

Briefing on COP 21 by members of the French Mission to the United Nations on Friday 11 December 2015.

The following notes are a summary of the input of the Representative of the French Mission:

Focus is centered on the negotiations on the outcome document. The negotiations on the text are not easy as we all know from the media. Yet there is a constructive spirit and all delegations are willing to reach a deal.

But Paris is more than the legal text. A novel part of the “Paris Pack” lies in the initiatives already proposed by cities, regions, companies, investors and civil society organizations. Almost 11,000 commitments are registered under [NAZCA](#) (Non State Actor Zone for Climate Action) with players in 180 countries. They are already on board and complementing government initiatives. Leading cooperative action on NAZCA is the Lima – Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), a bottom - up approach.

There are three main areas of difference: the level of ambition, climate finance, and differentiation.

Level of ambition. It is clear to every country that we need to take urgent action and there is a concerted effort to come to agreement. The difference lies on the global target of a 2% or 1.5% reduction of emissions. Even though scientists insist on the need for a 1.5% reduction of co2 emission, the debate is around setting a high target or being “realistic” about what can be achieved.

The debate about how soon and how often the national commitments should be revised is another point of difference. There is a need to make sure the level of ambition in this area is upgraded. Some delegations feel they cannot keep up with the pace proposed.

The level of emissions in addressing climate change deal with questions such as taking a carbon neutral path, decarbonization and carbon taxation. A system of positive incentives which will be acceptable to every country has to be reflected in the document.

2. **Carbon Financing.** There is a sense that finance is key to success. The level of ambition around the climate change targets and the level of ambition on financing it need to be balanced. Industrial countries are willing to take the lead. We are shifting from a civilization based on fossil energy to a civilization based on clean energy and this is a big shift. This was studied in depth at the Lima conference and we are on track for the 2020 target. The next step is to consider if we can do more. The effectiveness of the aid has to be studied and considered. How to formulate the structuring of the finance is still under negotiation.

3. **Differentiation.** It is already taken for granted and agreed upon by all that “no one size fits all”. Industrialized countries recognize that they have responsibilities and are willing to take the lead in fighting climate change. The debate lies around the balance between developed, developing countries and poor countries. The question is how to describe and characterize this.

Individual Responsibility.

During the Question and Answer session a participant commented that the question of individual responsibility needs to be stressed in the document. The role of education is critical. The response stated that the document includes all players. That means each individual as part of the greater whole.

Other:

COP21 Climate Summit Is Too Male Dominated and Has Male Priorities, Says UN Special Envoy Mary Robinson. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1Qtz8Tw>