

Country profile – Ethiopia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 26, 2025)

Key pledge: Solid waste coverage will rise from 61.3% to 83% by 2035.

Total score:

7/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (4/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (1/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
1-1. Does the NDC explicitly recognize the waste sector's GHG impact and set specific reduction targets?	2-1. Is the country planning to recognize and integrate waste pickers into the formal system?	3-1. Are there plans for meaningful consultation with local orgs, unions, integration of best grassroots practices?	4-1. Does it explicitly rule out waste-to-energy incineration, cement kiln burning, chemical recycling/pyrolysis?	5-1. Does this country recognize the co-benefits of waste sector climate action?
Yes, it explicitly recognizes the waste sector's emissions and includes a specific numeric reduction target.	No mention of waste pickers or informal sector workers.	Broad language on participation of different stakeholders, but not with concrete plans.	No. The NDC neither promotes nor rules out waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.	It recognizes co-benefits such as reducing pollution and flood vulnerability.
1-2. Is the country following the ZW hierarchy? Based on detailed approaches mentioned in NDC	2-2. Does the country include waste pickers as one of the key stakeholders?			5-2. Does this country highlight the importance of addressing class, race, and gender-based injustices? Particularly in the waste sector?
The NDC does not provide much detail on waste prevention or management strategies, other than expanding 'solid waste coverage' and scaling up biogas in the context of diversifying energy sources.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			The NDC mentions that gender equality and social inclusion will be mainstreamed across all sectors through participatory implementation and monitoring.

Analysis

What's good about Ethiopia's NDC?

Ethiopia's NDC clearly recognizes the waste sector's role in national climate mitigation, with a quantified reduction target. The document reflects the country's priority of expanding collection and anaerobic digestion (biogas) with no reliance on waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.

What's not good?

Ethiopia's NDC remains institutionally and socially narrow, emphasizing infrastructure over inclusion. It makes no reference to waste pickers, informal recyclers, or community cooperatives, missing an opportunity to connect climate action with social protection and livelihoods. The NDC also lacks mention of recycling systems, EPR, or details of organic waste recovery, leaving unclear how the country will manage upstream waste prevention and material recovery.

Summary

Ethiopia's NDC provides a quantitative baseline for waste-sector mitigation and its avoidance of incineration and focus on biological solutions reflect a prudent, climate-consistent approach. However, there is a lack of linkage between waste management and livelihoods, community-led solutions, and equity.