

# Begin climate change action today: UN's Ban

December 14 2015

---



UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon, pictured on December 10, 2015, will convene an action summit on May 5-6, 2016 to keep the pressure on the 195 governments that have pledged under a landmark deal to curb greenhouse gas emissions

Calling the Paris climate deal "a health insurance policy for the planet," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged governments to waste no time in delivering on their commitments to fight global warming.

"Now, actions should begin from today," Ban said after returning from Paris where the historic [deal](#) was reached Saturday, capping two weeks of tough negotiations.

A formal signing ceremony will take place at the United Nations on Earth Day: April 22.

Ban will then convene an action summit on May 5-6 to keep the pressure on the 195 governments that have pledged under the landmark deal to curb [greenhouse gas emissions](#).

"The Paris agreement is a victory for people, for the common good, and for multilateralism," Ban said.

The accord sends a clear signal that the global economy is shifting to low-emission growth and contains strong accountability and transparency measures, he said.

The UN chief described the deal as "ambitious", setting a target of containing global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels through a series of national measures.

The agreement will come into effect by 2020, once at least 55 countries responsible for 55 percent of global greenhouse gases ratify the accord.

Under the deal, there will be five-year reviews to take stock of implementation, and a first such assessment is scheduled for 2018.

The UN chief recalled that reaching the deal had been a top priority of his tenure when he took over as secretary-general at the United Nations in 2007.

Ban raised the climate talks at just about every meeting with world

leaders.

"I sent alarm bells consistently and repeatedly to world leaders," he said.

UN climate envoy Janos Pasztor described the deal as a "monumental achievement" and said it sends a message to the financial markets that it's time to invest in low-carbon energy.

Pasztor rejected suggestions that the agreement will be difficult to enforce.

"The governments did not create a climate change police force," he said.

"But the information will be available in a transparent manner," allowing the United Nations to quickly point the finger at those who fall short of their commitments, he said.

© 2015 AFP

Citation: Begin climate change action today: UN's Ban (2015, December 14) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-12-climate-action-today.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--