

NDCs and Global Stocktake Must Recognise Local Solutions and Reductions of Poverty

While the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are key for reaching the globally agreed targets for climate mitigation and adaptation, to succeed they must be aligned with other sustainable development objectives, including the reduction of poverty. And in most cases poverty reduction is best done with local solutions providing affordable energy and livelihood opportunities.

Guidance for NDCs

The Paris Agreement specifies features and principles for NDCs, including that a new NDC must be progressions over previous NDCs of the country it covers and that they shall represent best efforts. To be better aligned with development objectives of the countries, and to give sufficient focus to local solutions that are key to reduce poverty, NDCs should also feature reduction of poverty, for all countries where poverty eradication is an important development objective. Thus, poverty eradication should be included as a guiding principle for NDCs, for countries where it is relevant.

In the accounting of NDCs, it is important that the effects of local mitigation activities are included. While there are often more complications and uncertainties in evaluating the local solutions, they are equally important mitigation options. In for instance a country with deforestation problems, the local solutions to make biomass use more efficient and community based reforestation are important to halt the deforestation and the related emissions.

Global Stocktakes

As the global stocktakes will take stock of the global efforts of NDCs, they should also include eradication of poverty as a principle. This will give important information on the best practices on mitigation activities that have also reduced poverty. It can be an important driver for increasing the mitigation activities that are most effective for both climate change mitigation and reduction of poverty.

For the global stocktake it is important that the sources of information used are not limiting the inclusion of information on best practices, including local solutions. The list of information sources must include this information and must not limit the sources of inputs to specific stakeholders or institutions.

Low Emission Development Strategies

While the Paris Agreement includes development of national long-term greenhouse gas emission strategies (LEDS), and the countries at COP21 called upon each other to develop LEDS until 2020, little guidance is available for the countries to do so. Some countries have already submitted LEDS, but if there is not guidance, it will limit the participation of many countries. Further it will be difficult to compare the different national LEDS.

Thus, guidelines and a list of information to include, as well as other guidance, should be developed, allowing countries to develop and submit LEDS well in advance of 2020, following this guidance.

In the guidelines, it is important to specify that key sectors are included, and that all major mitigation options are evaluated, including local solutions, that are important for reducing local emissions that are prevailing in many countries. Even though guidelines are not necessarily binding, if they are generally recognised, they will be a valuable help for the development of LEDS until 2020 for many countries.

POLICY BRIEF

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References:

Good Practices in Local Mitigation Solutions

Publication: Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution

www.inforse.org/asia/Pub_EcoVillageDev_SouthAsia.htm

Contacts:

International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE),

www.inforse.org

INFORSE-South Asia –
www.inforse.org/asia

Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) -
www.cansouthasia.net

INSEDA India -
www.inseda.org

CRT Nepal -
www.crtnepal.org

IDEA Sri Lanka -
www.ideasrilanka.org

Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh -
www.gshakti.org

DIB, Denmark -
www.dib.dk

More:

www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm

