

France becomes first major nation to ratify UN climate deal

June 15 2016



Carbon dioxide is a key factor in global warming

President Francois Hollande on Wednesday finalised ratification of the Paris climate accord reached in December 2015, making France the first industrialised country to do so.

"Signing is good, ratifying is better," Hollande quipped at the Elysee Palace ceremony, flanked by Environment Minister Segolene Royal,

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and other top officials.

He noted that the deal will not come into force unless at least 55 countries responsible for at least 55 percent of global [greenhouse gas emissions](#) ratify it.

So far 17 states—mainly small island and low-lying coastal countries that are especially vulnerable to the sea-level rise—have ratified the deal.

Hollande called on other European [countries](#) to follow France's lead by the end of the year.

At the December COP21 gathering in Paris, 177 governments reached the historic agreement setting a target of limiting global warming to "well below" 2.0 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial levels.

The French hosts of the meeting, held just weeks after the devastating November terror attacks on Paris, were showered with praise for its success, notably Hollande and then [foreign minister](#) Laurent Fabius.

The 32-page deal also calls on rich nations to muster at least 100 billion dollars (\$90 billion) a year in [climate](#) aid from 2020. Just how that will happen has yet to be worked out.

COP21 is the acronym for the 21st conference of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the arena set up under the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.



President Francois Hollande (centre) and his cabinet pose for a group photo after France became the first country to ratify the COP21 climate agreement during a ceremony at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on June 15, 2016

© 2016 AFP

Citation: France becomes first major nation to ratify UN climate deal (2016, June 15) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-06-france-major-nation-ratify-climate.html>

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.