



Achieving a High Ambition Pathway with Enhanced Subnational Climate Action in Mexico: Evaluating Mexico's 2035 NDC

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In November 2025, Mexico released its 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The new NDC commits to reducing total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 364-404 MtCO₂e unconditionally and 332-363 MtCO₂e conditionally¹ by 2035. Prior to the announcement, Mexico joined the E.U. and other countries at COP29 in issuing a joint statement expressing its intention to submit a 2035 NDC that aligns with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, covers economy-wide GHG emissions, and follows a linear or steeper trajectory toward a net-zero target.² It has also committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

Measured against 2023 levels, the 2035 NDC targets translate to a 35-41% unconditional and 42-47% conditional reduction in total GHG emissions by 2035. These targets represent an improvement in target quality and an accelerated ambition compared to the previous NDC, which includes a 35% unconditional or 40% conditional reduction from the business-as-usual (BAU) emissions level by 2030.¹ The new targets are specified as absolute emissions levels instead of relative reductions to a highly uncertain BAU baseline. The 2035 NDC aims for a meaningful decline from the 2023 emissions, whereas the 2030 NDC implies possible emissions levels ranging from a 4.3% decrease to a 3.6% increase relative to 2023.

Our analysis, published in the recent report, [Achieving a High Ambition Pathway with Enhanced Subnational Climate Action in Mexico](#),³ presents a plausible pathway for Mexico to achieve high-ambition emissions reductions by 2035 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050, with priority policy actions at both national and subnational levels. **Under the High Ambition pathway, Mexico's total GHG emissions (including LULUCF) decline by 48-52% from 2023 levels, reaching 300-325 MTCO₂e by 2035.** The analysis combines results from an open-source global integrated assessment model (GCAM-CGS), with bottom-up sectoral assessments focused on policy strategies and technologies with proven track records of enabling rapid decarbonization in various countries.

The upper end of the conditional target in Mexico's 2035 NDC is largely consistent with the High Ambition pathway, while the range for the unconditional target lies further above it, indicating that the unconditional target is not aligned with this pathway (Figure 1). The conditional target is consistent with a linear or steeper trajectory to net-zero emissions by 2050, as Mexico indicated at COP29.

¹Recent analysis from CGS-WWF, "Achieving a High Ambition Pathway with Enhanced Subnational Climate Action in Mexico" uses AR4 GWPs, and thus has a slightly different estimate of emissions reduction (47-51%)



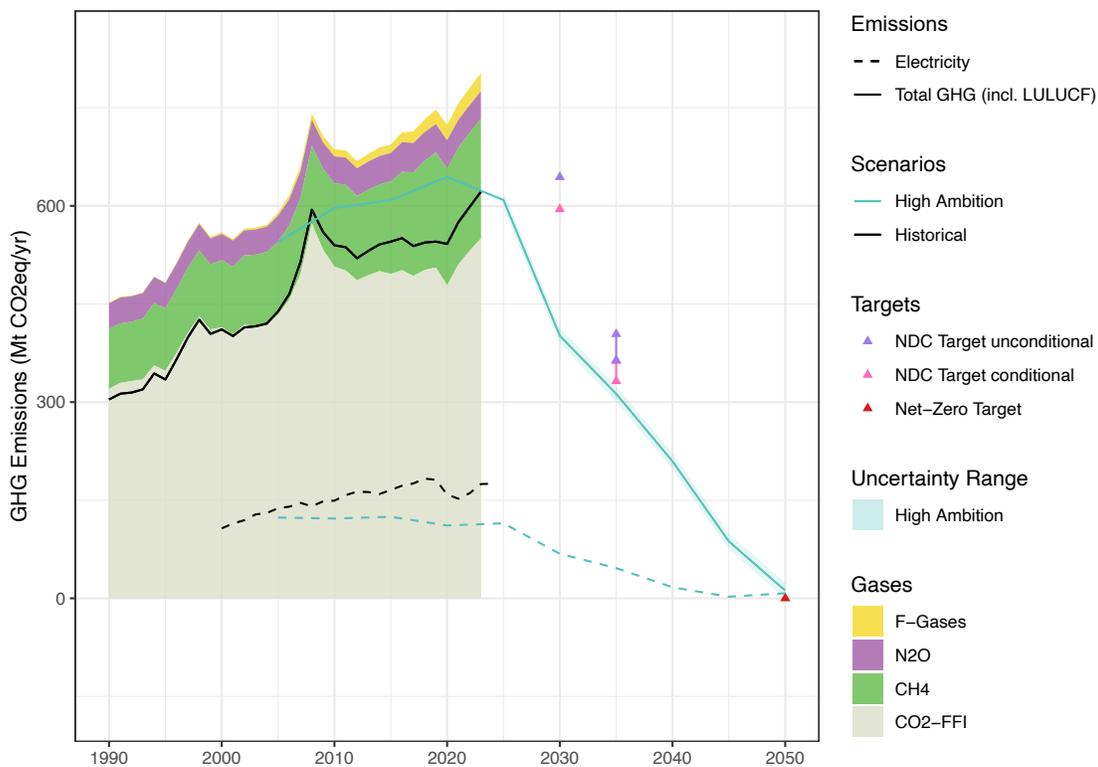


Figure 1. Mexico's GHG emission pathway (including LULUCF). Historical data is from PRIMAP-hist4 (solid black line for total GHG, including LULUCF), Ember⁵ (dashed black line for electricity supply GHG emissions), and CEDS⁶ (colored breakdown of historic GHG emissions, with F-Gases from PRIMAP-hist). CO₂ FFI refers to CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes. Colored triangles indicate official NDC and net-zero targets. Pink triangles represent the conditional 2030 and 2035 NDC targets, purple triangles represent the unconditional 2030 and 2035 NDC targets, and the red triangle represents the net-zero target. The pink and purple lines in 2035 depict the conditional and unconditional 2035 NDC ranges, respectively. NDC targets are calculated using CGS methodology and may differ from targets in NDC documents. Pathway data includes LULUCF emissions and is based on the scenarios developed using the GCAM model for the NGFS Phase V with adjustments.⁷ The shaded area represents +/- 2% of NDC base year emissions.

Our analysis shows that the upper end of Mexico's conditional 2035 NDC target can be achieved through sectoral strategies and an all-of-society approach. The high emitting sectors, including power, methane, transportation, and industry, have significant potential to deliver rapid emissions reductions through immediate and decisive action. Key strategies include accelerating renewable energy deployment, phasing out fossil fuels, reducing reliance on imported gas in the power sector, and prioritizing electric vehicle adoption to avoid expanding oil production. Methane emissions, particularly from agriculture and waste sectors, remain one of the key challenges. However, Mexico has an opportunity to become an international leader in advancing technological and policy solutions to reduce non-CO₂ emissions from these sectors.

Additionally, the High Ambition pathway underscores the importance of integrating subnational actions into national climate strategies. By examining the degree of centralization and the scope of subnational influence in each sector, existing policies and the potential to enhance action, and key challenges and equity considerations faced by subnational authorities, we further outline policy priorities for subnational actors in Mexico. These include promoting energy efficiency, incentivizing rooftop solar in the industrial and residential sectors, reducing methane emissions from food loss and waste, advancing circular economy practices, and modernizing public and private transit systems. For additional information, please see the [full report](#).

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