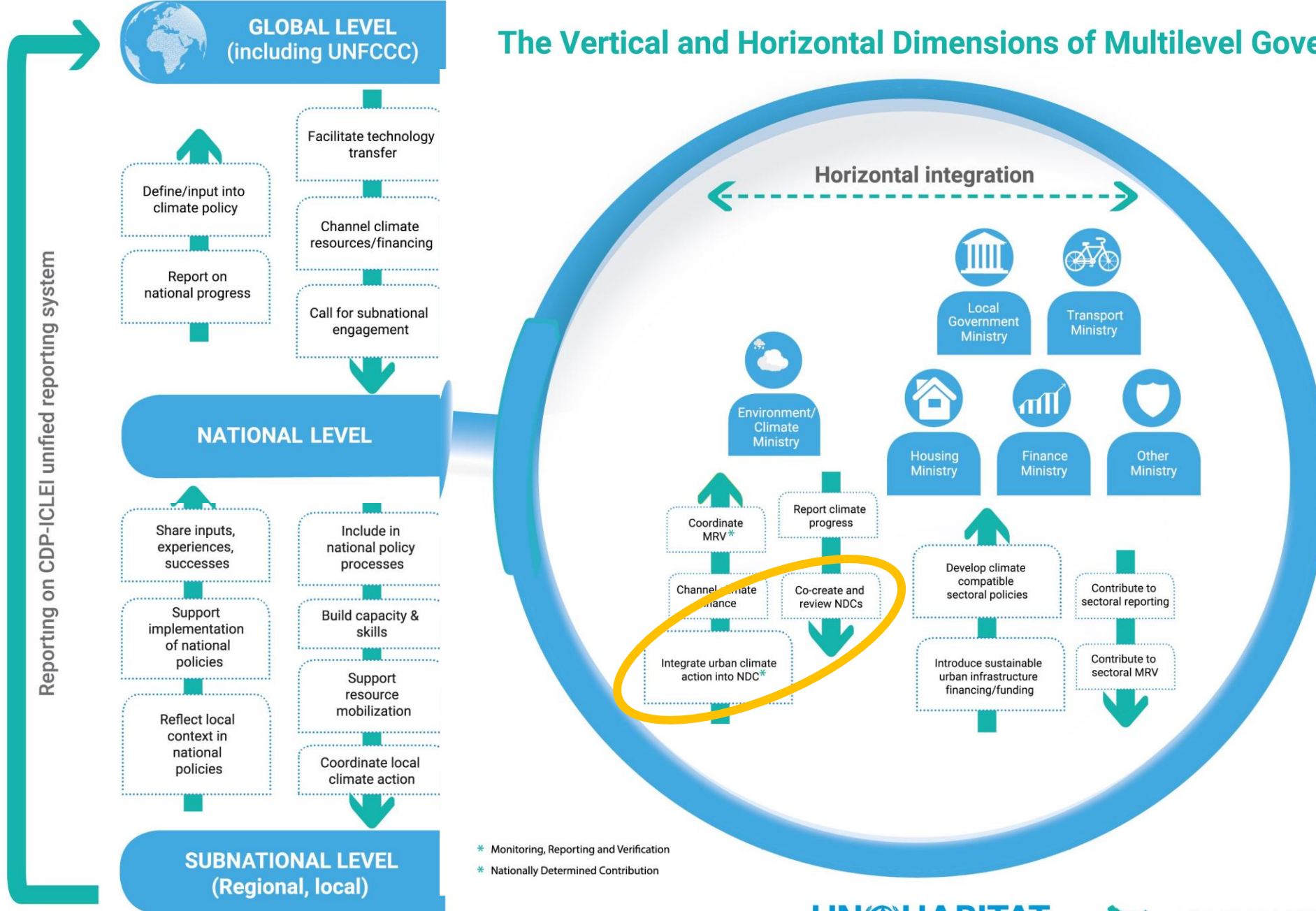


Strengthened
climate action and
improved urban
environment



Effective urban
crisis prevention
and response

The Vertical and Horizontal Dimensions of Multilevel Governance for Climate Change



* Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

* Nationally Determined Contribution

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

URBAN LEDS
URBAN LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability



The Urban-LEDS project is funded by the European Union.

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Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through Urban Climate Action



A guide for incorporating urban climate action and human settlement issues into the Nationally Determined Contributions enhancement process.

Available at:

<https://unhabitat.org/enhancing-nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs-through-urban-climate-action>

For more information, please contact us at unhabitat-climate@un.org or visit: unhabitat.org/topic/climate-change

Collaborating partners

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Background



Only 39% of National Urban Policies and 14% of Nationally Determined Contributions speak specifically to climate mitigation in urban areas.

Source: CUT (2020)

Urban content of NDCs

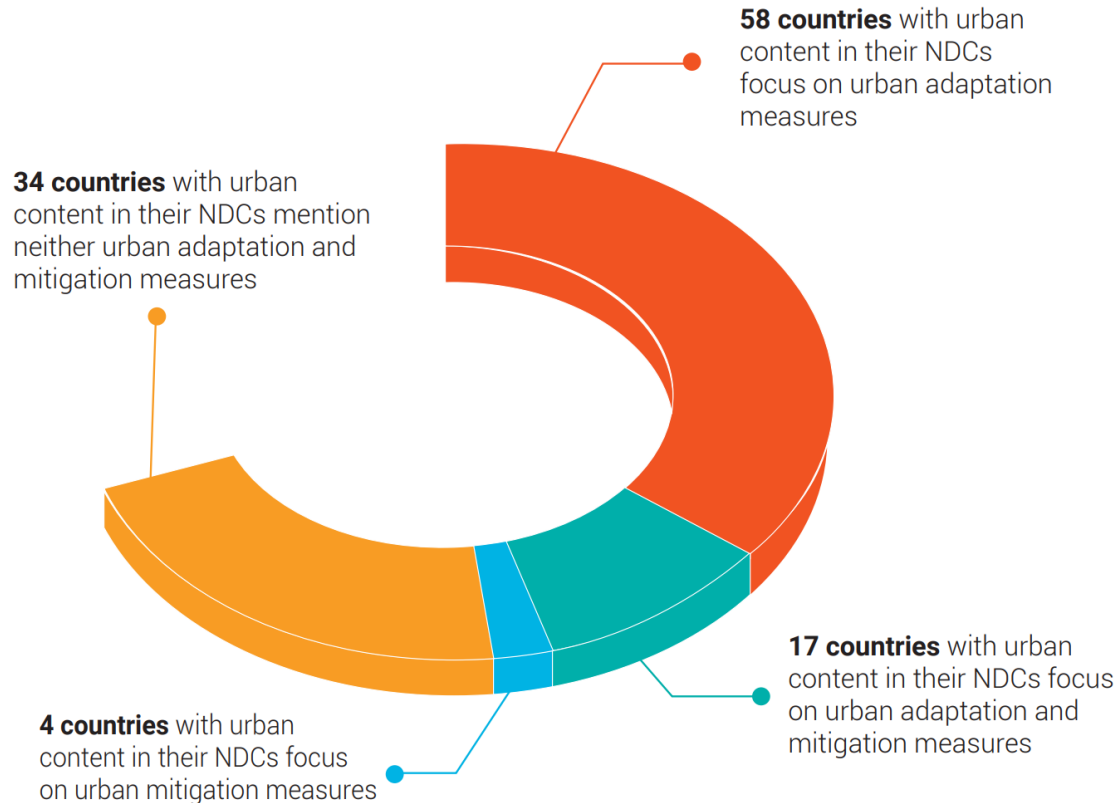


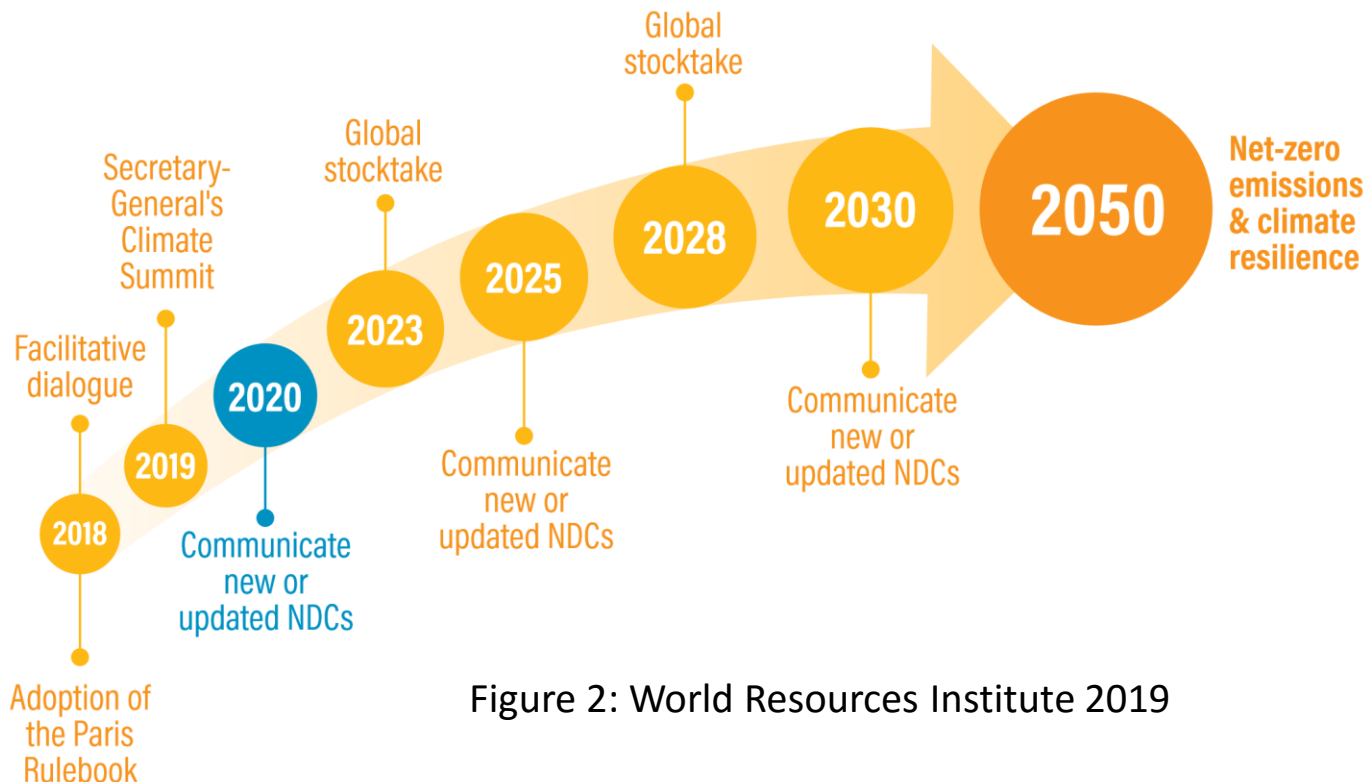
Figure 1: Analysis of urban content in NDCs from UN-Habitat (2017)

Including urban content in NDCs provides the opportunity to:

- help realise emission reduction and adaptation potential of urban areas & human settlements
- strengthen the role of local and sub-national governments in the delivery and implementation of NDC commitments

What are Nationally Determined Contributions?

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, collectively aiming at limiting warming to 1.5 to 2°C, as set out in the Paris Agreement.



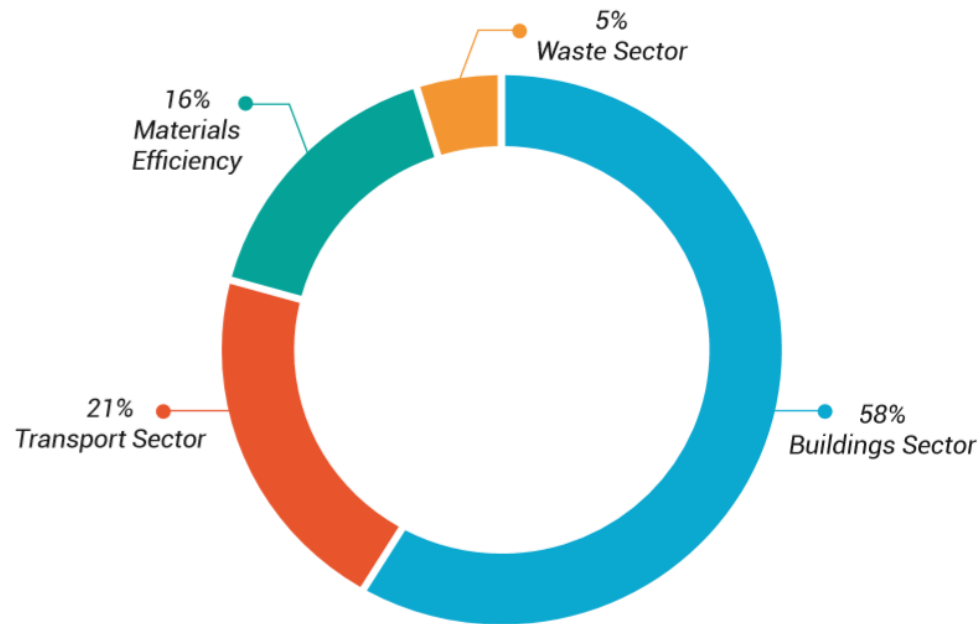
- 2020 is the first five-year milestone of the 2015 Paris Agreement
- The 'Ratchetting mechanism' requires countries to continue to submit revised NDCs every five years to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

Figure 2: World Resources Institute 2019

What is urban climate action and how can it contribute towards national climate targets?



Urban areas are the source of **almost 70% of global emissions**. Cities are also especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.



Sectoral breakdown of technically feasible mitigation measures to achieve 90% reduction in GHG
(based on CUT 2019 figures)

- **Urban climate actions** may focus on mitigation, adaptation, resilience or an integrated approach of all of these.
- In the context of: National Urban Policies, Disaster Risk Response (e.g. Sendai Framework), SDG 11 Cities etc.
- Many cities, and city networks are already doing a lot!

Almost 10,000 cities and local governments have set emissions reduction targets as well as a strategy on how to deliver on their commitments

The Guide

- **Part 1:** Background (NDCs and urban content of current NDCs)
- **Part 2:** Making the Case
 - **Why** should national governments include urban content in their NDCs?
 - **How** can national governments include urban content in their NDCs?
- **Part 3:** What can I do as an NDC coordinator?
 - **Process** considerations: ensuring an inclusive NDC process
 - Key **climate mitigation and adaptation opportunities** for integrating human settlements/urban content into NDCs



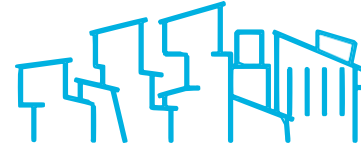
Why should national governments include urban content in their NDCs?



4.2billion (55%) of the world's population lives in urban settlements, this number is expected to increase **to 6.7 billion by 2050** (68% of the population)



It's possible to **reduce GHGs** from urban buildings, materials, transport and waste by almost **90% by 2050** using available technologies



The **urban and infrastructure sector** is listed in the IPCC Special Report (2018), as one of the key sectors where an **urgent transition is needed**



Cities are vital economic and financial centres, accounting for more than **80% of global GDP**

Articulating urban climate action as a national priority within the NDC is necessary for **attracting financing and leveraging political commitment**

How can governments support urban climate action?

- National governments can empower and activate local governments through continuous dialogue with sub-national actors and encouraging sub-national action in NDCs, to pursue more ambitious climate action within their jurisdictions
- An urban spatial approach allows national governments to realise the mitigation and adaptation potential associated with integrated urban systems
- A multi-level or vertically integrated approach allows national governments to realise the mitigation potential associated with local innovation and experimentation.
- Funding and financing mobilised by national and state governments is crucial for cities, particularly for large infrastructure projects.

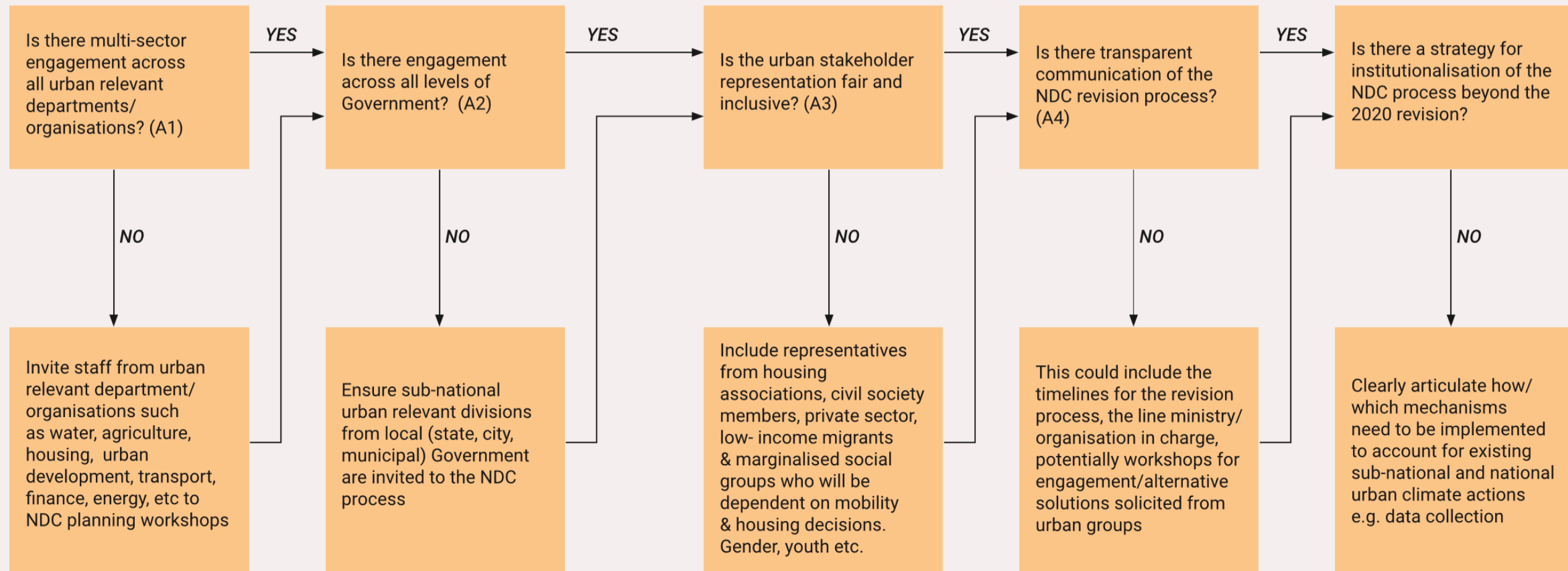
What can NDC coordinators do?

If urban areas contribute significantly to global emissions, and if our cities are so vulnerable to climate impacts, what can we do to ensure the urban content of national climate actions (NDCs) is increased?

Checklist for integrating urban climate actions into NDCs

Key Opportunity #A: Engage a diverse range of urban stakeholders in NDC planning

In the process of the NDC revision:



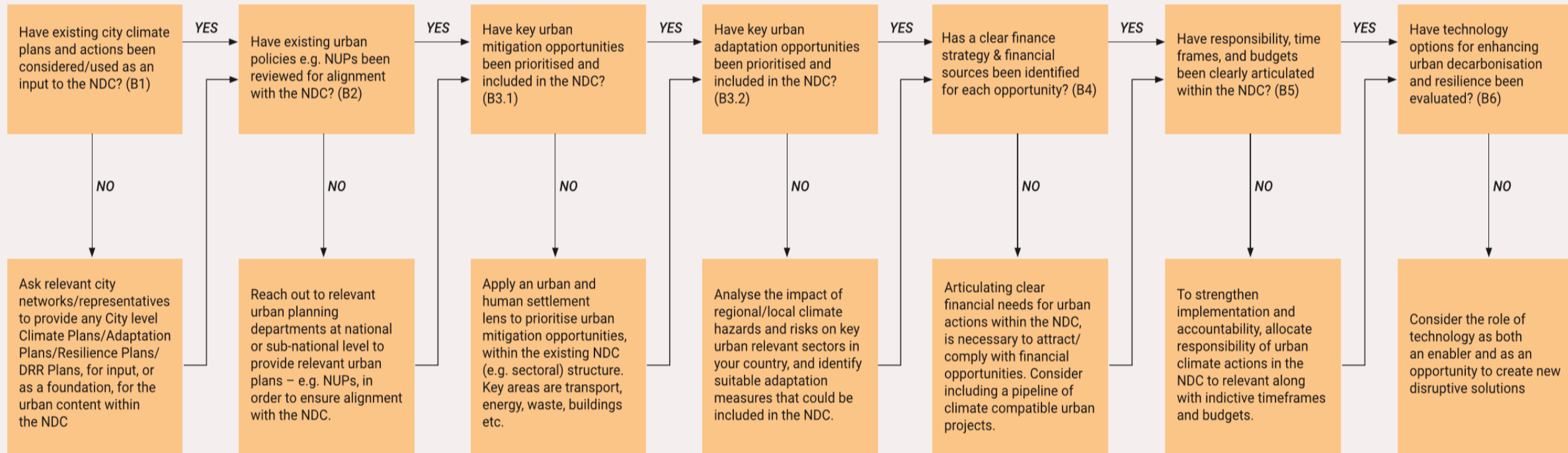
Key Opportunity #A Engage a diverse range of urban stakeholders in NDC planning by :

Sub-opportunities:

- A1. Engage across sectors of all urban-relevant departments/organisations
- A2. Engage across all levels of government (national, subnational and local)
- A3. Ensure fair and inclusive urban stakeholder representation
- A4. Communicate the NDC revision process in a transparent manner
- A5. Institutionalise the NDC process beyond this 2020 revision

Key Opportunity #B: Identify concrete policies and actions for integrating human settlements in the NDC, by applying an urban lens.

In the content of the NDC revision:



Key Opportunity #B: Identify concrete policies and actions for integrating human settlements in the NDC by:

Sub-opportunities:

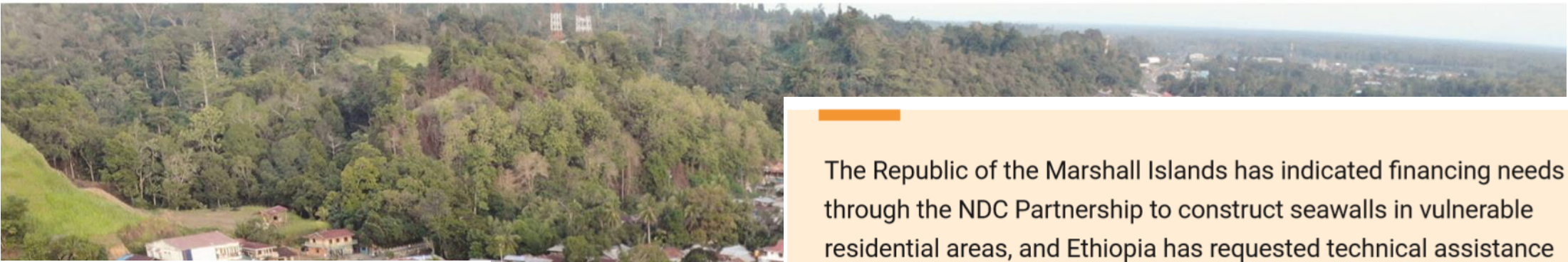
- B1. Build on existing city climate and resilience plans and actions that are already contributing to NDC targets
- B2. Assess alignment with existing urban policy
- B3. Prioritize key urban climate opportunities
 - B3.1 Key Mitigation opportunities
 - B3.2 Key Adaptation opportunities
- B4. Outline a clear finance strategy for each urban mitigation and adaptation opportunity
- B5. Allocate responsibility, time frames, monitoring frameworks and budgets
- B6. Evaluate technology options that may enhance decarbonisation and resilience of urban environment

Country examples

Myanmar: the inclusion of “sustainable urban development” in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) are due to:


- Political awareness of the up and coming challenges of urbanisation
- Complimentary policy processes were underway: National Environmental Policy, the Roadmap for the National Urban Policy, as well as the National Climate Change Policy
- Wide-ranging consultations with District representatives, as well as a Chief Technical Advisor on climate change who had a background in urban development and planning.






Costa Rica's NDC⁶⁵: "commits to having in every city, by 2020, and every coastline county in the country, a land use plan which considers vulnerabilities to climate change and measures for increasing adaptation and mitigation".

The Republic of the Marshall Islands has indicated financing needs through the NDC Partnership to construct seawalls in vulnerable residential areas, and Ethiopia has requested technical assistance for proposal development of fundable projects on land rehabilitation projects¹⁰⁰.




Uganda's NDC⁷⁷: "Ensuring that land use plans and building codes reflect the need to make public and private buildings more climate resilient"

Malawi's NDC⁷⁸: "Increase use of soil-cement stabilised block and rice husk ash blended cement to around 10% of current cement production...develop and implement climate related building codes/standards. Revise existing building standards in line with climate change"



Moldova's Updated NDC¹⁰⁹: Promote climate-friendly solutions at municipality level and infrastructure resilience projects through innovative technologies that will contribute to reducing vulnerability to climate change and improving the quality of life.



How to use this guide

Stage of NDC Revision	Activities to make use of the guide
<p>Planning NDC 2020 revision process (e.g. submission prior to COP26)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>In the process of 2020 NDC revision (e.g. submission planned for next 3-6 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use guide to review previous/draft NDC and identify gaps and opportunities• Use guide to review national planning processes (e.g check alignment with NUPs, existing city plans, financing opportunities etc.)• Plan/implement sectoral workshops with lead Ministries focusing on the urban dimension of sectoral NDC responses• Secure support of an urban specialist to 'champion' issues as part of sectoral working groups• Reach out to international partners (e.g. NDCP members) to support in specific technical areas or facilitation support• Share guide along with schedule of the upcoming NDC process to urban stakeholders at national and local level
<p>Submitted 2020 NDC revision, ongoing implementation (and future revisions)</p> <p>(already submitted NDC to UNFCCC in 2019/20)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the submitted NDC and consider opportunities in light of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) NDC implementation plans: identifying urban relevant commitments and actionsb) Future NDC revisions: identifying gaps and opportunities• Extend communication of the NDC to urban stakeholders at national and local level

Collaborations to disseminate

- Application of the guide in Lao PDR & Colombia in Urban-LEDS project, *in partnership with ICLEI*
- Plan to support embedded advisor in Rwandan Finance Ministry as contribution to green COVID recovery initiative *with NDCP*
- Member of the *NDCP* Economic Advisory Thematic Expert Group (providing support on Cities & Urban Development)
- Developing collaboration effort *with UNDP* to support member states to integrate urban climate action into NDCs

Thank you



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