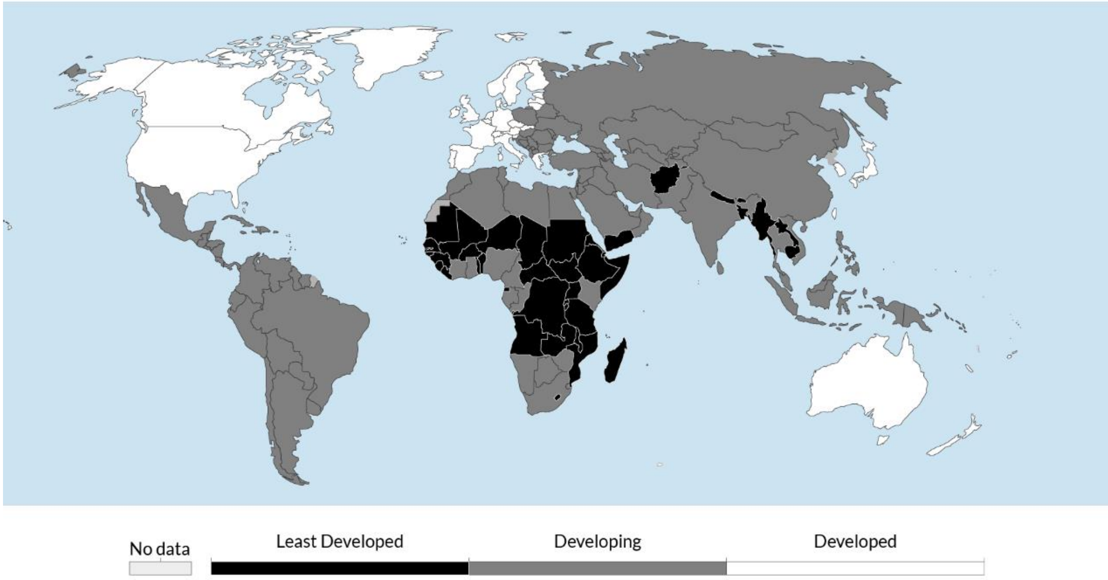
**Developed countries**




## Introductory Note

A 10-year strategy to put people's jobs and well-being at the centre of the transition to carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economies was introduced in the 2019 UN Climate Summit, with a focus on delivering decent jobs, advancing social justice, supporting a sustainable future for every country and ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic, social and environmental dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis need to be addressed so as to build back better, more sustainable and inclusive economies and societies that are more resilient to future shocks. A climate-positive recovery can be achieved through the six areas of action that the UN Secretary-General has put forward. (New Climate Action for Jobs Board calls for a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, 2020)

## Environmental aspect

Nineteen countries of the developed world have made considerable commitments during the Bonn session on transparency, known as Multilateral Assessment, Australia, United Kingdom, Japan and Norway being among them. *"I would like to thank the various review teams that have checked our information and Parties that have asked questions, because engaging with each other is what creates understanding and trust in this process and it is only human to appreciate that someone from outside takes interest and sometimes even inspiration from what we* *do*”, stated Norway’s Delegation, Peer Stiansen, Senior Adviser of the Ministry of Climate and Environment. During this session, a number of these countries set their ambitious goals for carbon neutrality by 2050, with United Kingdom and other countries legislating these goals into Climate Laws. The climate action plans displayed included emissions trading, and carbon and energy taxes, renewable energy targets, feed-in tariffs, green energy banks (Australia’s Clean Energy Finance Corporation is the world’s largest green bank) and competitive tendering, incentives and infrastructure support for electric vehicles, such as the world’s first electric vehicle ferries (Norway) and two countries banning petrol cars nationally by 2030 (Iceland) and 2040 (United Kingdom). (19 Developed Countries Showcase Climate Action in Bonn, 2019)

National climate laws are essential for governments to manage the low-carbon transformation. Almost half of all European Union Member States have already adopted climate laws or are preparing one. The frameworks of these laws tend to have similar key elements, such as targets, planning, measures, monitoring, public participation and scientific advisory bodies. For instance, most countries have identified net-zero emissions or emissions reductions as their main targets. It is important to highlight that climate planning has become mandatory through EU legislation. Moreover, such laws enhance transparency as they include annual reporting and progress checks. The majority of them has introduced an independent scientific advisory body, while public consultation, through the engagement of citizens in climate politics, is also available. Several laws have stated that all policies must be aligned with the long-term targets. In order to adopt and effectively implement climate laws, broad political support and societal acceptance are essential. This is why cross-party backing has been secured in most of the countries that have successfully implemented these laws (Climate Laws In Europe: Good Practices In Net-zero Management, 2020).

As reported by UN Climate Change, the greenhouse gas emissions of developed countries have decreased by 13% between 1990 and 2018, with emissions falling by just 3.4% between 2010 and 2018. Every two years, Compilation and Synthesis reports are published so as to evaluate developed countries’ progress, under the international assessment and review process of UNFCCC. These reports incorporate information on GHG emissions and trends, quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, progress made towards achieving them and the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties. According to the same report, greenhouse gas emissions shall increase slightly between 2017 and 2020 and then decrease by 2.2 % between 2020 and 2030. As for emissions targets beyond 2020, the majority of developed countries have expanded their portfolio of policies and measures, promoting the share of renewable energy in electricity production, phasing out coal, carbon pricing and electrifying road transport. A large number of them is planning to implement long-term low carbon and carbon neutrality strategies. (Most Developed Countries on Track to Meet their 2020 Emission Reduction Targets, but More Ambition Needed by Some, 2020)

Nevertheless, there has been considerable controversy over the fact that developed countries carry greater responsibility in respect to emission reductions and that they should allow instead developing countries to evolve in the "atmospheric space". The term "climate debt" is therefore still on the table, referring to the debt owed by developed countries to developing ones regarding their disproportionately large contributions to climate change. Global emissions of greenhouse gases are largely contributed by developed countries, but developing countries are considered equally responsible to deal with climate change's negative effects. This is part of a broader concept, called "ecological debt", having received increased attention since its submission to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, where developing countries, led by Bolivia, demanded the repayment of climate debt. (Commitments for Annex I Parties under paragraph 1(b)(i) of the Bali Action Plan: Evaluating developed countries' historical climate debt to developing countries, 2012)

**Economic aspect**

The urgent need to create a sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient future entails transforming the current economic model and balancing natural, social, human and financial conditions in the long term. Financing Sustainable Development has been one of the four focus areas at the World Economic Forum's 2019 Sustainable Development Impact summit. United States play a leading role in terms of green finance. As for green bonds, the US has issued $118.6 billion in 2018. According to the Global Sustainable Investment Review, total US-based managed assets using sustainable strategies have increased by 38%, growing from $8.7 trillion at the start of

2016 to $12 trillion at the start of 2018. This initiative is in fact being led by client demand, as 40% of US fund managers consider the UN Sustainable Development Goals as motivation for new investment in sustainable schemes.

A Green Finance Strategy was also announced in July 2019 by the UK government. This strategy includes commitments for the introduction of regulatory frameworks for green finance alongside improved access to investment for green projects. The government is cooperating closely with industry so as to establish a set of Sustainable Finance Standards. Ensuring that all of the financial risks and opportunities from climate and environmental factors are considered in terms of investment decision-making is part of the government's agenda. (These countries are leading the way in green finance, 2019)

It is worth mentioning that according to Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties. These resources will be targeted to both mitigation and adaptation, taking into consideration country-driven strategies, and the priorities and needs of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints. Such Parties include the least developed countries and the small island developing States, considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation. In addition, during COP 21 it was said that developed countries intended to continue their existing collective mobilization goal through 2025, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation. Also, that prior to 2025, the COP shall set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of 100 USD billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. (Climate Finance in the negotiations, 2019)

In terms of equitable access to technology, it is mandatory for developed countries to support the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, pursuant to UNFCCC obligations. In 2001, the technology transfer framework was introduced in order to implement Article 4.5 of the Convention, laying the foundations for international technology cooperation. In 2010, the Technology Mechanism was established. In 2015, the Paris Agreement highlighted the importance of technology for mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as supported the provision of technology development and transfer to developing countries (Oh, 2019). According to UN Climate Change reports, developed countries have expanded their annual average economic support for climate action to developing countries in 2017-2018 by some 9.9% since 2015-2016. They have also scaled up their technology cooperation with these countries, as well as their capacity-building support. (Most Developed Countries on Track to Meet their 2020 Emission Reduction Targets, but More Ambition Needed by Some, 2020)

Furthermore, it is notable that this transition offers many opportunities for the creation of green and decent jobs for inclusive, low carbon growth. As stated by the ILO, climate action, with a focus on the energy sector, can generate 24 million new jobs by 2030. In addition, 9 million jobs could be created every year for the next three years with the proper investments in sustainable energy, as estimated by the IEA. The New Nature Economy report indicated that the adoption of a new economic model that pays respect to natural resources could generate up to $10.1 trillion in annual business value and create 395 million jobs by 2030 (Six Climate-Positive Actions To Help Rebuild Economies From COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020). Joe Biden, President-elect of the United States, has introduced the Green New Deal, a plan that includes crucial framework in support of investments in clean energy that will result to the creation of a large number of jobs. He has stated that he wants to change the misconception that clean economy and jobs don't go together. At this moment, there are more than three million people in the United States employed in the clean energy economy. Biden has committed to taking advantage of the opportunity to revitalize the U.S. energy sector, boost growth economy-wide and re-claim the mantle as the world's clean energy leader and top exporter (The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice, 2020).

**Social aspect**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres is urging governments to leave no one behind in the transition to a sustainable and carbon-neutral future, so as to recover better from the pandemic. The majority of people affected among the climate-sensitive communities are women. Also, people living in areas that are subject to flooding, sea level rise, heat stress and water scarcity are disproportionately impacted by the climate change. According to studies, extreme weather and natural disasters displaced three times more people than war in 2019. These people should not be left behind (Six Climate-Positive Actions To Help Rebuild Economies From COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020). The developed world is committed to leaving no one behind, in compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A number of developed countries are members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and have addressed such issues through national and sub-national policies and strategies, as well as international development co-operation partnerships.

First and foremost, Australia has adopted a domestic and international approach to leaving no one behind. This approach is evident in its first Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda. Its policy framework focuses on poverty reduction, gender, disability and indigenous people. In Australia, the SDGs are linked to its annual program performance reports and aid investment plans. In Canada's case, a Feminist International Assistance Policy was introduced. Embedding a gender lens, Canada has addressed leaving no one behind by protecting and promoting human rights for all, mainly for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, and by including these groups in the decision-making processes. At the same time, Canada is making progress towards achieving the SDGs through such human rights-based and inclusive approaches, especially SDG 5 for gender equality.

Japan is also in line with leaving no one behind, as stated in the Development Co-operation Charter decided by the Cabinet in 2015 and its SDGs Action Plan in 2018. Japan shifts the attention to those susceptible to fragility, such as children, women, people with disabilities, the elderly, refugees, internally displaced people, ethnic minorities and indigenous people. Japan has also been contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security since 1999. New Zealand's take on leaving no one behind is linked to the provision of official development assistance (ODA) so as to combat the challenges of countries most in need, including small island developing states, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, fragile and conflict affected states. Through financing the countries that struggle to access any funds, New Zealand mobilizes resources for regions and groups of people most at risk of being left behind.

Through "UK aid: Tackling global challenges in the national interest" strategy, the United Kingdom conducted the proceedings in implementing leave no one behind.

The policy paper "Leaving no one behind: Our promise" played a major role in putting first the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those in crises and most at risk of violence and discrimination. It also focused on condemning atrocities such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage and sexual violence in conflict. The Department for International Development (DFID) strives for inclusion in the growth and development processes, through three main pillars: understand, empower, include. The first one pursues to collect data and evidence on who, where and why people are left behind. DFID utilizes poverty analysis to identify most vulnerable groups. However, a critical challenge concerns the risk management of people still being left behind in 2030 (Development co-operation to leave no one behind: A snapshot of DAC member approaches, 2018).

Last but not least, according to President-elect of the United States, Joe Biden, his environmental policies' target groups are the communities of color and low-income communities that have been disproportionately harmed by polluters. These communities have been disproportionately impacted by the climate emergency and pollution. The Biden Plan takes a firm stance against fossil fuel companies and other polluters, who put profit over people and environment, poison the communities' air, land, and water and hide information concerning potential environmental and health risks. The Biden Administration promises to provide such impacted communities with access to clean, safe drinking water and ensure that the development of solutions will be an inclusive, community-driven process (The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice, 2020).

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