



“Next steps” in the climate negotiations concerning the Paris Agreement*

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In Paris, on 12 December 2016, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted the Paris Agreement with accompanying COP decisions. The Paris Agreement outlines a broad framework for climate action that requires significant further work by the Parties to develop the envisaged processes, structures and mechanisms.

The following table provides an overview of the different work strands in preparation for the entry into force of the Agreement¹. It lists elements of the work programme as contained in the COP decision or the Agreement (1st column), indicates the body or bodies mandated to undertake an activity (2nd column), and the anticipated timeframe for completion (3rd column). In most cases the task (e.g. developing modalities) requires a subsequent formal decision by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its first session.

Tasks in connection with the Agreement	Body	Timeframe
Mitigation		
Develop further guidance on features of NDCs (para.26)	APA ²	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Develop further guidance for the information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs (para.28)	APA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Develop modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry that will house NDCs (para.29)	SBI	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Make available an interim public registry for recording NDCs pending the CMA's adoption of modalities and procedures for the permanent registry at its first session (para.30)	Secretariat	in the first half of 2016

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*By Subhi Barakat 1 The UNFCCC secretariat has published a broader table “Taking the Paris Agreement forward:” on all tasks arising from the decision 1/CP.21 taken in Paris available at: http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/cop/application/pdf/overview_1cp21_tasks.pdf 2 Ad-hoc working group on the Paris agreement

Tasks in connection with the Agreement	Body	Timeframe
Mitigation (continued)		
Elaborate guidance for accounting of Parties' NDCs (para.31)	APA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session (Art.4.13)
Recommend the modalities, work programme and functions of the Forum on the Impact of the Implementation of response measures (para.34)	SBSTA and SBI	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Consider common time frames for NDCs (Art.4.10)	CMA	at the first session of the CMA
Adopt guidance concerning adjustment of NDCs by parties (Art 4.11)	CMA	none specified
Voluntary cooperative approaches		
Develop and recommend guidance on robust accounting for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes under voluntary cooperative approaches (para.36)	SBSTA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Develop and recommend rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism on mitigation and sustainable development (para.38)	SBSTA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session (Art.6.7)
Undertake a work programme under the framework for non-market approaches to sustainable development (paras.39–40)	SBSTA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Designate a body to supervise the mechanism on mitigation and sustainable development (Art.6.4)	CMA	no specific time frame but in time for Parties to use the mechanism and likely when the CMA adopts the modalities and procedures for the mechanism at its first session
Adaptation		
Develop and recommend modalities to recognize adaptation efforts of developing country Parties (para.41)	AC ³ and LEG ⁴	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session (Art.7.3)
Review the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention and make recommendations on enhancing the coherence of their work (para.42.a)	AC	review to be conducted in 2017; recommendations for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Consider and make recommendations on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs (para.42.b)	AC	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Develop methodologies and make recommendations on taking necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation and reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation (para.45)	AC and LEG (in collaboration with SCF ⁵ and other relevant institutions)	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Loss and damage		
Establish a clearinghouse for risk transfer (para.48)	EC-WIM ⁶	work to be initiated at next meeting of the EC-WIM; report on progress in its annual report
Establish a task force to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change (para.49)	EC-WIM	work to be initiated at next meeting of the EC-WIM; report on progress in its annual report

³ Adaptation Committee ⁴ Least Developed Countries Expert Group ⁵ Standing Committee on Finance ⁶ Executive Committee – Warsaw International Mechanism (on loss and damage)

Climate finance		
Set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year (para.53)	CMA	prior to 2025
Initiate a process to identify the indicative quantitative and qualitative information on projected levels of public financial resources to be provided to developing country Parties (para.55)	COP	work to be initiated at 22nd session of the COP; recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Develop modalities for the accounting of financial resources provided and mobilized through public interventions (para.57)	SBSTA	for consideration by the COP at its 24th session; recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Adopt modalities, procedures and guidelines for the biannual provision of transparent and consistent information on support for developing countries (Art 9.7)	CMA	CMA at its first session
Undertake preparatory work concerning the issue of the Adaptation Fund serving the Agreement and forward a recommendation to the CMP through the COP (decision I/CMP.11 - Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol)	APA on request by the COP	Request expected at 22nd session of COP; recommendation for consideration and adoption by 15th session of CMP
Consider the issue of the Adaptation Fund serving the Agreement and make a recommendation to the CMA. (para.60)	CMP (Kyoto)	for consideration by the CMA at its first session
Provide guidance to the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention on the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria related to the Agreement for transmission by the COP (para.61)	CMA	no specific timeframe
Technology development and transfer		
Elaborate the technology framework of the Agreement and the report on findings to the COP (para.67)	SBSTA	work initiated at the 44th session of SBSTA; findings reported before the first session of the CMA; recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Elaboration of the scope of and modalities for periodic assessment of the effectiveness of and the adequacy of the support provided to the TM in supporting the implementation of the Agreement (para.70)	SBI	work initiated at the 44th session of the SBI; for consideration and adoption by the COP at its 25th session
Capacity-building		
Develop and recommend the terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (para.76)	SBI	for consideration and adoption by the COP at its 22nd session
Review the progress, need for extension and the effectiveness and enhancement of the Paris Committee (para.81)	COP	review to be conducted at 25th session of the COP; to make recommendations to CMA at its first session (see below)
Consider and adopt a decision on the initial institutional arrangements for capacity-building (Art.11.5)	CMA	at the first session of the CMA

Tasks in connection with the Agreement	Body	Timeframe
Transparency of action and support		
Develop recommendations for modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency of action and support, and to define the year of their first and subsequent review and update at regular intervals. CMA to adopt modalities for the transparency of action and support (para.91) and report on progress to future sessions of the COP and report on progress to future sessions of the COP (para.96)	APA	progress reports beginning at the 22nd session of the COP; work to be concluded by 2018. CMA at its first session (see below), for consideration by the COP at its 24th session, for adoption by the CMA at its first session (Art.13.13)
Agree good practice methodologies for national inventory reports (Art.13.7.a)	CMA	no specific timeline but in time for Parties to prepare the reports for the global stocktake (before 2023)
Global stocktake		
Identify the sources of input for the global stocktake and report to the COP (para.99)	APA	no specific timeframe for reporting to the COP; recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Provide advice on how the assessments of the IPCC can inform the global stocktake of the implementation of the Agreement (para.100)	SBSTA	report to the APA at its second session
Develop modalities for the global stocktake and report to the COP (para.101)	APA	no specific timeframe for reporting to the COP; recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session
Facilitating implementation and promoting compliance		
Develop the modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee for facilitating implementation and compliance (para.103)	APA	for consideration and adoption by the CMA at its first session (Art.15.3)

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The opinions and legal briefing papers are available through LRI's database at <http://legalresponseinitiative.org/legal-assistance>. Using the database is free of charge but you need to register using a valid e-mail address.

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