



Background Paper

A CRUNCH ISSUE FOR PARIS COP21: ENHANCED PRE-2020 ACTION UNDER ADP WORKSTREAM 2

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND?

Climate change is not a threat we are fighting to prevent in the future. It is a problem which is adversely impacting people, societies and ecosystems around the world today. The global response to climate change cannot wait until the Paris agreement enters into force in 2020. ADP workstream 2 (WS2) was set up to close the gaps in implementation of pre-2020 commitments and pledges. This includes developed countries' commitments in and outside the Kyoto Protocol. The WS2 scope has expanded from just mitigation. Today, it also covers adaptation, finance, technology, and capacity building support.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR PRE-2020 CLIMATE ACTION?

Negotiations in Paris will be based on a proposed draft decision from 23 October. It covers technical examination processes for mitigation and adaptation, accelerated implementation of pre-2020 commitments, support and high-level engagement.¹ Some of the elements are in brackets.

The final decision must make sure existing, pre-2020 commitments and pledges are fully implemented, and preferably surpassed. Making sure developed countries take the lead in reducing emissions and providing adequate support for action in developing countries will be a crucial but contentious issue in Paris. The decision must also enable a move from discussions to implementation-on-the-ground in terms of the additional cooperative action discussed in the technical examination process.

Negotiations in Paris will also centre on the expansion of WS2's scope. Developed countries largely want to focus on mitigation. Developing countries want the scope expanded, reflecting the gaps in ambition and implementation on mitigation, adaptation and support. It is important that this be resolved early on, so that negotiations can focus on how the various elements can be captured at a level of ambition consistent with closing the pre-2020 gap between what is needed, and what is currently on the table to avoid global warming above 1.5-2°C.

WHERE DO THE NEGOTIATIONS STAND ON PRE-2020 CLIMATE ACTION?

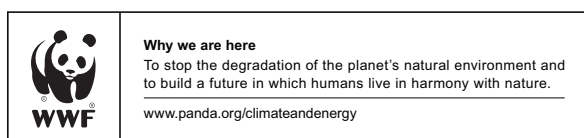
A process should be launched to ensure the accelerated implementation of pre-2020 commitments and pledges. Developed countries should be requested to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020 and remove any conditionalities. The process should also assess the adequacy of support provided by developed to developing countries, to encourage climate action in developing countries.

The decision should enhance the technical examination process of mitigation and launch a technical examination process for adaptation, to identify good policy options and initiatives that can be developed and implemented by countries, groups of countries, non-state actors, and in partnerships between countries and non-state actors.

Two positions should be created for high-level champions to facilitate the development, financing, implementation, scaling-up and replication of the good ideas coming out of the technical process. Importantly, the champions must be tasked with matching good ideas with necessary support. For pre-2020 mitigation action, the focus should be on renewable energy, energy efficiency and the land sector, given their substantial co-benefits for people and planet.

The WS2 decision must be the basis for longer-term efforts to drive ambitions up, also post-2020, through an ambition mechanism in which countries' national targets are reviewed and ramped up every five years, based on science and equity.

Photos and graphics © WWF or used with permission.
Text available under a Creative Commons licence.



© WWF Registered Trademark Owner © 1986, WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), Gland, Switzerland

ABOUT WWF

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate and Energy Initiative is WWF's global programme addressing climate change through promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

panda.org/climateandenergy

