

IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT - COP22

BACKGROUND

At the **COP21 UN climate change conference in Paris** in December 2015, a global agreement was reached which contains goals and mechanisms for responding to climate change and **binding obligations for all Parties**.



The Paris Agreement sets a **long-term goal** of limiting the increase in the global average temperature to **well below 2 degrees C** above pre-industrial levels, and of pursuing efforts to limit this temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C. It also includes the goal to increase the **ability to adapt** to the adverse impacts of climate change and to make **finance flows** consistent with a **pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions**. In order to achieve these goals, the Paris Agreement requires all Parties to undertake efforts towards reaching **global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible** and towards achieving a **balance** between **anthropogenic emissions** by sources and **removals** by sinks (“**carbon neutrality**”) in the **second half of the 21st century**.

On 5 October 2016, the European Union and several Member States deposited their instrument of **ratification**. On that day, the thresholds of more than 55 Parties accounting for more than 55 % of global emissions were exceeded, triggering the **entry into force** of the Paris Agreement 30 days later, on **4 November 2016**.

FOCUS OF THE STUDY

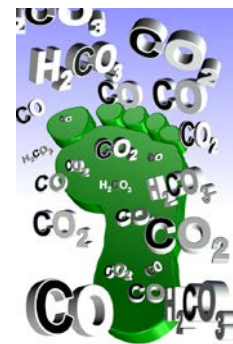
The study summarises the developments leading to the adoption of the **Paris Agreement** on climate change in 2015 and provides an overview of its contents. The further **implementation process** and the roles of the **main Parties** and **other stakeholders** are discussed, as well as related international developments and the challenges of the **climate change conference in Marrakesh (COP 22)** from **7 to 18 November 2016**.

The role of the main parties and other stakeholders

China and the **United States** of America are the largest global greenhouse gas emitters, followed by the **European Union**. These Parties played an important role in the preparation of the Paris Agreement, China and the United States *inter alia* through **coordinated statements** on their **mitigation plans** and the European Union e.g. by establishing a **coalition of countries** supporting a strong mechanism to **increase ambition** under the Paris Agreement. In climate negotiations, Parties that share similar views often bring forward their positions in a coordinated way.

Non-governmental organisations actively participate in climate change conferences, through side events, exhibits and press releases. A total of more than 1 900 such organisations are currently admitted as observers under the UNFCCC.

Furthermore, there are **international organisations** with close links to climate negotiations, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which has been requested under the Paris Agreement to provide **scientific information** on future emission **pathways**, or the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



Other sectoral agreements and developments

On 6 October 2016, the **ICAO General Assembly** adopted a resolution on a **Global Market-based Measure**, which aims at offsetting the increase of greenhouse gas emissions from **international aviation**. In the area of **international maritime transport**, efficiency measures but no comparable market-based measures have been agreed. Under the **Montreal Protocol**, a **phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons** (greenhouse gases which are used in refrigeration and air conditioning) has been negotiated during the year 2016. Other climate-change related developments on the international level include the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals** and the Sendai Framework for **Disaster Risk Reduction**, adopted in the same year as the Paris Agreement. Besides, energy markets, energy policies and commodity markets may impede and/or support the transition to a low-carbon economy in the coming years. Finally, developments such as the **refugee crisis** or the **global financial crisis** and its aftermath have diverted attention from climate change issues, although they also have links to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Key topics in Marrakesh

The negotiations in Marrakesh will focus on the **implementation** of the Paris Agreement, i.e. on agreeing the **specific rules** under the framework of the Agreement and on delivering in line with the commitments made. This concerns in particular the **support for developing countries**, i.e. finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building.



Important topics with respect to negotiations include:

- **Enhanced action prior to 2020;**
- the contents of **Nationally Determined Contributions;**
- the type of information to be contained in the **adaptation communications;**
- the modalities and rules for **cooperative mechanisms;**
- modalities of the **global stocktake** and preparation for the **facilitative dialogue** in 2018;
- the **transparency framework.**

Outlook

The Paris Agreement enters into force in November 2016, which is **earlier than** many had **expected**. Therefore, the subsidiary bodies will be faced with a **busy schedule** in 2017 preparing the draft Decisions to be adopted by the “Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement” (CMA). The main negotiations under the Convention in 2017 will be the meeting of the subsidiary bodies in Bonn from 8 to 18 May 2017 and the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23), which will meet in Asia from 6 to 17 November 2017.

In 2018, the **IPCC** will present its **Special Report** on the impacts of global warming of **1.5 degrees C** above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways. This report will be used as a key input to the facilitative dialogue, which will be carried out during COP 24 and where Parties will **take stock of the collective efforts** communicated so far. This event will put the Parties’ contributions and the goals and mechanisms of the Paris Agreement to the first important test.



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