

30 NOV. - 12 DEC., 2015
PARIS, FRANCE

COP21

COP PRESIDENT: LAURENT FABIUS,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE



Summit Kickoff:

COP21 –the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties– witnessed more than 190 nations gathering in Paris to discuss a possible new global agreement on climate change. A number of heads of governments, ministers, mayors, scholars and global NGOs convened to discuss pivotal important developments on climate change. Paris has provided inspiring signals to the international community aimed at addressing the challenge of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the risk of dangerous warming caused by human activities. Some of the main issues related to “COP21” are:

Limits: The UN has endorsed a goal of limiting global warming to no more than 2° C over pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. However, more than 100 poorer countries and low-lying, small-island states are calling for a tougher goal of 1.5° C.

Fairness: Developing nations say industrialized countries should do more to cut emissions, having polluted for much longer. Nonetheless, rich countries insist that the burden must be shared to reach the 2° C target.

Money: One of the few firm decisions from the 2009 UN climate conference in Copenhagen was a pledge from rich economies to provide USD 100 billion (EUR 93 billion) a year in financial support for poor countries from 2020 to develop technology and build infrastructure to cut emissions. Where that money will come from and how it will be distributed are yet to be settled.

Summit Conclusions and Recommendations:

- The "Paris Agreement" –an international legally binding treaty on climate change– was adopted by 196 parties at COP21 in Paris on December 12, 2015 and entered into force on November 4, 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably 1.5° C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- "The Paris Agreement" reaffirms that developed countries should take the lead in providing financial assistance to countries that are less endowed and more vulnerable. For the first time, it encourages voluntary contributions by other Parties. Climate finance is needed for mitigation because large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions. Climate finance is equally important for adaptation, as significant financial resources are needed to adapt to the adverse effects and reduce the impacts of a changing climate.
- All states must share the burdens, responsibilities, and benefits among them to counteract the tangible impacts of climate change.
- It is also important to develop a compensation mechanism for losses and damages caused by climate change.
- Funding mechanisms should be provided separately from non-climate forms of foreign aid. The European Union must adjust its unambitious climate targets and set acceptable, ambitious and not exaggerated goals. So, all countries can cooperate with each other to achieve these goals.
- Setting a new international climate agreement in 2020 upon the expiration of the "Kyoto Protocol" and adapting to the consequences of climate change by preserving forests, using modern technology, providing financial assistance to developing countries while developing scientific and political expertise, and completing the process of agreements on addressing the challenges resulting from climate change are among other aims.

