

#2. Putting COP21 in context



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Introduction

- The 2015 Conference of the Parties is the final conference at which the Post-2020 Treaty can be agreed, as decided at the Durban COP in 2011.



Some background: The ADP

- The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) is a subsidiary body that was established at COP 17 in Durban
- The mandate of the ADP (Workstream 1) was to develop a legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties, which is to be completed no later than 2015 in order for it to be adopted at COP21, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020.
- By the same decision, the COP launched a workplan on enhancing mitigation ambition to identify and to explore options for a range of actions that can close the ambition gap with a view to ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties.



- Last December at the Lima COP parties, with guidance from the co-chairs, agreed on a text that would be the basis for a Paris agreement. This document has then been amended and consolidated in the various intercessionalals in 2015.



What we already know – the INDCs

- This year, for the first time, countries will arrive at the COP having already submitted their intended national contributions for carbon reduction. This was included in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions ([INDCs](#))
- [Therefore we know that the US](#) is planning to cut its emissions by 26% to 28%, compared with 2005 levels, by 2025, China has agreed its emissions will peak by 2030, and Japan has proposed to reduce emissions by 26% below 2013 emission levels by 2030 . A full list of commitments can be found [here.](#)
- However, we know that these commitments will not add up to a total carbon reduction that will keep the world below 2C of warming above pre-industrial levels, much less 1.5C.....

So what do we need at Paris to keep under 1.5/2C of warming?

- 5 year commitment periods for the INDCs, so that their implementation can be reviewed every 5 years
- A 'Paris Ambition mechanism' to ensure that those 5 year commitments are increased or 'ratcheted-up', so that commitments become more ambitious
- A long term goal – commitment to phase-out of fossil fuel emissions and phasing in 100% renewable energy by 2050



Finance



- It has been acknowledged that developing countries need financial assistance from developed countries to help them transition to clean energy and cut their carbon emissions, without inhibiting their development.
- Developing countries also will need most assistance to adapt to the severe affects of climate change.
- The contention is of course how much money will be pledged, and importantly delivered on. Many developing countries have included conditional measures in their INDC based on receiving climate finance.
- At COP15 countries agreed that at least \$100bn a year in climate finance would be provided by 2020. Developing countries want assurance that this level of assistance will continue beyond 2020, but it is unclear how this will be provided – suggestions have included from countries, the World Bank, a new climate bank or the private sector.

Raising short-term ambition

- As the INDCs only kick in in 2020, many parties and those in civil society point out that more needs to be done in the near term
- Developed countries are being encouraged to scale up their mitigation commitments, and deliver on their finance and technology pledges they made at Copenhagen.
- UNFCCC financial and technological institutions are also being encouraged to support concrete, socially inclusive and sustainable initiatives that close the emission gap.

Loss and Damage

- Loss and damage is a key negotiating issue for many parties, especially LDCs and those in the G77.
- These parties are pushing for a separate fund to the adaptation fund, to respond to climatic disasters and other impacts that cannot be adapted to.
- Controversy around this ask includes the difficulty of attributing climate change to a specific event that causes loss and damage and then identifying mechanisms on how to redress the loss.

What else?

- Many civil society organizations have compiled publications with their list of asks. You can find a link to CAN's Annual Policy Document below, but do check the websites of individual organizations if you cannot find it here.
- [CAN's Annual Policy Document: COP21](#)

The negotiation text

- The latest version of the negotiating text can be found on the [UNFCCC website](#).

Outside the COP

- Important debates and activities on climate change won't just happen inside the COP21 venue in Paris.
- Numerous events and conferences are already planned to take place around Paris, and beyond.
- Some events outside the COP venue
 - [Climate Generations Areas](#)
 - [Sustainable Innovation Forum](#)
 - [The Climate Action Zone \(ZAC\) hosted by Coalition Climat 21](#)
- For more events and activities, see [CAN's Mobilizations', Activities and Events up to and at COP21 list.](#)

