



Climate Change & Environment Network Special Newsletter COP 21 in Paris, December 2015

This special newsletter of SDC's Climate Change & Environment (CC&E) Network aims at providing all network members and SDC staff with information on the **21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It highlights important events and information from a Swiss perspective. COP 21 was held in Paris (France) from 30 November to 12 December 2015.

The Paris Agreement

A historic agreement to combat climate change and to unleash actions towards low carbon development and adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change was agreed by 195 nations in Paris. Despite the unclear prospects for a successful outcome of the Paris COP, party delegates on ministerial level achieved the main intended Paris Outcome: a broad and legally-binding agreement for the period of 2020-2030. This is a breakthrough in international climate policy as it sets ambitious climate goals - more ambitious than most people would have expected. Nevertheless, the agreement has to be ratified first and a huge amount of work needs to be done at national level and through international cooperation to realize the targets countries have set for themselves.

The Paris COP-decision is basically a work plan to implement the Paris Agreement and also to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts in the time leading up to 2020. The Paris Agreement is an annex to the decision and sets the path to keep global warming between 2° and 1.5° Celsius. Parties aim to reach global peaking of emissions "as soon as possible" and to strive for a balance of carbon emissions and carbon sinks in the second half of the century (carbon neutrality). Five-yearly stocktakes, when national plans to limit emissions should be reformed and strengthened, are included to continuously enhance the level of ambition.

Furthermore, the agreement contains other key elements such as a new and yet undefined "Sustainable Development Mechanism" for cooperative action, a commitment for national adaptation planning, climate finance upscale, a global stocktake of implementation, a transparency framework, and the continuation of the Warsaw Mechanisms about loss and damage.

More information on the COP 21 and the Paris Agreement can be found on the webpages of [UNFCCC](#), [COP 21](#) and [IISD](#).

What's in it for Development Cooperation?

The Paris Agreement highlights clearly the inextricable link between climate change and sustainable development and aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

The Paris Agreement is coherent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN. It has the same time horizon 2030 and provides the content of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, which stipulates 'to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'. SDG 13 is now defined with an agreed, legally binding text.

The Paris Agreement defines a reference framework for all parties and determines collective and cooperative action towards ambitious mitigation targets. International cooperation will play a key role in the implementation of the agreement at national levels in developing countries, in the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

The intention to mobilize at least 100 billion USD in public and private climate finance per year from 2020 onwards has been confirmed in Paris. Public funds from bilateral and multilateral sources will be key to reach this target, especially in climate change adaptation and in countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Multilateral and bilateral agencies and funds –in particular the Green Climate Fund- are set to step up their actions. The multilateral development banks have also embraced the deal and pledged to substantially increase lending and grant support for low carbon projects. Climate finance from public sources will continue to be counted as ODA by all OECD/DAC members and will in part be used to catalyse action by the private sector.

What's in for SDC/GPCC?

SDC is well positioned to step up its engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It can draw on solid bilateral and multilateral work in climate-related matters, both through the Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) and SDC's regional cooperation. SDC's cooperative and integrative approaches, which produce multiple development benefits and combine poverty alleviation with climate change action, are well suited to achieve the implementation of the Paris Agreement in partner countries.

GPCC plays a leading role in climate finance and provides Switzerland's contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF), while serving in the governing bodies of both funds. The GCF is the most important dedicated fund to serve the Paris Agreement. SDC will continue to represent Switzerland on the board of the GCF, to which a total of \$10 billion has been pledged for 2015-18 (Swiss contribution of USD 100m). Bilateral cooperation on climate change has also been stepped up in recent years, through increased demand from partner countries and continuing mainstreaming of the topic in SDC, in addition to the dedicated climate change cooperation programs of GPCC in China, India, and Peru, since 2009. Under the new 2030 Agenda with the 17 SDGs, we may experience an increase in integrated approaches that are yielding multiple development and climate benefits. The Climate Change and Environment Network of SDC/GPCC is therefore increasing its structured collaborations

with other relevant SDC networks, the other Global Programs, and interested entities in SDC's Regional Cooperation, Eastern Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.

Swiss Position at Paris COP21

Switzerland played an active role in reaching a binding agreement that involves all countries based on their different national circumstances and respective capabilities. The negotiation mandate of the Swiss delegation covered the areas of mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, capacity building, and financial support for developing countries, and contained the following specific elements:

Switzerland strived to overcome the strict and outdated partition of 1992 between developed and developing countries in the areas of mitigation and climate finance. After 2020, all countries should commit to mitigation with clear, measurable and unconditional emission reduction targets. Switzerland called for common metrics and accounting rules for reduction targets and monitoring and verification and advocated the establishment of new market mechanisms for mitigation action, governed by stringent environmental and social safeguards.

On adaptation, Switzerland supported the idea that all countries should develop and submit national adaptation strategies and plans. While we support further work on loss and damage, we joined the other developed countries in strongly rejecting the notion of compensation payments for climate-induced damage and losses in other countries.

Switzerland acknowledged the growing need for financial support for mitigation and adaptation measures, but advocated a broadening of the donor base as of 2020, so the bills of multilateral climate funds would not have to be paid by the traditional donors alone. This last point could not be achieved, while all other points were achieved, at least in part.

In the years, the UNFCCC will be faced with the task of having to agree on a large number of detailed norms, rules and regulations emanating from the many components of the Paris Agreement.

President Simonetta Sommaruga represented Switzerland at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government on the first day of COP 21 on 30 November 2015 ([press release](#)). Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard participated during the second week of the negotiations and particularly at the ministerial meetings on 7 and 8 December 2015 ([pictures](#)). More information can be found on the webpages of [FOEN](#) and [DETEC](#) (German / French / Italian).

Swiss-Supported Events

The following is a selection of the important events which were supported by Switzerland at COP 21.

From global commitments to local solutions: Integrating gender equality in climate change action (3 December)

The side event was organised by the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the governments of Switzerland, France, Morocco and Peru. The event brought together inspiring actors who are driving gender-responsive climate action from the local to the global level to identify

priorities for accelerating the effective integration of gender equality across the whole range of climate actions. Participants underlined the need to stay mobilised after the COP 21 in the lead-up to the COP 22 in Marrakech to ensure that gender equality and climate change stays high on the agenda and to turn commitments into action on the ground. It was further concluded that women must be equally represented in decision-making on climate change at all levels - from global negotiations right down to the community level and that all climate financing mechanisms must systematically integrate gender equality.

Seeking a new development paradigm: the Peruvian approach (3 December)

The launching event of a new Peruvian initiative supported by SDC had a rich panel discussion, among others with Anton Hilber (Head of SDC's Global Programme Climate Change) and Eduardo Durand (Director of the General Directorate of Climate Change, Desertification and Water Resources of Peru). The initiative "CC Management: National Programme of Climate Change Management in Peru (GESTION CC)" aims to establish a national platform and multi-sectoral mechanisms to guide, channel, agree and provide advice for the formulation, financing implementation and monitoring of public and private climate programmes and projects in Peru.



GESTION CC: [Project presentation movie](#)

More information on the event is available in Spanish [here](#)

The Mitigation and Development Futures Conference (6 December)

The side event, was hosted by the [MAPS Programme](#) (Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios), an initiative co-financed by SDC in Peru, Chile, and Brazil. A high-level dialogue was held on how countries can advance their transition to prosperous low carbon societies. The event brought together senior representatives from national Governments, businesses, the donor community and non-profit organizations. Furthermore, it was the launching event of the book 'Stories from the South'.

Second South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum Paris - from political commitment to action (6 December)

The side event was organised by UNEP International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP). Anton Hilber (Head of GPCC) moderated a panel discussion of eminent persons and other knowledgeable people and Bruno Oberle (Director of the Federal Office for the Environment) delivered a speech. It was a high level event on the new Chinese 3.1 billion USD Fund for

[South-South Cooperation on Climate Change](#). The South-South cooperation has been widely recognized as a new dimension of international cooperation on climate change, an increasingly important complement to the traditional North-South cooperation. The objective of the event was to raise awareness on the role of South-South cooperation and to identify the niche and strategic directions for it. The South-South cooperation should be given the appropriate political weight and be integrated into global action against climate change.

Co-creating Knowledge and Driving Innovation for INDC's (7 December)

The event, hosted by [MAPS](#) (co-financed by SDC), focused on the current phase of the MAPS six-year programme as well as on the south-south collaboration in building mitigation scenarios and in forming INDC processes among South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru. The event aimed to encourage a dialogue among these countries and international institutions to address details of the collaboration: What was easy? What went wrong? How was this collaboration different and useful in each country? How can we collaborate in the future to face the new challenges of INDCs implementation?

Science for decision making: reducing impact of climate change on water resources and glaciers (8 December)

The event was co-sponsored by Glacières, an initiative financed by SDC in Peru. The discussions focused on the necessity to link science and policy in a climate change context. Various experts and authorities from glacier regions in the Andes and Nepal gathered to discuss the advances and strategies in the face of climate change.

Mountain Forest Landscapes for resilient societies (8 December)

The event was organised by the [Andean Forests Program](#) jointly with the [ASEAN Social Forestry Network](#), [African Forest Forum](#) and SDC's [GPCC](#). The discussions focused on the visibility enhancement of mountain forest landscapes as

important resources to reduce climate change impacts and improve quality of life for local people from Africa, Asia and Andean region. The event hosts highlighted concrete actions from three GPCC projects in these regions that were directed towards reducing vulnerability to climate change through sustainable management practices for mountain forest landscapes.

Role of Private Sector in Adaptation and Mitigation (10 December)

The side event featured sharing of experiences from SDC India's projects involving the private sector on promotion of low carbon cement and development of climate insurance products for the poor. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) invited to an interactive panel discussion with thought leaders from the government and industry to share their experiences and perspectives of climate-friendly business.

Various

UNFCCC report on INDCs

The secretariat of the UNFCCC [released a synthesis report](#) about the submitted INDCs on 30 October 2015. The report assesses the collective impact of over 140 national climate action plans, indicating that together they can dramatically slow global greenhouse gas emissions. However, the to this date "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" will not yet be sufficient to reach the 2° Celsius or the 1.5° Celsius pathway targeted by the Paris Agreement.

The Synthesis report on the aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions can be accessed [here](#) and the summary of the report [here](#).

Special thanks go to the contributors of information:

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This newsletter in English is directed at an audience that is interested in receiving the latest news on activities related to climate change and development cooperation carried out by Swiss actors, key international actors, and the most extraordinary innovators. It is one of the instruments of the **Global Programme Climate Change** and the **Climate Change and Environment Network** of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to facilitate the access to information in the area of climate change and development as well as to encourage dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between all political, administrative and operational actors involved in this crucial crosscutting issue. The newsletter caters to both the needs of quick readers who are interested in getting the latest news in a minute and those who want to get more in depth information. The latter group can do so by clicking on the links that take them straight to the relevant background documentation. Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme on Climate Change](#) (GPCC) for articles you do not have access to or to **subscribe to the distribution list**.

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