



Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

6 October 2016

Paris Agreement to enter into force much earlier than expected The pace of commitment is steadily increasing

With the EU ratifying the Paris Agreement yesterday the dual thresholds (55 countries and 55% of global emissions) for the Paris Agreement entering into force have been crossed. The country threshold was crossed a few weeks ago building optimism for the second threshold being crossed before COP22 in Morocco in November this year.

This optimism turned to excitement when on the 2nd of October India ratified the agreement. All that was needed then was the EU who had already committed to an accelerated process. Last night (5th of October) it all happened. Espinosa Cantellano, Christiana Figueres successor as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), tweeted the below.



Patricia Espinosa C. @PEspinosaC · 15m

72 Parties accounting for 56.75% GHG emissions have now ratified the #ParisAgreement! Entry into Force is in 30 days! #COP22

PARIS AGREEMENT - STATUS OF RATIFICATION

The Paris Agreement shall enter into force on the 30th day after the date on which at least **55 Parties** to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated **55 % of the total global greenhouse gas emissions** have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depository.

72 Parties have ratified
of 197 Parties to the Convention



Accounting for 56.75%
of global GHG emissions



Entry into force

Authoritative information on the status of the Paris Agreement, including information on its signatories, ratification and entry into force, is provided through the [United Nations Treaty Collection website](#).

[More information on the Paris Agreement](#)

Following the rules entry into force is scheduled for 30 days after the thresholds are crossed. October the 5th plus 30 days would be November the 4th but the first meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (known as CMA1) could take place right after or around the opening of COP22 (November the 7th). If we consider the pace of change in climate agreements up until Copenhagen and then the acceleration to Durban and after that, even greater pace to Paris we could see a committed increase in political certainty around climate change. Building on these strides forward ratifying the agreement between December 2015 and October 2016 makes the Paris Agreement one of the fastest multilateral agreements to ever enter into force. This acceleration of pace shows the sincerity of political intent to drive economic transition to a lower carbon economy (this pace of change is matched by the companies involved in We Mean Business).

The WRI report that “CMA1 is required by the Paris Agreement to make a number of decisions necessary to fully implement the Paris Agreement. This includes the work programme established at COP21 to put in place various modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency regime, the information required in communicating nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and the processes to take stock and raise ambition, facilitate implementation and promote compliance. The CMA1 must also make decisions on procedural, institutional and administrative matters, including how and when to complete the work programme for the MPGs.”

Once the Paris Agreement officially enters into force the CMA becomes the agreements official governing body with the authority to adopt decisions. According to the WRI “Countries that have not yet joined the Paris Agreement can attend and participate in the CMA, but in principle only as observers”. While there is much discussion about inclusivity of current and future processes it is possible that countries that have not ratified the agreement may not be able to participate in decision making. The implications for South Africa, who have communicated their intent to ratify but have not formally completed the process, are politically interesting. Could one of the countries instrumental in reaching agreement in Paris not be able to vote in the first meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement? Our colleagues at the Department of Environmental Affairs have expressed to us that every effort is being made to get this done before COP22 in Morocco, but the process is not entirely in their hands. An interesting space to watch over the next few weeks.

But for now we celebrate this momentous occasion.

Check out: <http://www.wri.org/blog/2016/10/insider-cma1-first-meeting-under-paris-agreement-why-its-significant-and-how-it-could> for more details.

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