

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto
presents the

2016 Ise-Shima G7 Interim Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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9. Climate Change: Paris Agreement

“The G7, continuing to take a leadership role, commits to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance or approval of the agreement as soon as possible and calls on all Parties to do so striving for a goal of entry into force in 2016.”

G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration

Note: This commitment has not been reviewed by stakeholders.

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00		

Background

Cooperation to combat climate change is one of the key challenges for policymakers in the 21st century. In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that the increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions that have resulted from “economic and population growth are ... extremely likely to have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.”⁹⁵⁸ The expected consequences of climate change include, but are not limited to: species extinction, the disruption of ecosystems, increased food insecurity, increases in the number of extreme weather events, forced displacement, and reductions in economic growth.⁹⁵⁹ The IPCC argues that “Without additional mitigation efforts...warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to high to very high risk of severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts globally.”⁹⁶⁰ As such, it has recommended that states take action to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to adopt adaptation strategies to increase international resilience against the effects of global warming.⁹⁶¹

Climate change has long been an issue of concern for the G7.⁹⁶² Ella Kokotsis, the Director of Accountability for the G7 Research Group, has noted that the G7 first addressed the problem in

⁹⁵⁸ Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 2014. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf, 4.

⁹⁵⁹ Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 2014. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf, 13, 15-16.

⁹⁶⁰ Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 2014. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf, 17.

⁹⁶¹ Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 2014. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf, 17, 19.

⁹⁶² Ella Kokotsis, G7 and G20 Contributions to Mitigating Climate Change – Then and Now, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2015. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/blogs/151201-kokotsis.html#ella>.

1979, and has since undergone three phases in its “role in governing global climate change.”⁹⁶³ During the third stage, between 2005 and 2014, the G7 and G20 attempted to “respond to the failure of the UN’s approach [the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol] by returning to global leadership with a now expanded regime that placed the environment first and broadened its membership to include all major carbon-producing powers.”⁹⁶⁴ During this time, the G8 committed to undertaking robust aggregate and individual mid-term reductions in carbon emissions.⁹⁶⁵ At the Camp David Summit in 2012, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to the reduction and mitigation of carbon emissions and other particulate air pollution.⁹⁶⁶ These normative declarations were reinforced by disbursements of climate financing, with the 2013 Lough Erne Summit committing to jointly mobilize USD100 billion by 2020 towards carbon emissions mitigation.⁹⁶⁷

In 2015, the G7 expressed support for the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report, and committed to work towards the adoption of a binding international agreement to combat climate change at the Paris Climate Change Conference.⁹⁶⁸ The Paris Agreement was adopted at this Conference of Parties, and requires states to formulate adaptation and mitigation strategies in order to achieve goals including the target of “Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”⁹⁶⁹ The 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration explicitly characterized the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) at Paris and the Paris Agreement as key to the post-2016 development agenda and the G7 efforts to reach climate-related targets.⁹⁷⁰ For this reason, they have committed to ratifying the accord.

Commitment Features

In the Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, the G7 “commits to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance or approval of the agreement as soon as possible,” and members indicate that they are “striving for a goal of entry into force in 2016.”⁹⁷¹

The process of ratification is the second step in becoming a party to an agreement. The UN notes that a state must first sign an agreement to indicate its “intention to take steps to express its consent

⁹⁶³ Ella Kokotsis, G7 and G20 Contributions to Mitigating Climate Change – Then and Now, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2015. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/blogs/151201-kokotsis.html#ella>.

⁹⁶⁴ Ella Kokotsis, G7 and G20 Contributions to Mitigating Climate Change – Then and Now, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2015. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/blogs/151201-kokotsis.html#ella>.

⁹⁶⁵ 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group, 18 May 2012. Date of Access: 29 September 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/03-11-final-emissions.pdf>.

⁹⁶⁶ 2012 Camp David G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 29 September 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2012compliance/11-12-final-climate.pdf>.

⁹⁶⁷ 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 29 September 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-interim/12-2013-g8-compliance-interim-ccac.pdf>.

⁹⁶⁸ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 7-8 June 2015. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

⁹⁶⁹ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York) 2015. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf.

⁹⁷⁰ 2016 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 29 September 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

⁹⁷¹ 2016 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 29 September 2016. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

to be bound by the treaty at a later date.”⁹⁷² However, it is only by ratifying, accepting, or approving an agreement that a state becomes a party to the treaty, and is “legally bound” by it.⁹⁷³

Thus, a G7 member can be considered to have fully complied with this commitment if they have ratified, approved, or accepted the agreement. If they have expressed an intent to ratify, approve, or accept the Paris Agreement before the end of 2016, but have not yet done so, they will receive a score of 0. Finally, if the G7 member has neither expressed an intent to ratify the agreement, nor done so, they will be considered non-compliant with the agreement.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not ratified, accepted, or approved the Paris Agreement AND has not expressed an intent to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016.
0	The G7 member has expressed an intent to ratify, accept, or approve the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016, but has not yet done so.
+1	The G7 member has ratified, accepted, or approved the Paris Agreement.

Lead Analyst: Aceel Christina Hawa

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also called on other states to do the same, and has made an effort to begin to fulfill its obligations under the agreement.

On 22 April 2016, Canada signed the Paris Agreement.⁹⁷⁴ It ratified the document in parliament on 5 October 2016.⁹⁷⁵ On the same date that the government ratified the agreement, Minister for Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna issued a statement emphasizing that Canada’s ratification was important because it would “bring the world over the threshold of 55 countries accounting for 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions needed to bring the Paris Agreement into force.”⁹⁷⁶

In order to fulfill its obligations under the treaty, the Government of Canada has taken a number of steps. On 9 December 2016, most of the country’s First Ministers committed to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.⁹⁷⁷ The framework details how the Government of Canada will meet its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions,⁹⁷⁸ and is a follow-up to the previous First Ministers’ meeting, which was held on 3 March 2016. At that time, the government released the Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change, which

⁹⁷² Treaty Handbook, United Nations (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/publications/THB/English.pdf>.

⁹⁷³ Treaty Handbook, United Nations (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 9 November 2016. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/publications/THB/English.pdf>.

⁹⁷⁴ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 16 February 2016, http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

⁹⁷⁵ Minister of Environment and Climate Change Marks Canada’s Ratification of the Paris Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 October 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do;jsessionid=62da77ccb1ceeb6afa660e6816e24a9e3c2a81ab15a8a159eb4f02ba57ea85f3.e34Rc3iMbx8Oai0Tbx0SaxuRb3n0?mthd=advSrch&crtr.page=1&crtr.dpt1D=6672&nid=1133599&crtr.tp1D=980>.

⁹⁷⁶ Minister of Environment and Climate Change Marks Canada’s Ratification of the Paris Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 October 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do;jsessionid=62da77ccb1ceeb6afa660e6816e24a9e3c2a81ab15a8a159eb4f02ba57ea85f3.e34Rc3iMbx8Oai0Tbx0SaxuRb3n0?mthd=advSrch&crtr.page=1&crtr.dpt1D=6672&nid=1133599&crtr.tp1D=980>.

⁹⁷⁷ Communiqué of Canada’s First Ministers, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/09/communiqué-canadas-first-ministers>.

⁹⁷⁸ Communiqué of Canada’s First Ministers, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/12/09/communiqué-canadas-first-ministers>.

affirmed that the country would “build on the momentum of the Paris Agreement by developing a concrete plan to achieve Canada’s international commitments through a pan-Canadian framework for clean growth and climate change.”⁹⁷⁹ The ministers also agreed to adopt policies that would help reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) so that Canada can fulfill its obligations under the agreement.⁹⁸⁰ The Pan-Canadian Framework emphasizes the use of carbon pricing and transitioning to clean energy as the most important means by which Canada can meet the targets set by the Paris Agreement.⁹⁸¹

Between 7 and 18 November 2016, a Canadian delegation of 225 members attended the Marrakech Climate Change Conference (COP22).⁹⁸² At the conference, Canada was one of six countries to fulfill its Paris Agreement commitment “to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies” by submitting such a strategy to the secretariat.⁹⁸³ It should be noted, however, that the document presented does not introduce any novel policies not previously addressed in the Pan-Canadian Framework.⁹⁸⁴ Instead, Canada argues that it “outlines potential GHG abatement opportunities...and identifies areas where emissions reductions will be more challenging.”⁹⁸⁵

During her address at COP22 on 16 November 2016, Minister McKenna also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to fulfilling its 2015 CAD2.65 billion pledge to help developing states mitigate and adapt to climate change.⁹⁸⁶ As a part of this funding, she revealed that the government was releasing CAD1.8 billion to “leverage private-sector investment focused on clean and renewable energy solutions” for developing states.⁹⁸⁷

⁹⁷⁹ Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change, Government of BC (Vancouver) 3 March 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Vancouver_Declaration_clean_Growth_Climate_Change.pdf.

⁹⁸⁰ Vancouver Declaration on Clean Growth and Climate Change, Government of BC (Vancouver) 3 March 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Vancouver_Declaration_clean_Growth_Climate_Change.pdf.

⁹⁸¹ Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, Government of Canada, and the Governments of All Provinces and Territories Except for Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 9 December 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/themes/environment/documents/weather1/20170125-en.pdf>, 5-6.

⁹⁸² Mega-Sized Canadian Delegation in Morocco for This Year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference, National Post (Ottawa) 14 November 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-politics/mega-sized-canadian-delegation-in-morocco-for-this-years-united-nations-climate-change-conference>.

⁹⁸³ Communication of Long-Term Strategies, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php.

⁹⁸⁴ Canada’s Mid-Century Long-Term Low-Greenhouse Gas Development Strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/can_low-ghg_strategy_red.pdf, 12.

⁹⁸⁵ Canada’s Mid-Century Long-Term Low-Greenhouse Gas Development Strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/can_low-ghg_strategy_red.pdf, 12.

⁹⁸⁶ Jason Fekete, Trudeau Pledges \$2.65B to Help Poor Countries Fight Climate Change, National Post (Ottawa) 27 November 2015. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/canadian-politics/trudeau-pledges-2-65b-to-help-poor-countries-fight-climate-change>; Speaking Notes for Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna at COP22, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1155259>.

⁹⁸⁷ Speaking Notes for Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna at COP22, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1155259>.

These efforts follow previous commitments by the government to develop a cleaner domestic economy by reducing Canada's carbon footprint, and by promoting carbon market policies to encourage investment in cleaner technology and infrastructure.⁹⁸⁸

Therefore, Canada receives a score of +1 for its commitment to securing ratification, acceptance, and approval of the Paris, along with its global entry into force by 2016.

Analyst: Aaishah Karim

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also made efforts to ensure the Paris Agreement entered into force in 2016.

France signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016.⁹⁸⁹ Following this, it took quick action to ratify the convention. On 17 May 2016, the French parliament voted to ratify the Paris Agreement, and the Senate soon followed on 8 June 2016.⁹⁹⁰ On 15 June 2016, President François Hollande ratified the Paris Agreement, making France the first G7 member to adopt the historic treaty.⁹⁹¹ Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and President of COP21, opened the ceremony and emphasized the fact that France was the “first industrialized country” to ratify the Paris Agreement.⁹⁹² Parties in attendance included parliamentarians and politicians, European Union ambassadors, representatives of non-governmental organization, leaders from the private sector, and scientists.⁹⁹³

France has also taken steps to urge the rest of the international community to ratify the agreements in a timely manner. As an illustration, France sought to ensure the Paris Agreement entered into force before COP22 in Morocco,⁹⁹⁴ and did so by leading by example.

During the ratification ceremony, President Hollande and Minister Royal encouraged the other European states in attendance to ratify the agreement as fast as possible.⁹⁹⁵

The Government of France continued to urge other parties to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement during the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference (COP22). In a speech made at the welcoming

⁹⁸⁸ Canada's Priority for COP 22, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 November 2016. Date of Access: 7 December 2016. <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=EF6CE373-1>.

⁹⁸⁹ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

⁹⁹⁰ Le Parlement Autorise la Ratification de L'Accord de Paris, COP21 (Paris) Date of Access: 15 January 2017. <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/le-parlement-autorise-la-ratification-de-laccord-de-paris/ion/>.

⁹⁹¹ Cérémonie Solennelle de Ratification de L'Accord de Paris, Ministry of the Environment, Energy, and the Sea (Paris) 15 June 2016. Date of Access: 15 January 2017. http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2016-06-15_DP_Loi_Accord_Paris.pdf.

⁹⁹² Cérémonie Solennelle de Ratification de L'Accord de Paris, Ministry of the Environment, Energy, and the Sea (Paris) 15 June 2016. Date of Access: 15 January 2017. http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2016-06-15_DP_Loi_Accord_Paris.pdf.

⁹⁹³ Cérémonie Solennelle de Ratification de L'Accord de Paris, Ministry of the Environment, Energy, and the Sea (Paris) 15 June 2016. Date of Access: 15 January 2017. http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2016-06-15_DP_Loi_Accord_Paris.pdf.

⁹⁹⁴ Le Point Sur le Processus de Ratification, France Diplomatie (Paris) November 2016. Date of Access: 15 January 2017. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/climat/paris-2015-cop21/le-point-sur-le-processus-de-ratification/>.

⁹⁹⁵ La France a Ratifié L'Accord de Paris, Ministry of the Environment, Energy, and the Sea (Paris) 17 June 2016. Date of Access: 15 January 2017 <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/La-France-a-ratifie-l-Accord-de.html>.

ceremony, Royal called upon the 97 countries who had not yet ratified the Agreement to do so by the end of the year.⁹⁹⁶

Furthermore, on 16 November 2016, President Hollande made a speech at COP22 in the wake of the United States' election, where he noted that France would speak with the new administration to ensure that they were aware of the importance of maintaining the previous administration's commitment to the agreement.⁹⁹⁷

Therefore, France receives a score of +1 for its leadership and commitment to securing the ratification, acceptance, and approval of the Paris Agreement, as well as ensuring its global entry into force in 2016.

Lead Analyst: Esmé Lafleur

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also made a considerable number of diplomatic efforts to ensure that the Paris Agreement enters into force, and has begun to develop plans to fulfill its obligations under the treaty.

On 22 April 2016, Germany signed the Paris Agreement.⁹⁹⁸ On 6 July 2016, it became “one of the first European Union member states to formally begin the ratification process.”⁹⁹⁹ This ratification process was completed on 5 October 2016.¹⁰⁰⁰ After submitting its ratification along with other members of the European Union, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety noted that enough participants had ratified the document to trigger its entry into force.¹⁰⁰¹

Germany has also worked to directly bring about a quick entry into force of the Paris Agreement. On 21 September 2016, German Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks called for the adoption of new legal strategies that would allow the European Union to ratify the Paris Agreement

⁹⁹⁶ Statement by the President of COP21, Ségolène Royal, at the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 7 November 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/statements/application/pdf/cop22-sr-opening-speech-french.pdf.

⁹⁹⁷ Statement by French President François Hollande at the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference, France in the United States (Washington DC) 21 November 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. <http://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article7811>.

⁹⁹⁸ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

⁹⁹⁹ Germany Begins Ratification of Paris Agreement, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 6 July 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017. <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/germany-begins-ratification-of-paris-agreement/>.

¹⁰⁰⁰ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

¹⁰⁰¹ Paris Agreement Enters into Force: Germany Deposits Instrument of Ratification. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 5 October 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017.

<http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/paris-agreement-enters-into-force/>.

quickly.¹⁰⁰² She said that Germany's "goal is to be able to make a start on implementing the agreement at the next Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh in November."¹⁰⁰³

In addition, Germany has begun to develop plans to fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement during the compliance period.

On 14 November 2016, the German government adopted a new strategy that "shows what implementing the Paris Agreement means for Germany."¹⁰⁰⁴ The Climate Action Plan provides sector-specific targets for greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions that will allow Germany to achieve its goal of decreasing GHG levels by "at least 55 per cent compared to 1990 [levels]" by 2030.¹⁰⁰⁵ The plan also aims to help the country meet the European Union's agreement to cut GHG emissions by 80 to 95 per cent compared to 1990 levels by 2050.¹⁰⁰⁶ Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks noted that "This will provide orientation for strategic measures in all sectors and security for investors...it is also a question of a step-by-step phase-out of coal, oil, and gas."¹⁰⁰⁷

Between 4 and 5 July 2016, Germany held the 7th Petersburg Climate Dialogue, which engaged representatives of thirty-five countries in discussions of how to implement the Paris Agreement.¹⁰⁰⁸ At this time, the German government committed to working with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to help developing states create plans to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement.¹⁰⁰⁹

¹⁰⁰² Paris Agreement Clears First Hurdle, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 21 September 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017.

http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/paris-agreement-clears-first-hurdle/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=197&cHash=a99681cfe232024789631db630dffed3.

¹⁰⁰³ Paris Agreement Clears First Hurdle, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 21 September 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017.

http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/paris-agreement-clears-first-hurdle/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=197&cHash=a99681cfe232024789631db630dffed3.

¹⁰⁰⁴ Climate Action Plan 2050: Cabinet adopts guide to climate neutral Germany. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 14 November 2016. Date of Access: 19 February 2017.

<http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/climate-action-plan-2050-cabinet-adopts-guide-to-climate-neutral-germany/>.

¹⁰⁰⁵ Climate Action Plan 2050: Cabinet adopts guide to climate neutral Germany. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 14 November 2016. Date of Access: 19 February 2017.

<http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/climate-action-plan-2050-cabinet-adopts-guide-to-climate-neutral-germany/>.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Climate Action Plan 2050, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) (Bonn) 9 June 2015. Date of Access: 16 February 2017.

http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Klimaschutz/klimaschutzplan_2050_impulspapier_en_bf.pdf.

¹⁰⁰⁷ Statement by German Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks at the 7th Petersburg Climate Dialogue, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 4 July 2016.

Date of Access: 21 February 2017. http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/speeches/detail-page/artikel/speech-by-federal-environment-minister-barbara-hendricks-to-open-the-7th-petersberg-climate-dialogue/?tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=212.

¹⁰⁰⁸ Petersburg Climate Dialogue VII – "Making the Paris Agreement a Reality", German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 4-5 July 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/topics/climate-energy/climate/international-climate-policy/petersberg-climate-dialogue/>.

¹⁰⁰⁹ New Partnership Aims to Help Developing Countries Implement the Paris Agreement, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 4 July 2016. Date of Access: 17 February 2017.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2016/juli/160704_pm_063_New-partnership-aims-to-help-developing-countries-implement-the-Paris-Agreement/index.html.

A German delegation also attended the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference (COP22), which was held between 7 and 18 November 2016.¹⁰¹⁰ During the meetings, Germany committed EUR50 million to help developing countries that are suffering the effects of climate change to adapt.¹⁰¹¹

Germany thus receives a +1 score for its leadership and commitment to securing the ratification, acceptance, and approval of the Paris Agreement, and its global entry into force by 2016. It has also taken steps to begin implementing the agreement.

Analyst: Rhys Williams

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also made considerable diplomatic efforts to ensure the Paris Agreement enters into force.

Italy signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, the first day it opened for signatures.¹⁰¹² Italy ratified the agreement on 11 November 2016.

Italy has also taken steps to begin to help implement the Paris Agreement.

On 16 November 2016, Italy released a Joint Statement with other developed states in which it pledged to contribute to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).¹⁰¹³ The CBIT was created to provide support to developing states and enable them to “monitor and report progress [towards the Paris Agreement] in a transparent manner.”¹⁰¹⁴ Italy committed EUR4 million to support the efforts of the CBIT.¹⁰¹⁵

Additionally, on 12 April 2016, a conference titled “Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy’s Innovative Technology” took place in Italy to address solutions to the problems associated with using new technology.¹⁰¹⁶ Companies proposed techniques that would mitigate the impacts of climate change. There was an increased effort to conduct research and to document the effects of climate change, notably through the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable

¹⁰¹⁰ UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union (Brussels). Date of Access: 21 February 2017. http://www.bruessel-eu.diplo.de/Vertretung/bruessel__eu/en/00/ENVI_20Council_2030_20Sept.html.

¹⁰¹¹ UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union (Brussels). Date of Access: 21 February 2017. http://www.bruessel-eu.diplo.de/Vertretung/bruessel__eu/en/00/ENVI_20Council_2030_20Sept.html.

¹⁰¹² Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php

² Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy’s Innovative Technology, Farnesina - Rappresentanza Permenante (New York, NY) 12 April 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2016/04/fighting-climate-change-sharing_0.html.

¹⁰¹³ Joint Statement on the Donors’ Pledge of \$55.3M USD to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, Global Environment Facility, 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017. <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/web-documents/CBIT-donor-statement-COP22.pdf>.

¹⁰¹⁴ New Financial Initiative in Support of Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York) 7 June 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/06/new-financial-initiative-in-support-of-paris-agreement/>.

¹⁰¹⁵ Joint Statement on the Donors’ Pledge of \$55.3M USD to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, Global Environment Facility. 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. <https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/web-documents/CBIT-donor-statement-COP22.pdf>.

¹⁰¹⁶ Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy’s Innovative Technology, Farnesina - Rappresentanza Permenante (New York, NY) 12 April 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016.

Economic Development (ENEA). The agency is, for example, implementing underwater robots that monitor the ecosystem, providing a measure of marine biodiversity.¹⁰¹⁷

On 22 April 2016, Italy — specifically through the Ministry of Environment — signed an agreement with Morocco to address and ameliorate the regulations and economics of climate change.¹⁰¹⁸ The agreement focused on managing solid waste and coastal areas, preventing carbon pollution, and promoting sustainable development.¹⁰¹⁹

Italy has not yet provided a long-term strategy following the Paris Agreement. However, information from its National Energy Strategy elaborates on the short- and long-term goals of the country. The document, published in March 2013, outlines that “about EUR170 to 180 billion will be invested by 2020, both in white and green economy, and in traditional sectors (electricity and gas networks, LNG terminals, storage facilities, hydrocarbons development).”¹⁰²⁰ The goals for 2020 include: reducing fuel consumption by 24 percent in primary consumption (as compared to four percent in 2010), investing in renewable energy, and reducing energy costs to positively impact the economy and the environment.¹⁰²¹

Italy also states several long-term goals that it seeks to achieve by 2050 in order to successfully decarbonize the country. These energy goals include: decreasing primary consumption by up to 26 percent (compared to 2010), a 60 per cent gross final consumption in renewable energy (compared to a goal of 20 percent for 2020), increasing electrification to reach 38 percent, and closely monitoring the role of gas for the energy transition to take place.¹⁰²²

Italy is thus in full compliance and receives a +1 score for its leadership and commitment to securing ratification, acceptance, and approval of the Paris Agreement, and supporting global entry into force by 2016.

Analyst: Hanu Chaudhari

Japan: +1

Japan has complied with its commitment to take the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement, and to assist in bringing the agreement into global entry by 2016.

On 8 November 2016, Japan officially accepted the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement to cut emissions and prevent climate change.¹⁰²³

¹⁰¹⁷ Fighting Climate Change: Sharing Italy's Innovative Technology, Farnesina - Rappresentanza Permanente (New York, NY) 12 April 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016.

¹⁰¹⁸ Climate change: Italy signs cooperation agreement with Morocco, Connect 4 Climate (Italy) 22 April 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.connect4climate.org/article/climate-change-italy-signs-cooperation-agreement-morocco>

¹⁰¹⁹ Climate change: Italy signs cooperation agreement with Morocco, Connect 4 Climate (Italy) 22 April 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.connect4climate.org/article/climate-change-italy-signs-cooperation-agreement-morocco>

¹⁰²⁰ Italy's National Energy Strategy: For a more competitive and sustainable energy, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Italy) March 2013. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/SEN_EN_marzo2013.pdf.

¹⁰²¹ Italy's National Energy Strategy: For a more competitive and sustainable energy, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Italy) March 2013. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/SEN_EN_marzo2013.pdf.

¹⁰²² Italy's National Energy Strategy: For a more competitive and sustainable energy, Ministero dello sviluppo economico (Italy) March 2013. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/images/stories/documenti/SEN_EN_marzo2013.pdf.

¹⁰²³ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php; "Japan Ratifies Paris Agreement after the Pact Enters into Force." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, 08 Nov. 2016. Web. 25 Nov. 2016

Japan has also taken actions to combat climate change and begin to fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement during the compliance period.

On 8 November 2016, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe noted that Japan was committed to helping to develop the Paris Agreement's implementation guidelines "so that the transparency of emission reduction by countries will be enhanced, thus achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement."¹⁰²⁴

A delegation from Japan attended the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference (COP22), which was held between 7 November and 18 November 2016.¹⁰²⁵ During the conference, Japan released a joint statement with other developed states regarding the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The CBIT was created to provide support to developing states and enable them to "monitor and report progress [towards the Paris Agreement] in a transparent manner."¹⁰²⁶ However, while the majority of states in the G7 made financial contributions to the project, Japan simply stated that it "is seriously considering contributing to the initiative."¹⁰²⁷

Japan has taken other measures to combat climate change outside of the compliance period.

For example, Japan submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions in July 2015, which includes a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 26% compared to its 2013 levels by 2030.¹⁰²⁸

On 13 December 2015, the Environment Minister Tamayo Marukwa and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Seiji Kihara actively participated in the negotiations pertaining to the Paris Agreement and emphasized the importance of a new framework that is both fair and applicable to all countries.¹⁰²⁹ They also announced their intent to contribute to various discussions regarding the agreement and to make specific proposals for the draft text of the agreement. Moreover, Environment Minister Marukwa committed Japan to formulating a Global Warming Measures Plan as soon as possible "while steadily implementing features for reducing emissions, as well as implementing steady adaptation measures based on the National Adaptation Plan."¹⁰³⁰

Japan has fully complied with this commitment. It was assigned a +1 for its commitment to securing ratification, acceptance, and approval of the agreement and its global entry into force by 2016.

Analyst: Kymone Fletcher

¹⁰²⁴ Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the Acceptance of the Paris Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 November 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page4e_000546.html.

¹⁰²⁵ Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 November 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page25e_000102.html.

¹⁰²⁶ New Financial Initiative in Support of Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York) 7 June 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/06/new-financial-initiative-in-support-of-paris-agreement/>.

¹⁰²⁷ Joint Statement on the Donors' Pledge of \$55.3M USD to the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, Global Environment Facility. 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017.

<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/web-documents/CBIT-donor-statement-COP22.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁸ Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC): Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target in FY2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 September 2016. Date of Access: 21 February 2017.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page1we_000104.html.

¹⁰²⁹ The 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 13 December 2015. Date of Access: 29 March 2017.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page24e_000125.html.

¹⁰³⁰ The 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 13 December 2015. Date of Access: 29 March 2017.

http://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page24e_000125.html.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also made some diplomatic efforts to ensure the Paris Agreement enters into force.

On 22 April 2016, the UK signed the Paris Agreement.¹⁰³¹ However, it was the last G7 state to ratify the Agreement on 18 November 2016.¹⁰³² In reaction to news of the ratification, Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry Nick Hurd emphasized the importance of focusing on the implementation of the agreement. He stated that the government would “use this positive momentum to grow the UK low-carbon sector,” which is currently estimated to be worth around GBP46 billion.¹⁰³³

In addition, during the 22nd United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP22), the British government declared its support for several climate change-mitigation initiatives, including a national carbon reduction strategy, global clean energy innovation, increased transparency, and scale-up of climate financing regimes.¹⁰³⁴ These declarations have nevertheless been followed with little substantive policy or regulatory action.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom is in full compliance and receives a score of +1 for its commitment to supporting the climate change initiative set forth in the Paris Agreement, given its signing of the agreement on 22 April 2016, and ratification of the agreement by the British parliament on 18 November 2016.

Analyst: Aaishah Karim

United States: +1

The United States has complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris Agreement. It has also made considerable international diplomacy efforts to ensure that the Paris Agreement enters into force.

The US signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016, the first day it opened for signatures.¹⁰³⁵ The country ratified the agreement on 3 September 2016.

Additionally, President Barack Obama and his administration lobbied for the EPA Clean Power Act, a proposal that seeks to regulate and reduce carbon pollution from power plants across the country.¹⁰³⁶ The USA has committed to working with Canada and Mexico to achieve a sustainable, low-carbon solution to climate change. Moreover, the USA released a mid-century strategy to

¹⁰³¹ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

¹⁰³² UK Ratifies Paris Agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ratifies-the-paris-agreement>; Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 17 February 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

¹⁰³³ UK ratifies Paris Agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London, UK) 18 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ratifies-the-paris-agreement>

¹⁰³⁴ UK ratifies Paris Agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London, UK) 18 November 2016. Date of Access: 9 December 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ratifies-the-paris-agreement>

¹⁰³⁵ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris, France) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php

¹⁰³⁶ Fact Sheet: Overview of the Clean Power Plan, US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 27 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/fact-sheet-overview-clean-power-plan>

significantly decarbonize and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050, as compared to levels in 2005.¹⁰³⁷

President Barack Obama first proposed the EPA Clean Power Act on 3 August 2015.¹⁰³⁸ States submitted their plans in accordance with the act as of 6 September 2016.¹⁰³⁹ As of October 2016, the administration was in the midst of getting the approval for this plan through the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.¹⁰⁴⁰ There are currently 18 states for the implementation of the plan, while 28 states are against it.¹⁰⁴¹ The act strives to achieve several goals by 2030, which include “carbon pollution from the power sector will be 32 percent below 2005 levels ... climate benefits of USD20 billion ... [avoiding] 3600 premature deaths and 90 000 asthma attacks [each year].”¹⁰⁴²

On 29 June 2016, President Obama met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto in order to develop strategies for North America to target climate change through the North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan.¹⁰⁴³ This plan aims to “achieve a goal for North America of 50 per cent clean power generation by 2025.”¹⁰⁴⁴ The countries have also agreed to work together to promote other G20 countries to ratify the Paris Agreement.¹⁰⁴⁵ The plan included a further reduction of the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) via the Montreal Protocol alongside a “phase out [of] inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by 2025.”¹⁰⁴⁶

On 16 November 2016, the USA proposed a mid-century strategy to combat climate change. The USA is currently the world’s second-largest GHG emitter.¹⁰⁴⁷ With this in mind, the proposed

¹⁰³⁷ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰³⁸ Fact Sheet: President Obama to Announce Historic Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 3 August 2015. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/08/03/fact-sheet-president-obama-announce-historic-carbon-pollution-standards>

¹⁰³⁹ Fact Sheet: Overview of the Clean Power Plan, US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 27 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/fact-sheet-overview-clean-power-plan>

¹⁰⁴⁰ Obama Climate Plan, Now in Court, May Hinge on Error in 1990 Law, The New York Times (New York) 25 September 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/us/politics/obama-court-clean-power-plan.html?_r=0

¹⁰⁴¹ Obama Climate Plan, Now in Court, May Hinge on Error in 1990 Law, The New York Times (New York) 25 September 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/us/politics/obama-court-clean-power-plan.html?_r=0

¹⁰⁴² Fact Sheet: Overview of the Clean Power Plan, US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 27 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/fact-sheet-overview-clean-power-plan>

¹⁰⁴³ North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 29 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/06/29/north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership-action>

¹⁰⁴⁴ North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 29 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/06/29/north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership-action>

¹⁰⁴⁵ North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 29 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/06/29/north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership-action>

¹⁰⁴⁶ North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 29 June 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/06/29/north-american-climate-clean-energy-and-environment-partnership-action>

¹⁰⁴⁷ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

strategy aims to reduce GHG emissions by 17 percent by 2020, 28 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050, all in comparison to levels in 2005.¹⁰⁴⁸ The US's mid-century strategy outlines several key features that the country plans to implement in order to achieve this goal. These features include: transitioning to a low-carbon energy system, sequestering carbons through forests, soils, and CO₂ removal technologies, and reducing non-CO₂ emissions.¹⁰⁴⁹

The strategy seeks to establish a low-carbon energy system by improving energy efficiency, using alternative forms of energy to replace fossil fuel electricity generation, and switching to fossil fuel-free electricity in the sectors of transportation, buildings, and industry.¹⁰⁵⁰ These goals are set to be achieved by increasing the regulation and funding of low-carbon generation for electricity, modernizing the electricity grid to lower costs and improve efficiency, and improving methods of electricity storage.¹⁰⁵¹ The report also analyzes non-CO₂ emissions such as methane, nitrous oxide, and HFCs.¹⁰⁵² The strategy contextualizes and builds upon the newly-implemented EPA regulations from July 2016, which aim to reduce methane emissions from landfills by eight million metric tons annually as of 2025.¹⁰⁵³

The USA is thus in full compliance with the Paris Agreement commitment, as it has both ratified the agreement and subsequently released a mid-century strategy to target climate change. The USA is working with other countries in North America, through the North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan to promote and regulate the usage of renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. President Obama and his administration are also working to pass the Clean Power Act, which regulates carbon emissions from power plants across the country.

For these reasons, the United States is in full compliance and has received a +1 score for its leadership and commitment to securing ratification, acceptance, and approval of the agreement and global entry into force by 2016.

Analyst: Hanu Chaudhari

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to taking the necessary steps to secure ratification, acceptance, or approval of the Paris agreements. It has also made considerable international diplomacy efforts to ensure the Paris Agreement enters into force.

¹⁰⁴⁸ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰⁴⁹ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰⁵⁰ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰⁵¹ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰⁵² Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

¹⁰⁵³ Communication of long-term strategies - USA, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (New York, NY) 16 November 2016. Date of Access: 30 November 2016. http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

The EU ratified the Paris Agreement on 5 October 2016, ensuring that the agreement successfully passed its legal threshold and entered into force.¹⁰⁵⁴ The decision was reached at a meeting of the Environment Council in Brussels, Belgium, and was subsequently submitted for approval to the European parliament. The European parliament voted on 4 October 2016 for the European Union to ratify the agreement.¹⁰⁵⁵ It was approved with 610 votes in favour, 38 against, and 31 abstentions.¹⁰⁵⁶

Concurrently, the EU had already brought forward its main legislative proposals to deliver on its commitment to cut emissions by 40 per cent by 2030, relative to 1990 levels.¹⁰⁵⁷

There had been fears among several observers that a lack of consensus among EU member states with regards to their respective share of EU-wide reduction targets might delay ratification of the Paris Agreement well into 2017. There were also concerns in relation to the United Kingdom's referendum on EU membership, and that a vote to leave would cause further delay.

However, in a surprise move, EU environment ministers agreed to speed up the bloc's ratification of the agreement.¹⁰⁵⁸

For these reasons, the European Union is in full compliance and receives a +1 score for its leadership and commitment to securing ratification, acceptance, and approval of the agreement and global entry into force by 2016.

Analyst: Rhys Williams

¹⁰⁵⁴ Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Date of Access: 29 March 2017. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Paris Agreement to Enter Into Force as EU Agrees Ratification, European Commission (Strasbourg) 4 October 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3284_en.htm.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Paris Climate Deal: EU Backs Landmark Agreement, BBC News (London) 4 October 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-37553134>.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Quirin Schiermeier, Paris Climate Deal to Take Effect as EU Ratifies Accord, Nature, 4 October 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017. <http://www.nature.com/news/paris-climate-deal-to-take-effect-as-eu-ratifies-accord-1.20735>.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Paris Climate Deal Seen Taking Force This Year as EU Speeds Up Ratification, The Wall Street Journal (New York), 2 October 2016. Date of Access: 29 March 2017. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/eu-set-to-ratify-paris-climate-agreement-1475240342>.