

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Post-Paris negotiations and their impact on data needs of the global climate change regime:
An update – where have we come from and where are we now?

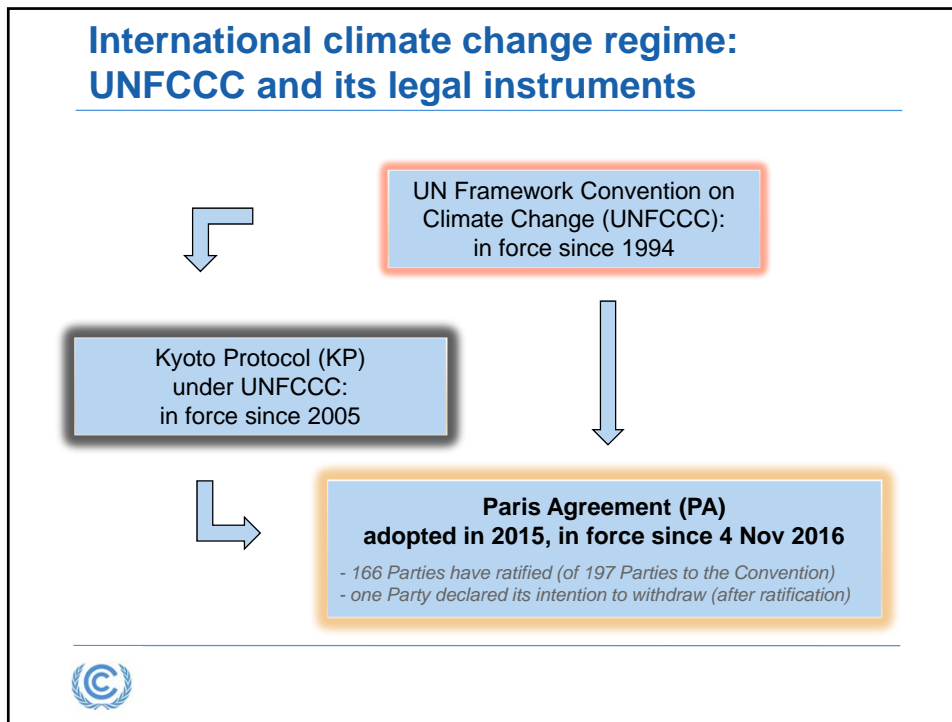


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Overview:

- Reminder/context: UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement
- Reporting/data requirements: "Paris impact"
- Key post-Paris issues: status of negotiations
- Timeline for the Paris Agreement work programme





International climate change regime: reporting/data requirements before Paris

Foundation: Articles 4 and 12 of the Convention

- Each Party, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities ... to develop, periodically update, publish and communicate, national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, using comparable methodologies...
- Each Party to communicate a "description of steps taken or envisaged to implement the Convention"
- Exact provisions are detailed in specific decisions/guidelines

Main reporting mechanisms:


- National communications, GHG inventories, biennial reports, biennial update reports... - *comprehensive/accurate statistical data are needed!*

GHGs to report on:

- Direct GHGs: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, NF₃
- Indirect GHGs: CO, NO_x, NMVOCs, SO_x

Annex I / non-Annex I Parties have different requirements

- Different methodological basis (versions of IPCC guidelines)
- More extensive and frequent reporting for Annex I Parties
- Reporting by non-Annex I Parties is conditioned by funding
- Annex I Parties have a rigorous review process



Paris Agreement: COP-21, Paris, Dec.2015



Bringing countries together in a common framework to take ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to developing countries

Article 2.1. This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention ... aims to **strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty**, including by:

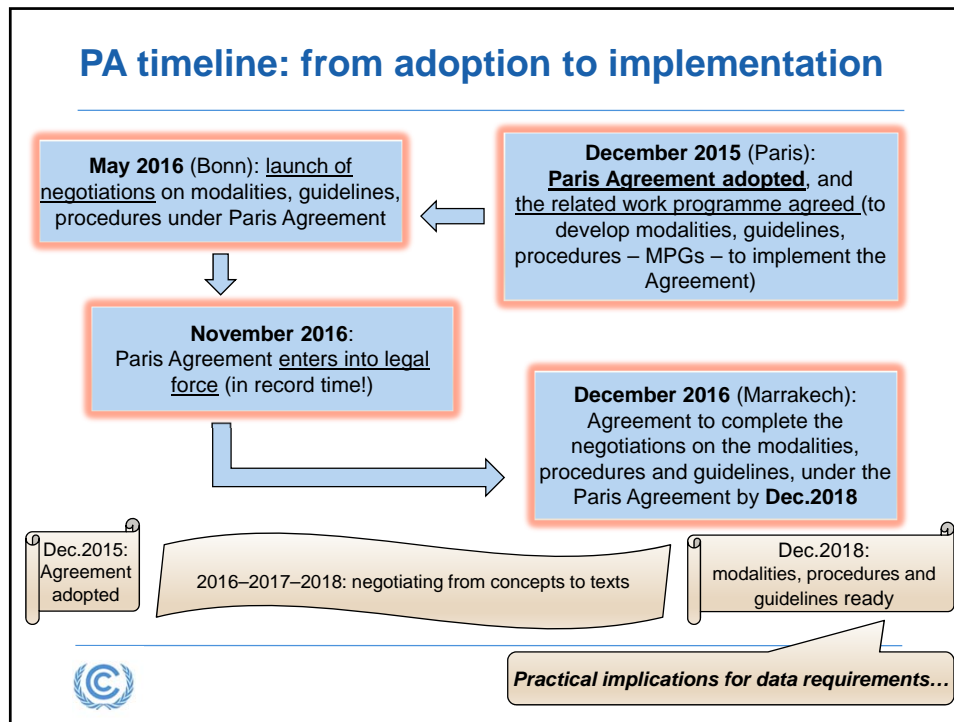
(a) **Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels...

Article 4.1. In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal set out in Article 2, Parties aim to reach **global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible**, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter..., so as to achieve a **balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs in the 2nd half of this century**, on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

What has changed / is changing after Paris?

- New/revised data and reporting requirements under:
 - Articles 3 and 4 defining the “**nationally determined contributions (NDCs)**”
 - Article 7 addressing “**adaptation**” to climate change
 - Article 9 on “**financial resources**”
 - Article 13 defining the new “**transparency framework**”
 - Article 14 defining the new “**global stocktake**”
- **The Paris Agreement is an Agreement under the UNFCCC**; new data/reporting requirements are being developed on and will enhance what already exists under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, as explicitly indicated in the Agreement:
 - The transparency framework shall build on and enhance the transparency arrangements under the Convention...
 - The transparency arrangements under the Convention, including national communications, biennial reports and biennial update reports, international assessment and review and international consultation and analysis, shall form part of the experience to be drawn upon...
- Negotiations are ongoing (planned to conclude at COP 24 next year) on how to define and operationalize the new data/reporting requirements and capture and take stock of progress.





NDCs (Article 4): key element / core obligation

Article 4.2. Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** that it intends to achieve

Article 4.3. Each Party's successive NDC will represent a **progression** beyond the Party's then current NDC and reflect its **highest possible ambition**, reflecting its **common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances...**

Article 4.8. In communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding...

=> **current NDC content requirements:** quantifiable information on the reference point (e.g., a base year); time frames and/or periods for implementation; scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches, how an NDC contributes towards stabilization of GHG emissions

- **Currently under negotiation (not a complete list!):***
 - **'Features' of NDCs:** the meaning of the "features"; the need for new features
 - **Information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs:** What this would comprise; linkage to transparency framework
 - **Accounting for NDCs:** the meaning of "accounting"; what guidance is needed; how to draw from existing approaches (under the UNFCCC and KP)
 - **NDC registry and timeframes:** modalities and procedures for the "NDC registry" and common timeframes for reporting via NDCs

* Source: informal notes and conclusions from the last session of the UNFCCC (Bonn, May 2017)



Adaptation (Article 7): strengthened by PA

Article 7.1. Parties hereby establish **the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change**, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response **in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2**.

Article 7.5. Adaptation action should follow a **country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach**, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to **integrating adaptation into relevant socio-economic and environmental policies and actions**, where appropriate.

- **Currently under negotiation:** further guidance in relation to the “adaptation communications” and “adaptation registry”
- Some of the issues being deliberated (not a complete list!):*
 - How to recognize/record adaptation efforts/actions
 - Modalities and procedures for the “adaptation registry”
 - Purposes and elements of an adaptation communication



* Source: informal notes and conclusions from the last session of the UNFCCC (Bonn, May 2017)

Financial support (Article 9): strengthened by PA

Article 9.1. Developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties **with respect to both mitigation and adaptation** in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention.

Article 9.4. The provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a **balance between adaptation and mitigation**, taking into account country-driven strategies, and the priorities and needs of developing country Parties, **especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints**, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States, considering the need for public and grant-based resources for adaptation.

- **Currently under negotiation:** modalities for the accounting of financial resources mobilized through public intervention, modalities for communicating relevant information biennially, Adaptation Fund
- Some of the issues being deliberated (not a complete list!):*
 - What counts as climate finance, and how to define “new and additional”
 - How to harmonize reporting approaches across Parties
 - How to address the governance and institutional arrangements, safeguards and operating modalities for the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement



* Source: informal notes and conclusions from the last session of the UNFCCC (Bonn, May 2017)



Transparency framework (Article 13)

§7: **Each Party shall regularly** provide the following information:

(a) **A national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases**, prepared using good practice methodologies accepted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement; and

(b) **Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution** under Article 4.

§8. Each Party should also provide **information related to climate change impacts and adaptation** under Article 7, as appropriate.

§9. Developed country Parties shall, and other Parties that provide support should, provide **information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing country Parties under Articles 9, 10 and 11.**

§10. Developing country Parties should provide **information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received** under Articles 9, 10 and 11.

§11. **Information submitted by each Party under paragraphs 7 and 9 of this Article shall undergo a technical expert review.** In addition, each Party shall participate in a **facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress** with respect to efforts under Article 9, and its respective implementation and achievement of its nationally determined contribution.

§13. **The first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement shall adopt common modalities, procedures and guidelines, as appropriate, for the transparency of action and support**



Transparency Framework – basis for data needs

- **Currently under negotiation: modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs)** for the transparency framework for **action and support**
- Some of the issues being deliberated (**not a complete list!**):*
 - Overarching considerations and guiding principles
 - National inventory report on anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases
 - Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
 - Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, as appropriate
 - Information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
 - Information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
 - Technical expert review
 - Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress.
- These issues form a set of “headings and subheadings” for the MPGs; but
 - They cannot be considered as final yet (negotiations are ongoing)
 - They need to be filled in with substantive content, to be developed yet



* Source: informal notes and conclusions from the last session of the UNFCCC (Bonn, May 2017)



Global stocktake (Article 14): new key concept

Article 14.1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall **periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals** (referred to as the “global stocktake”). It shall do so in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.

Article 14.2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall undertake its **first global stocktake in 2023 and every five years thereafter** unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.

- **Currently under negotiation** (not a complete list!):*
 - Linkages and context for the global stocktake
 - Modalities of the global stocktake
 - Sources of input.



* Source: informal notes and conclusions from the last session of the UNFCCC (Bonn, May 2017)

Key takeaways

- Extensive reporting/review requirements exist under the UNFCCC; differ for developed and developing countries
- Comprehensive and accurate statistical data is indispensable for these requirements
- The Paris Agreement sets out further requirements, such as the reporting on climate-related action through NDCs
- Many provisions of existing requirements may change, as part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement’s transparency framework

- The work on relevant modalities, rules and procedures, in the framework of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, is actively ongoing, with the completion deadline of December 2018
- The exact nature of new or changed data/information requirements is still being negotiated and defined
- The change is likely to be gradual but may be significant; *developing capacity to cope with this change is important*



Opportunities for engagement

In consideration of the possible linkages for implementation of the Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sendai Framework for DRR, countries and organisations are encouraged to make submissions and participate in relevant activities:

- **Open call for submissions** under the Paris Agreement work programme - *Parties and admitted observers are invited to provide information, views and proposals on any work of the APA before each of its sessions, including in relation to the **transparency framework and the global stocktake**:*
http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_non-party_stakeholders/items/7478.php
- Call for submissions on **indicators for adaptation and resilience by mid-October**: <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/News/Pages/Call-for-submission-HS.aspx>
- 2018 Adaptation Committee meeting to exchange views on national adaptation goals/indicators and how they relate to indicators/goals for sustainable development and for disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030 (*date and venue tbc*)



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Thank you

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