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

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Outline

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

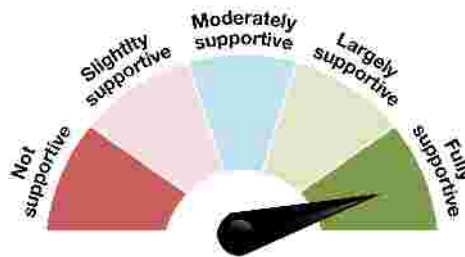


Key issues for global action



Methodology

- q Identify the determinants that have been suggested to increase credibility of policy/pledges by past theoretical and empirical studies
- q Assess what these determinants could consist of applied to climate mitigation
- q 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
- q Assess these determinants at a country level on the scale from “not supportive” to “fully supportive” to credibility
- q 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 legislative and policy basis
	Transparent, inclusive and effective decision-making process with sufficient political
Players and organisations	Constrained public policies supported by consultative mechanisms
	Supportive private bodies
Norms and opinions	A history of active international engagement on environmental issues
	Climate-aware public opinion
Past performance	Track record of delivering on past climate change commitments
	No history of policy abolition



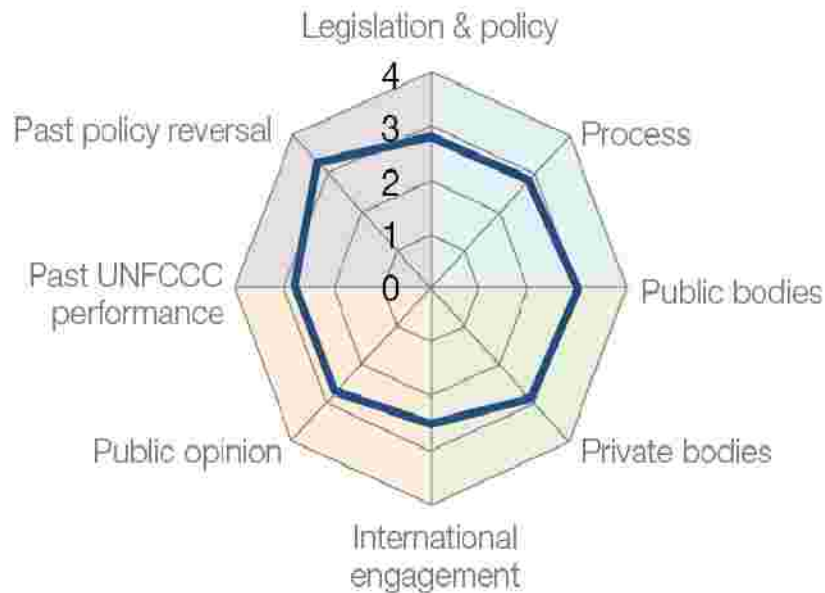
Support for the credibility of pledges by the G20



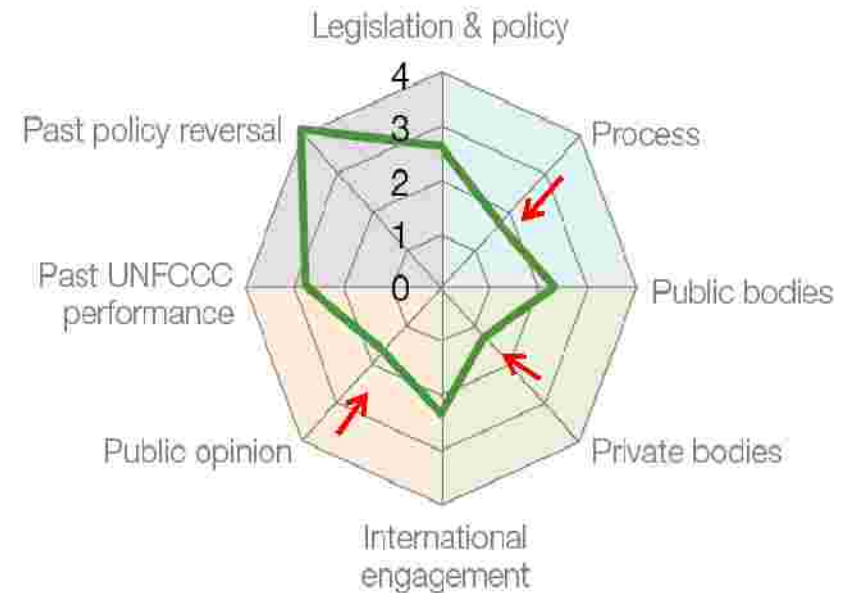
- q The G20, as a group, has all the determinants on average moderately to largely supportive of credibility
- q Most supportive: little past policy reversal on average, public bodies, legislation & policy and international engagement
- q Weakest: process, private bodies and public opinion

G20: Overall scores

Industrialised economies



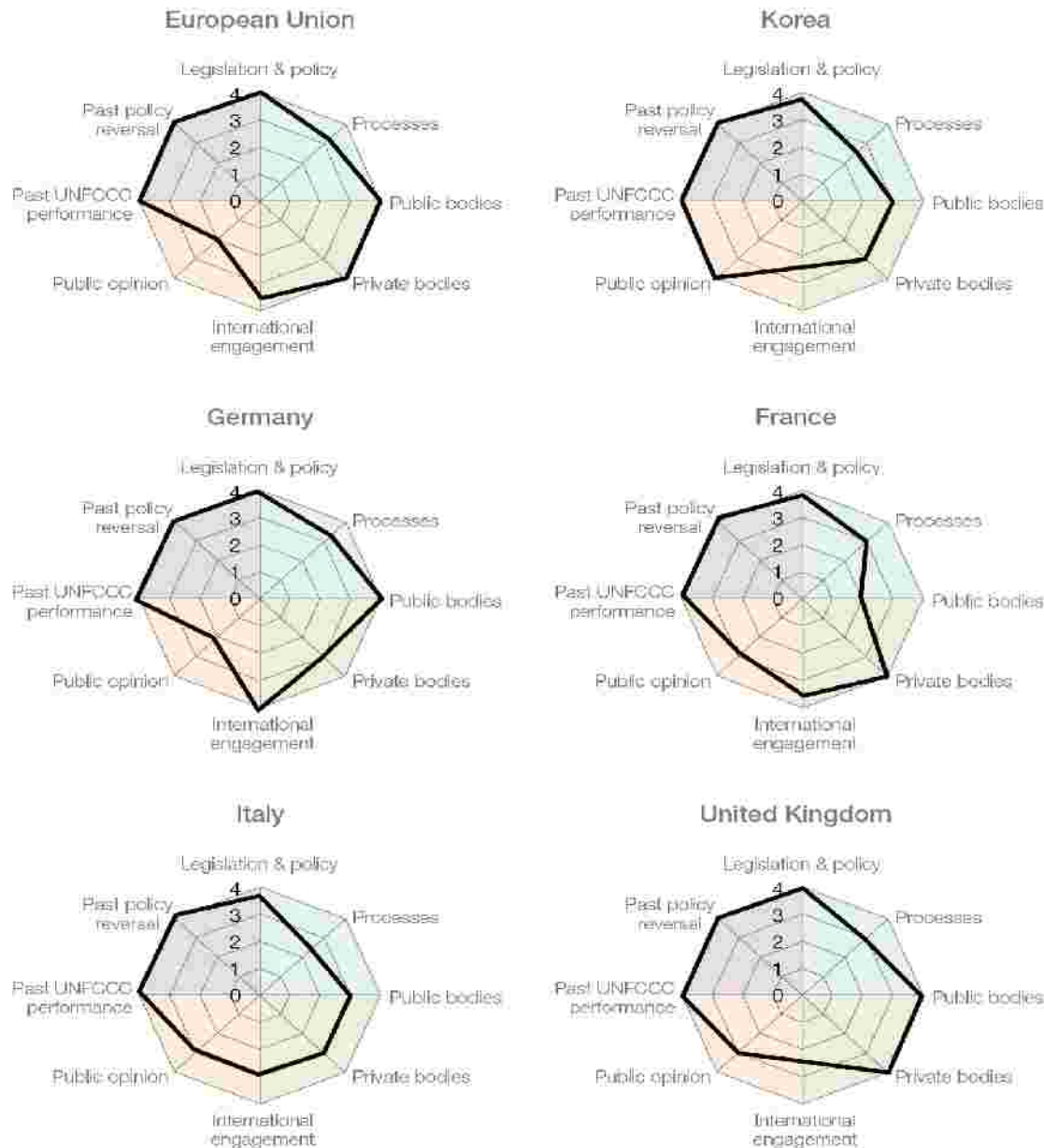
Developing/emerging economies



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

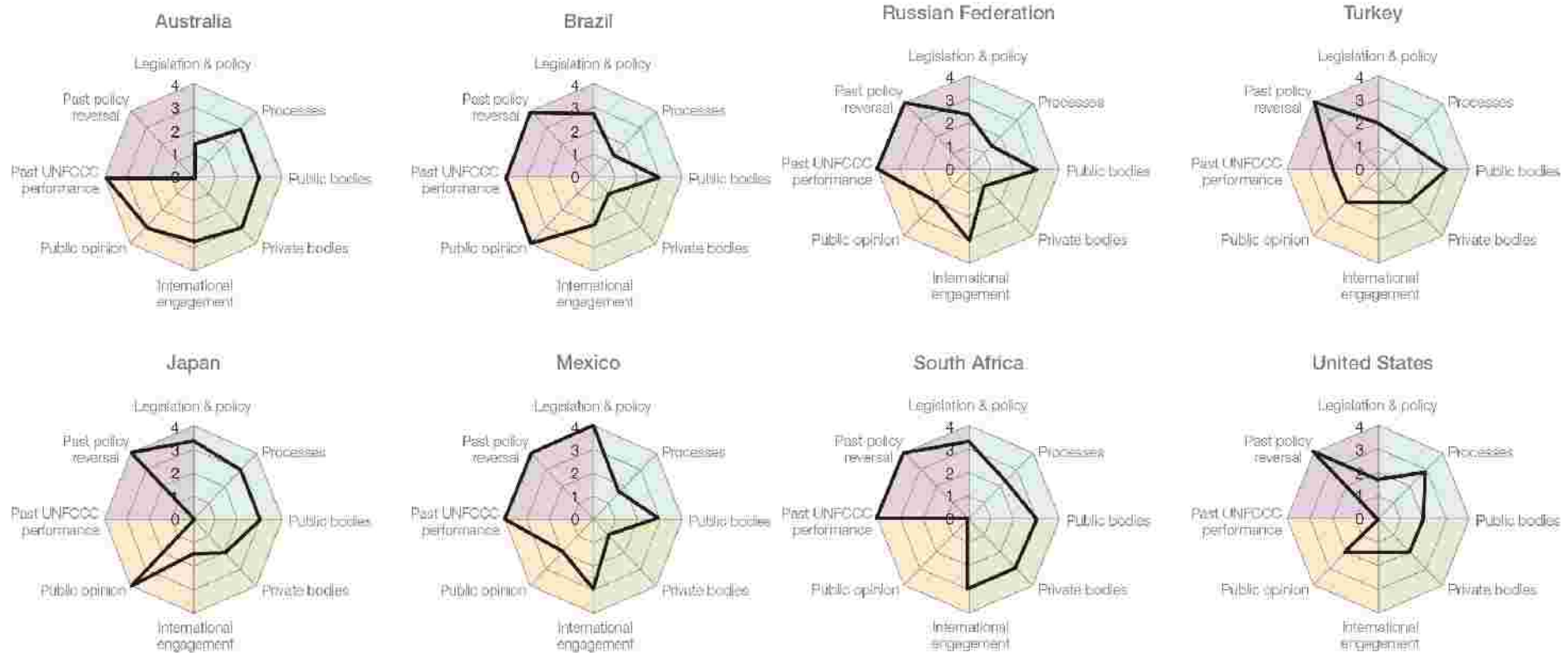
- ❑ In emerging economies determinants are less supportive of credibility on **process**, **private bodies** and **public opinion** in particular
- ❑ Scope for capacity building and awareness raising

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



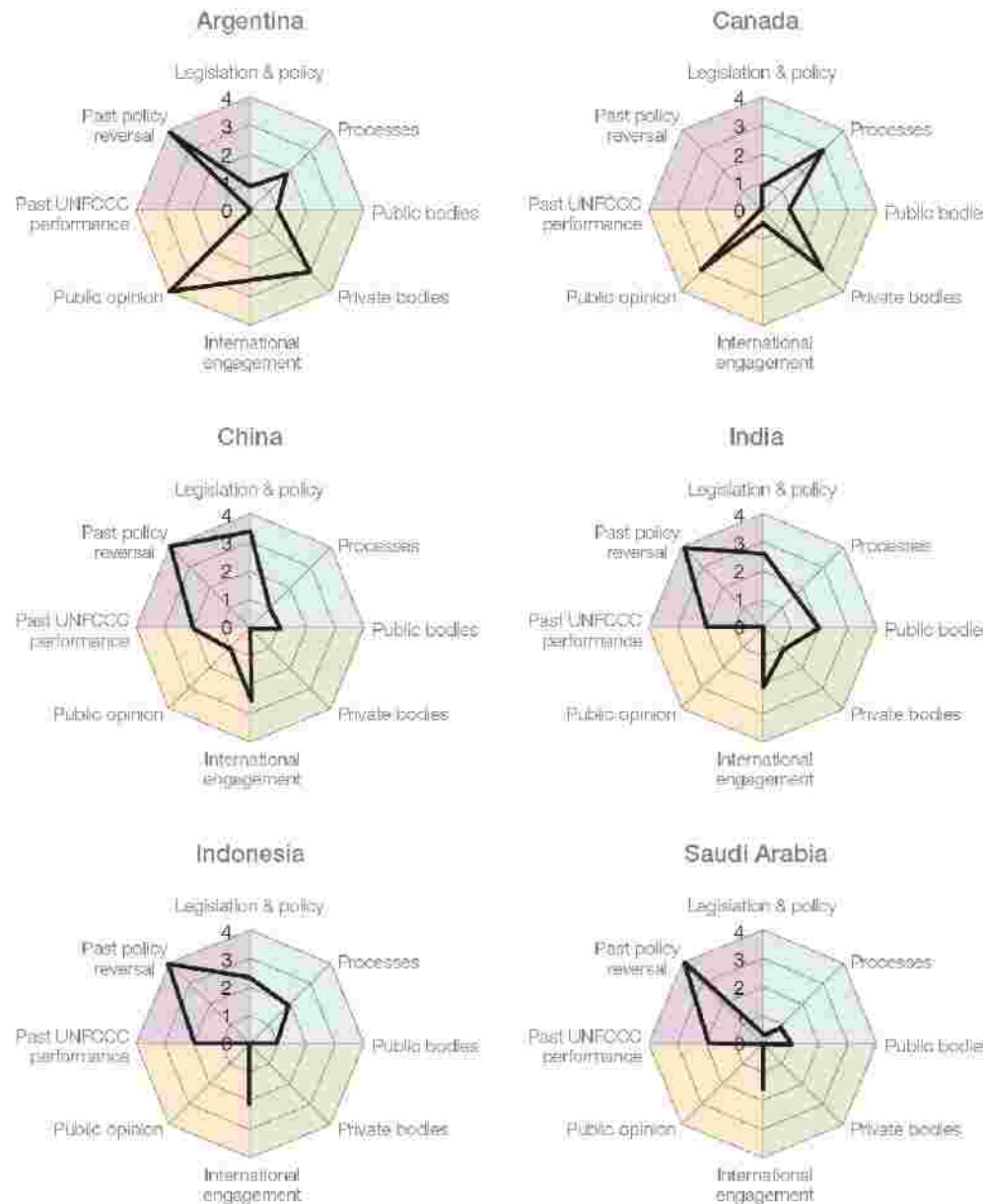
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Countries with most determinants 'moderately supportive' to credibility



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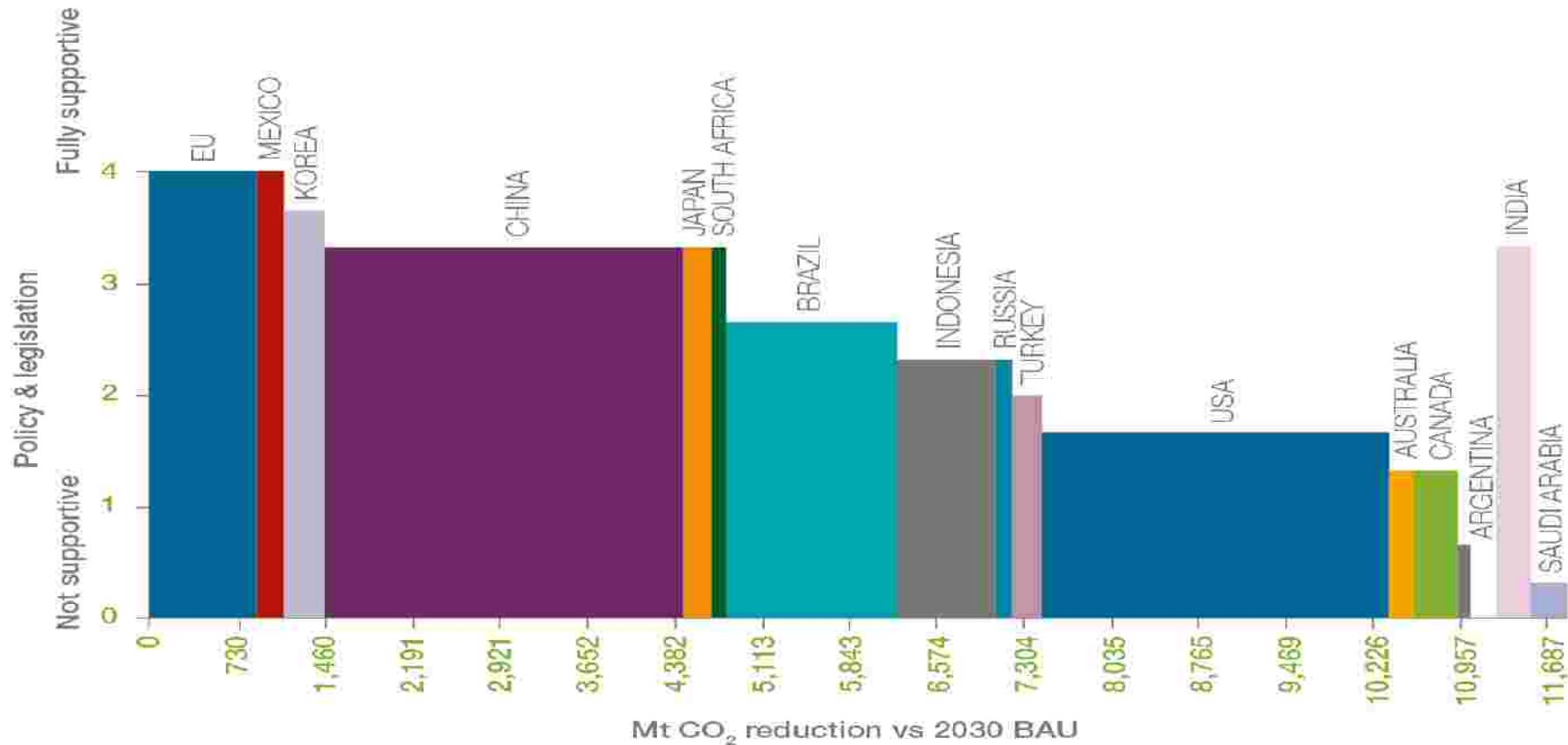
Countries with potential for increasing support to credibility across several determinants



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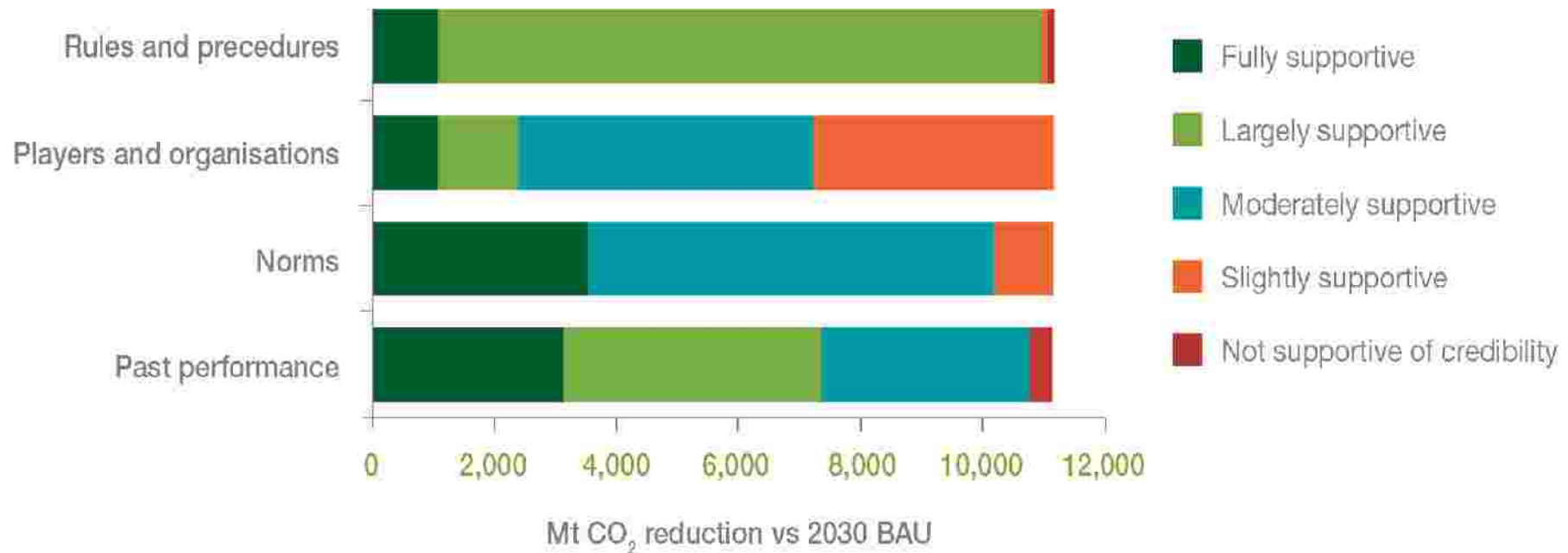


Government action: policy & legislation



- q 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
- q Lower scores for 'processes' and 'public bodies'

Aggregate results: Credibility barometer for the G20



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

Policy implications

- q **Success not merely determined by the level of INDCs**, but also by perception of their credibility (trust, prospect for ratcheting up & investment)
- q Credibility is driven by multiple factors that interact and reinforce each other
- q Country-level **rules & procedures, players & organizations, norms and past performance** can be indicative of the INDC's credibility
- q Other dynamic factors: leadership, political consensus and the timing of elections
- q 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.
- q **Policy makers can directly influence** some of the determinants, and hence strengthen credibility of their pledges and implementation
- q **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:

- 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/>

