



CLIMATE AGREEMENT AT COP21 IN PARIS: What are we aiming for?

IN THE RUN UP TO THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN PARIS LATER THIS YEAR, WITH MUCH OF THE WORK ALREADY GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE UK GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF THE AIMS AND CHALLENGES THAT ARE BEING GRAPPLED WITH

||| From 30 November to 11 December this year, France will be hosting and chairing a crucial climate summit. The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) will take place in Paris, with the challenge of securing a new global agreement on the climate. France will be playing a leading role in facilitating consensus. France's goal is to give credibility to the transition towards a resilient and low-carbon society, compatible with an increase in average temperatures limited to 1.5° to 2°C.

To fulfil this vision, the new agreement will have to be fair and ambitious, applicable to all countries and in force by 2020. It will tackle ways of both reducing emissions and adapting to the impact of climate change. It will have to send a clear and strong signal to governments, businesses, civil society and local authorities that we are moving towards a low-carbon economy, whilst ensuring fair access to sustainable development. It will also have to build trust between countries and long-term momentum.

To achieve the 2°C target, the agreement will have to be based on ambitious commitments by every country (the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions or INDCs) to step up their targets and finally achieve our goal. As of 12 June, some 40 countries had made pledges accounting for a third of global emissions. The EU's INDC is one of the most ambitious. The INDCs will be reviewed after 2020.

Finance, too, is central to the COP21 discussions. To drive the transition and provide for low-carbon and resilient economies, both pre-2020 and long-term finance will have to be mobilised from public and private sources, international bodies and innovative financial instruments. Developed countries have committed to a \$100-billion-a-year target by 2020. As of 29 May, the total amount pledged stood at \$10.2 billion for the next four years. To build trust between countries and thus support the COP21 negotiations, a number of developing countries' projects should be financed before December.



L to R: Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador in charge of Climate Negotiations; Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development; and Ségolène Royal, French Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

To help implement the Paris agreement, a showcase of activities by non-state actors has been created, under the name 'The Agenda of Solutions'. It encompasses co-operative initiatives from businesses, local government, international organisations and NGOs. The Agenda presents concrete solutions which exist now and can be expanded, and is thus a way of supporting each country's ambition. France and its partners are encouraging more stakeholders to join this effort and give strong visibility to their actions and pledges throughout the year, particularly via the online platform NAZCA (climateaction.unfccc.int).

Additionally, France organised the Business and Climate Summit in Paris (20 and 21 May) and the Climate Finance Day (22 May) to show state and business players working in the same direction towards a low-carbon economy. Along with these events, France has hosted the first of three Business Dialogue events to enable discussion of issues such as carbon pricing, legal and economic environments, and investment in low-carbon solutions and technologies.

In short, France is absolutely committed to securing a climate consensus and making COP21 in Paris an historic success. ■