



Forum: Environmental Commission

Topic: The Global Impact of the Paris Agreement on Environmental
Mitigation Efforts

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Introduction:

The theme of this year's Amman Model United Nations "deliberate to liberate", highlights the connection between well considered action and achieving freedom from constraints, this has a profound connection with the spirit and contents of the Paris Agreement which is a deliberate effort for the world to liberate the world from the escalating effects of climate change, the Paris Agreement was a clear and deliberate act of diplomacy in order to liberate climate action from the limitations faced in passed treaties. Through NDC's the Paris Agreement aims to push each nation into charting their own courses for decarbonization. And so, this theme yet again aligns with the Paris Agreement as it's important for countries to represent deliberate commitment in liberating communities from unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The Paris agreement was signed on December 2015 at the 21st conference of parties, this standouts as a monumental change in impacting climate change unlike previous attempts made to try and tackle this global issue, as unlike previous accords that struggled to gain participation and cooperation about 196 countries signed the agreement and almost 177 countries went on to ratify the agreement, its significance lies between its main approach being countries determined contributions of NDC, this is a process in which each country gives itself their own emission reduction tasks limiting stress coming from other countries as these targets are usually determined by a country depending on their capabilities and infrastructure. This helps foster a sense of shared responsibility and rather than having limited countries acting on the issue all countries are obliged to partake in attempts to reduce climate change, promoting climate diplomacy and fairness. And while countries are free to set their own goals revolving around climate change, the Paris agreement aims to help strengthen the response to climate change as it maps out a clear and sustainable path for the coming decades on what goals need to be reached and how each country needs to cooperate in order to achieve this goal, the Paris agreements strives to help make the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, to limit the temperature increase further to 1.5 degrees Celsius, this ambitious goal provides a clear scientific imperative for immediate and sustained actions, the agreement outlines a framework for countries to report on their emissions, review their progress and progressively increase the goals and objectives they give themselves to strive for better results in general, this is called ratcheting up a mechanism, crucial for ensuring that efforts are collected and each country is doing its part in decreasing emissions and tackling climate change. In order to ensure transparency and fairness,

the Paris agreement established an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), which required all parties to conduct thorough and extensive reports on their climate actions, a framework which became fully operational as of 2024, this framework aimed to take the place of the previous measurement reporting and verification requirements put in by the Kyoto protocol a similar agreement adopted in Kyoto Japan which entered into force in 2005, and was then superseded by the Paris agreement, merely due to the fact that it lacked key participation from key developed nations like China and India which without these two heavy emitters of greenhouse gases steep holes and issues wouldn't be solved or addressed, the ETF feeds directly to the Global Stocktake, a process that helps assess the progress towards long-term goals of the agreement every 5 years, and while the first Global Stocktake was concluded in 2023, despite evident progress being made, the world as of today is not on track in meeting their 1.5 Celsius goal, and therefore needs to speed up the climate action across all countries and sectors. This transparent assessment is designed in order to inform and encourage countries to submit more qualified and better yet, more ambitious NDC's in the next cycle, allowing for more improvement and ensuring that global efforts are being met and continuously strengthened and enhanced, furthermore the Paris agreement strongly commits helping less developed countries by providing financial resources and help liberating them from constraints in order for them to have a direct impact on climate change. And so, by making finance flows consistent and lowering emissions of greenhouse gases, the agreement will aim to further mobilize the necessary public and private funds and resources to achieve transformative goals effectively, efficiently and soon in order to further limit any harm done to the planet.

Definition of key terms

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

NDC is a climate action plan that each individual country draws up for itself and sets ambitious and realistic goals for countries that need to be reached every 5 years in order to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

National Adaptation Plans (NAP)

NAPs are strategic plans put by countries to assess their medium- and long-term adaptation to climate change, different to NDC's, NAPs are there to help countries assess the effects of climate change that are projected to occur.

Pre-industrial Levels

Pre-industrial levels represent the earth's atmosphere before humans started burning lots of fossil fuels, and more effectively, how the earth's atmosphere was before the industrial revolution which scientists use the period from 1850 to 1900 as their baseline, and so the Paris agreement is to keep the planet from warming more than 1.5 or 2 Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

GHGs are the gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat, they act like glass roofs and walls, they let sunlight in but trap heat from leaving earth and going back to space, despite its importance, too much GHG can lead to substantial effects on the world's atmosphere, examples of how they're emitted are burning fossil fuels, electricity and heat production and usually transportation, which are cars ships planes and trucks that rely on gasoline and diesel.

The Science-based Targets Initiative (SBTi)

The SBTi is a global organization that helps companies and private sectors to set ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. These targets are science-based as they align with the latest climate science; it is necessary to meet the goals of the Paris agreement.

The Carbon Discloser Project (CDP)

The CDP is an organization that works on creating transparency between cities and private sectors to ensure that that regions can openly measure manage and publicly disclose their impacts towards the environment.

The World Resource Institute (WRI)

The WRI works to create a more sustainable world, established in 1982, it's key aim is to have human society to live in ways that won't negatively impact the environment.

Ecological civilization

Ecological civilization is a concept envisioning a future where humanity lives in harmony with nature, ensuring long term benefits and satisfaction for both humans and the planet, furthermore it is a shift from unsustainable patterns which prioritise growth, into a sustainable lifestyle that values human satisfaction and nature.

Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)

ETF is a crucial element in the Paris agreement as its main goal is to provide standardized and robust systems for countries to report on their climate actions, and so by standardizing the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, and efforts to meet climate goals, the ETF serves as a fundamental foundation for the Global Stocktake which assesses collective progress.

Global Stocktake (GST)

The Global Stocktake is a fundamental mechanism of the Paris Agreement, designed to be a five year assessment on the worlds collective progress in achieving their long term goals, focusing on each countries long term progress and goals, the GST evaluates global efforts as a whole rather than assessing countries individually despite their individual efforts towards climate change, Its purpose is to answer the crucial question, Are we on track to limit global warming to well below 2 Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 Celsius, above pre-industrial levels?

General overview

The Paris Agreement is widely regarded as a fundamentally landmark international treaty on climate change, it was adopted by 196 parties at the UN climate change conference in Paris France, on December 12, 2015. It is a monumental shift in global climate change policy, it moved into a flexible bottom-up system that involved all nations in November 4, 2016, following its ratification by 55 countries which account for at least 55% of GHG emissions. As of early 2025, 196 countries had signed and ratified the agreement making it the universal commitment to tackling the climate crisis.

The path to the Paris Agreement was long and was filled with conflict, stemming from deep-seated disagreements between developed and developing countries, and in 1992 after basic yet necessary framework was established, it was quickly replaced by the Kyoto Protocol, that truly made climate change of global importance. The Kyoto Protocol set legally binding emissions reduction goals, but only for developed countries, and so making these treaties sole principle being common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Which furthermore explained that nations both developed and still developing are equal, but moving into details such as their capabilities, the Kyoto Protocol found that more developed countries are more capable in resolving the climate crisis and furthermore have more responsibilities towards this crisis, regardless of their emissions and their negative contribution to this issue. However notable restrictions such as the exempting major economies like China and India from abiding by the agreement, behind the issue that these restrictions and targets would harm them and would be deemed unfair to them, and so the most notable setback being that the United States of America not ratifying the protocol, with similar concerns of China and India. And therefore, the Protocol's first success period ran from 2008 to 2012 however this partial success was with limited numbers of participating nations and therefore had little global impact on emissions. And so, hopes were high for a new legally binding treaty, but negotiations in the Copenhagen summit quickly collapsed amidst intense disagreements. And so, the accord that emerged was non-binding political declaration, that fell short of expectations leaving the international community searching for a new agreement to take its place. And so, the backdrop of this historical failure led to setting the stage for the crucial negotiations in Paris in 2015 which eventually led to the creation of the Paris Agreement.

The scientific consensus on climate change had solidified dramatically going into the mid 2010's, and so thanks to the IPCC's fifth assessment report, published between 2013 and 2014 which helped provide clear evidence that human influence on the climate system was clear and would continue, which would result in further warming. Countries agreed to create a new binding treaty in the Durban conference in 2011. Countries agreed that by 2015 this treaty would be put in place and would require every countries commitment, and so this laid the fundamental groundwork for the Paris Agreement, and so after this approach was soon taken, countries were then asked to submit NDC's which were nationally determined contributions which would help each country define its own contribution based on its circumstances, and capabilities, and so this way every country participating would need to partake in the agreement regardless of their conditions and

circumstances, this way fairness and equality can be distributed among developed and less developed nations, making sure that every country plays its role in tackling climate change. And so this was a far more strategic pivot from the Kyoto Protocol allowing each country to define its own contribution based on its circumstances and capabilities. And so when the Paris conference began in November 30 2015, over 185 countries submitted their NDC's covering a significant portion of global GHG emissions and demonstrating newfound political will.

The central pillar of the Paris Agreement and arguably the most important part of this Agreement, which are NDC's Nationally Determined Contributions. These are non-binding national climate action plans. What makes them unique and fundamental is that they abide by ratcheting up or progression, a mechanism fundamental for its success. Countries are required to submit an updated NDC every five years, and each successive NDC must be more ambitious than the previous one, reflecting the highest possible ambition. The first round of NDC's were submitted in 2020, which with a five-year review period is designed to progressively increase global ambition overtime, and with the second round due, this raises concerns on whether or not countries are set to reach their targets after what should've been a more ambitious round on NDC's submitted by individual countries. And while they aren't legally binding in terms of achieving their target, however, they are updating and submitting them is a legally binding obligation under the treaty. The system is based purely on global peer pressure and transparency rather than sanctions and threats. Ensuring transparency and cooperation among nations.

Subtopic 1: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's)

Nationally determined contributions are at the core of the Paris agreement, they play a significant role in the agreement revolving around their fairness and represent each country's self-defined climate change plans, outlining how it will contribute to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. Unlike previous mandates, NDC's embody a bottom-up approach where nations voluntarily set their own targets based on their specific circumstances and capabilities. The reason behind these NDC's being set by their own country is to help cooperate around their capabilities in total, taking to account their infrastructure and economic capabilities. A crucial aspect in this is the ratcheting mechanism, which is a mechanism used to help countries improve the goals that they put for themselves, as these NDC's are usually completed and assessed every 5 years and so countries are encouraged to

create bigger goals and to aim higher after every 5 years pass to ensure improvement and efficiency. Despite them not being in forced by any sort of law, the process of preparing communicating and updating them is, they serve as vital national drivers for green investment.

Subtopic 2: International Trade

Despite the agreement not underlining the key role that trading will play, with countries implementing their NDC's they produce domestic carbon pricing mechanisms, emissions regulation, and subsidies for green technologies. Countries will need to abide by different regulations to avoid carbon leakage, also with implementing carbon pricing or carbon tax this will make this will make pollution more expensive for private sectors and countries which is key to reducing it, this is typically achieved by making polluters pay for the environmental harm they cause, rather than society bearing the costs. And so despite the Paris Agreements flexible bottom-up design and its universal emissions trading system like the one under the Kyoto Protocol, its implication of NDC's has explicitly driven the rise of domestic carbon pricing mechanisms and subsidies for green technologies. This reliance on market based and regulatory tools is essential. As countries translate their NDC's into concrete national policies, they are often increasingly turning into an instrument that place a price on carbon. By making pollution more expensive, these mechanisms turn into powerful financial incentives for the private sector and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint. This is achieved by making polluters pay for the environmental harm they cause, rather than society bearing the costs in the form of climate impacts. And so prominent examples can be of domestic carbon pricing mechanisms which take form, being carbon taxes. A carbon tax which is a direct tax on carbon content, being fuels or emissions from the industrial activities. This provides a clear and predictable price signal. Encourages businesses to invest in cleaner technologies rather than paying heavy taxes that harm them financially. Countries like Canada have had carbon taxes for years, driving emissions reductions in their economies, which are evident to higher tax creates stronger incentive.

Subtopic 3: Climate Resilience in Vulnerable regions

Despite the agreement recognizing that global mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is crucial, many regions are already facing the harsh impacts of climate change. Coastal regions and island countries, including regions that are less developed, have trouble remaining sustainable and complying with effective and sustainable NDC's. Despite them having contributed least, these

areas are bearing the brunt of climate change. These challenges brought on by climate change make survival in affected countries more difficult, as the impacts they face become very harsh. The agreement formulates and plans to implement NAP's, which will help communicate the needs of these countries to help them tackle climate change more efficiently. The agreement further formulates and plans to us NAP's which will help communicate the needs of these countries to help them tackle climate change more effectively. And this revolves on practical necessity and global climate justice. The Paris Agreement's inclusion of Global Goal on Adaptation a groundbreaking step. Which is a fundamental step for building the ability of communities, ecosystems and economies to adjust to the impacts of climate change. And so, this commitment makes systems more robust and better to withstand climate related shocks. And so, it remains a fundamental framework and a important guiding principle for the Paris Agreement as a whole.

Major parties involved

China:

A major emitter of greenhouse gases, China faces deep environmental challenges such as air pollution and water scarcity, which are usually linked to their reliance to fossil fuel. China aims to build an ecological civilization and by doing so they will be improving the quality of life for citizens. it also seeks to become a leader in green technologies, while also playing a crucial role in brokering the Paris agreement.

Brazil:

Brazil's involvement is crucial due to the Amazon Rainforest, a vital global carbon sink, which means that it absorbs more carbon dioxide than it releases. Its commitments are often tied to efforts to combat deforestation and to promote sustainable land use. Brazil aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and to try to create sustainable frameworks for renewable energy.

The United States of America (USA):

Another major emitter of greenhouse gases, despite the USA making efforts to try and decrease its emissions and its clear desire to restore international leadership through renewable

energy, it has a history of backing out of the agreement. The USA left the agreement in 2020, and despite rejoining it in 2021, the USA will be leaving the agreement once again for various reasons like perceived economic disadvantage, cost of compliance and impact on fossil fuel industries, as of January 27, 2026, which is an issue towards transparency and cooperation.

India:

While needing to balance the eradication of poverty with climate action, India is very vulnerable with climate’s impacts, it emphasizes developed nations to act, furthermore India has invested heavily in renewable energy, recognizing the environmental and economic benefits. Despite this, it remains one of the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

The Science-based Targets Initiative (SBTi):

The SBTi’s mission is to mobilize private sectors to take urgent action by providing a sustainable and functioning framework for companies to take urgent climate action, in efforts to reduce global warming, it partners with the CDP and the WRI is crucial to help set ambitious GHG reduction targets.

Timeline of Events

Date:	Events:
May 9, 1992	established the international framework for addressing climate change and helped set up annual meetings for future climate agreements, including the Paris Agreement.
December 11, 1997	the Kyoto Protocol in Japan was the first treaty established in order to set carbon reduction targets and while it raised some key and fundamental points, factors like little participation including the US not ratifying the agreement led for its end in 2012.

December 14, 2014	the Lima call for climate action in Peru outlined key details for a draft negotiation text for the 2015 agreement. It encouraged nations to submit their nationally determined contributions before the Paris Agreement, and so the pre-submission of these pledges was crucial in building momentum and confidence for the Paris Agreement to emerge.
December 12, 2015	the adoption of the Paris Agreement in Paris France after lots of deliberation and negotiation this vital resolution formally adopted the Paris Agreement, an agreement that brought all countries into a common cause which helped establish NDC's and enhance transparency setting the course for climate action

Attempts to solve the issue

General Assembly Resolution (Date: 2022/12/14) (Resolution Number: 77/165)

This resolution strongly supports the Paris Agreement, as it reaffirms the Agreement as the central framework for addressing climate change. It also restates the importance of limiting the temperature to a 1.5 Celsius increase, it also strongly suggests that this treaty strongly reinforces the urgency of climate actions.

General Assembly Resolution (Date: 2023/3/29) (Resolution Number: 77/276)

This resolution had much to do with legal questions regarding international law which was submitted by Vanuatu and other small pacific islands addressing the obligations of states under international law and any potential legal consequences caused from harming the environment. This resolution was important for legal clarification and reinforcement regarding accountability and ambition, as well as calling for the support of vulnerable states.

“Towards a sustainable planet” (Date: December 19,2023) (Resolution Number: 78/153)

This resolution adopted by the General Assembly aims to reiterate global commitment and to further address climate change. And despite not being a new agreement like the Paris Agreement it aims to reaffirm commitment to the Paris Agreement and recalls the importance of the Agreement. It also urges enhanced climate action and that all parties in the Paris Agreement accelerate their implementation of their NDC's, and to furthermore strengthen their ambition to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover to also promote international cooperation towards finding long term solutions for this issue.

Possible solutions

Subtopic 1:

In order to tackle the subtopic of NDC's, some solutions can be put into place. Firstly, the inclusion of all GHG's, not just carbon dioxide, to ensure that all greenhouse gases are being controlled as despite carbon dioxide being the most recognizable, there are still many GHG's that can lead to drastic affects on the environment, such as methane and nitrous oxide. Also, despite countries not being forced to surpass their goals in the Paris agreement, pressuring countries or amending the agreement to have each country to aim higher and set higher goals per five years mandatory, and to not look at the contributions from countries as much as how the world's carbon emissions decrease overtime.

Subtopic 2:

In order to address the concerns that international trade brings among this topic, possible solutions can be explored. Firstly, tariff reduction on environmental goods and on goods and services that are essential for climate mitigation will help all countries have access to these goods and to be able to effectively tackle their NDC's despite the country's possible development. This will also help promote the production of environmentally friendly materials and services. Additionally, since governments worldwide help make fossil fuels cheaper by providing financial aid to companies that produce fossil fuels, eliminating or decreasing this aid could help promote clean energy sources. And so, since governments worldwide make fossil fuels cheaper, by providing financial

aid to companies that produce fossil fuels, eliminating or decreasing this aid could be beneficial towards promoting clean and renewable energy sources. Global fossil fuel subsidies including both explicit support and implicit costs from environmental damage and foregone taxes soared to almost 7 trillion dollars in 2022 according to the international monetary fund. To put this figure into mind, this is more than what is spent on education and two thirds of what is spent on healthcare annually.

Subtopic 3:

Despite less developed nations usually not playing a role in climate change, they unfortunately face its brunt. To further break down this subtopic we must help developed countries create more reliable and effective NAPs to deal with climate change's effects, supporting vulnerable regions in developing and implementing their NAPs and considering all relevant sectors. Investing and helping restore nature-based solutions such as coral reefs mangroves and reforestation watersheds will have positive impacts on biodiversity. And so, restoring nature-based solutions such as coral reefs and mangroves will have positive impacts on biodiversity. This solution will therefore require multi-faceted approach involving financial support. And so, this is mainly fundamental in order to help and support less developed and suffering nations to develop and reach their NDC goals. And so also investing in natural based solutions could be the next step in lowering the worlds carbon footprint, by working hard to preserve mangroves carbon sink holes that will be beneficiary in tackling the bigger issue of climate change, and along with help restore coral reefs, which play crucial roles in protecting the environment like protecting coastlines from erosion and destructive forces of waves, these healthy reefs could reduce wave energy by 97%. And so the degradation of these reefs often leads to acidification and communities dangerously exposed. Especially island states surrounded by large bodies of water.

Guiding questions

1. How can the Paris Agreement reach its goals effectively?
2. How do private sectors and businesses impact the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement?
3. What makes the Paris Agreement different from previous climate treaties?
4. Why did the USA back out of the Paris Agreement in 2020 and are yet to back out again in 2026?

5. What specific information should Nationally Determined Contributions include, and how often do they need to be updated?
6. How can international trade rules be reformed to support green technologies and climate action?
7. Does the Paris Agreement help less developed countries in achieving their NDC's?
8. Besides financial aid, what other forms of international aid can economically developed countries provide less economically developed countries in achieving their NAP's?
9. With the next round of NDC's due in 2025, how will countries effectively share their progression?
10. What flaws are present in NDC's in terms of transparency and fairness?
11. What are the main features in the Paris Agreement different from the Kyoto Protocol which led to it displacing the Protocol?
12. What are the key features instilled within the Global Stocktake and how is progress monitored?
13. What role does financing have in the Paris Agreement, and which countries are responsible for providing these financial resources and why?
14. For countries that have not yet ratified the Agreement what does this mean to them and what are the possible outcomes to this decision?

Appendix

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- <https://www.undrr.org/>
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