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# Beyond the targets: Assessing the political credibility of national actions and INDCs

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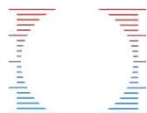


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# Outline

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- ☐ Why credibility?
- ☐ Methodology of the study
- ☐ Framework for assessing credibility
- ☐ Application to G20 outcomes
- ☐ Policy implications



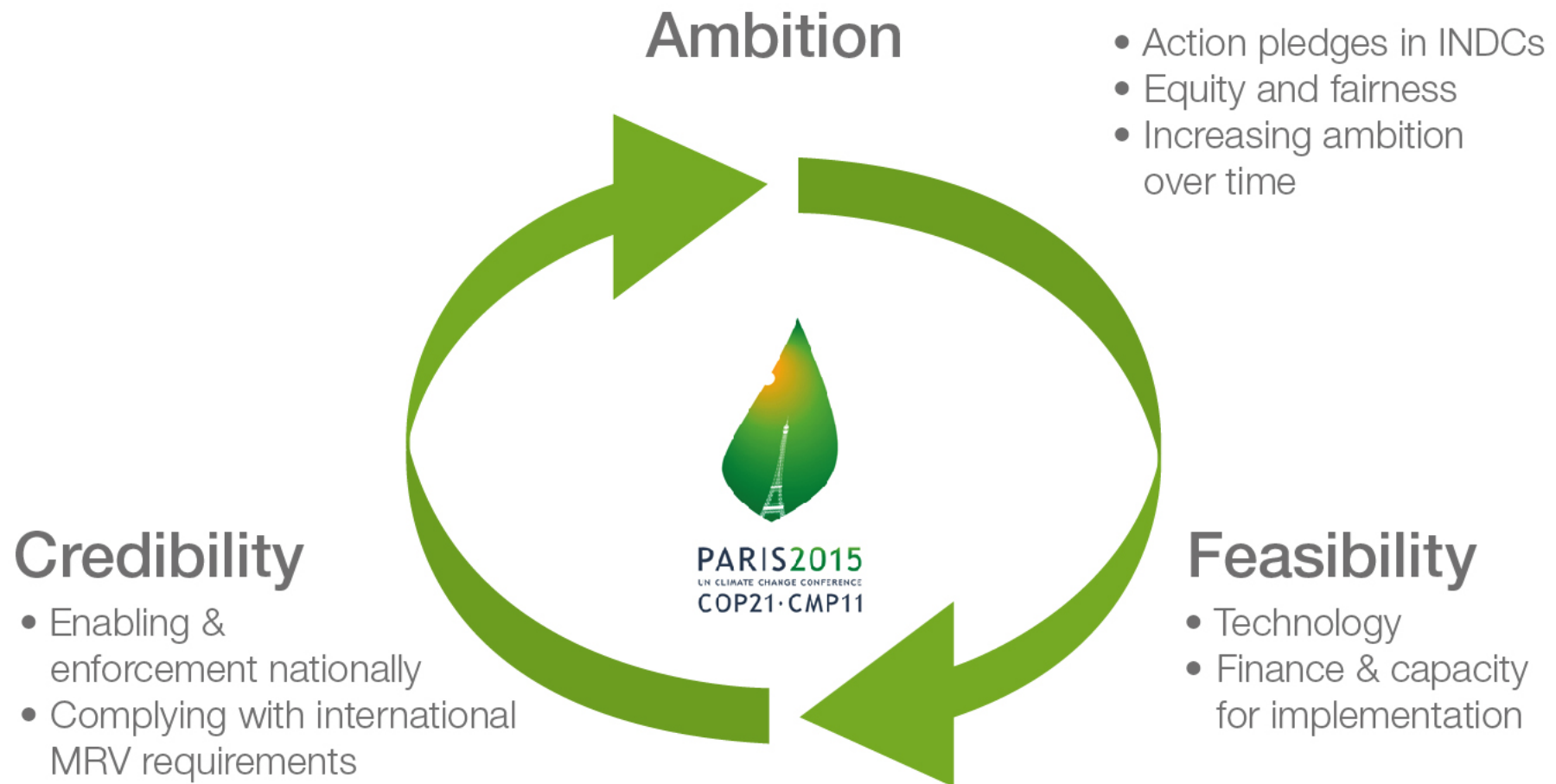
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# Key issues for global action

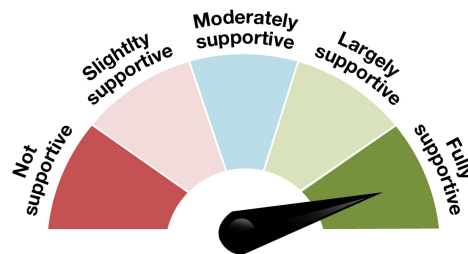
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# Methodology

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- ❑ Identify the determinants that have been suggested to increase credibility of policy/pledges by past theoretical and empirical studies
- ❑ Assess what these determinants could consist of applied to climate mitigation
- ❑ Identify a simplified set of indicators that can be used as a proxy for the evaluation of the determinants of credibility at a country level
- ❑ Assess these determinants at a country level on the scale from “not supportive” to “fully supportive” to credibility
- ❑ Apply the framework to G20 countries to illustrate overall trends



***Credibility of the INDCs/pledges determines the extent to which others believe that they will be achieved***

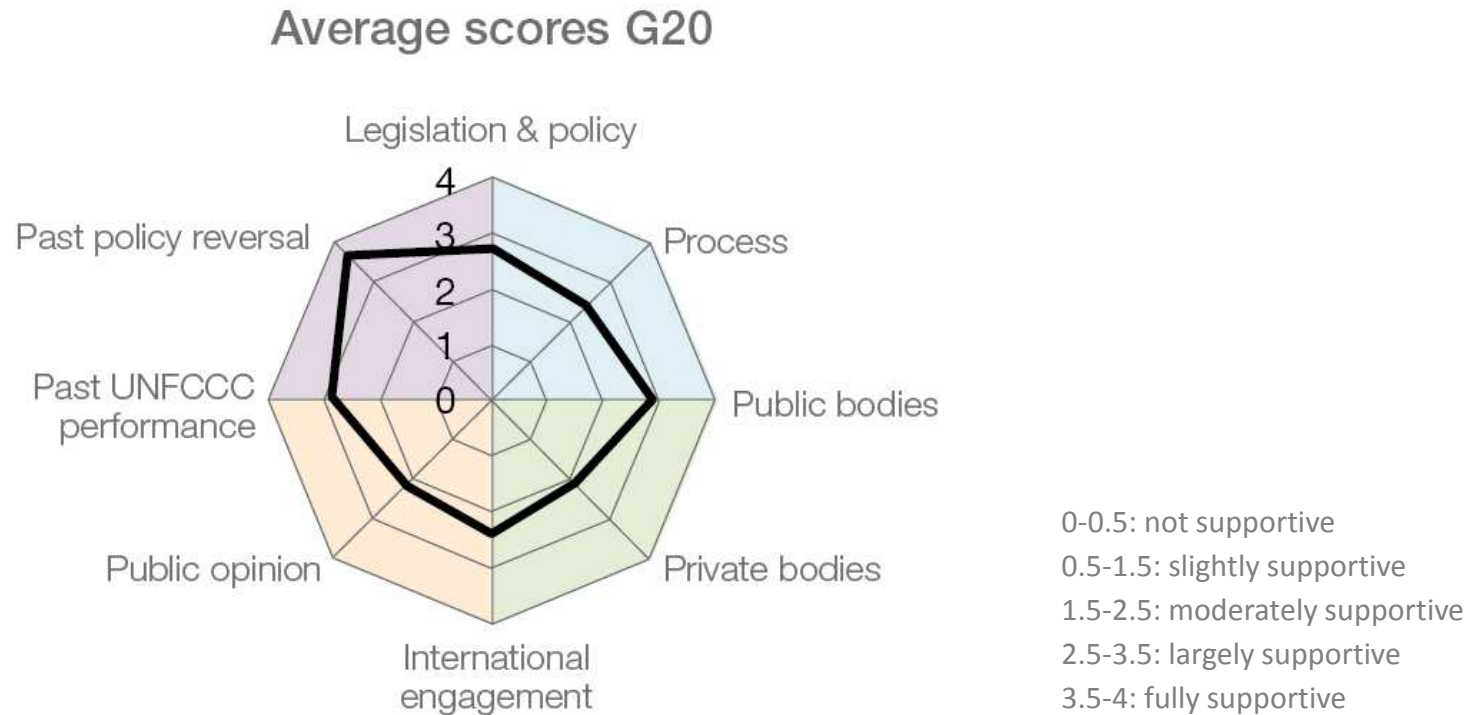
# Determinants supporting credibility of INDCs

Elements	Determinants
Rules and procedures	Coherent and comprehensive <b><i>legislative</i></b> and <b><i>policy basis</i></b>
	Transparent, inclusive and effective decision-making <b><i>process</i></b> with sufficient political
Players and organisations	Dedicated <b><i>public bodies</i></b> supported by consultative mechanisms
	Supportive <b><i>private bodies</i></b>
Norms and opinions	A history of active international engagement on <b><i>environmental issues</i></b>
	Climate-aware <b><i>public opinion</i></b>
Past performance	Track record of delivering on <b><i>past climate change commitments</i></b>
	No history of <b><i>policy abolition</i></b>



# Support for the credibility of pledges by the G20

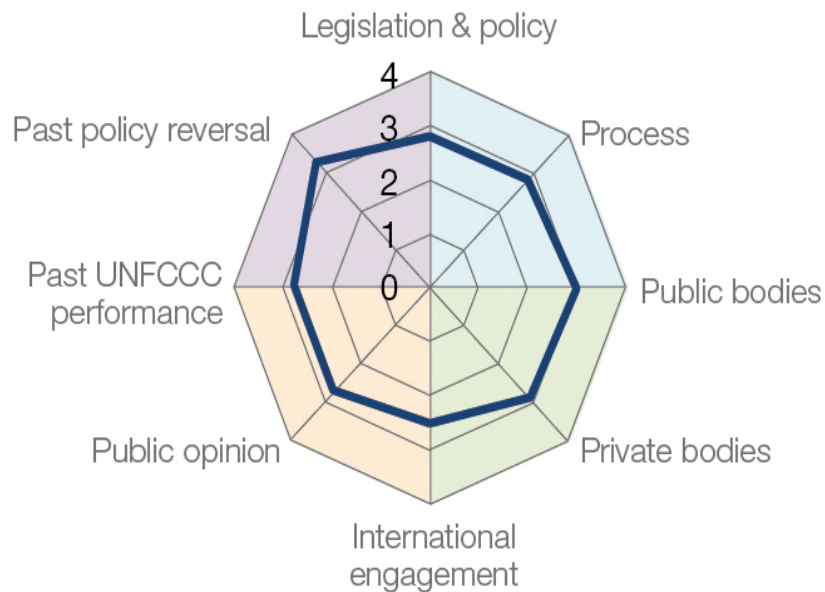
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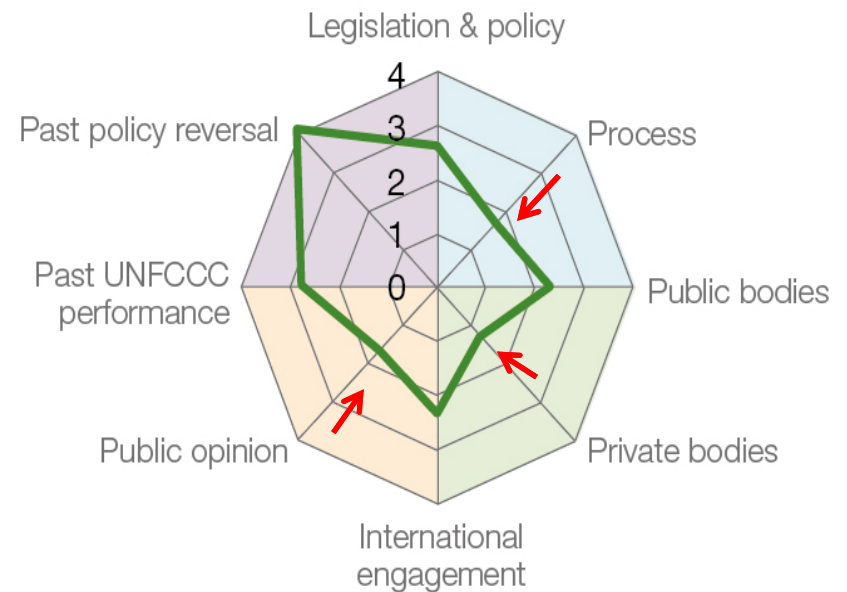
- ❑ The G20, as a group, has all the determinants on average moderately to largely supportive of credibility
- ❑ Most supportive: little past policy reversal on average, public bodies, legislation & policy and international engagement
- ❑ Weakest: process, private bodies and public opinion

## G20: Overall scores

### Industrialised economies



### Developing/emerging economies

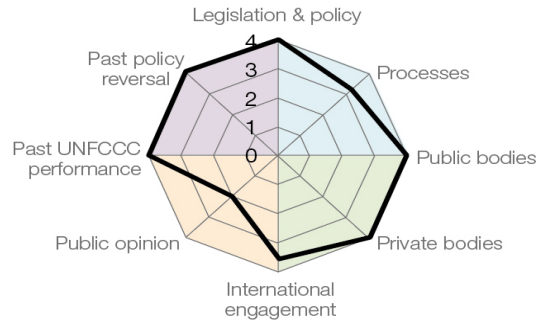


0-0.5: not supportive  
0.5-1.5: slightly supportive  
1.5-2.5: moderately supportive  
2.5-3.5: largely supportive  
3.5-4: fully supportive

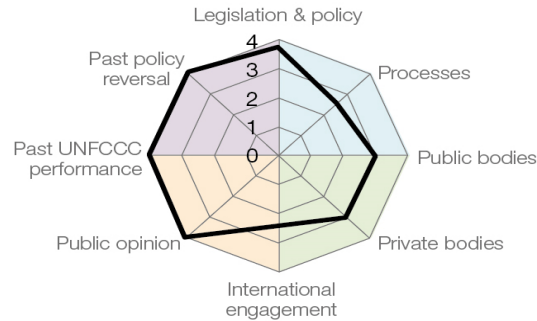
- ❑ In emerging economies determinants are less supportive of credibility on **process**, **private bodies** and **public opinion** in particular
- ❑ Scope for capacity building and awareness raising

# Countries with most determinants 'largely supportive' to the credibility of mitigation pledges

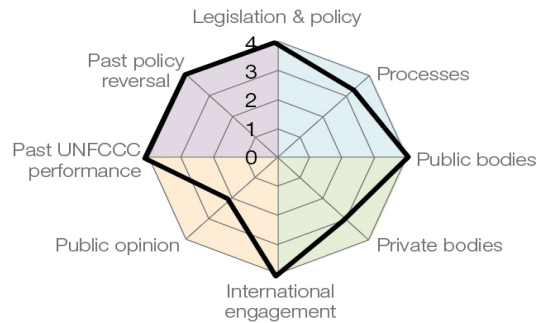
European Union



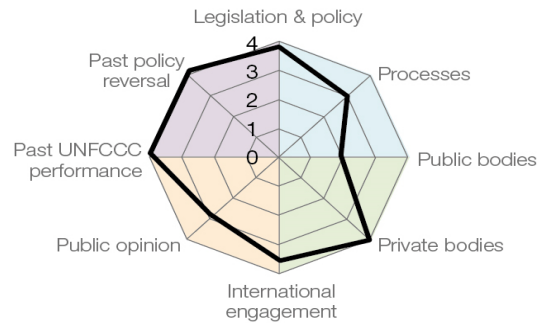
Korea



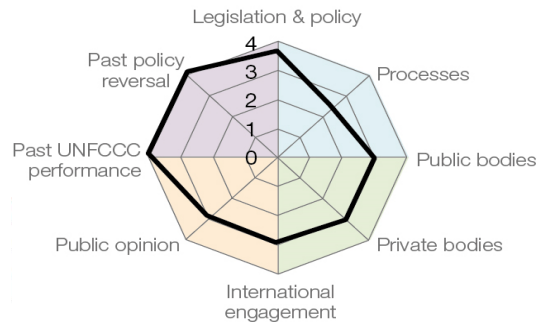
Germany



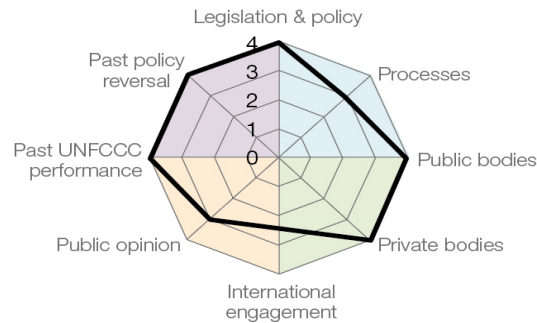
France



Italy



United Kingdom



0-0.5: not supportive

0.5-1.5: slightly supportive

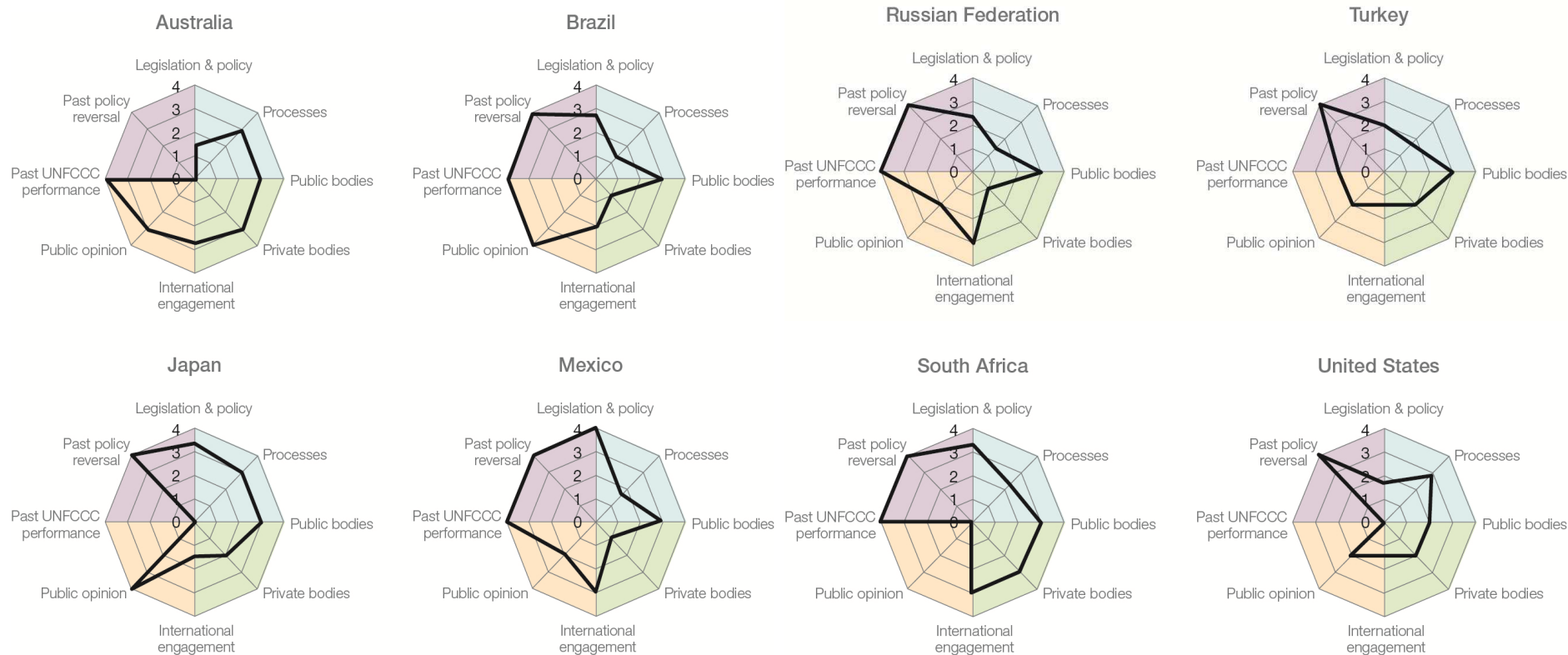
1.5-2.5: moderately supportive

2.5-3.5: largely supportive

3.5-4: fully supportive



# Countries with most determinants 'moderately supportive' to credibility



0-0.5: not supportive

0.5-1.5: slightly supportive

1.5-2.5: moderately supportive

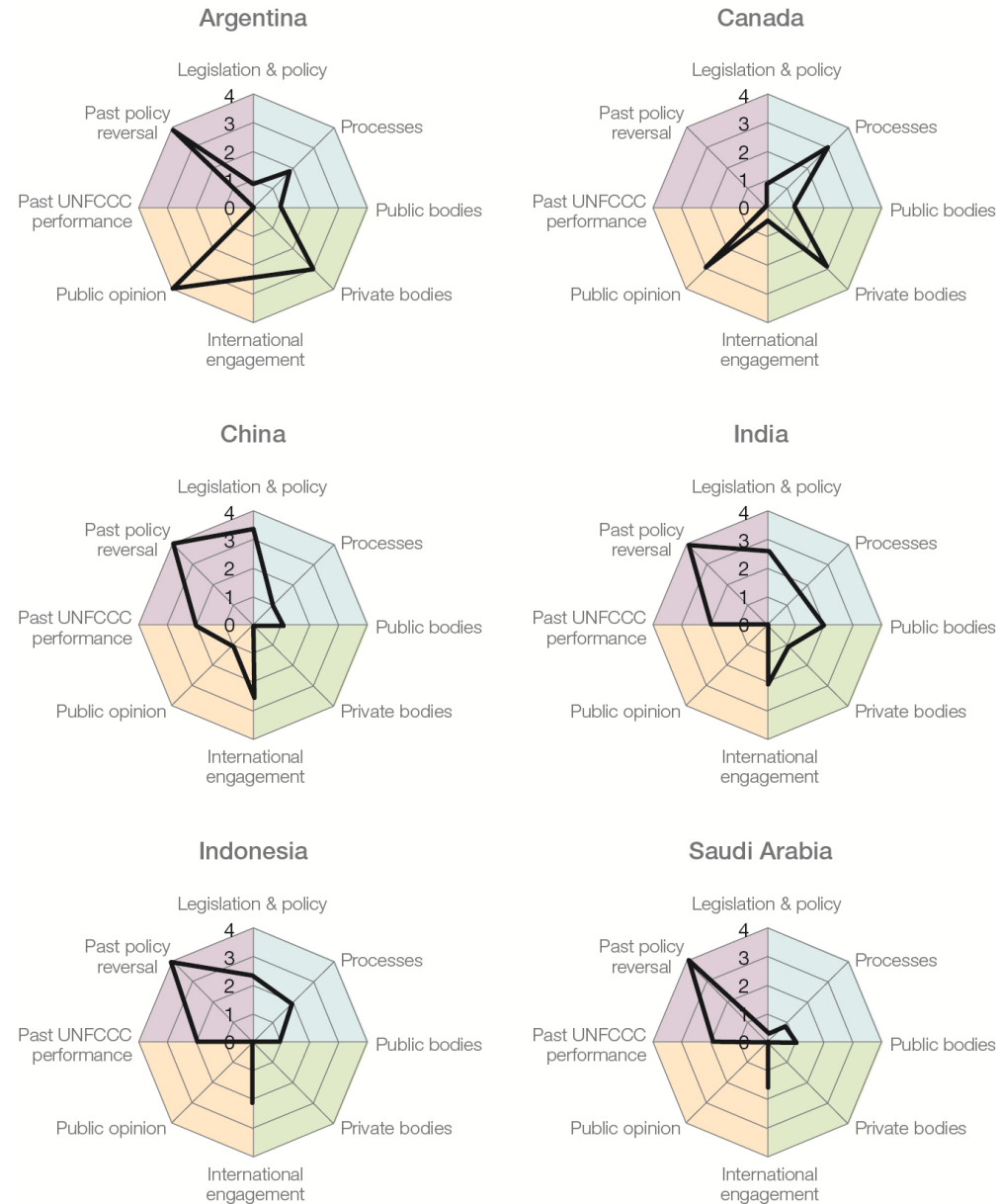
2.5-3.5: largely supportive

3.5-4: fully supportive



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# Countries with potential for increasing support to credibility across several determinants

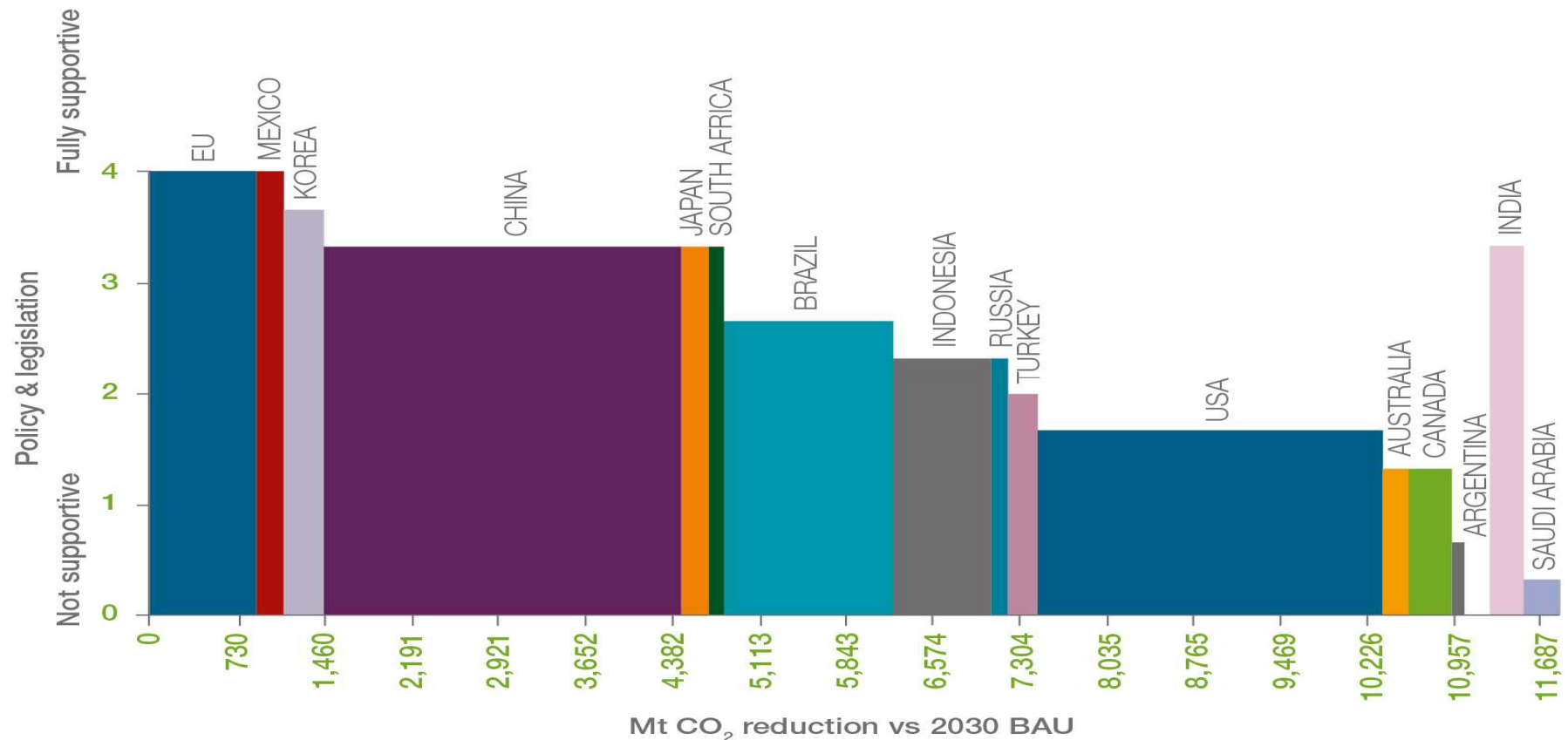


0-0.5: not supportive  
 0.5-1.5: slightly supportive  
 1.5-2.5: moderately supportive  
 2.5-3.5: largely supportive  
 3.5-4: fully supportive



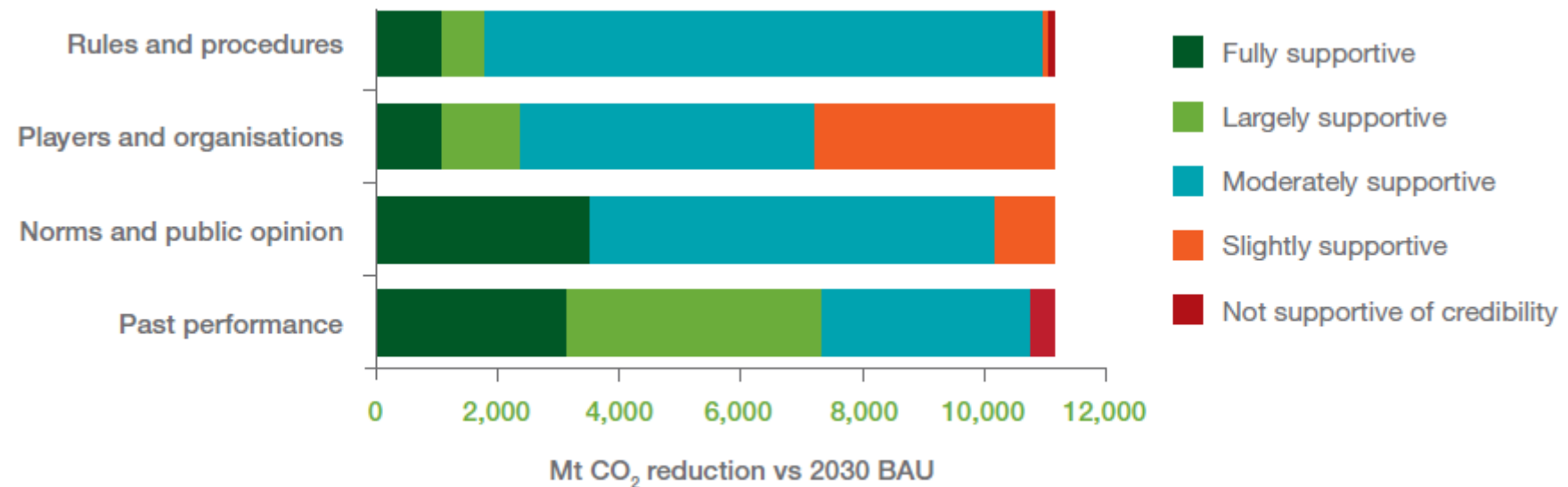
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# Government action: policy & legislation



- ❑ Almost all GHG reductions pledged by G20 countries are underpinned by policy and legislation that are at least 'moderately supportive' to credibility.
  - Need: framework legislation; stronger domestic targets; improved policy; reduced fossil fuel subsidies
- ❑ Lower scores for 'processes' and 'public bodies'

## Aggregate results: Credibility barometer for the G20



- ❑ Almost all the reductions pledged are backed up by rules & procedures at least 'moderately supportive' to credibility
  - ❑ 15% by 'largely' and 'fully supportive' rules & procedures
- ❑ 60% are backed up by players & organisations at least 'moderately supportive' to credibility
  - ❑ 20% by 'largely supportive' to 'fully supportive' players & organisations
- ❑ 90% underpinned by norms & public opinion at least a 'moderately supportive' to credibility

## Policy implications

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- ❑ **Success not merely determined by the level of INDCs**, but also by perception of their credibility (trust, prospect for ratcheting up & investment)
- ❑ Credibility is driven by multiple factors that interact and reinforce each other
- ❑ Country-level **rules & procedures, players & organizations, norms and past performance** can be indicative of the INDC's credibility
- ❑ Other dynamic factors: leadership, political consensus and the timing of elections
- ❑ G20 as a group scores moderately well across all the determinants: **No country has no credible basis for their INDCs**. Differences at the country level.
- ❑ **Policy makers can directly influence** some of the determinants, and hence strengthen credibility of their pledges and implementation
- ❑ **Transparency and better communication** is important for enhancing credibility, attracting investment and stronger position in negotiations

**Legislators are key to strengthen credibility, implementation and enable higher ambition in the future**

## For more information see:

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- ❑ Alina Averchenkova and Samuela Bassi, Beyond the targets: assessing the political credibility of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), Policy Paper, 2015 at:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/beyond-the-targets-assessing-the-political-credibility-of-intended-nationally-determined-contributions-indcs/>