



# Summary of the Paris Agreement

## 1. Background and Objectives

The Paris Agreement, adopted on December 12, 2015, during the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the United Nations, has as its primary goal to limit global warming to well below 2°C, while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The agreement forms a legally binding framework in which countries voluntarily commit through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

It aims to combine sustainable development with climate action, explicitly recognizing poverty eradication, food security, human rights, and just transitions.

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## 2. Core Elements of the Agreement

### Article 2 – Long-Term Goals

- Limit global temperature rise.
- Strengthen climate resilience.
- Align financial flows with low-emission, climate-resilient development.

### Articles 3 to 5 – Mitigation

- Each party must submit, maintain, and update climate goals every five years.

- The aim is to reach a balance between emissions and removals of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century.
- Forests and natural carbon sinks are recognized as essential to mitigation efforts.

#### Article 6 – International Cooperation

- Enables cooperation between countries, including through carbon markets.
  - Prevents double counting and promotes sustainable development.
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## 3. Adaptation and Loss & Damage

#### Article 7 – Adaptation

- Establishes a global goal to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability.
- Adaptation is treated as an equal pillar alongside mitigation.
- Emphasizes the importance of local and traditional knowledge systems.

#### Article 8 – Loss and Damage

- Supports countries in addressing unavoidable climate-related damages (e.g., sea level rise).
  - Strengthens the Warsaw International Mechanism, emphasizing early warnings, insurance, and non-economic losses.
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## 4. Finance, Technology & Capacity Building

#### Article 9 – Climate Finance

- Developed countries are obligated to continue providing financial support to developing countries.
- A collective goal of USD 100 billion annually until 2025 was agreed upon.

#### Article 10 – Technology Transfer

- Establishes a long-term vision on technology development.
- The Technology Mechanism facilitates international cooperation and access to technologies.

## Article 11 – Capacity Building

- Focuses on countries with limited capacity, such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
  - Capacity building must be demand-driven, participatory, and gender-responsive.
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# 5. Transparency and Global Review

## Article 13 – Transparency Framework

- Introduces a universal framework with flexibility for developing countries.
- Parties must report on:
  - Emissions
  - Progress on NDCs
  - Support provided and received

## Article 14 – Global Stocktake

- Every five years, a collective assessment will be made of progress toward the goals of the agreement.
  - The first Global Stocktake is scheduled for 2023.
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# 6. Compliance and Institutional Framework

## Article 15 – Compliance Mechanism

- A facilitative committee was established to support implementation without sanctions.
- Focuses on support, transparency, and cooperation, not punishment.

## Other Provisions

- No reservations to the agreement are permitted.
- A party may withdraw three years after the agreement enters into force, with a one-year notice period.

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## 7. Accompanying Decision Text (Decision 1/CP.21)

Alongside the agreement, the COP adopted a detailed decision text that includes:

- Confirmation of the need for enhanced ambition before 2020.
  - Establishment of a work program to operationalize the agreement.
  - Creation of bodies like the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building.
  - Invitation for non-party stakeholders (e.g. cities, businesses, NGOs) to contribute through the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) platform.
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## In Summary

The Paris Agreement is a historic global climate treaty that for the first time binds all nations within a common framework of ambitious but nationally determined climate action. It combines mitigation and adaptation with financial, technological, and social support, with transparency and international cooperation as guiding principles.

Its success depends on regularly increasing ambition, collaboration between states, and the active engagement of private and local actors. The global stocktake and enhanced transparency framework are designed to keep momentum and accountability high.