AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY,ADO-EKITI

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A TERM PAPER ON

PARIS AGREEMENT

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The Paris Agreement ([French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language): *Accord de Paris*), Paris climate accord or Paris climate agreement is an agreement within the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Framework_Convention_on_Climate_Change) (UNFCCC) dealing with [greenhouse gas emissions mitigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_mitigation), [adaptation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_adaptation) and finance starting in the year 2020. The language of the agreement was negotiated by representatives of 196 parties at the [21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Climate_Change_Conference) in [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015. As of November 2017, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement, and 172 have become party to it. The Agreement aims to respond to the global climate change threat by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In the Paris Agreement, each country determines, plans and regularly reports its own contribution it should make in order to mitigate [global warming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming). There is no mechanism to force a country to set a specific target by a specific date, but each target should go beyond previously set targets.In June 2017, U.S. President [Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_withdrawal_from_the_Paris_Agreement) from the agreement, causing widespread condemnation both internationally and domestically. Under the agreement, the earliest effective date of withdrawal for the U.S. is November 2020.In July 2017, France’s environment minister [Nicolas Hulot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Hulot) announced France’s five-year plan to ban all petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040 as part of the Paris Agreement. Hulot also stated that France would no longer use coal to produce electricity after 2022 and that up to €4 billion will be invested in boosting energy efficiency.

**Aims**

The aim of the convention is described in Article 2, "enhancing the implementation" of the UNFCCC through:

* Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
* Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
* Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development."

Countries furthermore aim to reach "global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible". The agreement has been described as an incentive for and driver of [fossil fuel divestment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil_fuel_divestment). The Paris deal is the world's first comprehensive climate agreement.

**Nationally determined contributions**



Global [carbon dioxide emissions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_carbon_dioxide_emissions) by jurisdiction.

The contributions that each individual country should make in order to achieve the worldwide goal are determined by all countries individually and called "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs). Article 3 requires them to be "ambitious", "represent a progression over time" and set "with the view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement". The contributions should be reported every five years and are to be registered by the [UNFCCC Secretariat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Framework_Convention_on_Climate_Change#Secretariat). Each further ambition should be more ambitious than the previous one, known as the principle of 'progression'.[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-15) Countries can cooperate and pool their nationally determined contributions. The [Intended Nationally Determined Contributions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intended_Nationally_Determined_Contributions) pledged during the [2015 Climate Change Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_Climate_Change_Conference) serve—unless provided otherwise—as the initial Nationally determined contribution.

The level of NDCs set by each country will set that country's targets. However the 'contributions' themselves are not binding as a matter of international law, as they lack the specificity, normative character, or obligatory language necessary to create binding norms. Furthermore, there will be no mechanism to force a country to set a target in their NDC by a specific date and no enforcement if a set target in an NDC is not met. There will be only a "name and shame" system or as [János Pásztor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A1nos_P%C3%A1sztor_%28diplomat%29), the U.N. assistant secretary-general on climate change, told CBS News (US), a "name and encourage" plan. As the agreement provides no consequences if countries do not meet their commitments, consensus of this kind is fragile. A trickle of nations exiting the agreement may trigger the withdrawal of more governments, bringing about a total collapse of the agreement.

[The NDC Partnership](https://ndcpartnership.org/) was launched at COP22 in Marrakesh to enhance cooperation so that countries have access to the technical knowledge and financial support they need to achieve large-scale climate and sustainable development targets. The NDC Partnership is guided by a [Steering Committee](https://ndcpartnership.org/about-us/governance) composed of developed and developing nations and international institutions, and facilitated by a Support Unit hosted by [World Resources Institute](http://www.wri.org/) and based in Washington, DC and Bonn, Germany. The NDC Partnership is co-chaired by the governments of Germany and Morocco and includes [66 countries and 13 institutional partners.](https://ndcpartnership.org/partners)

**Effects on global temperature**

The negotiators of the Agreement, however, stated that the NDCs and the 2 °C reduction target were insufficient; instead, a 1.5 °C target is required, noting "with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2 °C scenarios but rather lead to a projected level of 55 gigatonnes in 2030", and recognizing furthermore "that much greater emission reduction efforts will be required in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2 °C by reducing emissions to 40 gigatonnes or to 1.5 °C".[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-21)

Although not the sustained temperatures over the long term which the Agreement addresses, in the first half of 2016 average temperatures were about 1.3 °C (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) above the average in 1880, when global record-keeping began.

When the agreement achieved enough signatures to cross the threshold on 5 October 2016, [US President Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama) claimed that "Even if we meet every target ... we will only get to part of where we need to go." He also said that "this agreement will help delay or avoid some of the worst consequences of climate change. It will help other nations ratchet down their emissions over time, and set bolder targets as technology advances, all under a strong system of transparency that allows each nation to evaluate the progress of all other nations.

**Global stocktake**



Map of cumulative per capita anthropogenic atmospheric CO2 emissions by country. Cumulative emissions include land use change, and are measured between the years 1950 and 2000.

The global stocktake will kick off with a "facilitative dialogue" in 2018. At this convening, parties will evaluate how their NDCs stack up to the nearer-term goal of peaking global emissions and the long-term goal of achieving net zero emissions by the second half of this century.

The implementation of the agreement by all member countries together will be evaluated every 5 years, with the first evaluation in 2023. The outcome is to be used as input for new nationally determined contributions of member states.

The stock take will not be of contributions/achievements of individual countries but a collective analysis of what has been achieved and what more needs to be done.

The stocktake works as part of the Paris Agreement's effort to create a "ratcheting up" of ambition in emissions cuts. Because analysts have agreed that the current NDCs will not limit rising temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius, the global stocktake reconvenes parties to assess how their new NDCs must evolve so that they continually reflect a country's "highest possible ambition".

While ratcheting up the ambition of NDCs is a major aim of the global stocktake, it assesses efforts beyond mitigation. The 5 year reviews will also evaluate adaptation, climate finance provisions, and technology development and transfer.

**Structure**

The Paris Agreement has a 'bottom up' structure in contrast to most international environmental law treaties which are 'top down', characterised by standards and targets set internationally, for states to implement. Unlike its predecessor, the [Kyoto Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyoto_Protocol), which sets commitment targets that have legal force, the Paris Agreement, with its emphasis on consensus-building, allows for voluntary and nationally determined targets. The specific climate goals are thus politically encouraged, rather than legally bound. Only the processes governing the reporting and review of these goals are mandated under international law. This structure is especially notable for the United States—because there are no legal mitigation or finance targets, the agreement is considered an "executive agreement rather than a treaty". Because the UNFCCC treaty of 1992 received the consent of the Senate, this new agreement does not require further legislation from Congress for it to take effect.

Another key difference between the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol is their scopes. While the Kyoto Protocol differentiated between Annex-1 and non-Annex-1 countries, this bifurcation is blurred in the Paris Agreement, as all parties will be required to submit emissions reductions plans. While the Paris Agreement still emphasizes the principle of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities"—the acknowledgement that different nations have different capacities and duties to climate action—it does not provide a specific division between developed and developing nations. It therefore appears that negotiators will have to continue to deal with this issue in future negotiation rounds, even though the discussion on differentiation may take on a new dynamic.

**Mitigation provisions and carbon markets**

[Article 6](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cooperative_Mechanisms_under_Article_6_of_the_Paris_Agreement&action=edit&redlink=1) has been flagged as containing some of the key provisions of the Paris Agreement.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-:4-31) Broadly, it outlines the cooperative approaches that parties can take in achieving their nationally determined carbon emissions reductions. In doing so, it helps establish the Paris Agreement as a framework for a global carbon market.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-:5-32)

Linkage of trading systems and international transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs)

Paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 establish a framework to govern the international transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs). The Agreement recognizes the rights of Parties to use emissions reductions outside of their own jurisdiction toward their NDC, in a system of carbon accounting and trading.

This provision requires the "linkage" of various carbon emissions trading systems—because measured emissions reductions must avoid "double counting", transferred mitigation outcomes must be recorded as a gain of emission units for one party and a reduction of emission units for the other. Because the NDCs, and domestic carbon trading schemes, are heterogeneous, the ITMOs will provide a format for global linkage under the auspices of the UNFCCC. The provision thus also creates a pressure for countries to adopt emissions management systems—if a country wants to use more cost-effective cooperative approaches to achieve their NDCs, they will need to monitor carbon units for their economies.

**Sustainable Development Mechanism**

Paragraphs 6.4-6.7 establish a mechanism "to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gases and support sustainable development".Though there is no specific name for the mechanism as yet, many Parties and observers have informally coalesced around the name "Sustainable Development Mechanism" or "SDM". The SDM is considered to be the successor to the [Clean Development Mechanism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Development_Mechanism), a flexible mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, by which parties could collaboratively pursue emissions reductions for their [Intended Nationally Determined Contributions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intended_Nationally_Determined_Contributions). The Sustainable Development Mechanism lays the framework for the future of the Clean Development Mechanism post-Kyoto (in 2020).

In its basic aim, the SDM will largely resemble the Clean Development Mechanism, with the dual mission to

 1. contribute to global GHG emissions reductions

2. support sustainable development.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-38) Though the structure and processes governing the SDM are not yet determined, certain similarities and differences from the Clean Development Mechanism can already be seen. Notably, the SDM, unlike the Clean Development Mechanism, will be available to all parties as opposed to only [Annex-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annex_1) parties, making it much wider in scope.

Since the Kyoto Protocol went into force, the Clean Development Mechanism has been criticized for failing to produce either meaningful emissions reductions or sustainable development benefits in most instances. It has also suffered from the low price of Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs), creating less demand for projects. These criticisms have motivated the recommendations of various stakeholders, who have provided through working groups and reports, new elements they hope to see in SDM that will bolster its success. The specifics of the governance structure, project proposal modalities, and overall design are expected to come during the next[Conference of the Parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conference_of_the_Parties_%28Kyoto_Protocol%29) in [Marrakesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrakesh).

**Adaptation provisions**

Adaptation issues garnered more focus in the formation of the Paris Agreement. Collective, long-term adaptation goals are included in the Agreement, and countries must report on their adaptation actions, making adaptation a parallel component of the agreement with mitigation. The adaptation goals focus on enhancing adaptive capacity, increasing resilience, and limiting vulnerability.

 **Ensuring finance**

At the Paris Conference in 2015 where the Agreement was negotiated, the developed countries reaffirmed the commitment to mobilize $100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020, and agreed to continue mobilizing finance at the level of $100 billion a year until 2025. The commitment refers to the pre-existing plan to provide US$100 billion a year in aid to developing countries for actions on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Though both mitigation and adaptation require increased climate financing, adaptation has typically received lower levels of support and has mobilised less action from the private sector.[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-:7-41) A 2014 report by the OECD found that just 16 percent of global finance was directed toward climate adaptation in 2014. The Paris Agreement called for a balance of climate finance between adaptation and mitigation, and specifically underscoring the need to increase adaptation support for parties most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. The agreement also reminds parties of the importance of public grants, because adaptation measures receive less investment from the public sector.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement#cite_note-:7-41) John Kerry, as Secretary of State, announced that the U.S. would double its grant-based adaptation finance by 2020.Some specific outcomes of the elevated attention to adaptation financing in Paris include the G7 countries' announcement to provide US $420 million for Climate Risk Insurance, and the launching of a Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative. In early March 2016, the Obama administration gave a $500 million grant to the "[Green Climate Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Climate_Fund)" as "the first chunk of a $3 billion commitment made at the Paris climate talks So far, the Green Climate Fund has now received over $10 billion in pledges. Notably, the pledges come from developed nations like France, the US, and Japan, but also from developing countries such as Mexico, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

REFERNCE

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