Outcomes of UNFCCC COP21 related to forests

24 March 2016
Outline of the presentation

I. Pillars of COP21
II. Paris Agreement
III. The Paris Agreement and transparency
IV. Non-mitigation elements of the Paris Agreement
V. Mitigation in the Paris Agreement
VI. Article 5 of the Paris Agreement
VII. Next steps
I. Pillars of COP21

Four pillars of COP21

I. The **new climate agreement** to inspire nations towards progressive efforts and transformation of global economy;

II. **INDCs** or national plans to define national goals, programmes and policies;

III. **Climate finance** to ensure shifts in and scale of investments that are necessary to accelerate global transformation;

IV. **Action agenda** to showcase the groundswell of action by Parties, subnational authorities, private sector and civil society to encourage greater ambition.
II. Paris Agreement

The design and core functions of the Paris Agreement

- Giving purpose and direction to all efforts and actors
- Parties taking ambitious and progressive climate action
- Cooperation for collective ambition
- Enhancing transparency of action and support
- Aggregation, assessment and the drive for ambition to match goals

In sum:
- The Paris Agreement provides for a **durable, robust and ambitious action on climate change**
- It is **universal** and inclusive as it is applicable to all Parties
- It is also seen as a big success for multilateralism
An unified enhanced transparency framework

- **A transparency framework** for both action and support, with built-in flexibility which takes into account Parties’ different capacities

- **Critical in building mutual trust and confidence** that all Parties are taking ambitious action in accordance with their different capacities

- **Legally binding** is the submission of NDCs and domestic measures that aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions, but not the NDC implementation

- Transparency system is **essential for Parties delivery towards their NDCs**

- Emphasis on **capacity building for developing countries**
IV. Non-mitigation elements of the Paris Agreement

Elements of the Paris Agreement

• **Global objective beyond mitigation:**
  a) On increasing ability to adapt and making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development
  b) Contexts of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty

• **Adaptation**
  a) Global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change

• **Loss and damage**
  a) Recognition of the remaining climate change impacts
  b) Anchoring of the Warsaw Mechanisms for Loss and Damage aimed at better understanding the risks, and knowledge of risk management and insurance
IV. Non-mitigation elements of the Paris Agreement

Elements of the Paris Agreement

• **Finance**
  a) Developed countries obligations to support developing countries financially
  b) Voluntary contributions from developing countries
  c) Numerical targets included in the decision: for developed countries to come up before 2025 with a new target for climate finance above the USD 100 billion agreed in Copenhagen

• **Technology transfer**
  a) Codifying in an agreement of TM and CTCN, institutions created in Copenhagen and Cancun

• **Capacity-building**
  a) Cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties
Mitigation in the Paris Agreement:

a) A clear long-term goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;

b) Individual effort: codifying in a legal instrument the approach of “bottom up” pledge of contributions by all Parties towards the temperature goal taking into account differentiation and national circumstances, regular NDCs submission subject to common rules;

c) Increasing the ambition of individual effort over time (progression, CBDR and NC), specifically for developing countries supported by finance, technology and capacity building;
Mitigation in the Paris Agreement:

d) Establishing **economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets** as a benchmark for developed countries (take the lead) and as destination for developing countries;

e) A mechanism (global stock take) that ensures that the level of collective effort enhances over time towards the temperature goal in accordance with the best available science and informing Parties in enhancing their action and support
V. Mitigation in the Paris Agreement

Three pillars of mitigation

1. Long term temperature goal
2. Collective efforts: a global emission trajectory in accordance with science
3. Individual efforts: principles of ambition/progression, regular NDCs submission subject to common rules
A stand alone article on forests

• Scope

a) A reference to global forests (also making reference to other ecosystems covered by Article 4.1(d) of the Convention), and

b) A number of references to concepts from the existing Warsaw Framework on REDD+, and encouraging Parties to continue implementation of REDD+, Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanisms and promote non-carbon benefits.
VI. Article 5 of the Paris Agreement

A stand alone article on forests

• Sends a strong political signal on the importance of ecosystems, in particular forests in implementing the new agreement

• Reassures Parties and other stakeholders that the implementation of existing climate change mitigation approaches in the forest sector and REDD+ is encouraged by and recognized

• Limited operational implications for the on-going activities
VII. Next steps

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement

- **APA 1 agenda:**
  
  a) Further guidance relating to nationally determined contributions
  
  b) Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support
  
  c) Matters relating to the global stocktake
  
  d) Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the mechanism to facilitate implementation and promote compliance
VII. Next steps

Further steps

• On INDCs:
  
a) Encouraging Parties, to submit their INDCs

b) Updating the synthesis report on the aggregate effect of INDCs

c) Convening a facilitative dialogue among Parties in 2018 to take stock

• Entry into force:
  
a) thirty days after the date on which at least 55 Parties accounting for > 55% of total global GHG emissions have ratified the Paris agreement
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

< dnemitz@unfccc.int >