



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary

Nations Unies
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Secrétaire exécutive

Date: 29 January 2016
Reference: CAS/Paris Agreement/MTP I

MESSAGE TO PARTIES

Signing of the Paris Agreement New York, 22 April 2016

The Conference of the Parties has invited the Secretary-General to convene a high-level signature ceremony for the Paris Agreement. In line with this invitation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has invited all world leaders to the signing ceremony for the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. A sample copy of the Secretary-General's invitation letter dated 20 January 2016 is attached for your reference.

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, joins the Secretary-General in welcoming all world leaders to the signing ceremony.

In Paris, the world witnessed as 196 Parties to the UNFCCC reached a historic agreement to combat climate change. This agreement will accelerate progress towards a low-carbon, resilient and sustainable future.

The signing ceremony will take place at the United Nations Headquarters on the first day the agreement will be open for signature. Leaders' participation in the high-level signature ceremony will facilitate rapid ratification of the Paris Agreement and it would be an opportunity to further engage leaders from business and civil society to put the new agreement into action.

The Executive Secretary would like to encourage all Parties in a position to do so to sign the agreement on 22 April, or as soon as possible thereafter. It is recalled that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign treaties on behalf of States without having to produce full powers to that effect. In the event that the Head of State or Government is not in a position to travel to New York for the ceremony, Ministers or Permanent Representatives to the United Nations can be duly empowered to do so.

Distribution: To Parties and observer States through National Focal Points for climate change, Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany.



Page 2

The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC would like to thank all Parties for their continued and tireless support in solving the colossal global challenge posed by climate change and looks forward to working with you in maintaining momentum from Paris to realise the full potential of the Paris Agreement.



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 January 2016

Excellency,

I wish to extend to you and to your Government my sincere gratitude for your leadership in combating climate change. This was essential in ensuring the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement caps a remarkable year of multilateral achievements for people and the planet. It provides a solid foundation for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the global economy. This transformation will help secure a future that is safer, healthier and more prosperous for all.

It is my great honour to invite you to participate in the high-level signature ceremony of the Paris Agreement that I will host at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 April 2016, as mandated by the Paris outcomes. Your participation and signature, along with that of other world leaders, will make the world's collective commitment to tackling climate change official. It will also facilitate the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and provide for the smooth finalization of the operational details needed to give effect to the provisions of the new Agreement.

His/Her Excellency
Mr./Ms. [Head of State/ Government]
of XXX
City

I look forward to welcoming you to New York on 22 April 2016. In the meantime, I urge you to continue providing political oversight and guidance during this crucial phase. We must accelerate ambitious climate action on the ground and pave the way for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Let us continue to leverage our collective strength to build a promising future for this and future generations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN Ki-moon