

THE PARIS AGREEMENT



INTERNATIONAL & INDUSTRY LIAISON UNIT

TRADE BEAT



In 2009, world leaders came together to discuss global warming and the dangers it posed to all inhabitants of the world, inclusive of plants, animals and mankind. It was agreed that the average global temperature should not rise above two degrees Celsius (or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), or beyond global temperatures that existed just before the dawn of industrialization. Since this decision, several studies have been done, emphasizing the dangers of global temperatures in excess of 2°C which, for example, could lead to a rapid rise in sea-levels, increased risk of crop failure, and contribute to the collapse of coral reefs. To avoid global warming, it was agreed that temperatures should stay under the 2°C threshold, and the release of carbon dioxide or the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere should be at a limit. Tasked with this specific agenda, global leaders converge annually at the UN climate conference, to discuss policies and emissions cuts designed to remain within the 2°C threshold.

Adopted by consensus on December 12, 2015, the Paris Agreement was negotiated by representatives of 195 countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or COP21. The Paris Agreement seeks to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases; promote adaptation (to sudden change by offsetting the effects of global warming) and finance, starting in the year 2020, effectively replacing the Kyoto Protocol. As a mark to Earth Day, the Paris Agreement was opened for signature on April 22, 2016, and by April 2017, the 195 members of the UNFCCC signed it. By October 2016, 143 members had ratified the Agreement allowing for its entry into force which became effective on November 4, 2016.

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Heads of Delegation at the 2015 UNFCCC in Paris

"We called for strong ambition, for remarkable partnerships, for mobilization of finance, and for implementation of national climate plans.

Paris delivered. Now the job becomes our shared responsibility."



*Jim Yong Kim
World Bank President*

The Paris Agreement

What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global agreement addressing climate change. The agreement establishes an ambitious action plan for the global community to limit global warming to well below 2°C, by committing to measures that should put the world on a path to mitigate dangerous climatic changes.

The main objective of the Paris Agreement is to strengthen the global response to threats of climate change, by keeping a global temperature rise in this century, well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to an even further 1.5°C limit. The agreement also aims to strengthen the concept of global adaptation, to deal with the impacts of climate change affecting individual nations. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, countries in need, should be supported by appropriate financial flows, a technological framework and the establishment of enhanced capacity building measures. The framework of the Agreement also provides much needed support to developing countries, which can tailor adaptation and mitigation strategies to their national needs and objectives to deal with this global crisis.



What are the Key Elements of the Paris Agreement?

Mitigation: reducing emissions

Transparency and Global Stocktake

Adaptation

Loss and Damage

Role of cities, regions and local authorities

Support

Key Elements

(extracted from the European Commission Climate Change-Paris Agreement)

MITIGATION: REDUCING EMISSIONS

Governments agreed

- a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels;
- to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change;
- on the need for global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognising that this will take longer for developing countries;
- to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with the best available science.

Before and during the Paris conference, countries submitted comprehensive national climate action plans (INDCs). These are not yet enough to keep global warming below 2°C, but the agreement traces the way to achieving this target.



TRANSPARENCY AND GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

Governments agreed to

- come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science;
- report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets;
- track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.

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ADAPTATION

Governments agreed to

- strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change;
- provide continued and enhanced international support for adaptation to developing countries.



LOSS AND DAMAGE

The agreement also

- recognises the importance of averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- acknowledges the need to cooperate and enhance the understanding, action and support in different areas such as early warning systems, emergency preparedness and risk insurance.



ROLE OF CITIES, REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The agreement recognises the role of non-Party stakeholders in addressing climate change, including cities, other subnational authorities, civil society, the private sector and others.

They are invited to

- scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions;
- build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change;
- uphold and promote regional and international cooperation.

SUPPORT

The EU and other developed countries will continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries.

- Other countries are encouraged to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily.
- Developed countries intend to continue their existing collective goal to mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 and extend this until 2025. A new and higher goal will be set for after this period.

"The \$100 billion per year in public and private climate finance that developed countries agreed to provide by 2020 will be a floor for further increases beyond 2020,"

"The Paris Agreement also provides for the use of market mechanisms among countries— this will enhance the economic efficiency of mitigation efforts, including efforts to reduce emissions from forests."

Rane Cortez,
Director for REDD+
(a program in Mexico to reduce emissions and deforestation)



The Paris Agreement



Posing with the instrument of ratification at Jamaica's National Conversation on Climate Change were, Minister Hon Daryl Vaz, flanked by UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Dr. Elsie Laurence Chounoune on the left and Principal Director in the Climate Change Division Una May Gordon on the right (Mark Simpson Photo).

Jamaica Ratifies Agreement

In recognizing the adverse effects of climate change globally, in particular, the increased threats to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Jamaica, there has been a commitment to implement the measures of the Paris Agreement. Threats relating to climate change have already been experienced in Jamaica, with changing weather patterns, hotter days and the erosion of our coastlines and beaches. The protection of our natural resources, becomes increasingly relevant, when it is considered that tourism accounts for 30% of GDP. Our beaches for example, are a major attraction for our tourism product, and their preservation is a critical component to our sustainable development and our adaptability to climatic changes.

In a welcomed and prudent move, the Government of Jamaica ratified the Paris Agreement on April 11, 2017, becoming the 143rd country to do so. The instrument of ratification was signed on March 30, by the Government of Jamaica and officially presented by Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Hon. Daryl Vaz, at the National Climate Change Conversation, held in Kingston on April 11.

The event was hosted in collaboration by the Ministry's Climate Change division, and the country office of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Jamaica. The Government of Jamaica was commended by UNDP Jamaica's Deputy Resident Representative, Dr Elsie Laurence-Chounoune, for its bold step in ratifying the Agreement, which signals a significant milestone in Jamaica's journey to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Laurence-Chounoune stated that the "UNDP stands ready to support Jamaica on its quest to adhere to the provisions of the Paris Agreement through assistance in mobilizing financial and technical resources including policy advisory, strategic planning, capacity development and knowledge management." Dr. Laurence-Chounoune continued, that the ratification of the Paris Agreement should provide a sustainable framework for promulgating enduring policy, legislative and programmatic action to mitigate these and other impacts of Climate Change in Jamaica. She also stated that Jamaica, like many developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, is "challenged by rising sea levels, eroding coastlines, rising temperatures and more frequent and severe weather events,". As such, she stated that a country impacted by Climate Change faces significant challenges, impacting its ability to sustain resilience and reduce poverty.

The Hon. Daryl Vaz, stated that a National Adaptation Plan is being developed in the Framework of a Climate Change Policy, which focuses on twelve particular sectors. He further stated that specific adaptation plans will be developed for each sector to achieve the wider objectives, focusing on health, tourism, energy, forestry, water, coastal and marine resources. He suggested that "our efforts must be collaborative and must be strengthened by a true desire to make Jamaica climate resilient".

"Climate change does not discriminate between rich or poor, man or woman.

We all have to work together as we are all going to feel its effects if we do not take steps to adapt to its impacts and to go even further to mitigate or prevent climate change from occurring,"



Hon. Daryl Vaz
(Minister without Portfolio)
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation



The Paris Agreement



The Agreement sends a signal that the world has reached a turning point in the road to a low-carbon economy, a road paved by continued innovation in the technology, energy, finance and conservation sectors."

"Years in the making, the agreement affirms a new paradigm of global cooperation to address climate change which points towards a future that is more prosperous, healthy and secure."



Rane Cortez,
Director for REDD+
(a program in Mexico to reduce emissions and deforestation)



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Country Above Self



The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.

We're on the Web!
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