

ASCOR



Grantham
Research Institute
on Climate Change
and the Environment

Assessing Sovereign Climate-related Opportunities and Risks (ASCOR) Explainer Series

Area EP2. 2030 targets

Johannes Honneth, Analyst
Transition Pathway Initiative Centre
London School of Economics and Political Science



ASCOR framework

Emissions Pathways (EP)	Climate Policies (CP)	Climate Finance (CF)
EP1. Emissions trends	CP1. Climate legislation	CF1. International climate finance
EP2. 2030 targets	CP2. Carbon pricing	CF2. Climate costing
EP3. Net zero targets	CP3. Fossil fuels	CF3. Climate spending
	CP4. Sectoral transitions	CF4. Renewable opportunities
	CP5. Adaptation	
	CP6. Just transition	

Note: [ASCOR framework: methodology note - Version 1.1](#) was used to assess 70 countries in 2024.

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2. How does ASCOR assess 2030 targets?
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1. Introduction to 2030 targets

Why does ASCOR assess 2030 targets?



Emissions reduction targets are anchored in the **Paris Agreement** (Article 4) in the form of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



The alignment of 2030 targets with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement is important to limit global warming to 1.5°C in a **credible and orderly way**.



2030 targets **set a strategic direction** for climate action and establish **medium-term ambition**.



Assessing **unconditional** targets and the reliance on **carbon credits** sheds light on intended direct and independent actions taken by national governments **to decarbonise domestic emissions**.



The **level of ambition** of national targets can be benchmarked against 1.5°C based on:

1. **cost-efficient modelling** or
2. **equity principles** resulting in **fair share allowances**

2. How does ASCOR assess 2030 targets?

Indicators and metrics



EP2a. Has the country set a 2030 emissions reduction target?

EP2ai. What is the targeted reduction relative to 2019 emissions?



EP2b. Does the country specify whether and how much carbon credits may contribute to its 2030 target?

EP2bi. What percentage of the 2030 target will be met using carbon credits?



EP2c. Is the country's 2030 target aligned with its 1.5°C benchmark?

EP2ci. What is the degree of alignment with its 1.5°C benchmark?



EP2d. Is the country's 2030 target aligned with its 1.5°C fair share?

EP2di. What is the degree of alignment with its 1.5°C fair share?

How does ASCOR assess 2030 targets?



ASCOR assesses the existence of **unconditional targets**, their reliance on **carbon credits**, and their **alignment with 1.5°C**. All indicators include quantitative metrics.



To align with **common but differentiated responsibilities**, we complement cost-efficient benchmarks with fair share allowances that account for historical responsibility, financial capability and population.

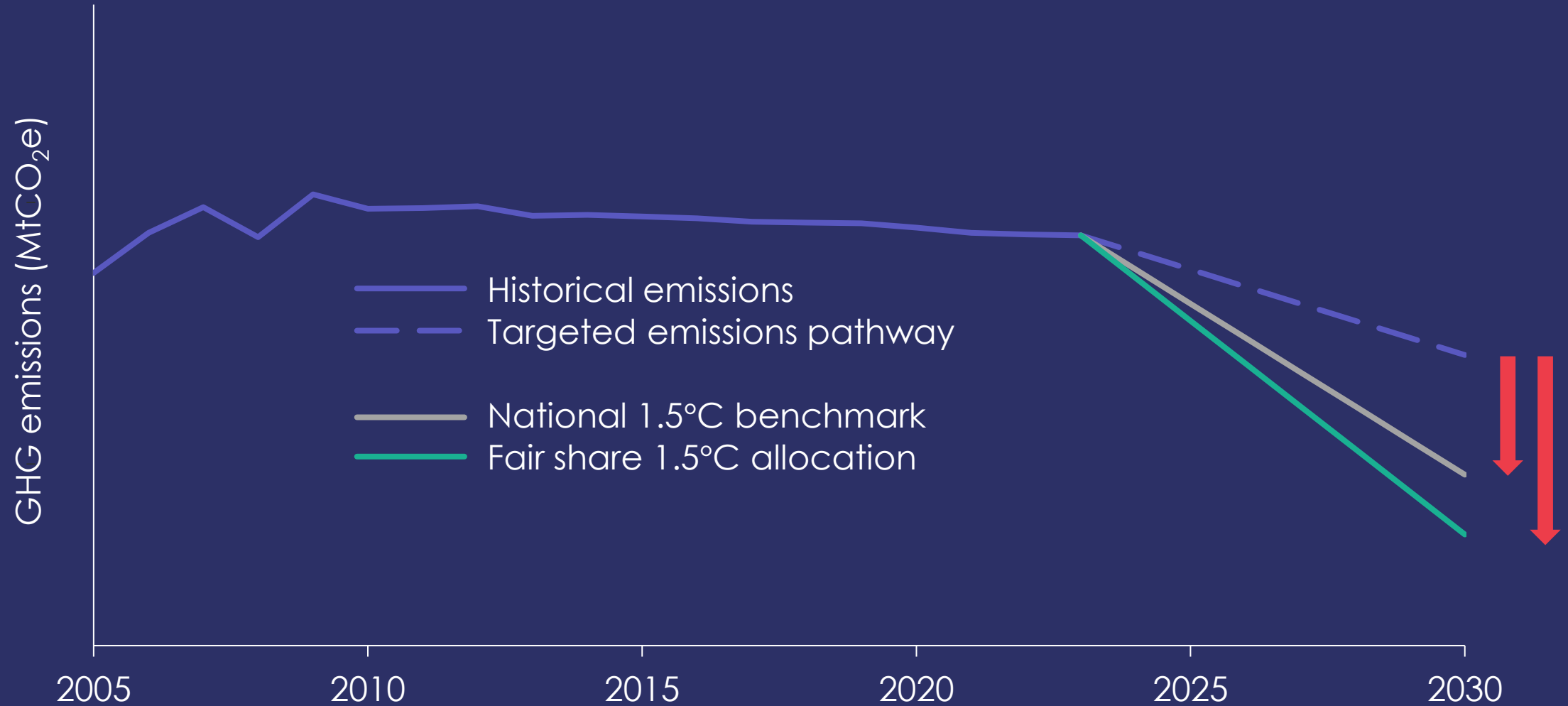


We assess national commitments which represent **ambition at the sovereign level**.



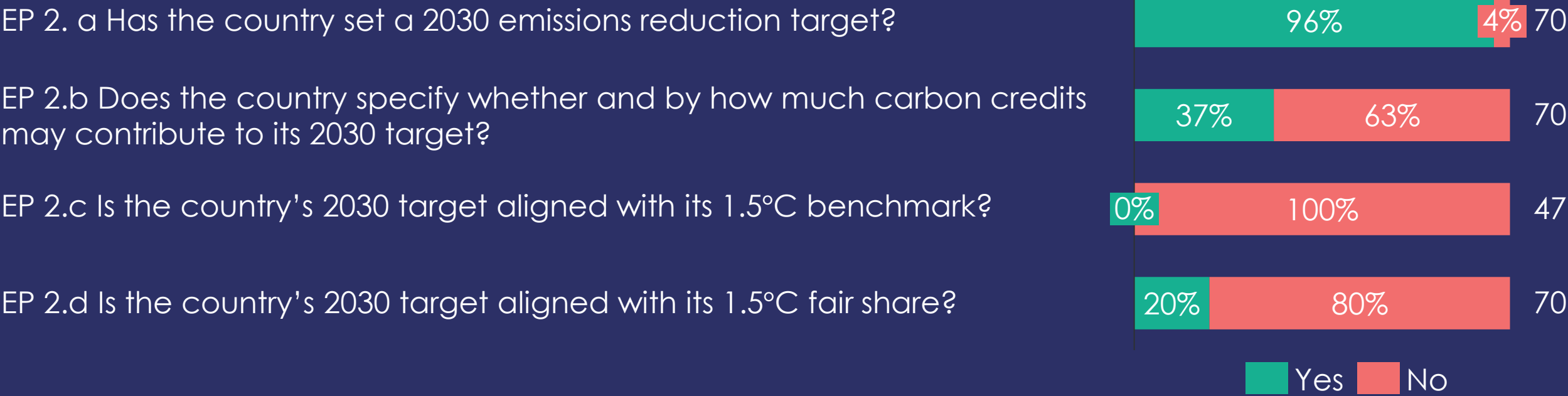
When assessing this area, we primarily rely on [NDCs](#) as well as legislative and executive documents. For the quantitative metrics, we use data from a range of sources (e.g. [World Bank](#), [United Nations \(UN\)](#), [Climate Analytics](#)).

Country 2030 pathway



3. Results and emerging best practice

2024 assessment results



Note: The number of countries assessed against each indicator is specified next to each bar.

Emerging good practices



Two countries plan to decrease their emissions by over 50% in 2030 from 2019.

- [Denmark](#) aims to reduce emissions by 55% and [Barbados](#) by 73%.



Targets should cover **all sectors** of an economy and **all greenhouse gases** (GHGs). The country should **transparently** disclose the target's sectoral and GHG coverage.

- **More and more countries** use tables to transparently report on coverage and follow Article 4.8 of the Paris Agreement.



If a country plans to use carbon credits to achieve its target, it should transparently quantify this reliance.

- [Japan](#) states in its NDC that it plans to use carbon credits to meet at most 15% of its target.



Ambitious targets should come with **adequate policies** leading to **emissions reductions**.

- [Austria](#), [Denmark](#) and [Sweden](#) have decreased their absolute emissions over the last five years while being assessed relatively well across the Climate Policies pillar.

Stay up to date on the ASCOR project:

www.ascorproject.org

Access the ASCOR tool and database:

www.transitionpathwayinitiative.org/ascor

Contact:

gri.ascor@lse.ac.uk

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