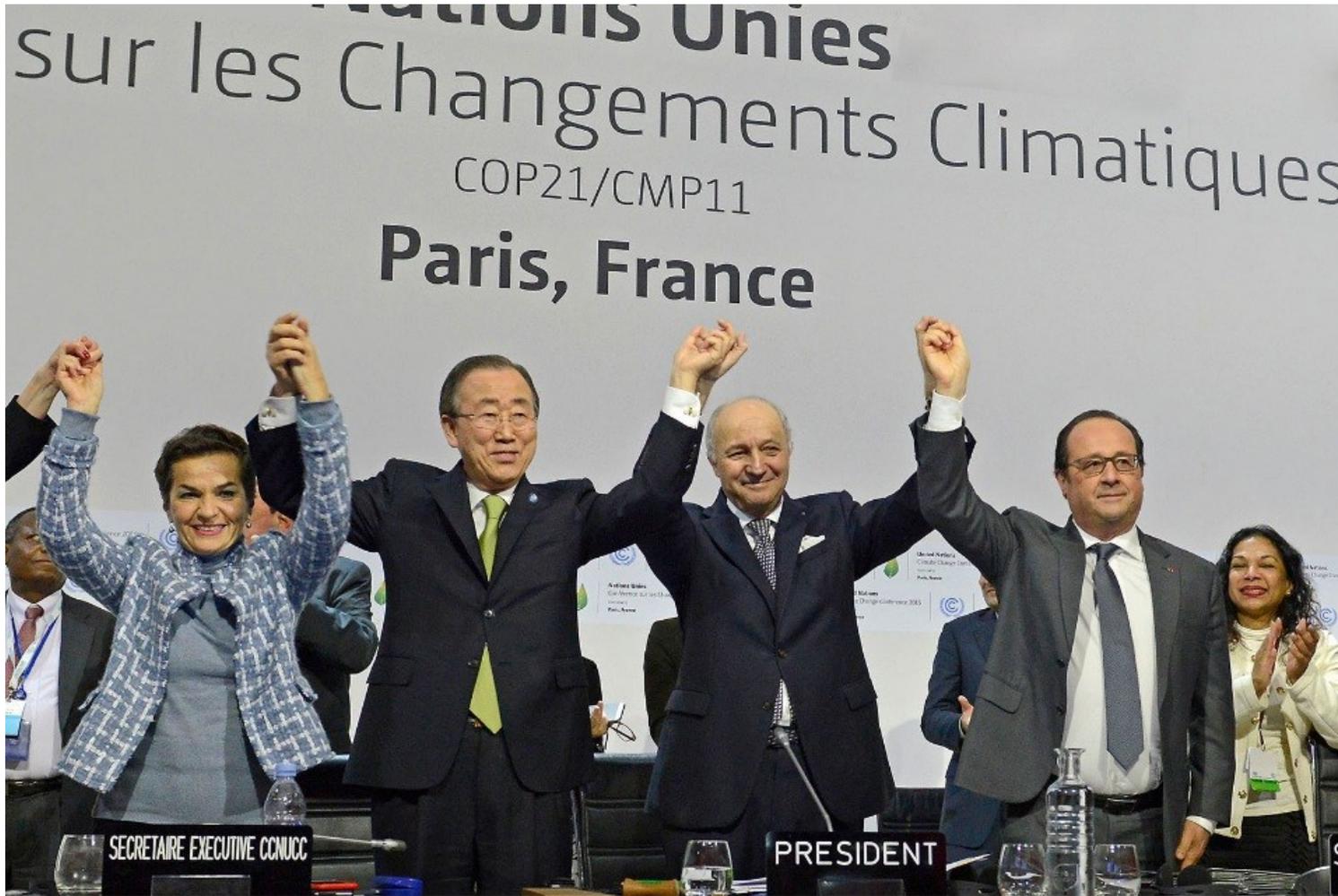


The Paris Agreement



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The Paris Agreement

What it is

It is an agreement dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.

It was negotiated by representatives of 196 parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015. Currently, 197 UNFCCC members have signed the agreement, and 173 have become party to it.

It aims to respond to the global climate change threat by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

A copy of the Paris Agreement can be viewed/downloaded here - http://unfccc.int/files/home/application/pdf/paris_agreement.pdf

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What it says

In the agreement, each country determines, plans and regularly reports its own contribution it **should** make in order to mitigate global warming. These are called - **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)** which morph into NDCs at some point. There is **no mechanism to force** a country to set a specific target by a specific date, but each target **should** go beyond previously set targets - a ratchet effect.

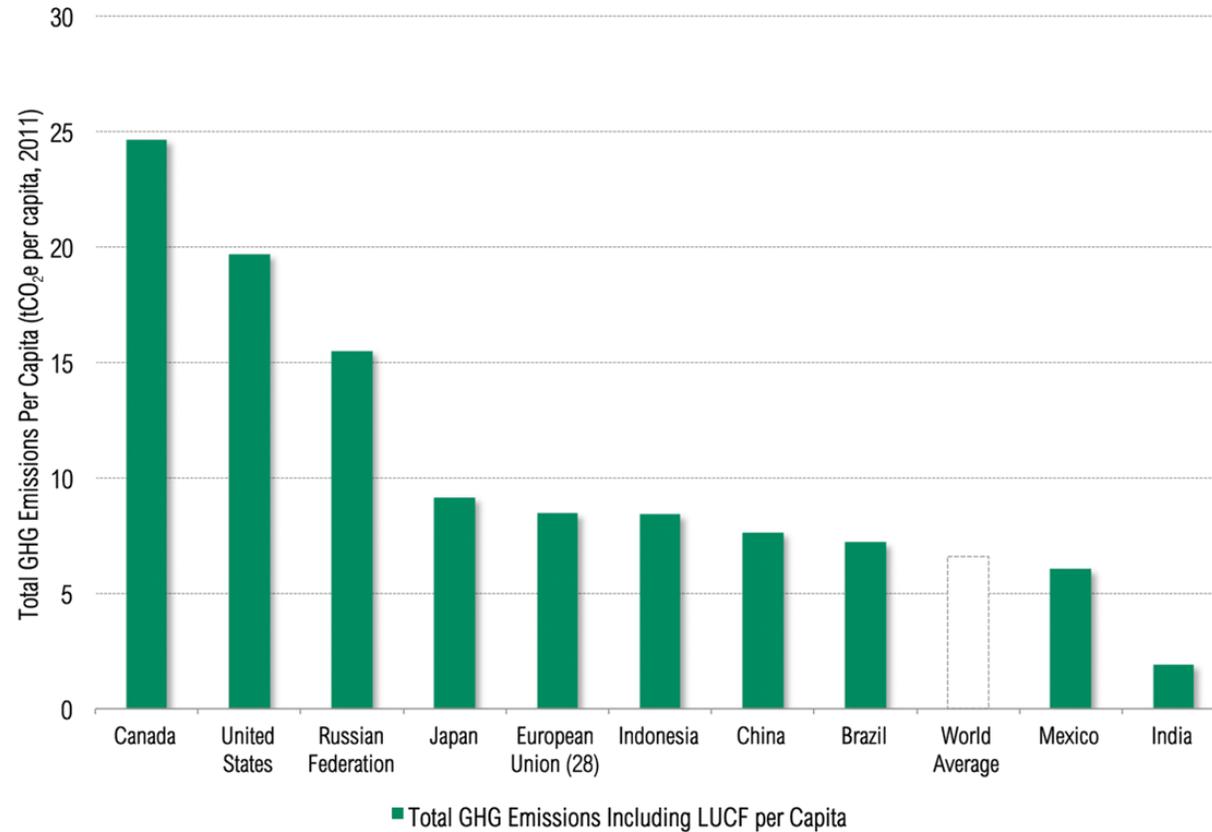
It considers that by these means we will: Increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.

Make “finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”

Enable countries to reach "global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible."

Some Data

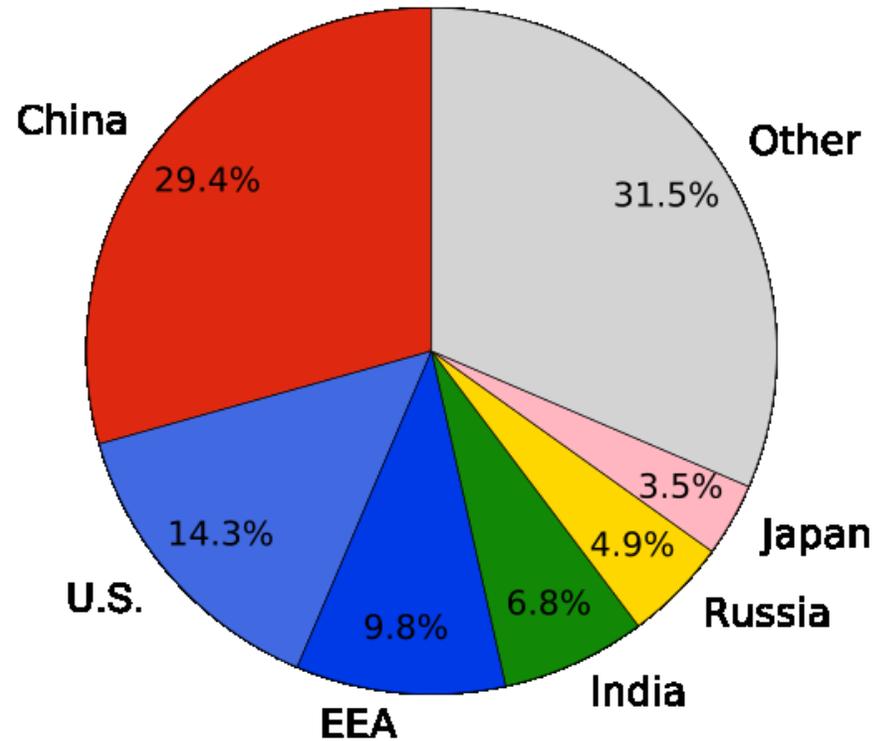
Per Capita Emissions for Top 10 Emitters



<http://bit.ly/11SMpjA>

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Some Data



Share of total GHG emissions

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Funding

One goal of the Paris Agreement was to raise \$100bn (£77.7bn) a year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries (first discussed as a target in 2010). The money would be used to help poorer countries invest in green energy and renewable technology.

The Green Climate Fund is one mechanism set up to raise money to reach that annual target.

Which countries have pledged the most to that scheme?

- US - \$3bn (£2.3bn)
- Japan - \$1.5bn (£1.2bn)
- UK - \$1.2bn (£931m)
- France - \$1bn (£776m)
- Germany - \$1bn (£776m)

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Funding

The UK has paid about £400m into the fund so far.

According to the Green Climate Fund's tracker, the US pledge amounts to just over \$9 (£7) a person. Sweden's pledge represents almost \$60 (£47) per person, the highest out of any country (total = \$0.6bn). The UK has proposed almost £15 a person.

India and China have not put forward any cash into the Green Climate Fund.

The US has contributed more than any other; \$1bn to date.

But China has pledged ~\$3.2bn for a different fund to help developing countries combat climate change.

The fund called the - South-South Climate Cooperation Fund (SSCCF)

This fund sits outside of the UNFCCC structure; so is not transparent and monitoring it is difficult/impossible.

The (I)NDCs

The (I)NDCs from the developing countries typically have a fair sprinkling of ‘best endeavours’, ‘we will increase our GHG emissions’ and ‘we will need lots of funding from developed countries’

(I)NDCs can be seen here -

<http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/All.aspx>

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Some Excerpts from (I)NDCs

Nepal

...is one of the least contributors to the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). And Nepal's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is only around 0.027% of total global emissions.

So why bother with INDCs, one wonders? It becomes clear here -

Nepal will need technical and financial supports from development partners to provide relevant technologies, and build its capacity to be cleaner and greener while flourishing as one of the top tourism destinations in the world.

And here -

Nepal will make efforts to implement its INDC and contribute to the global efforts of reducing GHGs emissions and helping life and life-support systems to adapt and build resilience to climate change impacts. However, Nepal requires bilateral and multilateral grant support in the following priority areas to meet both qualitative and quantitative targets as mentioned above.

Malaysia

...intends to (notice not 'will') reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 relative to the emissions intensity of GDP in 2005. This consist of 35% on an unconditional basis and a further 10% is conditional upon receipt of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building from developed countries.

Nigeria

- o Improved enforcement of gas flaring restrictions*
- o Development of Gas-to-Power Plants at Gas Flare Sites (micro grid)*
- o Blending 10% by volume of Fuel-Ethanol with Gasoline (E10) and 20% by volume of Biodiesel with Petroleum Diesel (B20) for Transportation Fuels.*

Followed by

The implementation of the full contribution is conditional on the availability of adequate financing for investment in the mitigation actions contained therein.

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Some Excerpts from (I)NDCs

Pakistan

Future projections for the period 2015-30 show a steady increase in emissions due to the ambitious plans of the present government to spark economic activity through large-scale investments in energy, communication and industrial infrastructure.

And, as usual, it's all about money:

In consideration of projected future emissions and potential for mitigation, Pakistan offers different options as part of its INDC for emission reduction, subject to the availability of Finance, Technology Development & Transfer and Capacity Building by the international community.

They will exploit their coal resources - while we ban ours

Improving the efficiency of planned coal-based power generation could lead to GHG mitigation. This measure is particularly important in view of plans for developing Pakistan's coal resources and significantly increasing the fuel's importance in domestic electricity generation.

Our emissions aren't that bad anyway

Pakistan's contribution to the global GHG emissions is miniscule. According to the Global Economy rankings, the share of Pakistan in total global GHG emissions is merely 0.8 percent and it is ranked as 135th in the list of global emitters on a per capita basis.

Interesting that 0.8% of the world's GHG emissions are described as minuscule. If so, what's the UK's hang-up with its 1.2% contribution (and falling)

Some Analysis

Bjorn Lomborg, a political science professor and statistician, in a peer reviewed paper, has calculated (using IPCC models) that the Paris Agreement will make about 0.05 °C difference in global temperatures compared to ‘business as usual’.

<http://www.lomborg.com/press-release-research-reveals-negligible-impact-of-paris-climate-promises>

His published paper can be viewed/downloaded here

https://www.dropbox.com/s/6a3tp9qyk3hqzqu/Lomborg-2016-Global_Policy.pdf?dl=0

END