

Topic One: Reevaluating Paris Agreement Targets and Monitoring Progress

I. Topic Background

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted on the 12th of December 2015 in Paris, France and started to be enforced November 4th 2016. It was adopted by 196 parties during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21).

The main goals of the Paris Agreement are to stabilise “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and seek “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” However, many world leaders have highlighted the need to to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has found that crossing 1.5°C could lead to severe climate damage, like for example: frequent droughts, rainfall, and heatwaves. To achieve this greenhouse gas emissions need to decline by 43% by 2030.

The Paris Agreement works on a 5-year cycle, where climate action increases in ambition. Since 2020 countries have submitted their climate action plans- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's). Each NDC after the previous displays the success of the previous one and the ability to move to a higher degree in climate change action. Accelerated action is necessary to achieve the Paris Agreement goals. NDC's should state the actions being taken by countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the country's actions to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. NDC's are mandatory in the Paris Agreement.

To support each other, countries are supporting each other financially, technologically, and through capacity building. The Paris Agreement affirms that developed countries should take the lead in providing assistance to countries more vulnerable to climate change. Climate action needs to be financed by large-scale investments in order to reach its goals. As well as adapting to issues caused by climate change. Technology development and transfer for both improving resilience to climate change and reducing GHG emissions is established in the Paris Agreement. The technology mechanism is to accelerate technology development and transfer through its policy and implementation arms. As not every party that signed the Paris Agreement is able to deal with the

challenges of climate change there is a large emphasis on capacity-building for developing countries and asks all developed countries to support those countries.

II. United Nations Involvement

The Paris Agreement is a United Nations based climate action plan. It is discussed in the UN's COP. The COP is an international climate conference. COP stands for "Conference of the Parties" meaning those who have joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The United Nations is tracking progress towards the Paris Agreement through the enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Starting in 2024 countries will report on actions taken and progress in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received. This will then support the Global stocktake which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals. Thus identifying for countries what steps to take next.

So far the United Nations has led to low-carbon solutions and new markets. More countries, regions, and companies establishing carbon neutrality targets. Countries are confirming net zero targets. Net zero means each country commits to reducing emissions close to zero, with any remaining emissions reabsorbed without significant environmental consequence. As well as zero-carbon solutions, which are becoming competitive within economic sectors representing 25% of emissions. By 2030, zero-carbon solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

III. Bloc Positions

The goal is to have a global warming temperature of 2°C. The countries signed on to the Paris Agreement all have different goals based on their economic situation and their issues with pollution. Unfortunately, many countries do not stick to their emission reduction plans. Even a global warming of 2°C is predicted to cause issues such as; sea levels rising by 56 centimetres, threatening drought for about four months of the year, and increasing heat days by 25%. So, goals of 3°C or 4°C are also insufficient. Iran, Eritrea, Libya and Yemen have not ratified the Paris Agreement.

The UK, India, and the European Union are projected to reach these 2°C goals. Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Morocco, Gambia, Costa Rica, and Nepal are on track to achieve a 1.5°C goal. Japan, Australia, the United States, China, Brazil, and Indonesia are likely to only achieve 3°C. Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Russia, and Saudi Arabia have been projected to achieve 4°C ([Statista Data](#)). It is also important to remember that the United States left the Paris Agreement then readmitted during a change of leadership: from

President Trump to President Biden. Although the United States has pledged itself the enacting Climate action, the approval of the Willow Project stands in stark contrast to the Paris Agreements goals.

Although 196 parties signed the Paris Accords and have agreed to participate in reducing carbon emissions and reducing the likelihood of a temperature increase, many countries are falling incredibly behind. No major economy is on track to achieve the targets set. The countries which make up about 80% of all global greenhouse gas emissions are not on track to achieve their goals. Most climate action plans have either not changed since 2016 or have set lowly ambitious targets. Although these countries have pledged themselves to improve and speak about climate change and their actions, many are coming up insufficient.

IV. Considerations when making Resolutions

- What is my country's official position on the Paris Agreement?
- Is my country attaining these goals?
- Is my country providing or receiving financial relief?
- Are there UN actions that your country supported or opposed regarding the topic?
- How do other countries' positions affect your country's position on the topic?
- Which countries are your allies?
- Which countries do you usually disagree with regarding other global issues?
- Does your country still support the Paris Agreement?
- How does your country (if they do) want to improve the Paris Agreement?
- Is there evidence or statistics that help back your country's position?

V. Sources

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