

Conversations About COP21 Finding	Comparison with the Paris Agreement
<p>The section entitled 'The Political Challenges of Climate Change' found that 85% of respondents would like to see a new legally binding international agreement.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>It is a universal and binding agreement. As of the end of the COP on the 12th of December 2015, all 196 parties to the convention that wrote the Agreement committed to. However, the Agreement is due to be officially ratified between April 2016 and April 2017 and so while it is currently a universal one, in that it has been agreed by the parties at the COP, it has not entered into legal force yet.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'The Political Challenges of Climate Change' found that 81% of respondents felt that the international community should adopt both short term (annual) and long term (2020-2050) targets.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>The Agreement makes significant progress on this ask by outlining a new transparent, biennial reporting mechanism that ensures countries will report on the targets that they outlined in their pledges (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions). While, the targets outlined in these pledges do not all necessarily follow the methodology of the Scottish model exactly, countries are bound to reporting on these shorter term targets while also working towards the longer term target of well under 2 degrees of temperature and emissions neutrality in the second half of the century. Countries are also bound to increasing the ambition of their pledges every five years after the Agreement comes into force.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'The Political Challenges of Climate Change' found that people in Scotland felt that countries should be held to account for their intended climate change commitments through legally binding commitments and financial penalties, particularly of a universal carbon price or tax on carbon. A group of respondents that felt that a mechanism to do this would not be achievable, and this group suggested public 'naming and shaming'.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement does not fulfil this ask.</p> <p>On this point, the Agreement does not deliver what people in Scotland wanted. The compliance mechanism that will hold countries to account for their pledge will not punish or fine countries, and instead it will work primarily to facilitate improvements. There is no mention of financial implications of non-compliance in the Agreement, and the only mention of a carbon price is in the 'Adoption of the Paris Agreement' section of the text, which outlines non-party (business, NGO or local/regional government) solutions. With regards to public accountability – all biennial reports and national contributions will be made available through a public registry and so the public is able to hold countries to account for their action and activities.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'The Political Challenges of Climate Change' found that people in Scotland were interested in a global reporting mechanism being put into practice.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>Significant progress was made on this in the Agreement, and when this reporting mechanism comes into play, it will resemble that of Scotland's public sector reporting mechanism.</p>

<p>The section entitled 'Climate Justice' found that 43% Strongly Agreed and 26% Agreed that "Developed nations should commit to greater cuts to emissions because they have historically contributed more to greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere."</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.</p> <p>The Agreement takes some steps towards complying with this statement, but perhaps not as strong as our research implies that people in Scotland would have wanted. The language in the agreement requests that developed countries take the lead in implementing reductions and that developing countries should move towards this when it is appropriate for their national circumstances. However, this language does not legally commit either to these respective positions. The Agreement does outline that contributions should be the highest possible ambition of the country, that these should be met, and the need for climate action to be made in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, to be fair and different national circumstances, which imply but do not outline explicitly any principles of historic responsibility.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'Climate Justice' found that respondents identified technology, education, finance and low carbon growth as solutions to the challenge of planning for future emissions of developing countries.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>The Agreement deals with each of these solutions somewhat separately.</p> <p>With regards to technology, the Agreement outlines that support will be provided to equip developing countries with the technology needed to develop in a sustainable, low carbon way. With regards to education, similar expectations are outlined around education and capacity-building for developing countries. With regards to finance, the Agreement outlines that developed countries will be responsible for providing \$100 billion in finance to developing countries in order to facilitate them to develop sustainably; however, there are no specific guidelines as to how, where from, and who will deliver on this. There is also a recommendation that developing countries which are able should consider financial support for less developed countries. It is also outlined that the financial support for adaptation and mitigation should be an increase on what has currently been provided.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'Climate Justice' found that respondents believed that developing countries should be expected to peak emissions, but they needed to be supported to be able to do this. The small group that didn't feel it was fair said that while it isn't really fair, it is necessary.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>The Agreement makes specific reference to peaking global emissions as soon as possible, while still recognising that it will take longer for some countries to peak than others, i.e. developing countries. There are a range of support mechanisms suggested in the Agreement that address the concern of people in Scotland that if developing countries are expected to peak emissions that they need to be supported to transition to low carbon.</p>

The section entitled 'Climate Justice' found that respondents believed that "we must implement locally appropriate solutions".

The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.

The Agreement recognises the need for "locally appropriate solutions" in principle. The concept of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" reflects the need for locally appropriate solutions. This concept is prevalent throughout the document and is manifested in the legally binding and suggested parts of the Agreement. The provision of locally-appropriate or "country-driven" and "local knowledge systems" adaptation solutions is also explicitly mentioned.

The section entitled 'Adaptation' found that 82% were concerned about the long term financial cost of inaction on climate change.

The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.

Adaptation is addressed in a number of ways throughout the agreement. The first, that adaptation is established in the agreement as a specific goal, particularly mentioning capacity, resilience and vulnerability. The Agreement also recognises the urgent needs of some countries to adapt and the way the global and national capacity needs to be increased in order to respond to this effects vulnerable people's livelihoods. It also outlines the inverse relationship between enhanced mitigation efforts and adaptation requirements.

The Agreement requires each country to develop adaptation planning, commits international support for adaptation for the implementation of these plans, and requires that any reporting includes a stocktake on adaptation efforts. In addition, in the section on finance, this explicitly mentions the obligation of developed countries to provide finance to developing counties on both mitigation and adaptation – this is an important inclusion that recognises the cost implications of adaptation methods that will need to take place in parallel to mitigation efforts in the global south and the Pacific islands.

Some countries are already dealing in a significant way with the financial implications of the losses and damages resulting from a changing climate. The Agreement includes a specific section that discusses loss and damage, however, this section does not outline how to cope with the financial implications of these challenges. The Adoption of the Paris Agreement section of the text outlines explicitly that the agreement does not provide a basis for liability or compensation. While our *'Conversation About COP21'* did not ask specifically about losses and damages from a changing climate, a connection can be drawn between the serious concern expressed about the future financial implication of climate change in Scotland and the real and immediate financial implications of climate change that are taking place right now in some locations across the globe. While the Agreement outlines solutions for the concern expressed about the financial cost of inaction in relation to adaptation, it does not outline solutions for losses and damages.

<p>The section entitled 'Adaptation' found that there was concern about responding to increasing needs for adaptation capacity building.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in full.</p> <p>The Agreement works to address this. It specifically outlines the need for international cooperation and capacity building for those particularly vulnerable now to the adverse impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'Natural Environment' found that respondents were most concerned about the vulnerability of oceans, freshwater, biodiversity, and clean air. It also found that people attributed the current decline of natural environment to unsustainable development.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.</p> <p>The Agreement makes explicit reference to the importance of the natural environment. The Agreement outlines the importance of protecting nature as it plays an important role as a reservoir and sink of carbon emissions. The Agreement is most explicit in the role that forests play in this, but does not specifically reference oceans, which contradicts the conclusions of people in Scotland.</p> <p>The Agreement also refers only to natural environment conservation within the context of it acting as a carbon sink, and this does not adequately reflect the way in which our findings demonstrate a conceptual link between the needs of the natural environment in the context of both mitigation and adaptation. It also encourages countries to plan for building the resilience of ecosystems and manage natural resources sustainably in their required adaptation planning, but does not make this a requirement. In the introduction to the formal Agreement as well as the Adoption of the Agreement text, the importance of protecting the integrity of all ecosystems is recognised, with specific reference to oceans and biodiversity. There are also a number of opportunities taken to frame the context of climate change in that of unsustainable development, which aligns with the framing used by Scotland on these issues.</p>
<p>The section entitled 'Urban Development' found that respondents identified a strong concern for infrastructure and technology developments needed for carbon reductions, outlining specific priorities of: (in this order of preference) – public transport, community renewables, building efficiency, waste to energy, integrated transport, renewable heating, active travel infrastructure, localised food networks.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement does not fulfil this ask.</p> <p>The Agreement does not mention technologies explicitly, but instead talks about technology transfer from developed to developing countries and economy-wide emissions reductions that will have to include actions such as the ones prioritised by people in Scotland. Each individual national pledge outlines this topic in more detail.</p>

The section entitled 'Urban Development' highlighted the importance a people-centred approach.

The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.

The Introduction to the Agreement text outlines the role of sustainable lifestyles, education and engagement, non-state actors, food security, and employment and work, but does not reflect on these outcomes in the legally binding aspects of the text, however the Agreement itself leaves some questions about how a globally people-centred approach can be achieved.

Similar to the points on energy and infrastructure, the Agreement doesn't refer to citizens of the Parties and only mentions people a few times, and this is only in the context of framing the Agreement and does not refer to people in the context of the action required. Particularly relevant to this is the fact that the sections on engagement and loss and damage do not include references to people.

The section entitled 'Finance' found that people identified new laws or restrictions; individual choices; taxes on high carbon activities/industries; government funding; private sector funding (in this order) as the key mechanisms for transitioning to a low carbon economy.

The Paris Agreement does not fulfil this ask.

The people of Scotland called for a new legal framework through which the world could transition to a low carbon economy, and this call was not answered in the Agreement.

The Agreement doesn't restrict countries from developing and implementing these locally, but does not explicitly require or even suggest this sort of solution. The only financial mechanism outlined in the agreement is that of public funding to support developing countries. There are no mechanisms established, and no mention of the ways in which developed countries will transition their economies and source funding/finance for the infrastructure, technology, and energy system changes that need to take place in order to comply with the main aim of the agreement.

The section entitled 'Finance' found that people called for a mainstreaming of climate change priorities in order to diversify funding potentials.

The Paris Agreement does not fulfil this ask.

This is not covered in the Agreement. The question of mainstreaming climate action or integration into other policy or activity areas was not broached in the negotiations. This is something that has been left to the national pledges and local implementation.

<p>The section entitled 'Energy' found that respondents asked for prioritisation of renewable energy sources in generating our energy in Scotland. These were ranked in order of preference as follows: Solar, Wind, Tidal & Wave, community renewables, geothermal, nuclear, biomass, waste combustion, hydrogen, etc. (sources with less than 5% preference are not listed here)</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement does not fulfil this ask.</p> <p>The people of Scotland identified their energy sources to be a long list of renewable alternatives above that of oil, gas, and coal, however, the Agreement doesn't make reference to specific energy sources. The Agreement does not make any efforts to address the 'well-end' (emissions sources) of the issue, only the 'tail-pipe' (volume of emissions). In fact, the agreement does not make a single reference to fossil fuels, and the only reference to renewable energy is one that is specific to the deployment of renewable energy in Africa, and this stands in contrast to the conclusions drawn from 'Conversations About COP21'.</p>
<p>The conclusion of the report found that 74% felt action on climate change would also improve our quality of life more generally. Importance of wider co-benefits in work, planning and policy development on climate change.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.</p> <p>There is reference to the idea of co-benefits, most specifically co-benefits of mitigation work on adaptation priorities and vice versa, and only mentions concepts of wider societal co-benefits very briefly in the Adoption of the Paris Agreement text but not in the Agreement itself. There is some reference to a people-centred approach to adaptation planning and work, with specific reference to vulnerable people and regions, indigenous people, and gender equality. The introduction to the Agreement also outlines the role of sustainable lifestyles, education and engagement, non-state actors, food security, and employment and work, but does not reflect on these outcomes in the legally binding aspects of the text.</p>
<p>The conclusion of the report found that 84% of young people were worried about what the future will be like if we don't act on climate change now.</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement fulfils this ask in part.</p> <p>The concept of "intergenerational equity" is included the Adoption of the Agreement text and some sections of the Agreement, however, it does not include any mechanism or framework through which this can be accounted for, measured or acted on. The introduction to the Agreement makes reference to the fact that the current level of commitment does not amount to enough action to keep the world below 2 degrees Celsius of temperature rise. This is the scenario that young people identified that they were concerned about.</p> <p>In the Agreement there is a mechanism for mandatory increase of ambition on the commitments of countries, however, the Agreement itself cannot yet outline whether this will solve this gap between pledges and action needed to address the scientific 'safe' limits to warming. Further to this, there is mention in the Adoption of the Paris Agreement text for the need to increase action between the COP21 and 2020 when the Agreement will come into full force.</p>