

# **The Paris Climate Agreement**

## **Summary**

The Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty built upon the guidelines set up by the United Nations in order to fight against Climate Change. The treaty itself was named Paris Climate Agreement because it was first signed in France by leaders of most countries across the globe. In its entirety, the agreement is considered to be an improvement made to the Kyoto Protocol: a previous pact that stood upon reducing greenhouse gases in the upper atmosphere. Unlike Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Climate Agreement includes all major greenhouse gas contributors including the likes of the United States, China, and India. Initially signed in November 2015, this Agreement bounds the contracting countries to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases and improve upon their industrial progression through means of renewable sources of energy.

The primary target of the Paris Climate Agreement is to limit the global increase of temperature to 2°C by 2030. However, countries are encouraged to take extra steps in order to further reaffirm their ambitions, by restricting the increase to 1.5°C. This, in turn, will prevent the urgent threat of rising sea levels that could wipe out island states through massive flooding.

For the first time in human history, this agreement also brings all the nations together to work towards a common goal by having to put aside all other differences. Developed countries are not only required to reduce their own carbon emissions but are also to provide a pathway for underdeveloped countries by assisting them both financially as well as through spreading awareness. The pact will create a framework for developing nations to abandon outdated industrialization methodologies and replace them with green energy production through transparent monitoring and reporting constant updates.

The Paris Climate Agreement mainly works towards enforcing a transparent framework for countries that aim to fight global warming. It provides a platform for both developed and underdeveloped countries in terms of their own national objectives. As part of this platform, the Paris Agreement has set up short term and long term goals that are to be followed by all its negotiators in order to reduced carbon emissions. The two goals are correlated in a sense that the short term ambitions will help countries to contribute to the long term objectives that will eventually work towards a better future for all humanity. Part of these short term goals particularly deal with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030. According to the Paris Climate Agreement, the global increase in temperature can only be limited to 2°C if countries

work together to reduce carbon emissions from a current rate of 55 gigatons to 40 gigatons or lower. For this to happen, countries are required to work on an emergency basis to come up with measures that can reduce these emissions or simply tackle them head on.

Countries have already begun working towards this goal in a collective manner. The European Union (EU) is specifically highlighted for its recent efforts to fight global warming. Not only did it play a major role in negotiations leading towards the Paris Climate Agreement but is currently working towards reducing greenhouse gas emission by 40% or more by 2030. Quite similarly so, India is also making efforts in transitioning towards green economy by claiming how it plans to abandon fossil fuels by reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by approximately 30 percent.

The Paris Climate Agreement provides a detailed structure as to what needs to be done in order to fight global warming. It provides a comprehensive restructuring program from bottom to top. The focus is on providing ethical means of reducing greenhouse emission that will prevent the rise of poverty and inflation. For this reason, developed countries will provide support to third world countries so that they may safely abandon the practice of burning fossil fuels without negatively affecting the economy. The ultimate goal is for countries to adapt

towards renewable means of energy production. Since carbon dioxide emissions mainly come from the industrial sector and energy production units, the pact emphasises that countries exploit the possibilities of hydel, sunlight, wind, and geothermal energy projects depending upon the region.

Overall, the Paris Climate Agreement is a non-legal pact that puts forward a common perspective which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement forms a resolution that can help conserve our environment whilst also encouraging countries to make economical progressions. At the same time however, this agreement only allows us to move forward to a certain extent. Even if all the targets are met, the crisis of global warming will only be delayed and not completely eradicated. Thus it is mandatory for countries to follow the framework provided so that the future generations may not have to suffer.