

M.A., Semester II Economics Paper-IV
Environmental Economics
Paris Climate Agreement

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Paris Climate Agreement

- It was adopted in December 2015 at the 21st COP held in Paris. For the first time all the 193 countries said “yes” to an international climate agreement. Regarding its enforcement there were 2 conditions
 1. It should be signed and ratified by at least 55 countries and those who have signed and ratified, their emissions should be at least 55% of Global Green House Gas Emission. It came into force with effect from 3rd November, 2016 and it has a 3 year lock in period that means, no country can withdraw until and unless 3 years are completed.
 2. Bottom-UP-Mechanism based on INDCs, Whereas Kyoto Protocol was a top to Bottom Mechanism. Entire Paris Agreement is not legally binding. That means, it is not binding for the member countries to fulfil all the commitments they have made in the form of their National Plan of Action.

- The binding aspect is that there will be regular stock taking exercise to ensure Measurement Reporting Verification. It is binding for every member to submit the progress report and to announce next set of commitment which should be more ambitious than the previous one. The ambitiousness will be judged by the expert committee. This is how gradually INDCs will be aligned with the overall climate change goal. The initial target of mitigation is of 2 °C then efforts will be made to realize 1.5°C goal. To achieve this target, current century has been divided in two halves.

First half:

In first half countries are encouraged to peak their emissions. This is one area where India might feel the pressure; India has demanded that there should be Restructuring of Ecological Space, and developed countries should reduce their emission in favour of developing countries. As per the Carbon Project Concept, for 20C, the greenhouse gas emission should not be more than 3000 bn tonne by 2100. But, 2/3rd of that has already been elicited and remaining 1/3rd will be exhausted by 2030.

- India is asking for just 5 bn tonne till 2030 to pursue its developmental goals.

Second half:

- **Loss and Damage:** Loss is something which cannot be retrieved at all whereas; in damage partial retrieval is possible Rainforest nations and small Island nations along with some of the developing and least developed countries were demanding financial compensation for the previous instances of climate change. But, developed economies in general and US in particular ruled out any payment of compensation rather Paris Agreement included insurance based Risk Transfer and promised to make Warsaw International Mechanism permanent.
- **Finance:** Paris Agreement has promised that by 2020, every year \$ 100 billion will be mobilized through green climate fund. It will continue till 2025 and after that a new mechanism will be adopted with a corpus of more than 100 billion.

ITMO(Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome

- One of the bright spots under Kyoto Protocol has been Carbon Credit Mechanism. It will continue under Paris Agreement along with adaptation fund but carbon credits will be renamed as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome, 2016 Marrakech COP, decided to continue with Adaptation Fund under Paris Agreement.

Differentiation:

- Under Kyoto Protocol there was watertight differentiation that only Annex I countries will have to reduce the emissions. Under Paris Agreement, both developed and developing economics will have to reduce green house gases but developed economics will have to undertake economy wide emission reduction targets immediately whereas developing economies will undertake economy wide emission reduction targets over a period of time.

Adaptation:

- Adaptation is a multifaceted and complex process requiring lot of micro-modelling as well as research and development.
- The dimensions are –
 - 1. Food security
 - 2. Water safety
 - 3. Health Risk Resilience
 - a. Direct: in the form of: Heat wave, Cold wave, Drought, Flood, Cyclone etc
 - b. Indirect but mediated through vectors: Eg: Dengue, Zika, Japanese, encephalitis
 - c. Indirect but mediated through human beings. That is psychological disorders in the form of depression, anxiety etc.

UNFCCC has suggested following pathways-

1. **Incremental:** That is to increase primary health centres.
2. **Transitional:** Transitional means bringing about attitudinal changes in the health care system. For e.g. using remote Sensing Satellites and geographical information system to tackle the outbreak of vector borne diseases.
3. **Transformation:** It is dismantling the existing health infrastructure and building a new one.
4. **Urban Risk Resilience:** It is the key for the success of smart cities programme. It implies how cities are going to handle climate change related disasters without disrupting the life.
5. **Disaster Risk Resilience:** For a long time it was believed that climate change and disaster risk are two different scenarios. But over a period of time a lot of convergence is visible. DRR includes technological dimension, Educational component and Institutional synchronization.

Study Material Reference

- Environment, Published by Shankar IAS Academy book Publications.