

# Climate pledges by 140 countries will limit global warming – but not enough

Analysis of nations' carbon emissions pledges ahead of Paris climate summit shows they would see 2.7C warming by 2100, breaching 2C 'safety' threshold



A coal power plant in Germany. Pledges to cut carbon emissions by 140 countries are welcome but not enough to avert dangerous global warming, one analysis has found. Photograph: Martin Meissner/AP

**Reuters**

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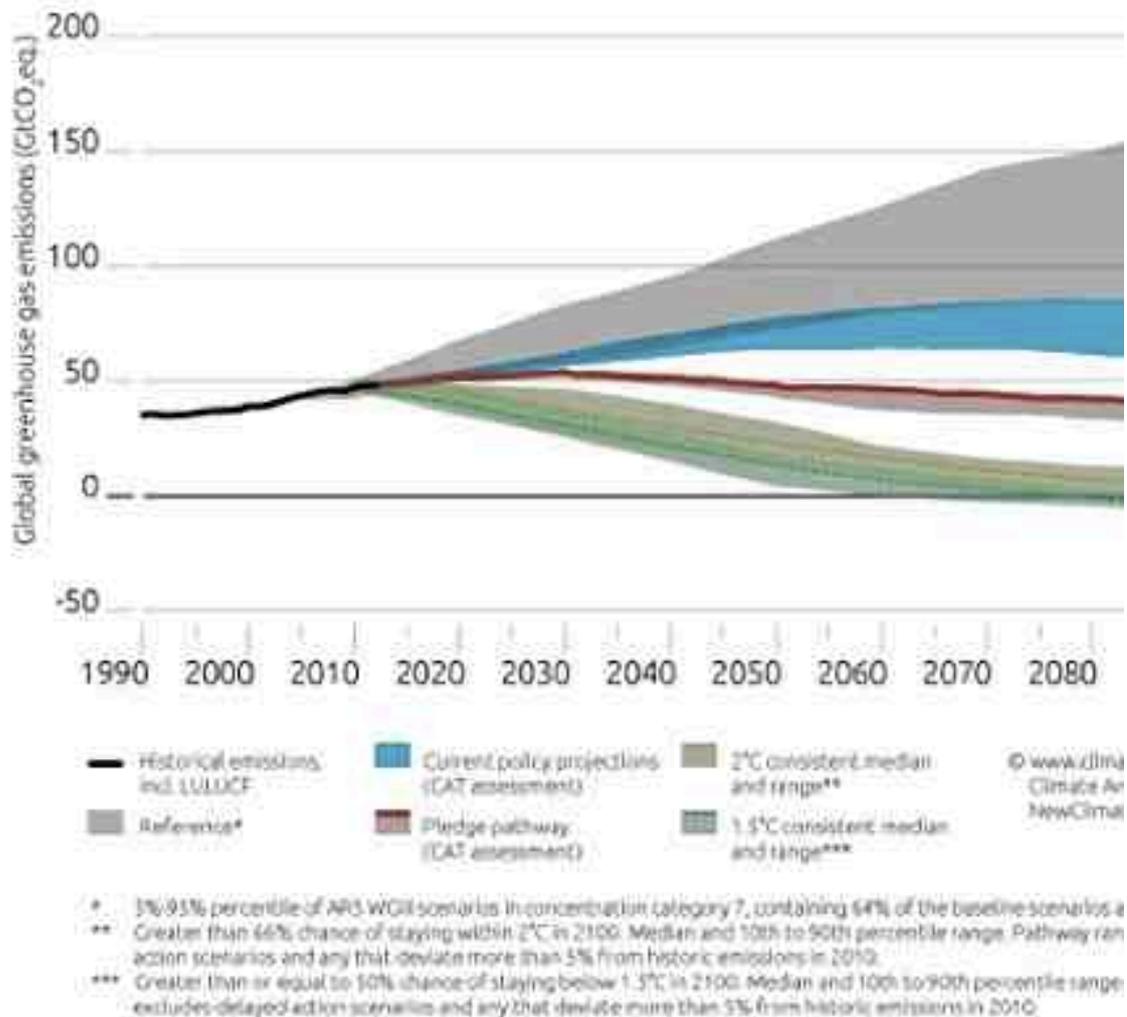
Plans submitted by 140 nations to limit their greenhouse gases would go some way towards tackling climate change, but not enough to prevent the planet from warming by well over 2C compared to pre-industrial times, experts say.

The plans by countries from Albania to Zimbabwe, led by top emitters China and the United States, were submitted by an informal United Nations deadline on Thursday as building blocks towards a climate accord that negotiators will try to clinch at a summit in Paris in December.

A Climate Action Tracker (CAT) by four European research groups projected the plans, if implemented, would limit average temperature rises to 2.7C above pre-industrial times by 2100, down from 3.1C estimated last December.

That is still clearly above the 2C level that governments have accepted as the threshold beyond which the Earth would face dangerous changes including more droughts, extinctions, floods and rising seas, which could swamp coastal regions and entire island nations.

## What warming would result from INDCs submitted :



Climate Action Tracker analysis of climate pledges to the UN. Photograph: Climate Action Tracker

“We’re below three degrees for the first time,” Bill Hare of Climate Analytics, which is part of CAT, told Reuters. “We’re obviously far from where we need to be, but this is a signal that the process can work.”

He said the main contributor was Beijing’s plan, [issued in June](#), to get emissions from burning coal, oil and natural gas to peak by around 2030.

A top priority for the Paris talks, six years after the failure of a [previous summit in Copenhagen](#), will be to find ways to toughen the plans in order to meet the 2C target.

“What the negotiations are looking to do is build not just that first step but the entire

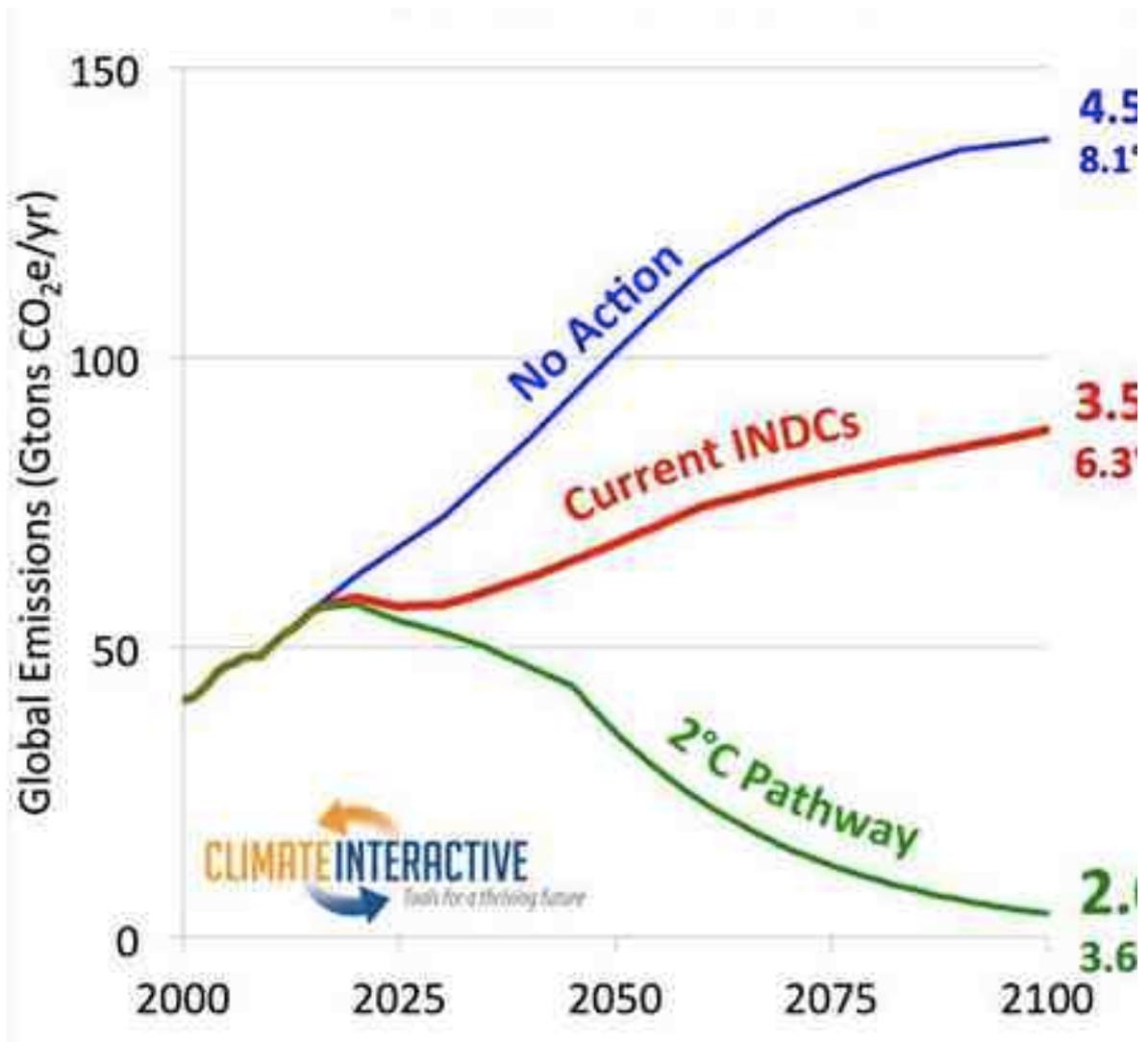
staircase,” said Taryn Fransen, of the World Resources Institute think-tank.

Experts said the wide participation was welcome. “It takes away one of the possible stumbling blocks for Paris,” said Frank Melum, a senior analyst at Thomson Reuters Point Carbon.

He said every emitter accounting for more than one percent of global emissions met the 1 October deadline except India, Iran and Saudi Arabia, which is fearful of a shift from fossil fuels.

Together the plans cover almost 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The UN climate changesecretariat says it will add up them all up in coming weeks to estimate their effect in slowing climate change. It has privately told countries that they have a few days’ leeway.

India, the biggest emitter yet to submit, plans to outline its plan for action on Friday to coincide with the birthday of independence leader Mahatma Gandhi.



Earlier this week, Climate Interactive, a not-for-profit group in Washington, using different assumptions from CAT, projected the national plans would curb temperature rises to 3.5C, compared with 4.5C if no action was taken.

Expected warming in 2100 from national contributions to Paris climate talks is 3.5°C (6.3°F)

<https://www.climateinteractive.org/tools/scoreboard/>

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