



The Paris Agreement: Next steps

Text adopted by the COP in Paris

1. On 12 December 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP) adopted the Paris Agreement through decision 1/CP.21. The text of the Paris Agreement is contained in the annex to decision 1/CP.21. The text of decision 1/CP.21, including the Paris Agreement, in all six official languages of the United Nations, as adopted by the COP (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1), can be found here: http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008831.

Report of COP 21

2. Decision 1/CP.21 will be contained in an addendum to the report of the COP on its twenty-first session (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1). As part of the finalization of the COP 21 report, under the authority of the President, a very limited number of corrections of a purely editorial nature will be introduced to the text of the Paris Agreement contained in document FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1. In order to ensure full transparency, details on the corrections in English will be made available on the UNFCCC website.

3. The English version of the report and its addenda are expected to be published by the end of January 2016 and made available on the UNFCCC website. These documents are expected to be available in all six official UN languages by the end of February 2016.

Transmission of the authentic text of the Paris Agreement to the Depository

4. Article 26 of the Paris Agreement provides that the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Depository of the Agreement. As Depository, the Secretary-General will be responsible for ensuring the proper execution of all treaty actions related to the Agreement (for examples of relevant treaty actions, see paragraph 10 below).

5. Pursuant to Article 29 of the Paris Agreement, the texts of the Agreement in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are equally authentic. The authentic text of the Paris Agreement in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, as contained in document FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, will be transmitted by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary to the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations in New York shortly after that document becomes available in all six authentic languages of the Agreement. The Treaty Section assists the Secretary-General in carrying out his depositary functions relating to multilateral treaties.



Preparation by the Depositary of the original of the Agreement for signature and the distribution of certified true copies

6. After receipt of the authentic text of the Paris Agreement that is transmitted to him by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, the Depositary will prepare the original and certified true copies of the Agreement and perform the requisite depositary functions, including the distribution of the certified true copies in advance of the opening for signature. The original will contain a cover page, the authentic text of the Paris Agreement in all six languages and the signature pages on which the duly-authorized representatives of Parties to the Convention would affix their signatures. The certified true copies will be distributed to all Parties to the Convention in advance of the Agreement's being opened for signature.

Opening for signature and high-level signature ceremony to be convened by the UN Secretary-General

7. In accordance with Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, the Paris Agreement will be open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 22 April 2016 to 21 April 2017. The COP has invited the Secretary-General to convene a high-level signature ceremony for the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, and invited all Parties to the Convention to sign the Agreement at this ceremony, or at their earliest opportunity. In accordance with treaty law, signing the Paris Agreement would indicate the intention of a Party to the Convention to take steps to express its consent to be bound by the Agreement at a later date (see paragraph 10 below).

8. It is recalled that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign treaties on behalf of States without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives wishing to sign the Agreement must be in possession of appropriate full powers emanating from one of these authorities. In due course, States wishing to sign the Agreement shall contact in advance the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, providing the required full powers as necessary, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

9. Further information on the high-level signature ceremony will be communicated to Parties to the Convention in the coming weeks.

Becoming a Party to the Paris Agreement

10. In accordance with Article 20, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, in order to become a Party to the Agreement, a State or regional economic integration organization that is a Party to the Convention would need to deposit its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary. A Party to the Convention that has signed the Agreement may deposit its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval following signature. A Party to the Convention that has not signed the Agreement during the period when it is open for signature may deposit its instrument of accession from the day following the date on which it is closed for signature.

11. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be sent to the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.



First nationally determined contribution

12. The COP invited Parties to communicate their first nationally determined contribution (NDC) no later than when the Party submits its respective instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. In accordance with Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 22, if a Party has communicated an intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) prior to joining the Agreement, then its INDC shall be considered the Party's first NDC under the Agreement unless that Party decides otherwise. A Party has the opportunity of enhancing its INDCs by communicating a more ambitious NDC, if it so desires, before or when submitting its respective instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Entry into force of the Paris Agreement

13. In accordance with Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, the Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depository.

14. Solely for the purpose of determining entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the secretariat has been requested to make available on the website on the date of adoption of the Agreement as well as in the report of COP 21, information on the most up-to-date total and per cent of greenhouse gas emissions communicated by Parties to the Convention in their national communications, greenhouse gas inventory reports, biennial reports or biennial update reports. This information is available on the UNFCCC website at <http://unfccc.int/9354.php>.

