

The Paris Agreement



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Context

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992

- 196 Parties (195 states and the EU)
- The ultimate objective
- The Article 3 principles: Article 3(1) “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”
- The commitments: Article 4(2) and article 4(3)
- The Annexes: Annex 1 and Annex 2

Context continued...

The Kyoto Protocol 1997

- Quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments for Parties in Annex 1 set over commitment periods; Assigned Amounts and AAUs
- Use of the “flexible mechanisms” – the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and international emissions trading
- Top down approach

The Path to Paris

- The Durban Mandate 1/CP.17

“Decides to launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties”

- Process

Legal status of the Paris outcomes

- Internationally legally binding agreement:
The Paris Agreement
- COP decision 1/CP.21

Some key features of the Paris Agreement

- Long term temperature goal
- Implementation to reflect equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, in the light of different national circumstances
- Finance
- Global adaptation goal
- Loss and damage

Nationally Determined Contributions

Article 4(2)

“Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions”

NDCs continued...

- Public registry
- Accounting
- Progression beyond the current NDC
- Highest possible ambition
- Developed countries should continue to take the lead

Mechanics

- The 5 year cycle
- The global stocktake
- The transparency framework
- The implementation and compliance mechanism

What next?

- Entry into force
- Development of international guidance