

Paris Agreement



Climate Resilience for SIDS in the Age of the Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Location: Paris, France

Resolution Signed on: 22 April 2016

History

The 21st Conference of Parties held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the first legally binding, global climate deal, now called the Paris Agreement. Considered a landmark deal, the Paris Agreement was agreed to by 195 nations and takes the climate development agenda to a new level.

Vision

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, it calls for increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Together, these objectives are achieved by ensuring the mobilization and flow of finances towards climate resilient development.

Future

Low-Emission Climate-Resilient Development Strategies (LECRDS) address the threats, risks and vulnerabilities associated with global climate change as countries pursue sustainable development and allows developing countries to respond more effectively to climate change. Towards achieving climate resiliency, some of the Paris Agreement highlights are:

- **SIDS GHG (Art. 4)** – The least developed countries and small island developing states may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development, reflecting their circumstances.
- **Sinks and reservoirs (Art.5)** – Encourages Parties to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of GHGs.

- **Global peaking (Art. 4)** – Parties aim to reach global peaking of GHG emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that it will take longer for developing countries.
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (Art. 4)** – Establishes binding commitments by all Parties to prepare, communicate, maintain and pursue a nationally determined contribution (NDC).
- **Communication** – Each party must communicate their NDCs every 5 years and provide information necessary for clarity and transparency. Nations are also required to set progressively more ambitious goals than the previous NDCs.
- **Adaptation (Art. 7)** – Governments encouraged to strengthen national adaptation efforts – enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reduction of vulnerability to climate change – through international cooperation.
- **Loss and damage (Art. 8)** – Provides loss and damage mitigation framework to enhance understanding, action and support in different areas such as early warning systems and emergency preparedness.
- **Support (Art. 9, 10 and 11)** – Developed countries encouraged to support the efforts of developing countries to build clean, climate-resilient futures. Technology transfer and financing (USD 100 billion per year) are two options aimed at accomplishing this.
- **Global Stock take** - To review progress towards the overall goals, a global stock take will be taken from 2023 and every 5 years thereafter.