

**ITSMUN**



**ITSMUN'22**

**UNEP**

**STUDY GUIDE**

*Guide by the Under Secretary General:*

*Alper Kaan Özbek*

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## **Welcome Letter from the Secretary General:**

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to ITSMUN'22, the fifth annual session of Izmir TAKEV Schools Model United Nations Conference. We are more than thrilled to meet you at our conference between the 10th and 12th of April, 2022.

Our theme for this year's ITSMUN is "Future Awaits", representing the notion of hope in a chaotic world. We chose "Future Awaits" because we sincerely believe that our world is waiting for its young leaders, pioneers, and collaborators like you to find solutions to the most crucial global problems.

ITSMUN'22 will draw attention to creating new and applicable solutions for current and past world issues and work on creating better solutions for the past, present, and future. The delegates at ITSMUN'22 will be representing various countries and debating on solutions as they are in the committees and councils of the United Nations.

At ITSMUN'22, we are sure that you will be meeting a future version of yourself, someone full of enthusiasm and joy and eager to learn from others. We are looking forward to meeting young ideas and great debates this April.

We aim to create the conference experience we all have missed over the last two years and hope to exceed your expectations doing so. We hope that ITSMUN'22 becomes a memorable experience for all.

Yours Sincerely,

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Secretary-General of ITSMUN'22

## **Letter from the Under-Secretary General:**

Greetings Dear Delegates,

I'm Alper Kaan Özbek, the Under Secretary General of the United Nations Environmental Programme Committee of ITSMUN'22. I'm studying at Istanbul Technical University in Geomatics Engineering. The Agenda Item of the Committee is "Discussion on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change". 7 years passed from the day the Paris Agreement was signed but the world couldn't achieve much on the agreement. The committee expects the delegates to move forward on fighting climate change and carbon emission in which days our world has been observing extraordinary climate conditions. With all voices around the world, I believe you'll increase actions on the agreement. For any further questions, you can reach me via [alperkaanozbek@hotmail.com](mailto:alperkaanozbek@hotmail.com).

Kind Regards,

Alper Kaan ÖZBEK

**Under-Secretary General of UNEP Committee**



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## **Introduction to the Committee**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was founded in 1972 and has been the worldwide authority on the environmental agenda, working on the environmental dimension of sustainable development as a part of the United Nations.

The aim of the Programme is to not only enhance the life quality of all people, but also to increase initiative and collaboration in the field of environmental protection.

With its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP provides global and local services and works on environmental excellence.

UNEP collaborates with its 193 Member States and many other representatives from the society. It aims to handle environmental issues at the United Nations Environmental Assembly, the world's highest position decision-making body in the setting.

## **Agenda Item: Discussion on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change**

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding climate change treaty that aims to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius and better, to 1.5 degrees. The Agreement was adopted in the 21st Convention of the Parties (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 by 196 Parties, and it was entered into force on 4th of November, 2016.

The Paris Agreement is a cornerstone in the multinational climate change process because, for the first time, a legally binding agreement brings this many states into a common cause to shoulder ambitious efforts to combat climate change.

## **Keywords:**

**Global Warming:** Global warming occurs due to human activities, especially due to fossil fuels and coals increasing the greenhouse gasses (GHG) in the atmosphere. When it occurs for a long time, Earth's climate gets warmer and this leads to changes in Earth's climates.

**Climate Change:** "Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gasses" (Definition from the UN Website). Therefore, climate change is a result of global warming among many harmful human activities.

**Distributional Conflict:** Distributional conflicts are about the distribution of resources. Often when there are not enough resources, there are conflicts over who will receive the product and how much of it. The focus is often on tangible resources such as food and other products.

**Capacity Building:** Capacity building (or capacity development, capacity strengthening) is the advancement in an individual or organization's facility / capability "to produce, perform or deploy" (Definition from Wikipedia).

**Climate change mitigation:** Climate change mitigation is the act of reducing emissions of heat-trapping GHGs to prevent Earth from warming more.

**Carbon Neutrality:** Carbon neutrality occurs when net-zero carbon dioxide emissions are reached (no greenhouse gasses released to the atmosphere). This can be achieved by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide or by removing carbon emissions from society's life (Wikipedia).

**Global Stocktake:** Is a way to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.

## **History of the Agreement**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was espoused at the 1992 Earth Summit. In addition to being one of the first transnational covenants on the topic, it sets the idea that parties should meet regularly to address climate change at the Conference of Parties (or COP). The convention also sets the path for future climate agreements.

With the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, greenhouse gas reduction regulations were made for a limited number of countries from 2008 to 2012. The protocol was extended until 2020 with the 2012 Doha Amendment. Some countries like the United States did not sign the protocol, mainly due to the fact the Protocol is legally binding. The legally binding nature of many protocols, in addition to distributional conflicts, caused past international climate actions to remain untaken. In 2009, some negotiations aimed to create a successor treaty to Kyoto, and the Copenhagen Accord was made. The Accord failed to achieve wide support (this time, mostly due to the fact it was not legally binding), but it turned out to be relevant due to its serving as a framework for the Paris Agreement.

Later, in the UN Climate Change Conference in 2011, “Durban Platform” was established. The platform was created in regards to a legal document on climate change mitigation measures.

### **Negotiations and Adoption**

Various drafts and proposals had been created and debated in the previous year, and the negotiation process of the Agreement took place over two weeks in Paris.

An anecdote from the process was that the negotiations almost didn't end successfully due to a single word: "shall." The US legal team realized that "shall" had been used, instead of "should", creating the meaning that decreasing emissions would be a legal requirement for developed countries. France stated that the problem was merely a "typographical error".

The final wording was finally accepted in the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP21) on 12th of December 2015 by 195 UNFCCC member countries and the EU.

## Signing and Entry into Force

The Paris Agreement was open for signature by countries and regional economic integration associations that are parties to the UNFCCC (the Convention) from 22th of April 2016 to 21th of April 2017 at the United Nations HQ in New York. Signing of the Agreement is the first step towards ratification, but it's possible to subscribe to the Agreement without signing. It binds parties to not act in violation of the goal of the treaty. On 1 April 2016, the United States and China, who represent nearly 40% of global emissions, stated that they would sign the Paris Climate Agreement. The Agreement was signed by 175 parties (174 countries and the European Union) on the first day it was opened for signature. As of March 2021, 194 countries and the European Union have signed the Agreement.

\*\*The Agreement would enter into force (and therefore become completely effective) if 55 countries that produced at least 55 of the world's greenhouse gas emissions (According to a list produced in 2015) confirmed or joined the Agreement.

After ratification by the European Union, the Agreement attained enough parties to enter into effect on 4 November 2016.



John Kerry in United Nations General Assembly Hall, signing the Agreement as the United States



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## **How the Agreement Works**

Implementation of the Paris Agreement requires economic and social metamorphosis, grounded on the best available science. The Paris Agreement works on a 5-year cycle of ambitious climate action carried out by countries.

The Paris Agreement requires each country to summarize and communicate their climate action, known as NDCs, every five years.

### **NDCs**

In their NDCs, countries communicate the conduct they will take to reduce their Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Countries also communicate in the NDCs that the conduct they will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change and rising temperatures. (Further explained below) .

### **Long-Term Strategies**

To further frame the efforts towards the long-term goal, the Paris Agreement invited countries to formulate and submit long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) by the year 2020.

LT-LEDS provide a long-term outlook to the NDCs. Unlike NDCs, they aren't obligatory. Nonetheless, they place the NDCs into countries' long-term planning and development priorities, providing a vision and direction for future development.

## **What the Agreement Says**

In the Agreement, members pledged to do their best to reduce carbon output "as soon as possible" and to keep global warming "to well below 2 degrees C" (3.6 °F).

### **Support**

The Paris Agreement provides a frame for financial, technical, and capacity building support to those countries who need it. Accordingly, some decisions had been made:

- The EU & other developed countries will continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change in developing countries.
- Other countries are encouraged to give or continue to give similar support freely.
- Developed countries intended to continue their collaborative goal to raise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 and extend this until 2025. A new and advanced goal would be set for after this period.

### **Finance**

The Paris Agreement states that developed countries should lead in providing financial support to countries that are less endowed and more vulnerable, while for the first time also encouraging voluntary contributions by other Parties. Financing is crucial, because large-scale investments are required to reduce emissions drastically and reverse the negative effects of climate change.

### **Technology**

The Paris Agreement speaks of the vision of technology development to strengthen resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It establishes a framework to give overarching guidance.

### **Capacity Building**

Not all developing countries have sufficient capacities to deal with numerous challenges brought by climate change. As a result, the Paris Agreement places great emphasis on climate-related capacity building for developing countries and invites all developed countries to enhance support for capacity-building in developing countries.

### **Tracking Progress**

With the Paris Agreement, countries created an enhanced transparency framework (ETF). Under the ETF, starting in 2024, countries will report on the actions taken in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and any given or received support transparently. ETF also provides international procedures for reviewing submitted reports.

The information collected from the ETF will be used to assess the world's progress towards the climate goals through the global stocktake.

## **Achievements**

Although climate change action needs to be largely increased to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Agreement has sparked low-carbon solutions and new requests since its Entry into Force.

An ever-increasing number of companies, countries and regions are working towards carbon neutrality. Net-zero carbon emission goals are getting competitive across economic sectors which cause 25% of the carbon emissions.

This trend is most apparent in the energy creation and transportation sectors and has created numerous new job openings. By 2030, net-zero carbon emission solutions could be competitive in sectors representing over 70% of global emissions.

## **Status of Ratification**

193 out of 197 States from the Convention are a Party to the Paris Agreement.

On 5 October 2016, the threshold for the Entry into Force of the Paris Agreement was met.

The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016, thirty days after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention that account in total for at least an estimated 55 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, blessing or accession with the Depositary.<sup>1</sup>

## **National Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and acclimatize to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain consecutive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve.

Parties will follow local mitigation measures to achieve the objectives of similar contributions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

Together, these climate actions determine whether the world is meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and whether greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will reach their global peak as soon as possible to shoulder rapid-fire reductions later in agreement with best available science, to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and disposals by cesspools of GHGs in the second half of this century. It's understood that the reduction of emissions will take longer for developing countries.

The Paris Agreement recognizes that the long-term goals set out in Articles 2 and 4.1 will be reached over time and are therefore based on the growth of goals over time.

In order to enhance the goals over time, the Paris Agreement requests that consecutive NDCs will represent a progression compared to the former NDC and reflect the country's highest possible contribution.

Parties are required to submit new NDCs every five years, separate from their implementation time frames.

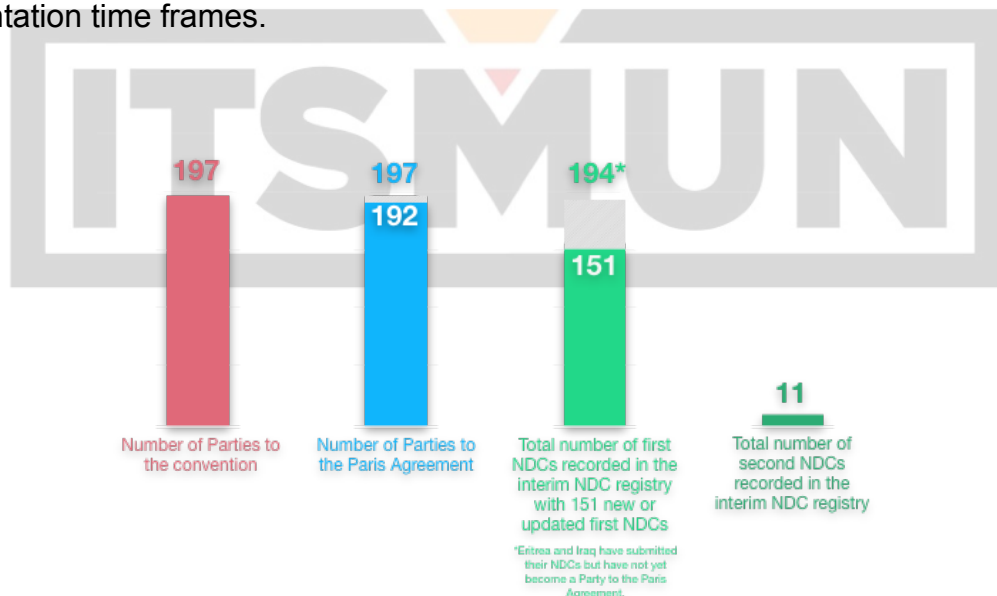


Image Credit: UNFCCC

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## **International Covenants Related to the Agreement**

### **The Glasgow Climate Pact**

The aim of the Glasgow Climate Pact is to turn the second decade of the 21st century into a decade of action and collaboration against climate change.

The Pact includes strong efforts to adapt to climate change and to control GHG emissions among many agreements on items. In addition, nations that agreed to this Pact to provide financing to the above mentioned goals and decided to give 100 billion dollars per year to developed countries (from developed to developing countries). They aimed to create a bridge between the existing emission decrease plans and what is required in reality to decrease emissions to limit the rise in the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees.

The importance of Glasgow is that nations were asked to decrease coal power and fossil fuel consumption for the first time in history.

In addition, the rulebook of the Paris Agreement was also finished on various topics such as market mechanisms and clear reporting of climate efforts, given or received support.

### **The Katowice Climate Package**

The Katowice Climate Package was created to clarify the details of how the 2015 Paris Agreement will be enforced clearly and fairly. Before this package, nations had already set a deadline for COP24 in 2018 to negotiate over the technicalities of the Agreement. However, due to the increasing intensity of the climate crisis, the negotiations began in 2016.

The package makes the important procedures and mechanisms that make the Paris Agreement applicable, clear. The successful relinquishment of well-drafted implementation guidelines promises to make greater trust and to strengthen international cooperation on one of the utmost challenges of our times transitioning to a low-emission, climate change resilient world.

The Paris Agreement sets the ambitious goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 °C while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. According to the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change, if we're to limit warming to 1.5 °C, we will need to lower our CO2 emissions by about 45 % by 2030 (compared to 2010 levels).

Indeed, limiting global warming to 2 °C will bear nothing lower than transitioning to a carbon-neutral economy by the middle of this century—only several decades from now.

The implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement take the different capabilities and socio-economic realities of each country into account while providing the foundation for increasing goals for climate action.

Guidelines establish an effective international system for promoting and tracking progress while empowering countries to make national systems for enforcing the Agreement. Performing together, these systems will enable countries to transparently contribute their share of action for diving into the global challenge of climate change.

The Katowice is a complex package, achieved through in-depth technical conversations and political concession and containing functional guidance on:<sup>2</sup>

- The information about domestic mitigation and other climate goals and conditioning that governments will give in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);
- How to communicate about efforts to acclimatize to climate impacts.
- The rules for performing the Transparency Framework, which will show to the world what countries are doing about climate change.
- Establishment of a committee to grease implementation of the Paris Agreement and promote compliance with the scores accepted under the Agreement.
- How to conduct the Global Stocktake of overall progress towards the points of the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/katowice-climate-package>.

- How to assess progress on the development and transfer of technology.
- How to give advance information on financial support to developing countries and the process for establishing new targets on finance from 2025 onwards.

## **Important Decisions from the Agreement**<sup>3</sup>

### **Mitigation Reducing Emissions**

Governments agreed that:

- A long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C.
- To aim to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, since this would significantly reduce dangers and the impacts of climate change.
- On the need for global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognizing that this will take longer for developing countries.
- To shoulder rapid reductions later in agreement with the best available science, to achieve a balance between emissions and disposals in the second half of the century.

As a contribution to the objectives of the agreement, countries have submitted comprehensive national climate action plans (NDCs). These aren't yet enough to reach the agreed temperature objectives, but the agreement traces the way to further action.

### **Transparency and Global Stocktake**

Governments agreed to:

- Come together every 5 years to assess the collaborative progress towards the long-term goals and inform Parties in streamlining and enhancing their NDCs.

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<sup>3</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/climate-negotiations/paris-agreement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/climate-negotiations/paris-agreement_en).

- Report to each other and the public on how they're enforcing climate action.
- Track progress towards their commitments under the Agreement through a robust transparency and responsibility system.

### **Adaptation**

Governments agreed to:

- Strengthen societies' capability to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- Provide continued and enhanced international support for adaptation to developing countries.

### **Loss and Damage**

The agreement also:

- Recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse goods of climate change.
- Acknowledges the need to cooperate and enhance the understanding, action, and support in different areas similar as early warning systems, emergency preparedness and threat insurance.

### **Role of Cities, Regions, and Local Authorities**

The agreement recognises the role of non-Party stakeholders in addressing climate change, including metropolises, other subnational authorities, civil society, the private sector, and others.

They're invited to:

- Scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions;  
build adaptability and drop vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Uphold and promote regional and international cooperation.



## **Further Reading and Useful Links**

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/paris-agreement-work-programme/katowice-climate-package>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12796-2019-REV-1/en/pdf>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change)

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf) (PARIS AGREEMENT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO READ!!!)

<https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/long-term-strategies> (FOR COUNTRIES' POLITICS PLEASE CHECK LONG TERM STRATEGIES OF IT)

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