Brazil's updated NDC fails to improve climate ambition

The Government of Brazil submitted an updated NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on March 31st, 2022. The new submission released today does not increase the country’s climate ambition in relation to the contribution previously submitted in 2016; thus, this contribution is not aligned with the Paris Agreement.

In addition to allowing more emissions in relation to the 2016 commitment - 314 million tons of CO2eq extra for 2025; and 81 million tons of CO2eq for 2030 - the 2022 NDC does not internalize the commitments made by Brazil at COP 26 in relation to zero deforestation by 2030 and reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

Instituto TALANOA (a Brazilian think-tank) analyzed the official submission in depth and provided a technical note comparing the new levels of emissions proposed with that of previous binding commitments. The document brings a series of recommendations for Brazil to adjust its NDC. Among them is that the government should re-establish the dialogue with Brazilian society through public consultations for future updates.
Summary

The 2022 update of Brazil’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement:

- Does not increase the country’s climate ambition
  - New emissions cap adopted for year 2030 actually adds an entire “Colombia” (in terms of its annual emissions) to Brazil’s previously established threshold
  - New emissions cap adopted for year 2025 actually adds an entire “Poland” (in terms of its annual emissions) to Brazil’s previously established threshold

- Backtracks from the binding targets submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016
  - Increases by 314 million tons of CO2eq the level of emissions allowed in 2025 in relation to the target assumed in 2016
  - Increases by 81 million tons of CO2eq the level of emissions allowed in 2030 in relation to the indicative target presented in 2016

- Does not incorporate binding commitments in relation to ending deforestation and reducing methane emissions by 30%, in 2030, as per announcements made at COP 26

- Does not contribute to achieving the greatest possible ambition in the short term, as requested in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Recommendations

- The Government of Brazil must absolutely and definitely update its NDC with a due increase in climate ambition. The successive demonstrations of lower ambition directly affect the country’s credibility.

- The solution involves adopting new targets that represent emission levels below 1.3 GtCO2eq in 2025 and 1.2 GtCO2eq in 2030, whatever the methodological decisions made by the Government of Brazil. Thereafter, successive updates shall provide for absolute reductions considering the new numbers.

- The solution also involves enhancing 'how' the NDC targets are updated: it is essential to carry out public consultations in all the next update rounds.

- In addition to course correction, the implementation – or “delivery” – of emission reduction results with a focus on 2025 must be a priority for this and the coming years.

- Additionally, the Government of Brazil must internalize the commitments already assumed internationally, such as the Declaration on Forests and the Global Methane Commitment, signed in Glasgow.
Finally, the Government of Brazil must align the NDC's short-term goals and national policies with the objective of climate neutrality by 2050.

Access the full document on: institutotalanoa.org/documentos

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