

# Paris Agreement on Climate Change



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# The 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21)

- Nov 30 - Dec 12, 2015
- The *aim* was to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on not to allow global temperature to increase by more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels

## When Will the Paris Agreement Take Effect?

At least

**55**  
PARTIES  
TO THE UNFCCC

representing  
at least

**55%**  
OF TOTAL  
GLOBAL GHGS

must join.

# Paris Agreement

## *Keeping Temperature Rises below 1.5°C*

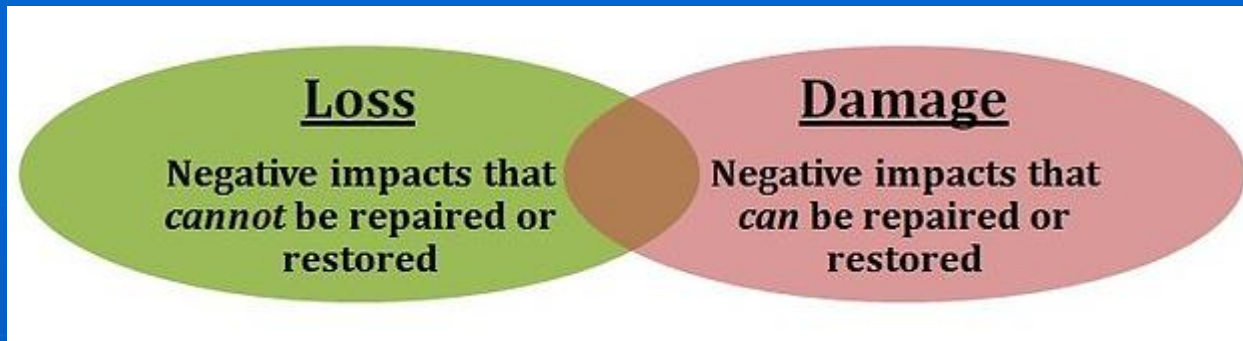
- It calls for holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels

# *Long-term Global Goal for Net Zero Emissions*

- The countries have promised to bring global emissions down from peak levels as soon as possible
- Also to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHG in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this century

## *Take Stock Every Five Years*

- The Agreement obliges nations to submit on a regular basis the “Intended Nationally Determined Contribution” (INDC) that are compatible with achieving the goals set out in the Agreement and to implement the INDCs



## *Loss and Damage*

- The agreement recognizes “loss and damage” associated with climate-related disasters while explicitly ruling out financial compensation mechanisms

## *Support/Money*

- The agreement calls on governments to continue providing finance through the *Green Climate Fund* to undertake adaptation activities





## *Strengths*

- It puts forward the right goals of carbon neutrality – all countries pledged to set emission targets
- It limits the temperature rise to 2<sup>0</sup>C
- The days of fossil fuels and GHG-intensive activities are numbered

## *Weaknesses*

- Paris Agreement is a non-binding agreement for raising individual obligations of emissions reductions every five years
- It is essentially a statement of good intentions, setting forth goals to limit global temp. rise to 2<sup>0</sup>C

- The Agreement does not set any precise date by which the “peaking” of GHG emissions has to be achieved
- The intension of the countries to lower emissions – vaguely described as “nationally determined contributions” – are also non-binding

- There is no specific date for carbon “neutrality”
- The Agreement will not create any legally binding requirements on participating countries with regard to either mitigation or adaptation – everything will depend on the “intentions” of respective countries

# Conclusions

- For developing countries, the Paris Agreement is better than no deal and an important step in the right direction



- Paris should not be the last word; subsequent meetings will have to consider whether countries are keeping their commitments and raise ambitions further

“Even if Paris is not perfect, it should be good enough for now”

Busby 2016, 9

**Thanks!**

*Any Questions?*



Paris, France

# PARIS AGREEMENT

MAKING THE BORING NOT BORING