

Chinese support on climate change 'essential,' Hollande says

November 2 2015



French President Francois Hollande visits the Huguang Guild Hall in Chongqing, on November 2, 2015

French President Francois Hollande said on Monday that Chinese support was "essential" to reaching an effective deal at the forthcoming climate change conference in Paris, as he began a visit to the Asian giant.

In the southwestern megacity of Chongqing, Hollande said he was seeking "a global and ambitious agreement that will allow [global] warming to be limited to two degrees".

"The support of the Chinese is essential," he said, adding: "The fight against [global warming](#) is a humanitarian issue - how the planet can be preserved - and it is also an issue of considerable economic importance, of what we call green growth."

China is the world's largest polluter and will be a key player at the UN conference, which begins on November 30, in the face of disputes over whether developed or developing countries should bear more of the burden for reducing emissions.

Talks have largely stalled over the mechanism for following up on commitments by the 195 attending countries: France is calling for a "legally binding" mechanism with a review every five years, while China has ruled out any kind of punitive system.

Beijing, which was blamed for scuppering a 2009 UN climate summit in Copenhagen, has already promised its [carbon dioxide emissions](#) will peak "by around 2030" in a symbolic announcement in June.

The French president's trip comes hot on the heels of a similar visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was in China last week hoping to drum up business, and after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited both Britain and the US in the last two months.



French President Francois Hollande visits the Chongqing Sino-French Tangjiatuo Waste Water Treatment facility, on November 2, 2015

Several major EU countries including Germany, France and Britain are wooing China in the hope of winning business and becoming hubs for the growing overseas trade of its yuan currency.

Hollande is accompanied by around 40 heads of French firms and a number of ministers, and visited a Sino-French water treatment company in Chongqing to highlight cooperation in green growth industries.

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