

# Societal Transformation Through Long-term Decarbonisation and Climate-Resilience Planning

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# **Executive summary**

Long-Term, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategies play a key role in shaping the future trajectory of global greenhouse gas emissions, as well as determining the speed, direction, and depth of a country's transition to low emissions development. Requested under the Paris Agreement, countries are in the process of developing these long-term decarbonisation frameworks to address society-wide environmental, economic, and just transition concerns. Building on the near-term and more interim goals of Nationally Determined Contributions, these economy-wide planning instruments prompt countries to lay out quantified climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, and develop an aspirational country-wide vision for low emission, climate resilient development to 2050. This acts as a catalyst for change and helps countries explore alternative development pathways, forge new partnerships, and take advantage of synergies around decarbonisation and resilience-building. As African governments undergo the process of restructuring their economies to meet global decarbonisation targets, there is a need for coordinated action and peer learning for an integrated and inclusive process that ensures no one is left behind.

## Introduction

Scientific evidence unambiguously shows that reaching net-zero global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the second half of the century requires that decarbonisation takes place as fast as possible. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Special Report on 1.5°C,¹ to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, global carbon dioxide emissions will need to have peaked by 2020, and then reduce to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net-zero around mid-century.²

To achieve this, the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>3</sup> under Article 4 (paragraphs 1, 4 and 19), mandates countries to develop and communicate Long-Term, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategies

LTSs set aspirational, country-wide, long-term vision and goals, while NDCs are the building blocks and planning tools needed to achieve these goals

<sup>1</sup> IPCC, Summary for Policymakers, in: *Global Warming of 1.5* °C. *An IPCC Special Report, ed.* Valérie Masson-Delmotte et al., (World Meteorological Organization: Geneva, Switzerland, 2018), 32.

<sup>2</sup> IPCC, Global Warming of 1.5°C.

Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104, <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\_paris\_agreement.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\_paris\_agreement.pdf</a>.

(Long-Term Strategies, or LTSs) to the Secretariat by the end of 2020. This requirement is in addition to the regular five-year update cycle for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

These LTSs require countries to plan to mid-century, clearly outlining the key focus areas and sectors to achieve low emissions development. In addition, LTSs guide short- and medium-term climate and development actions, including targets to be achieved prior to 2030, forming the basis of countries' national climate plans, as well as the revision of their NDCs.<sup>4</sup> LTSs set aspirational, country-wide, long-term vision and goals, while NDCs are the building blocks and planning tools needed to achieve these goals.

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In this way, LTSs can also help to foster coherence and coordination across the entire economy by defining sectoral choices and trade-offs necessary for addressing climate impacts and the reduction of GHG emissions. These planning frameworks are living documents that will evolve over time as priorities and parameters change.

Governments have the flexibility to define climate action according to their own circumstances, capabilities, level of preparation, resources, and development priorities. They are encouraged to align their LTS with broader sustainability, socio-economic, and climate change adaptation goals. While an LTS must be as comprehensive as possible, it must also be realistic, manageable, and implementable. Country actions need to align with global scientific requirements, as well as contribute fairly towards the global collective targets under the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake.<sup>5</sup>

# The status of global LTSs and net-zero commitments

The submission of LTSs is voluntary. While initially anticipated in 2020, COVID-related disruptions delayed the development and submission of LTSs; by February 2023, only 58 out of the 197 Parties had submitted their LTSs to the UNFCCC. Of these only seven

<sup>4</sup> Neha Mukhi et al., World Bank Outlook 2050 Strategic Directions Note: Supporting Countries to Meet Long-Term Goals of Decarbonization (Washington, DC: Oxford University Press, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> UN, 'For a livable climate: Net-zero commitments must be backed by credible action,' UN Climate Action, <a href="https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition">https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition</a>.

came from African countries: Benin, Gambia, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.<sup>6</sup> These policy frameworks vary in ambition, depth, and scope.

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Many other countries have pledged net-zero or climate neutral commitments as part of their own national processes, beyond those reflected on the <u>registry portal</u> of the UNFCCC. For example, while Ethiopia and Uganda have not developed long-term strategies towards Paris objectives, they have started incorporating climate change issues into their long-term economic development and green growth plans. In its <u>Growth and Transformation Plan II</u> (2015/16-2019/20), Ethiopia commits to becoming a lower middle-income country through net-zero carbon growth by 2025. Its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, launched in 2011, is the main policy driving this low-carbon growth, with three broad objectives: 1) economic growth and viability; 2) reduction of vulnerability to climate change; and 3) reduction of GHG emissions.<sup>7</sup> A Ten Year Development Plan (2021-2030) was also launched. It includes sector-specific development targets and pathways, with a dedicated chapter on 'Environment and Climate Change,' including emission reduction targets. While Ethiopia has not yet submitted an LTS, it is in the process of developing one with support from the Global Green Growth Institute.<sup>8</sup>

Sub-national governments, cities, financial institutions, and companies are also making climate neutrality and decarbonisation pledges. For example, the global <u>Race to Zero Campaign</u>, led by the UNFCCC's <u>High-Level Champions</u>, is a coalition of 8 307 companies, 595 financial institutions, 1 136 cities, 52 states and regions, 1 125 educational institutions, and 65 healthcare institutions, all of which have committed to achieve net-zero by 2050. In addition, the <u>Net Zero Asset Managers</u> (now with 301 signatories<sup>9</sup> and over \$61.3 trillion in assets), are aligning their investment portfolios with 2050 net-zero goals. Other leading businesses in Africa have also pledged to reduce their future GHG emissions. A recent study analysed 250 of Africa's largest publicly listed companies and found that half have set emissions targets, 51 had set net-zero targets, and 12 had set carbon neutrality targets.

<sup>6</sup> UN, 'Long-term strategies portal,' UN Climate Change, <a href="https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies">https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies</a>.

Isabel Crabtree-Condor, 'Policy Overview: Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy', ACCRA, <a href="https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/policy-overview-ethiopia-climate-resilient-green-economy-316676/">https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/policy-overview-ethiopia-climate-resilient-green-economy-316676/</a>.

<sup>8</sup> Climate Action Tracker, 'Ethiopia,' https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/ethiopia/net-zero-targets/.

<sup>9</sup> Figures as of December 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Romy Chevallier, 'The Urgent Race to Net Zero: Exploring African Priorities for COP26,' Policy Briefing 237, (South African Institute of International Affairs: Johannesburg, 2021).

According to the World Economic Forum, carbon neutrality can cover one part of a business's operations and only includes the reduction of CO2 emissions. Net-zero, however, refers to the reduction of all greenhouse gas emissions, across the entire supply chain; Dr Jessica Omukuti, 'Net Zero Commitments by Businesses in Africa,' 2022, <a href="https://netzeroclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/NZ-Businesses-Africa-report-Nov22.pdf">https://netzeroclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/NZ-Businesses-Africa-report-Nov22.pdf</a>.

For example, Tullow Oil has committed to a net-zero target by 2030 on their Scope 1 and 2<sup>12</sup> emissions in Ghana, through a combination of decarbonising their operations and off-setting emissions through nature-based solutions. Similarly, the Mauritius Commercial Bank Group is working towards carbon neutrality by 2023 through offsetting the GHG emissions from employee business travel, and by sourcing 25% of its energy from renewable sources and solar energy generators.

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While much headway is being made on long-term, low emissions policies, the fraction of global GHG covered by nationally adopted net-zero targets is insufficient to keep temperature goals below 1.5°C. According to the 2022 Mitigation Report of the IPCC, despite numerous policy commitments, global net GHG emissions during the decade 2010-2019 were higher than any previous time in history and are continuing to increase. Further ambitious commitments (and related actions) are therefore needed by more stakeholders and countries. For example, the International Monetary Fund predicts that emissions would need to be reduced by 25-50% by 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Current global climate commitments may achieve only an 11% reduction – a gap equal to more than five times the total annual emissions of the European Union. 14

Notably, many of the LTSs developed to date are focused primarily on mitigation actions through quantitative emissions reduction targets and timeframes to peak, plateau, and decline emissions. However, for African countries, LTSs need to balance mitigation with adaptation components, and contain pragmatic socio-economic development considerations and sector-specific priorities. This includes specific goals to enhance a country's adaptive capacity, strengthen its resilience, and reduce its vulnerability. Equally important are complementary mitigation and adaptation responses, highlighting the co-benefits of mitigation actions for adaptation and resilience building. This may strengthen links to a social development agenda and efforts to reduce poverty, while safeguarding against maladaptation.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, Scope 1 emissions are direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization, while Scope 2 emissions are indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling.

<sup>13</sup> Minal Pathak, et al., Technical Summary, in: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK, 2022), doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.002.

<sup>14</sup> Kristalina Georgieva, 'Getting Back on Track to Net Zero: Three Critical Priorities for COP27,' 2022, <a href="https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/">https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/</a> Articles/2022/11/04/getting-back-on-track-to-net-zero-three-critical-priorities-for-cop27.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FROM LONG-TERM PLANNING

Robust and well-developed decarbonisation roadmaps can provide many opportunities for African countries,<sup>a</sup> beyond the reduction of GHG emissions, including to:

- ensure coherence of short-term climate action with long-term climate goals;
- inspire a narrative that brings together climate and development agendas, maximizing the benefits of climate action to reach other societal goals, including environmental;
- support a common societal understanding of a long-term vision that can facilitate
  decision making for targets and actions in the near and medium term, thus
  improving the coordination of climate objectives at the sectoral and economywide level:
- streamline climate planning for NDC revisions, occurring as part of an iterative process alongside an LTS;
- help align national goals and targets with regional and international objectives,
   such as the SDGs:
- increase transparency and trust among countries that demonstrate ambition towards emissions neutrality, encouraging others to follow suit;
- support just and equitable transitions to ensure that 'no one is left behind' and trade-offs are adequately addressed;
- send early and predictable signals to investors about envisaged, long-term societal changes, encouraging climate finance for low emissions and green technologies;
- attract climate finance with a clear, long-term pathway and a pipeline of projects aligned with its national, Paris Agreement-compatible strategy; and
- provide a valuable platform for engagement and consensus building across a diverse group of stakeholders.
- a Chiara Falduto and Marcia Rocha, 'Aligning short-term climate action with long-term climate goals Opportunities and options for enhancing alignment between NDCs and long-term strategies,' Climate Change Expert Group Paper No.2020(2), https://www.oecd.org/environment/cc/LEDS-NDC-linkages.pdf

Much can be learned from Fiji about mainstreaming adaptation. Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment informs national development planning and investment decisions<sup>15</sup> by quantifying the threat that natural hazards and climate change pose to development objectives.

The Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, 'Long-Term Strategies for Climate Change, July 2020, <a href="https://www.finance\_ministersforclimate.org/sites/cape/files/inline-files/Helsinki%20Principle%201%20-%20Review%20of%20Long-Term%20Transition%20Strategies%2010July2020.pdf">https://www.finance\_ministersforclimate.org/sites/cape/files/inline-files/Helsinki%20Principle%201%20-%20Review%20of%20Long-Term%20Transition%20Strategies%2010July2020.pdf</a>.

# Elements of long-term decarbonisation strategies

While LTSs are context specific and countries follow different processes, there are general guidelines that should be followed. The section below describes good practices and key elements of an LTS that should be adopted and contextualized by all countries.

#### Policy coherence and alignment across sectors

LTSs must be designed and developed to align with and complement other sustainable development activities and processes. Building on existing domestic plans and policies can optimise resources, ensure policy coherence, and help in obtaining buy-in from key institutions. It is therefore important, from the outset, to undertake a thorough policy scoping exercise to understand what climate and development plans are already in place, including NDCs, national adaptation policies, and related sectoral targets. Instruments must also be developed to enhance integration across national and sectoral policies. This can include a process to align indicators, targets, implementation, and financial plans, as well as systems to monitor and track progress. This ultimately requires building a standardised framework for SDGs and LTS processes at national level. Uganda, for example, has developed a comprehensive whole-of-economy planning framework for climate and development.<sup>16</sup> Ethiopia has successfully merged its green economy and climate resilient agenda with its national development goals.<sup>17</sup> Mexico is one of the few countries that has sought to align implementation of its SDGs and NDC. The Mexican President's Office, which leads the SDG 2030 Agenda, and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, which leads NDC implementation, agreed in 2017 to align their strategies, policies and budgets, as a means to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficient use of state resources. 18 Kenya has also 'climate-proofed' SDG indicators for its National Climate Change Action Plan to ensure SDG reporting is embedded and aligned with its national climate reporting tools.<sup>19</sup>

Building on existing domestic plans and policies can optimise resources, ensure policy coherence, and help in obtaining buy-in from key institutions

<sup>16</sup> Gabrielle SA Swaby and Amir Sokolowski, 'Long-term planning for climate and development,' Case Study, (IIED: London, July 2020).

<sup>17</sup> Nicolas Harrison, 'Global Good Practice Analysis on LEDS, NAMAs and MRV,' Summary Report, May 2014, International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV & Low Emission Capacity Building Programme.

<sup>18</sup> Mathilde Bouyé, 'INSIDER: Bridging Implementation of SDGs and NDCs: Examples and Early Lessons from Country Experiences,' World Resources Institute, July 17, 2018 <a href="https://www.wri.org/technical-perspectives/insider-bridging-implementation-sdgs-and-ndcs-examples-and-early-lessons-country">https://www.wri.org/technical-perspectives/insider-bridging-implementation-sdgs-and-ndcs-examples-and-early-lessons-country</a>.

<sup>19</sup> Bouyé, 'INSIDER: Bridging Implementation.'

#### Stakeholder engagement and social inclusion

Open discussions about cleaner and smarter development pathways are necessary at all levels of society, and stakeholder engagement in the development of LTSs will enhance societal buy-in. It is particularly important to consider how the opportunities, risks, benefits, and costs associated with decarbonisation will be distributed across social groups and geographic areas, and then to proactively adopt actions to ensure a just and equitable transition to a net zero economy. This involves a fair distribution of the costs and benefits, with recognition of the close relationships between climate change actions, responses, and impacts, equitable access to sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty.<sup>20</sup>

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South Africa has developed a <u>Just Transition Framework (2022)</u>, which aims to ensure economy-wide coordination and coherence to just transition planning through increased public engagement.<sup>21</sup> In 2021 and 2022 a series of public workshops, events, and consultations involving business, government, civil society, labour, youth, academia, workers, and communities was initiated to ensure diverse perspectives and concerns were adequately represented in the framework. The public was also able to submit comments to the Presidential Climate Commission on this first draft.

As another example, Costa Rica is using specific indicators for gender, youth, and vulnerable groups in monitoring and evaluation frameworks to promote gender equality and social inclusion. The aim is to ensure that these constituencies are integrated into the development of LTSs, from drafting through to implementation and monitoring outcomes.<sup>22</sup>

#### High-level political leadership

Political or institutional leadership can help drive LTSs and provide a mandate for their development; foster coordination between ministries and local government; send the right signals to the private sector; and enhance linkages with other ongoing political processes.

<sup>20</sup> European Investment Bank, *Progress Report: Multilateral Development Banks Working Together for Paris Alignment, Nov 03, 2021,* https://www.eib.org/en/events/joint-mdb-paris-alignment-update-cop26.

<sup>21</sup> The Presidential Climate Commission, 'South Africa's Just Transition Framework,' 2022,

<sup>22</sup> Una Murray, 'Gender and NDCs: Country Progress and Key Findings,' Paper from The Global Gender Workshop, (Nairobi, Kenya, April 24–26, 2019), 43.

Securing buy-in across institutions helps to ensure that LTSs withstand a change of administration and are 'owned' by the whole of government. Leaders also need to decide on the extent and scope of the LTS, such as whether it is an economy wide or sectoral LTS. In this regard Nigeria's high-level leadership for a net-zero future has provided it with clear direction and instilled confidence amongst investors.

Leaders play an important role in setting an overall country vision and offering transparent and scientifically robust targets for achieving net zero emissions, including specific measures, a target year, and a baseline. For example, South Africa's LTS follows a peak, plateau and decline GHG trajectory, with emissions peaking in the period 2020 to 2025 with a lower limit of 398 Mt CO2-eq and upper limits of 583 Mt CO2-eq and 614 Mt CO2-eq for 2020 and 2025 respectively.<sup>23</sup> Emissions will then plateau for up to ten years after the peak within the range with a lower limit of 398 Mt CO2-eq and upper limit of 614 Mt CO2-eq, and then decline from 2036 onwards to a range with a lower limit of 212 Mt CO2-eq and an upper limit of 428 Mt CO2-eq by 2050.<sup>24</sup>

Beyond economy wide LTSs, countries need to consider key contributing sectors and their impacts, interlinkages, and interdependencies. In large emitting and vulnerable sectors, countries are encouraged to set specific, measurable, and time-bound targets that support and align with economy-wide goals. Nigeria's long-term vision is to reduce current emissions by 50% by 2050, moving towards net-zero emissions through its 'visions by sector.' In its agriculture, forestry, and land-use sectors, which contribute 60% to its net emissions, all large-scale farmers and 75% of smallholder farmers, should adopt Climate Smart Agriculture practices by 2050. In the oil and gas sector, Nigeria will reduce carbon emissions by 50% of its current level by 2050 and transit to net zero emissions by the end of the century.

#### Robust institutional architecture

Long-term planning for a 'whole of society approach' raises unique governance challenges, requiring engagement across a wide range of ministries and actors, and legal frameworks that support implementation. As a result, countries are developing and rearranging their institutional coordination structures to improve inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral cooperation, and designing and strengthening mechanisms to enhance stakeholder engagement, especially amongst non-state actors. These institutional structures need to be equipped with the necessary skills, clear roles and responsibilities, and political and budgetary support to ensure inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement.

<sup>23</sup> Mt CO2-eq means Megatonne Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. The upper and lower limits of this peak, plateau, decline trajectory for South Africa's carbon emissions describe the range of Mt CO2-eq that is expected to be emitted over a specific timeframe.

<sup>24</sup> South African government, 'South Africa's Low Emission Development Strategy', UNFCC, 2020, <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/South%20Africa%27s%20Low%20Emission%20Development%20Strategy.pdf</a>.

Nigeria Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment, 2050 Long-Term Vision for Nigeria (LTV2050), UNFCC, 2021, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Nigeria\_LTS1.pdf.

<sup>26</sup> Nigeria Department of Climate Change, 2050 Long-Term Vision.

South Africa has responded to this through the development of a Presidential Climate Commission. This independent, multi-stakeholder body was established by President Cyril Ramaphosa to oversee all aspects related to South Africa's Just Transition, including policy development, broad and inclusive stakeholder engagement, technical analysis of the impact of the transition on jobs, economy and policy, and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the just transition in relation to broader development objectives. This unique institutional architecture promotes multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral coordination for long-term climate action.

#### Research and data inputs

Data and scientific analysis are the foundation of the LTS preparation and design process and can inform long-term goal setting, as well as the identification and prioritisation of short- and medium-term policies. LTSs can be built off a variety of analytical frameworks and tools, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches that develop richer insights for long-term planning and to spark innovative thinking.

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Particularly useful for long-term planning is the use of strategic foresight tools, such as modelling and scenario building, that can offer policymakers insight into a range of possible futures.<sup>27</sup> For example, scenarios might contrast a future with a large share of renewables or a future with a large share of natural gas; or a future where ecosystems are restored, thriving and intact, and a future where they are not; or a future in which a country strives to achieve an ambitious GHG reduction target or where it sticks to a business-as-usual approach. These scenarios and models can help reveal which adaptation and mitigation actions are needed to achieve long-term goals and when they should be adopted. Modelling can also be used to examine trade-offs and explore the technical feasibility of a range of possible options. Costa Rica has successfully used a participatory, scenario-guided planning process to inform its LTS.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence, Foresight as a Strategic Long-term Planning Tool for Developing Countries, 2014, https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/GCPSE%20Foresight\_Brief.pdf.

<sup>28</sup> Marieke Veeger, 'Info Note: Scenario-guided participatory enhancement of Costa Rica's Nationally Determined Contribution,' CCAFS, October 2021.

In many African countries data is often unavailable, including current and future national GHG emissions profiles and inventories, or information to identify vulnerabilities across key sectors and geographies. To assist with the collection of data, Ethiopia established a specialised unit to enhance its climate research capacity and inform policymaking.

#### Finance and capacity to support implementation

The operationalisation of LTSs requires adequate financing, technical and institutional capacity, as well as outreach support and sensitisation. Early and open exchanges between countries can allow them to share lessons, discuss common challenges, and identify opportunities for collaboration. For example, the <u>Climate Action Peer Exchange (CAPE)</u> is a forum consisting of finance ministers from around the world and World Bank partners, to facilitate knowledge exchange and advisory support on fiscal challenges in implementing NDCs. Seven technical knowledge exchanges have been held over three years, and a <u>virtual platform</u> (the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action) has been established, creating a centralised hub for expertise and exchange.<sup>29</sup>

Many countries are conducting technical needs assessments, including what data and research needs are unmet, and then analysing what partners might be able to assist. Some countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia, are using technical partnerships for the development of LTSs for their agricultural sectors. Countries are also conducting financial needs assessments, including the scoping of potential partners, as well as assessing their country's readiness for accessing international funds. It is essential that the long-term visions of national policy instruments are effectively communicated to a broad range of societal actors. Effective communication strategies are necessary to support their implementation and build public support for their long-term vision.

#### Monitoring, reporting, learning and evaluation

It is useful to develop a plan for monitoring progress – along with a process for revision – to ensure that the LTSs are living documents that are updated and improved upon as national circumstances change, technology and science evolves, and new learning takes place. While a structured revision schedule is not clearly specified under the Paris Agreement as they have been for NDCs, progress should be evaluated regularly. The five-year NDC cycle offers an opportunity to review and update the LTS and to ensure that it remains relevant and strategic. Accompanying an LTS should be a clear implementation matrix, and a monitoring and review plan that details the institutional roles and budgets.

<sup>29</sup> South-South Experience, Action Learning Support to Cape-Climate Action Peer Exchange, South-South Facility, 2020.

AGNES, 'Project 03: Aligning Mid-Century Long-term Low Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LTS) with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia, '2020.

## Conclusion

Given the urgency and importance of meeting the 1.5°C temperature target of the Paris Agreement, it is essential that policymakers in Africa promote decarbonisation and transition planning and adopt robust policy mechanisms to guide all sectors of society.

LTSs are whole-of-society and economy-wide approaches that can promote long-term transformation. These policy roadmaps provide a vital link between short-term NDCs and the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement.<sup>31</sup> They stipulate a direction, a target and timeframes within which actions are to be implemented, and provide a space for all stakeholders to come together, where new solutions can emerge, and where groups often excluded from decision making can raise their concerns and be included in the process.

These policy roadmaps provide a vital link between short-term NDCs and the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement. They provide a space for all stakeholders to come together, where new solutions can emerge

LTSs will play a key role in shaping the global climate change trajectory and promoting innovative pathways towards low carbon, climate resilient transformative action. While these are positive developments, the fraction of global emissions covered by some form of a nationally adopted net-zero target is still below what is required to keep temperature goals below 1.5°C. In addition, global emissions are still rising.

While some countries are leading the development process, others are in the beginning stages of planning and designing their LTSs. To facilitate this process, peer learning platforms are needed to support African countries' efforts to develop and strengthen of their LTSs. Finally, a step-by-step technical guidance document could offer a framework for developing an LTS, including the identification of key processes, methods and tools needed to create a robust, integrated, and inclusive policy instrument.

World Resources Institute, A Brief Guide for Reviewing Countries' Long-term Strategies, https://files.wri.org/s3fs-public/reviewing-countries-long-term-strategies-guide.pdf.

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#### Cover image

Solar panels and wind turbines generating renewable energy (pidjoe via Getty Images)

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