

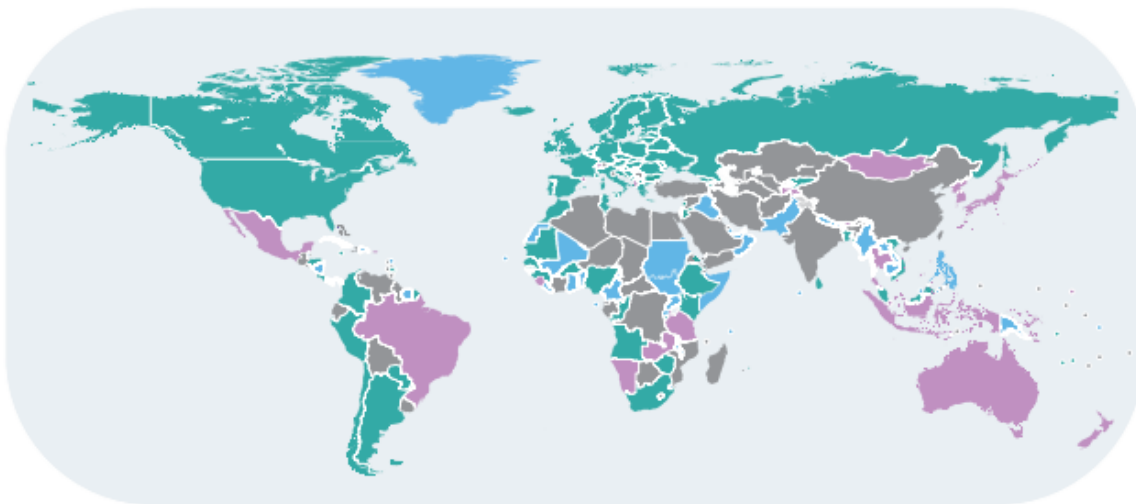


Emissions Gap Report 2021: UNEP

Why in News

Recently, the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)'s](#) Emissions Gap Report 2021 has been published.

- This is the **twelfth edition** of the UNEP [Emissions Gap Report](#). It informs that the **new national climate pledges** combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a **global temperature rise of 2.7°C** by the end of the century.



Key Points

- **GHGs Continue to Rise:**
 - Following an unprecedented drop of 5.4 % in 2020, [global carbon dioxide emissions](#) are bouncing back to pre-COVID levels, and concentrations of [GreenHouse Gases \(GHGs\)](#) in the atmosphere continue to rise.
- **New Mitigation Pledges:**
 - [New mitigation pledges](#) for 2030 show some progress, but their aggregate effect on global emissions is insufficient.
 - As a group, **G20 members are not on track** to achieve either their original or new 2030 pledges.
 - Ten G20 members are on track to achieve their previous [Nationally Determined](#)

Contributions (NDC), while seven are off track.

- Compared to previous unconditional NDCs, the new pledges for 2030 reduce projected 2030 emissions by only 7.5 %, whereas 30 % is needed for 2°C and 55 % is needed for 1.5°C.

▪ **Net-zero Emissions:**

- The long-term **net-zero emissions** pledged by 50 countries, covering more than half of global emissions show large ambiguities.
 - **Net zero emission** means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink.
- Few of the G20 members' NDC targets put emissions on a clear path towards net-zero pledges.
- There is an **urgent need to back these pledges up with near-term targets** and actions that give confidence that net-zero emissions can ultimately be achieved and the remaining carbon budget kept.

▪ **Global Warming:**

- At the **end of the century global warming is estimated at 2.7°C** if all unconditional 2030 pledges are fully implemented and 2.6°C if all conditional pledges are also implemented.
- If the **net-zero emissions** pledges are additionally fully implemented, this estimate is lowered to around 2.2°C.

▪ **Methane Emission:**

- Reduction of **methane emissions** from the fossil fuel, waste and agriculture sectors can contribute significantly to closing the emissions gap and reduce warming in the short term.

▪ **Carbon Markets:**

- **Carbon market** can deliver real emissions abatement and drive ambition, but only **when rules are clearly defined, designed to ensure that transactions reflect actual reductions in emissions**, and supported by arrangements to track progress and provide transparency.

▪ **Current Situation:**

- The current **atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂)** concentrations are **higher than at any time in the last two million years**.
- At present, there are **no estimates available** of total global GHG emissions for 2020.
 - However, the **COVID-19 pandemic** led to an unprecedented 5.4 % drop in CO₂ emissions in 2020, with a smaller drop in total GHG emissions expected for the year.
- From 2010 to 2019, GHG emissions grew by 1.3 % per year on average, both with and without land-use change (LUC).
 - GHG emissions reached a record high of 51.5 gigatons of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e) in 2019 without LUC emissions and 58.1 GtCO₂e when including LUC.

▪ **Initiatives to Reduce Emissions in India:**

- Shift from **Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI)** emission norms.
- Distribution of LED bulbs under the **UJALA scheme**.
- Formation of **International Solar Alliance**.
- Launch of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**.
- Roadmap for **Ethanol Blending in India** by 2025.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

▪ **About:**

- It is a **leading global environmental authority** established on **5th June 1972**.
- It **sets the global environmental agenda**, promotes sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for global environment protection.

▪ **Headquarters:**

- Nairobi, Kenya.

▪ **Major Reports:**

- Emission Gap Report, [Adaptation Gap Report](#), [Global Environment Outlook](#), Frontiers, Invest into Healthy Planet.

▪ **Major Campaigns:**

- Beat Pollution, UN75, [World Environment Day](#), Wild for Life.

Emissions Gap Report

- It assesses **the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets** of the [Paris Agreement](#). Every year, the report features ways to bridge the gap.

[Source: DTE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/emissions-gap-report-2021-unep>

