

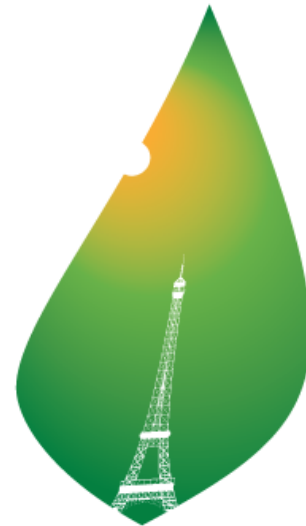
# The Paris Agreement

# The Journey Thus Far...

- First World Climate Change Conference (1979)
- IPCC (1988) and AR1 (1990)
- UNFCCC (Rio 1992)
- Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- The Copenhagen Summit (2009)
- The Road to Paris

# COP 21: Paris 2015 (Nov. 30 – Dec. 12)

- 196 parties to UNFCCC present in Paris
- 19,385 national delegates
- 8,338 observers
- 8,825 media
- 2,500 working groups



**PARIS2015**  
CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES  
SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES  
**COP21•CMP11**

# The Paris Agreement

<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

# Article 2 (Agreement Aims)

- Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.
- Increasing 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.
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

# Paris Agreement Features

- Requires Parties to submit nationally determined commitments, detailing how they will reduce greenhouse gas emissions domestically and to assist developed countries in mitigation and adaptation.

# Paris Agreement Features

- Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science...on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

# Paris Agreement Features

- Commitments made by parties are renewed at least every 5 years and must be progressively more ambitious.
- Requires developed countries to provide financing to assist developed countries with mitigation and adaptation.



# A Fundamentally Different Approach?

- All In
  - Previous negotiations and treaties (UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol) centered on a firm division between developed (Annex I) and developing (Annex II) countries. Only Annex I countries were obligated to reduce GHG emissions.
  - In the Paris Agreement, all countries, not just developed ones, are supposed to curb emissions.

# A Fundamentally Different Approach?

- Pot Luck
  - Previous negotiations divided up responsibility among developed countries for GHG emissions reductions targets. Those were to be implemented by Annex I countries and enforced through international law.
  - In the Paris Agreement, each country developed its own Intended Nationally Determined Contributions based on national circumstances and brought them to the Paris conference.

# A Fundamentally Different Approach?

- Not Binding
  - The UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol (and efforts to replace them) were legally binding international treaties.
  - The Paris Agreement is not. Rather than enforcing GHG emissions targets through a legally binding treaty, the Paris Agreement aims to mobilize political pressure (both international and domestic) to encourage compliance. The agreement creates a set of transparency measures and a process for regularly and publicly reviewing each country's progress.

# A Fundamentally Different Approach?

- Future Commitments
  - Every five years, beginning in 2020, each country will be expected to contribute a new national plan for reducing emissions.

# Positives

- More consistent with economic and political realities
- Moves enforcement from the international to the domestic realm
- More flexible in the face of rapid change

# Negatives

- Emissions reductions pledges fall short.

# INDCs

- <http://cait.wri.org/indc/>

# SYNTHESIS REPORT ON THE AGGREGATE EFFECT OF INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCs)



United Nations  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

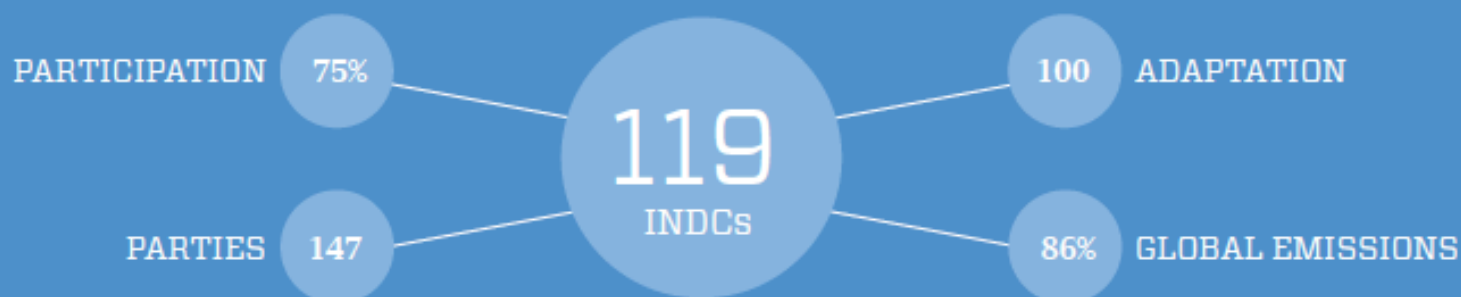


In December 2013, all Parties to the UNFCCC were invited to communicate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) well in advance of the Paris Conference (COP 21). These contributions outline national efforts towards low emissions and climate resilient development in pursuit of the Convention's objective and represent one of the main deliverables of COP 21.

A total of 147 Parties\* (75% of all Parties to the UNFCCC) responded to this invitation by 1 October 2015. Together, they represent approximately 86% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2010.

Out of the 119 INDCs\* received, 100 included an adaptation component. This demonstrates the global imperative to adapt to climate change alongside efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and a common determination to strengthen adaptation efforts under the 2015 agreement.

\* 147 Parties corresponding to 146 countries submitted 119 INDCs by 1 October 2015. The INDC of the European Union and its 28 Member States is counted as one INDC representing 29 Parties / 28 countries.



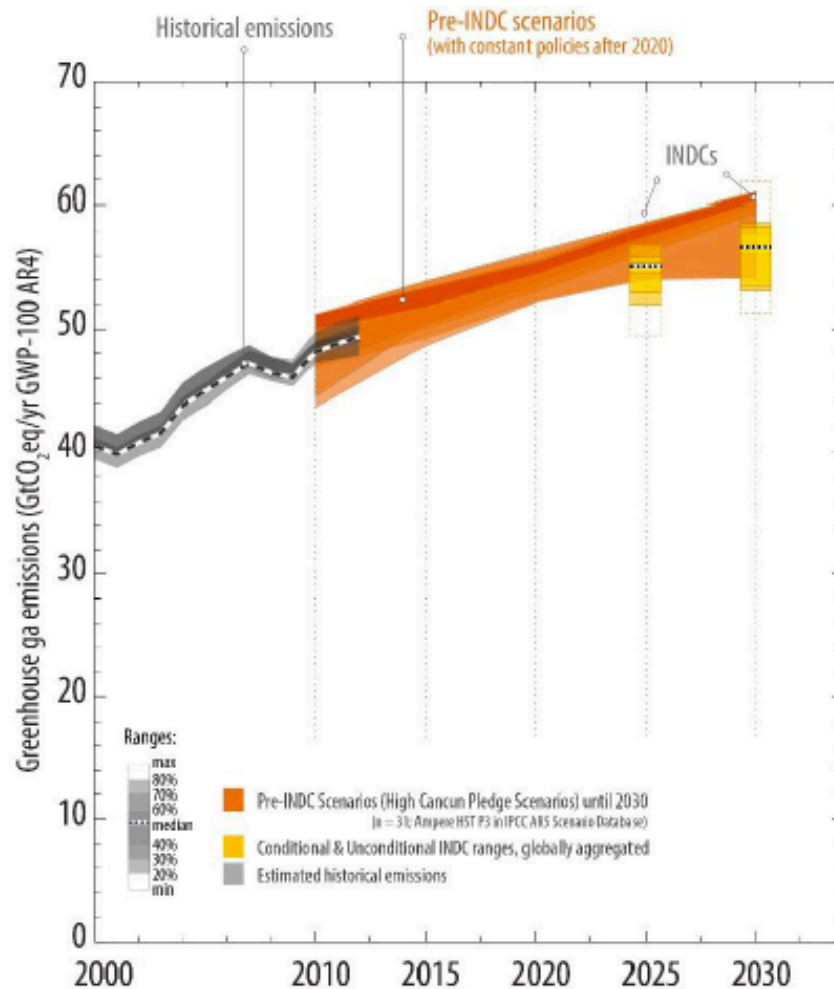
**1** Parties have submitted their INDCs with the understanding that they would be anchored in a broader new climate agreement that would support sustainable actions nationally and globally.

**2** The INDCs indicate a significant increase in the number of countries taking climate action, which is often national in scope and covers a large number of sectors and greenhouse gases. This is reflected in the increase in the number of Parties that have moved from project programme or sector-based action to economy-wide policies and objectives.

**3** INDCs are expected to deliver sizeable emission reductions and slow down emissions growth in the coming decade. They will, however, not be sufficient to reverse by 2025 and 2030 the upward trend of global emissions. Furthermore, estimated annual aggregate emission levels resulting from their implementation do not fall within least-cost 2 °C scenario levels.

Figure 9

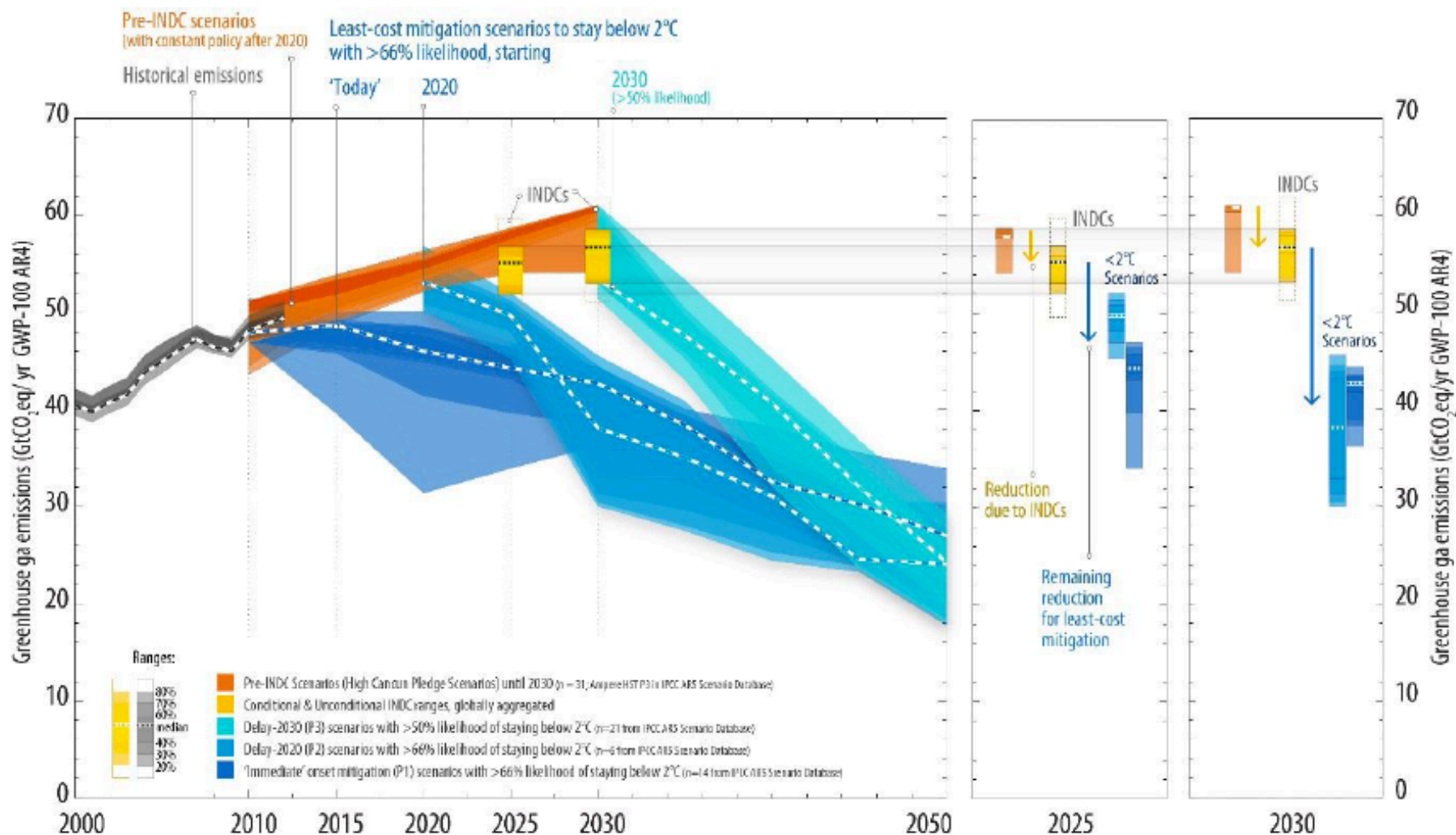
**Global emission levels resulting from the implementation of the communicated intended nationally determined contributions by 2025 and 2030 in comparison with trajectories consistent with action communicated by Parties for 2020 or earlier**



Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report scenario database and own aggregation.

Figure 2

**Comparison of global emission levels resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions in 2025 and 2030 with other trajectories**



Source: AR5 scenario database, IPCC historical emission database and INDC quantification.

# Negatives

- Emissions reductions pledges fall short.
- No timetable for a peak year.
- Lack of specifics on increasing funding for poorer countries beyond \$100 billion by 2020 and on loss and damage principles.
- The developed/developing country divide remains.
- Compliance and enforcement will be weak.

# Après Paris

- 2016 Morocco Summit
- The 2020 test

# The Paris Agreement