

COP19 agreement

Final documents/ decisions available at <http://unfccc.int/2860.php#decisions>

Workstream 1 - 2015 treaty
Workstream 2 - pre 2020

The agreement made in Warsaw at COP19 addresses the pathway to Paris, climate financing and of loss and damage.

The talks opened with a tragic reminder of what is at stake, but there were few signs of urgency within the negotiating rooms... Although some progress has been made at this summit, the actions **that have been agreed are clearly inadequate when compared with the scale and urgency of the risks that the world faces from rising levels of greenhouse gases**, and the dangers of irreversible impacts if there is delay. For the world is to have a reasonable chance of avoiding dangerous levels of global warming, below 2 degrees compared with the late 19th century, annual emissions of greenhouse gases will need to be cut at a much faster rate than is currently planned by countries.

The (somehow) good news is a global emissions reduction deal in 2015 is still possible, but there needs to be an urgent injection of political and financial capital next year.

Pathway to Paris

Pathway to Paris: Some said the process was going to collapse until countries decided to water down the text, changing the word **'commitment' to 'contributions'** (by the first quarter of 2015), without prejudice to the legal nature', while 'those in a position' to make commitments was changed to 'those who are ready'.

Next meeting when envoys will start working out some real details will take place in March 2014 in Bonn, Germany.

All countries were invited to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their nationally determined contributions applicable to all well in advance of the COP21 in Paris ('by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties in a position to do so'). The Parties thus managed to agree on a timeline to Paris, **which includes all on board**: countries should now do their homework in a clear transparent and understandable way. However, the text itself was watered down and instead of the "*commitments*" it now talks about the "*contributions*".

The decision also addresses enhancement of pre-2020 ambition: while developed countries are urged to implement their QUELROs, revisit them and increase technology, finance and capacity building support to enable increased mitigation by developing countries, developing countries are on the other hand urged to implement their NAMAs and consider further action.

It's now important for countries to present their offers as soon as possible and in an open and systematic way. These commitments need to be driven by science. They should be both ambitious and equitable.

Finance

(This includes requesting developed countries prepare biennial submissions on their updated strategies and approaches for scaling up finance between 2014 and 2020). Little 'new' finance was pledged in Warsaw. The EU said its new budget from 2014-2020 would direct 20% of all funds to climate-related projects.

* The UN's **Adaptation Fund** (created in 2001, to finance projects & programmes in adaptation in developing countries ; financed by the CDM) received more money in Warsaw, while the UK pledged £125 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the BioCarbon Fund. Japan tried to deflect criticism for dumping its mitigation targets by increasing its funding to \$16 billion.

* The **Green Climate Fund** (agreement in 2009 / 2010 - to help developing countries with mitigation and adaptation; centrepiece of long term financing = efforts to raise 100 billion dollar a year by 2020 - both public and private sources)– Calls for 'ambitious and timely' contributions from developed countries by December 2014. Where that will come from still appears unclear. Leaders from Australia and Canada publically refused to support it at a meeting of the Commonwealth in Sri Lanka last week. HQ in South Korea opens on 4 December 2013. No clear financial roadmap on how and how much countries will capitalise the fund from now up to 2020.

Work Programme on **long-term finance** urges developed countries to maintain continuity of mobilization of public climate finance at increasing levels (100bn USD annually by 2020) from a variety of sources, public and private, and calls the developed countries to channel substantial share of public climate funds to adaptation activities. Moreover, developed countries should prepare biennial submissions on their updated strategies for scaling up climate finance from 2014 to 2020.

* **Clean Development Mechanism** (allow KP parties to meet emissions reduction requirement via CDM projects)– The UN's flagship carbon trading mechanism has been in danger for the past year due to the absence of new emission reduction pledges. There are now less parties in KP2 and the prices of carbon units have collapsed... A recovery looks unlikely for the time being some experts say the mechanism is going to remain in 'a coma' for some years.

The text agreed 'expressed concern' over the state of the CDM market but a concerted push to reform the CDM was blocked in Warsaw (measures that could have helped prop up the scheme were removed as developing nations insisted richer nations set emission targets first A proposal for a minimum price was deleted, as well as a suggestion for financial institutions such as the GCF to consider buying the credits). The UN wants feedback on how to move it forward by May 2014.

* **Deforestation / REDD+** (opportunity for dialogue between governments, NGOs, indigenous communities. to ensure REDD+ effort are based on science. Work on common approaches, MRV, GHG inventories...) – This accounts for up to 20% of global emissions. The UN programme known as 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Land Degradation' (REDD+) has been developing over the past decade. It's a scheme - 'the Warsaw Framework for REDD+' - where developing countries are paid not to chop down trees. The rules, or technical substance, were adopted in Warsaw. **\$280 million was also pledged** by the EU, USA, Norway, UK and Germany. According to UNEP officials it's likely to be up and running by 2020. The money to be collected from developed countries for this purpose will be managed by the World Bank's Bio-Carbon Fund. Rules on how to measure and verify emissions reductions were also agreed.

Loss and damage

The decision on **loss and damage** was adopted only at the very end of the conference after the developing countries objected the text that would set Warsaw Mechanism for loss and damage under the adaptation scheme.

The **'Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage'** has a grand title, but the foundations are yet to be established. Work **will start on reporting to the UN on the costs and possible approaches to dealing with climate compensation next year**. It will exist **as part of the UN's adaptation body until 2016**, when a review will take place. Its board will meet for the first time in March 2014. The compromise reached includes the review of the Mechanism at COP22 in 2016 (to take place in Senegal).

It is not an institution but could become one after 2016. Rich countries feared that a new UN mechanism for the damages of global warming would saddle them with new financial obligations. A central issue in the future will be whether loss and damage continues to fall within adaptation or whether it becomes a separate, third pillar (alongside adaption and mitigation).

Next steps

- 2014 said to be 'the year of ambition'
- The next UNFCCC meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform is to take place in Bonn from 10 to 14, March, 2014.
- IPCC report (Assessment report 5 - AR5) to be published in September 2014
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon climate summit in New York on 23 September 2014
- COP20 Lima Dec 2014
- May 2015 - draft negotiating climate text to be ready and translated in all different parties languages