



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

NEW report: Paris Agreement: how it happened and what next

[London, 4 May 2016] Climate Strategies [1] and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung [2] have published today a new report: *'Paris Agreement: how it happened and what next. With a special focus on the role of non-state actors'*[3]. This comes two weeks after over 170 countries signed the Paris Agreement in New York, and just over a week before the opening of a new round of United Nations climate change negotiations in Bonn (Germany) [4].

The UN conference which took place in December 2015, leading to the Paris Agreement, was a remarkable achievement, but the question of implementation remains a major task ahead. The pledges made by countries in the run up to the Paris conference do not add up to sufficient emission reductions to keep the world from warming more than 2 degrees C above preindustrial temperatures, let alone 1.5 C [5]. The skilfully negotiated text also leaves potential frustrations and pitfalls which could delay the much needed increase in ambition and national contributions that are needed to stop dangerous climate change. In addition, entry into force may not happen until 2018-2020 [6] committing countries to action by 2025 or 2030. This leads to a risk that emission reductions will not happen fast enough, as scientists say much more rapid action to reduce emissions is needed.

Success will also require moving beyond the sole focus on nation state targets and timetables, to enable a broader base of action on a more bottom-up basis. Over the years preceding the Paris summit, growing worries about climate change had produced expressions of concern and commitment to action from many non-state bodies, from groups of international cities to global industry associations and investors. Involving these players fully remains crucial. [7]

"The path ahead from Paris must offer opportunities for these cities, businesses and other non-state actors to help determine national levels of ambition and to deliver them," said Henry Derwent, senior adviser at Climate Strategies and co-author of the report. "Exactly how this can be done and accounted for is however still not clear," he added.

"An important task for analysts and negotiators will be to find practical ways to take account of what cities, regions, businesses and other non-state actors can contribute to the Paris Agreement, and that this is properly measured and reflected in the new system."

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Notes for Editors:

[1] Climate Strategies is a not-for-profit organisation working with an international network of senior climate change policy experts to bridge the gap between research and policy. It provides world-class, independent policy and economic research input to national, European and international climate policy. More information here: <http://climatestrategies.org> and for the full report:

<http://climatestrategies.org/publication/paris-agreement-how-it-happened-and-what-next-with-a-special-focus-on-the-role-of-non-state-actors/>

[2] The Konrad Adeneuer Stiftung is a German political foundation closely associated with the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU). KAS programmes in Germany and in more than 120 countries worldwide aim to consolidate democratic values, strengthen European integration and promote sustainable development. Since 2001 the Multinational Development Policy Dialogue of KAS has been responsible for the dialogue of the foundation with the EU in the development policy area. More information here: www.kas.de
The report can also be found here: <http://www.kas.de/mned-bruessel/en/publications/45077/>

[3] The report is organised into four parts: an overview of the Paris Agreement and the new global climate system it has introduced; a reflection from of an engaged city-state -Singapore, on how the Paris outcome was achieved and what now has to be done; a description of the new world of international non-state groupings with two key examples of groups of world cities; and a reflection on city-based action by a major city in the developing world - Rio de Janeiro. The full report is available on the Climate Strategies website: <http://climatestrategies.org/publication/paris-agreement-how-it-happened-and-what-next-with-a-special-focus-on-the-role-of-non-state-actors/>

[4] More information on the Bonn climate change negotiating session in May 2016 can be found here: https://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_may_2016/meeting/9413.php

[5] After decades of negotiations, countries were able to put aside some of their differences and put together the Paris Agreement, which sets a framework in which all countries, or “Parties” – both developed and developing – have to put forward Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The ambition gap with regards to the greenhouse gas reduction goal and pledged action so far by the Parties is estimated to be around 11-15 GtCO₂e for 2025. Climate Action Tracker, Emissions Gap. Available online at: <http://climateactiontracker.org/global/173/CAT-Emissions-Gaps.html>

[6] The Paris Agreement will come into force when at least 55 Parties covering at least 55% of emissions have ratified it. The possibility of an entry into force in 2018 rather than 2020 was opened up by Christiana Figueres at a speech in London in April 2016. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-11/paris-climate-deal-seen-taking-effect-two-years-ahead-of-plan?>

[7] The report covers a variety of initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors – which as announced at COP21 will now be expanded beyond Europe, with new offices planned in Latin America and Africa. It also covers CB27, a network of Brazilian capital cities, which is set to be replicated in 2016 throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.