



Mitigation and Transparency



Ushering in a New Era

Paris Agreement enters into force

Following the adoption of the historic [Paris Agreement](#) in 2015, 2016 is shaping up to be another landmark year. The early entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016 further strengthens the momentum towards achieving its goals. This was clearly reflected in the upbeat mood among Parties at the inaugural session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement ([CMA 1](#)) held during the [Climate Change Conference](#) in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016.

In addition to CMA 1, the Marrakech Climate Change Conference featured the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties ([COP 22](#)), the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol ([CMP 12](#)), the forty-fifth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice ([SBSTA 45](#)) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation ([SBI 45](#)), and the second part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement ([APA 1-2](#)).

The focus of the negotiations under all the bodies in Marrakech was on matters relating to the entry into force and implementation of the Paris Agreement. In particular, Parties started working on the development of rules and modalities on how to scale up ambition, measure progress and raise the level of support for adaptation and

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mitigation. COP 22 concluded with the “[Marrakech Action Proclamation](#),” a resounding statement of support for urgent action by governments, business and civil society, confirming that the unprecedented momentum for climate action worldwide is irreversible.

Progress on nationally determined contributions

[Nationally determined contributions](#) (NDCs) submitted by Parties are a key pillar of the Paris Agreement. Each Party to the Paris Agreement has to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve. By the opening day of the Marrakech Climate Change Conference, 92 Parties had formally submitted their NDCs, the number rising to 102 by the end of the conference.

APA 1-2 initiated its consideration of NDCs with Parties agreeing to hold informal discussions on all three agenda sub-items related to NDCs: the features of NDCs; information to facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs; and accounting for Parties’ NDCs. APA 1-2 invited the Parties to submit by 1 April 2017 their views on issues discussed under this agenda item and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions and make the compilation available on the UNFCCC website. To further advance work on this agenda item in an open and constructive environment, APA 1-2 further requested the secretariat to organize on 6 May 2017, under the guidance of the APA Co-Chairs, an in-session roundtable alongside the third part of the resumed first session of APA.



The NDCs submitted by Parties are held in the [interim NDC public registry](#) maintained by the secretariat, where they can be freely accessed. The NDC registry thus showcases Parties’ climate action plans in a transparent manner.

A technical briefing on the interim NDC registry, organized by the secretariat in Marrakech, provided a general overview of the registry and the recently implemented improvements that enable users to search for information in a more user-friendly manner. During the technical briefing, Parties and other users expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by the secretariat in operating and improving the registry.

As part of its efforts to raise awareness of NDCs ahead of the Marrakech Climate Change Conference, the secretariat held a series of three [NDC webinars](#) focusing on: the aggregate effect of climate actions; understanding the NDC cycle; and capacity-building and support for implementation. The fourth and final webinar in the series, on the topic of long-term low-emission development strategies, was held on 8 December 2016.



As countries move towards implementation of their NDCs, new programmes are emerging to support them. The [NDC Partnership](#), a new initiative supported by the secretariat, was launched at a ministerial event in Marrakech. The NDC Partnership is a coalition of more than 40 members, including developing and developed countries and international institutions, that are working together to ensure that countries receive the technical and financial support they need to achieve ambitious climate and sustainable development goals as quickly and effectively as possible.

The [South–South cooperation](#) ministerial event, held in Marrakech, organized by the Government of China in cooperation with the United Nations and the Government of Morocco, discussed the role of cooperation among developing countries with the aim of providing greater political momentum to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. South–South cooperation is an important avenue for developing countries to help each other meet common challenges through its focus on mutual learning, capacity-building and technical cooperation.

During COP 22, the submission of the [first long-term low greenhouse gas emission strategy](#) by the United States of America, presenting a pathway for emission reductions of 80 per cent or more below the 2005 level by 2050, provided another telling testimony to the global momentum for action on climate change. Mexico and Germany also submitted their long-term strategies in Marrakech.

Transparency of action and support

In Marrakech, Parties engaged in an in-depth consideration of the development of modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

In the light of the huge volume and technical complexity of the work involved, Parties agreed to focus discussions on the organization of work covering the full spectrum of matters under this item.

Parties worked with focus and determination to agree on a workplan that provides a road map for the development of the MPGs by clearly laying out concrete next steps to be taken during the intersessional period until the next APA session in May 2017 (see the [informal note by the co-facilitators](#)).



The next steps include targeted submissions of views by Parties, and an intersessional workshop to be held prior to the next APA session that will focus on the themes covered in Parties' submissions (see paragraphs 15 and 16 of [the conclusions of the APA](#) for additional details on the submissions and the workshop).

Building Blocks for the Future

Implementing existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements

The overarching objective of SBI 45 in Marrakech was to demonstrate that the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system under the Convention established at the Cancun Climate Change Conference is fully operational and, through the international consultation and analysis (ICA) and international assessment and review (IAR) processes, lays a platform to jump-start the work relating to implementation of the Paris Agreement on mitigation and transparency.

Facilitative sharing of views workshop

The [facilitative sharing of views](#) (FSV) is a key component of the ICA process for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. The FSV aims to enhance the transparency of the mitigation actions implemented by developing countries.

The second workshop for the FSV was held under SBI 45 in Marrakech. Seven developing country Parties (Andorra, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Mexico and Paraguay) showcased their actions to reduce emissions, emphasizing the results achieved in the last two years, and provided an overview of the international support received and needed to overcome challenges in implementing those actions. The high-quality presentations and the subsequent facilitative discussions provided an opportunity for Parties to better understand developing country Parties' successes and challenges in implementing their obligations under the Convention. The highlight of the session was new and more ambitious commitments made by some small developing countries (e.g. Costa Rica), which demonstrated that the size of a country is not an impediment to it having a great ambition.



Facilitative Sharing of Views

Parties highlighted that the FSV process facilitates their accelerated collective transition towards a low-emission economy. Parties also benefited from the feedback received during the FSV process, as it helped them to revisit those actions carried out before or during the preparation of their intended nationally determined contribution in order to better prepare them for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The positive experience gained from this process will lay a solid foundation for the new transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.



Second round of multilateral assessment

The [multilateral assessment](#) (MA) process is part of the IAR process for developed country Parties. Conducted under the SBI, the IAR process aims to promote the comparability of efforts among all developed country Parties with regard to their quantified economy-wide emission limitation and reduction targets under the Convention. The first working

group session of the MA under the second round of the IAR process took place during SBI 45 in Marrakech. Twenty-four developed country Parties discussed progress towards their 2020 quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets by showcasing their mitigation actions and highlighting the emission reductions achieved to date.

The working group session demonstrated that the majority of Parties have made substantial progress towards decoupling their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from economic growth and, in general, most of them are on track to achieving their 2020 targets. In addition, a number of Parties, such as the European Union and its member States, and Australia, stated that they are on track to exceed their 2020 targets.

There was also keen interest in how to scale up and replicate the successful policies and best practices implemented by various Parties. Developed countries are increasingly looking at longer-term goals, such as achieving carbon neutrality. Norway has brought forward its goal of achieving carbon neutrality from 2050 to 2030. Parties demonstrated leadership on climate actions (e.g. on renewable energy by Denmark) and on achievement of targets (e.g. emission reductions by Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

UNFCCC side events on the international consultation and analysis, and international assessment and review processes

As part of its continued efforts to more effectively communicate information to relevant stakeholders on the existing MRV framework under the Convention, the secretariat organized a range of side events on related themes in Marrakech.



There were two side events on the ICA and IAR processes, one of which was on the experiences gained during the IAR and ICA processes, and another

that provided an update on the ICA process, including the technical analysis of [biennial update reports](#), the facilitative sharing of views and the training programme of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention ([CGE](#)). These were aimed at enhancing understanding of the IAR and ICA processes from the perspective of the key actors – the secretariat, the team of technical experts and Parties who have completed the full ICA cycle – all of whom provided useful insights into their achievements, challenges and experiences.



A mini side event organized by the secretariat presented the key messages from the compilation and synthesis of the second biennial reports submitted by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties), including on Parties' quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets, the progress made towards their achievement and the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties. The event highlighted that by putting in place a range of mitigation actions, most Annex I Parties have made substantial progress towards achieving their 2020 targets.

New Kyoto Protocol review courses launched

In July 2016, the secretariat launched a new training programme for experts participating in the GHG inventory reviews under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period.

The review of the supplementary information submitted by Parties under Article 7 of the Kyoto Protocol is a key component of the MRV procedures under the Kyoto Protocol.

The secretariat invited both experienced and new experts to the first round of the updated training programme to prepare them for the reviews of Parties' submissions of annual inventories for 2015 and 2016 and the initial reports for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

As part of the training programme, participants took e-learning courses on their sectors of expertise, as well as on cross-cutting topics including application of

adjustments and review of activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol (popularly known as KP-LULUCF activities).

Participants also took the final examinations to become eligible to take part in the review cycle of the second commitment period starting in late August 2016.

The training programme will remain available to GHG inventory reviewers, and only those reviewers who have passed the examinations will be able to take part in the reviews under the Kyoto Protocol. More information can be found on the UNFCCC website [here](#).



Annual reports on reviews of greenhouse gas inventories published

The secretariat has published annual reports on the technical review of developed country Parties' GHG inventories, one for the reviews [under the Convention](#) and the other for those [under the Kyoto Protocol](#). The reports contain information on the reviews conducted during the 2015 and 2016 review cycles, as well as plans for the 2017 review cycle, in particular suggestions on how to improve the quality and consistency of the reviews.

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency is "open for business"

The [Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#) (CBIT), a new trust fund hosted by the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF), was declared "open for business" by the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the GEF, Ms. Naoko Ishii, in Marrakech.

As part of the Paris Agreement, Parties agreed to establish the CBIT, with the aim of strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements set out in the Paris Agreement up to 2020 and beyond.

So far, 11 donors have pledged more than USD 50 million to the CBIT, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Walloon Region (Belgium). The CBIT Trust Fund is now operational, and the first set of projects have been approved for implementation in Costa Rica, Kenya and South Africa.

Side event on support for MRV arrangements and the transparency framework

The secretariat, in partnership with the [United Nations Environment Programme](#)/ the [United Nations Development Programme](#)/ the [National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme](#)/ the [Initiative for Climate Action Transparency](#), the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit](#), the GEF, the CGE and the Government of the United States of America, held a side event in Marrakech to showcase the support provided to developing countries in building sustainable and robust measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and transparency systems, and provide information on the criteria for accessing this support. The audience shared their experiences in the effective use of the support provided.

The Consultative Group of Experts promotes digital learning tools

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) held a side event in Marrakech to showcase the additional tools it has developed ([e-learning courses](#) and the online forum e-Network) to support developing countries in preparing their national communications and biennial update reports. During the event, Albania and Senegal also shared their experiences in preparing their third national communications.

Response Measures in Marrakech

High-level event on sustainable economic transition and economic diversification



The Presidency of COP 22, with the support of the secretariat, organized a high-level event on sustainable economic transition and economic diversification at the Marrakech Climate Change Conference.

The event provided a platform outside the formal negotiations for a high-level exchange of views on how to ensure a sustainable transition to a low-emission economy. The event was attended by ministers from 45 Parties, as well as representatives of international organizations.

Side event on mitigation measures and linkages with trade

The secretariat, in cooperation with the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#), the [International Trade Centre](#), the [World Trade Organization](#) and the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#), held a joint side event in Marrakech on the impacts of mitigation measures and linkages with trade.

The side event featured a rich discussion on understanding the impacts of mitigation measures, including their interaction with trade, and their role in ensuring sustainable development and economic transformation.



The key message from the event was that it is important for trade and climate change organizations, Parties and stakeholders to work together to explore the role of trade in delivering countries' NDCs and leveraging the complementary benefits of climate policies.

More information on response measures under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol can be found [here](#).