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A TERM PAPER ON

THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

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Introduction

The Paris agreement is an agreement within the united nation framework convention on climate change (UNFCC). It deals with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. The agreement was first negotiated in a conference held in Paris by representatives of 196 parties. As at October 2017, 195 UNFCC members had signed to the agreement and 169 become party to it. The aim was to keep a global temperature rise below 2 degree Celsius. This can be achieved by the reduction in industrial activities of man. In the Paris agreement, each country is allowed to make its own contribution towards the reduction of global warming. This was not forced but each country should at least improve from its former state.

The aim of the Paris agreement includes:

1. Putting the hold to the increasing global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above preinstall level
2. To reduce the greenhouse gas emission in a manner that doesn’t affect foot production.
3. Increase in finance

Nationally determined contributions

Contributions by each country are determined by the nationally determined contributions (NDC) the contributions should be submitted after every 5 years to be registered by the UNFCC secretariat. It follows the principle of progression which states that each further ambition should be more ambitious than the previous one. On this agreement, every country chooses when they will submit the agreement but there is no penalty for not submitting the contributions on time.

Effect on global temperature

The negotiators of the agreement of the said the 2degree Celsius reduction was insufficient, instead it should be a 1.5 degree Celsius target. When the agreement had achieved enough signatures, US president barrack Obama claimed that “even if we meet the target, we 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 stock take

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.

Structures

The Paris agreement allows for voluntary and nationally determined targets. The targets are rather encouraged than enforced. All parties are expected to submit emission reduction plan

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.

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

ADOPTION

The Paris Agreement was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 (Earth Day) at a ceremony in New York. After several European Union states ratified the agreement in October 2016, there were enough countries that had ratified the agreement that produce enough of the world's greenhouse gases for the agreement to enter into force. The agreement went into effect on 4 November 2016. At the conclusion of COP 21 on 12 December 2015, the final wording of the Paris Agreement was adopted by consensus by all of the 195 UNFCCC participating member states and the European Union to reduce emissions as part of the method for reducing greenhouse gas. In the 12 page Agreement, the members promised to reduce their carbon output "as soon as possible" and to do their best to keep global warming "to well below 2 degrees C" [3.6 degrees F].

Signature and entry into force

The Paris Agreement was open for signature by States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the UNFCCC (the Convention) from 22 April 2016 to 21 April 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The agreement stated that it would enter into force only if 55 countries that produce at least 55% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions (according to a list produced in 2015) ratify, accept, approve or accede to the agreement. On 1 April 2016, the United States and China, which together represent almost 40% of global emissions, issued a joint statement confirming that both countries would sign the Paris Climate Agreement. 175 Parties (174 states and the European Union) signed the agreement on the first date it was open for signature. On the same day, more than 20 countries issued a statement of their intent to join as soon as possible with a view to joining in 2016. With ratification by the European Union, the Agreement obtained enough parties to enter into effect as of 4 November 2016.