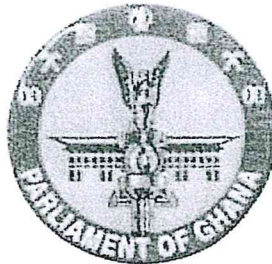


**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH
PARLIAMENT OF
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(DECEMBER 2015)**

27TH JULY, 2016

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
FOURTH REPUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON
THE CLIMATE CHANGE (DECEMBER 2015)**

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015) was laid in Parliament on Monday, 4th July, 2016 by the Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Mr. Mahama Ayariga. In accordance with Article 75 of the Constitution and Order 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Agreement was referred to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report to the House.

2.0. DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on Tuesday, 19th July, 2016 to consider the Agreement. The Hon. Minister and the technical persons from the Ministry were in attendance to assist the Committee in the deliberations of the Agreement. The Committee is grateful to the team from MESTI for their attendance.

In considering the Agreement, the Committee was guided by the following documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
Memorandum on the Ratification of the Paris Agreement on the Climate Change (December 2015)
- iii. Ghana's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (GH - INDC) and Accompanying Explanatory note

3.0. BACKGROUND

In December 2015, in Paris at United Nations climate conference (COP21), all the 195 member countries including Ghana adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement, which became known as the Paris Agreement.

The Agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

The Paris Agreement re-enforces the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which was signed by the Parties to a landmark agreement to combat climate change, to accelerate and to also intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.

The Paris Agreement again seeks to bring all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. In other words, Paris Agreement seeks to chart a new course in the global climate effort and is due to enter into force in 2020.

As part of its obligations under the Agreement and mindful of its national development agenda that seeks to achieve the long-standing objective of becoming a fully-fledged middle-income economy, Ghana in 2015, outdoored its long-term climate actions through its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) which contains the country's ambitious efforts to build a low - carbon and climate resilient economy. This is also spelt out in the medium-term development agenda (Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda II - GSGDA II), the anticipated 40-year socio-economic transformational plan and the universal sustainable development goals.

4.0. THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1. Content of the Agreement

- i. **Mitigation:** where parties communicate their first nationally determined contributions and submit its respective instrument of ratification or approval of the Paris Agreement. Parties to the Agreement are to come with real, measurable and long-term benefits related to the mitigation of Climate Change, specific scope of activities, verification and certification of emission reductions resulting from mitigation activities by designated operation entities.
- ii. **Adaptation:** develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts and to review in the 2017 the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention. The Green Climate Fund shall expedite support for the least developed countries for the formulation of national adaptation plans consistent with implementation of country policies, projects and programmes.
- iii. **Loss and damage associated with Climate change impacts:** to establish a clearing house for risk transfer that serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer and implement comprehensive risk management strategies and develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- vi. **Finance:** financial resources provided to developing countries should enhance the implementation of their policies, strategies, regulations and their climate change action plans with respect to both mitigation and adaptation to contribute to the achievement of the purpose of the agreement.

The agreement recognizes the importance of adequate and predictable financial resources including results – based payment for the implementation of policy approaches and positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation.

Sustainable Management of Forests and enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks as well as alternative policy approaches such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.

Encouraging the coordination of support from public and private, bilateral and multilateral sources such as the Green Climate Fund. The agreement decides that the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate change fund shall serve the agreement.

- v. **Technology Development and Transfer:** the agreement aims at strengthening technology, research, development and demonstration to undertake updating of technology needs assessment as well as the enhanced implementation of their results.
- vi. **Capacity building:** the agreement decides to build capacity aimed at addressing gaps and needs, both current and emerging in implementing capacity building. The agreement also identifies the promotion and development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity - building, fostering global, regional, national and subnational cooperation. Identifying and collecting good practices. Challenges, experiences, lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the convention. Fostering dialogue, coordination, collaboration and coherence among relevant processes including exchanging information on capacity building activities and strategies of bodies established under the conversion.

Parties to the agreement are to explore ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the agreement.

- vii. **Transparency of action and support;** the agreement decides to establish a capacity-building initiative for transparency in order to build institutional and technical capacity to enhance transparency. National institutional capacities will be strengthened to report on transparency related activities in line with national priorities.

The agreement also requests the Global Environment Facility to make arrangements to support the establishment and operation of the capacity-building initiative for Transparency as a priority reporting related need through voluntary contributions to support developing countries.

Emphasis is placed on methodologies for reporting on financial information on support received, use of the support impact, estimated results, and information on the social and economic impact of response measures.

viii. **Global Stocktaker:** the agreement requests an adhoc working group to identify the sources of impact for the Global Stock taking and provide information on the overall effect of the nationally determined contributions, the state of adaptation efforts, support received, experiences, priorities and mobilization of resources.

ix. **Non-Party Stakeholders;** the agreement welcomes the efforts of all non-party Stakeholders to address and respond to climate change including those of Civil society, the private Sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities. It urges such stakeholders to scale up their efforts and support to reduce emissions and build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of Climate Change and demonstrate these efforts via the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action Platform.

It also recognizes the need to strengthen knowledge, technological practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change and established a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.

The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 - Earth Day - at UN Headquarters in New York. The agreement will enter into force 30 days after 55 countries (that account for at least 55% of global emissions) have deposited their instruments of ratification.

4.2. Under the agreement, governments agreed to:

- i. a long - term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels;
- ii. aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change;
- iii. the need for global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognizing that this will take longer for developing countries;
- iv. undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with the best available science.
- v. come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science;
- vi. report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets;
- vii. track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system;
- viii. strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change;
- ix. provide continued and enhanced international support for adaptation to developing countries.

4.2. Financial Support

- The developed countries will continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries.
- Other countries are encouraged to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily.
- Developed countries intend to continue their existing collective goal to mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 through the Green Climate Fund.

4.3. The implementations of the actions are expected to help attain low carbon climate resilience through effective adaptation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction in the following priority sectors:

- Sustainable land use including food security
- Climate proof infrastructure
- Equitable social development
- Sustainable mass transportation
- Sustainable energy security
- Sustainable forest management; and
- Alternative urban waste management.

5.0. OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations:

- i. By ratifying the Agreement, Ghana stands to benefit financial and technological assistance available from institutions established under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
- ii. Ghana will continue to participate in the New Market Mechanisms (NMM) established by the Paris Agreement to assist developed countries to achieve sustainable development through projects undertaken by the developing Countries to assist them meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement.
- iii. The Agreement is designed to assist developing countries such as Ghana to adapt to the effects of climate change. The Paris Agreement will therefore facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies that can increase the resilience of developing countries to the impact of climate change.
- iv. Ghana can also access funds from funding windows created by the Paris Agreement, e.g. Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and other funds pledged by developed countries to address the impact of climate change. It is worthy to note that Ghana is already putting in place the necessary institutional and capacity arrangements to ensure Ghana access the international climate funds.

This is more important because Ghana will need about \$22.24 billion investments to meet the 31 actions indicated in the Intended Nationally Determine Contribution (INDC) submitted in December, 2015 to the UNFCCC.

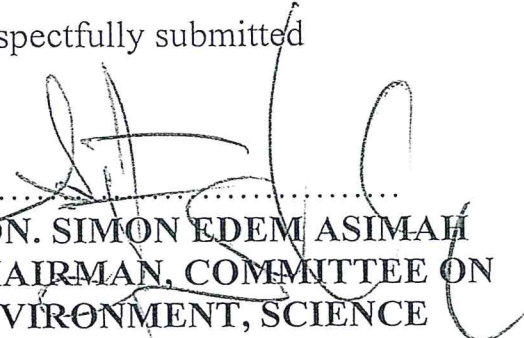
- v. It is also a unique opportunity to demonstrate that Ghana is fully committed to address climate change and make business case for scaling up ongoing measures and initiatives, especially in areas of the economy that are vulnerable to impact of climate change. Ghana can make a business case as in the submitted INDCs to the UNFCCC for support.
- vi. The Paris Agreement also provides opportunities to the Private Sector to contribute to national development through technological transfer and the provision of clean energy. The Private Sector will therefore be able to benefit from windows of support emanating from the Agreement.
- vii. Furthermore, local institutions will also benefit from capacity building programmes and technical support created under the Agreement to meet the increasing challenges to sustainable development and improve on environmental quality.

6.0. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION


The Committee has thoroughly examined the content of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015) in the light of its object and purpose and is of the view that the Agreement is consistent with the Constitution and other relevant statutes of Ghana and will also be of immense benefit to the nation.

The Committee accordingly recommends to the House for adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015).

Respectfully submitted



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HON. SIMON EDEM ASIMAH
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



.....
JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

27TH JULY, 2016

