



Paris Climate Agreement

Team3

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Agenda

- 1. Background**
- 2. Key Drivers**
- 3. Outcome**
- 4. Improvements**



Scope of Analysis

Involved Parties

Negotiation Preparation (UN)

Negotiation process

A night sky filled with numerous stars, with a mountain range visible at the bottom. The mountains are dark and rugged, with some snow or light-colored patches. The sky is a deep blue, and the stars are scattered across the entire frame.

Background

UN Climate Change Conference, COP21

Nov 30th, 2015 – Dec 12th, 2015

Paris Agreement is the result of 21st COP.

Main objective of COP:

- Review the Convention's implementation of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

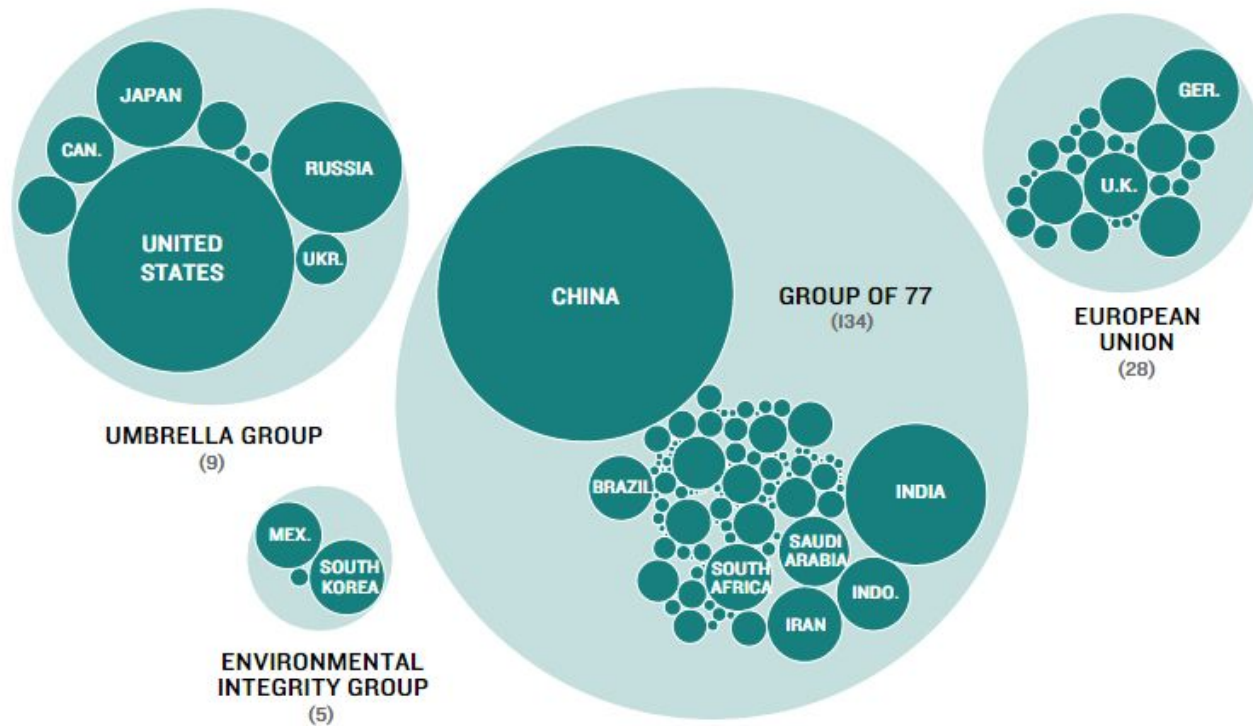
Goal for COP21:

- *“Substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century”*

Key Players & Coalitions

Major Alliances In U.N. Climate Negotiations

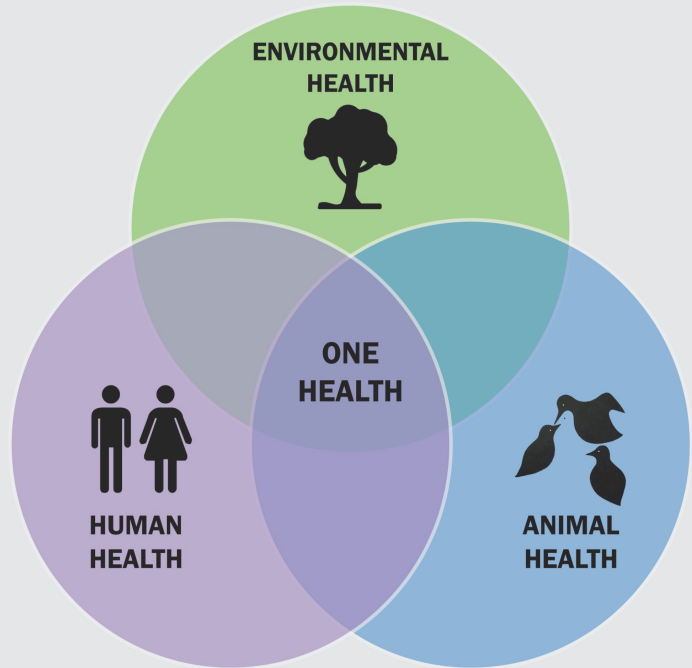
Countries participating in the United Nations climate talks have allied in expected — and some unexpected — ways. Below, the major alliances, with countries sized by CO₂ emissions in 2011. Countries may also belong to other smaller negotiating groups (such as the Alliance of Small Island States and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).



More Coalitions

- **African Group**
- **AILAC** (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- **AOSIS** (Small Island States)
- **LDC** (Least Developed Countries)
- **LMDC** (Like Minded-Group of Developing Countries)

Common Interest



Circumstantial Interest

AOSIS + AILAC

- Immediate actions due to existential threat and high vulnerability

Developed Countries

- Less supportive of both the ability-to-pay and polluter-pays rules

G77

- Less supportive of the egalitarian
 - Flexibility over who should reduce first, how quickly and how much

National Interest

- Development plan
- Security
- Priorities
- Degree of transparency



Umbrella Grp: US, Russia, Japan, Canada, Ukraine, etc
AILAC - Latin America

G77: China, India, Brazil, etc
AOSIS – Small Islands

LMDC – like mind developing countries
LDC – least developed c.

Conflicts & Imbalance

Emission Quota

- Everyone has the right to live a better life
- Unrealistic and unethical to limit the growth of developing countries

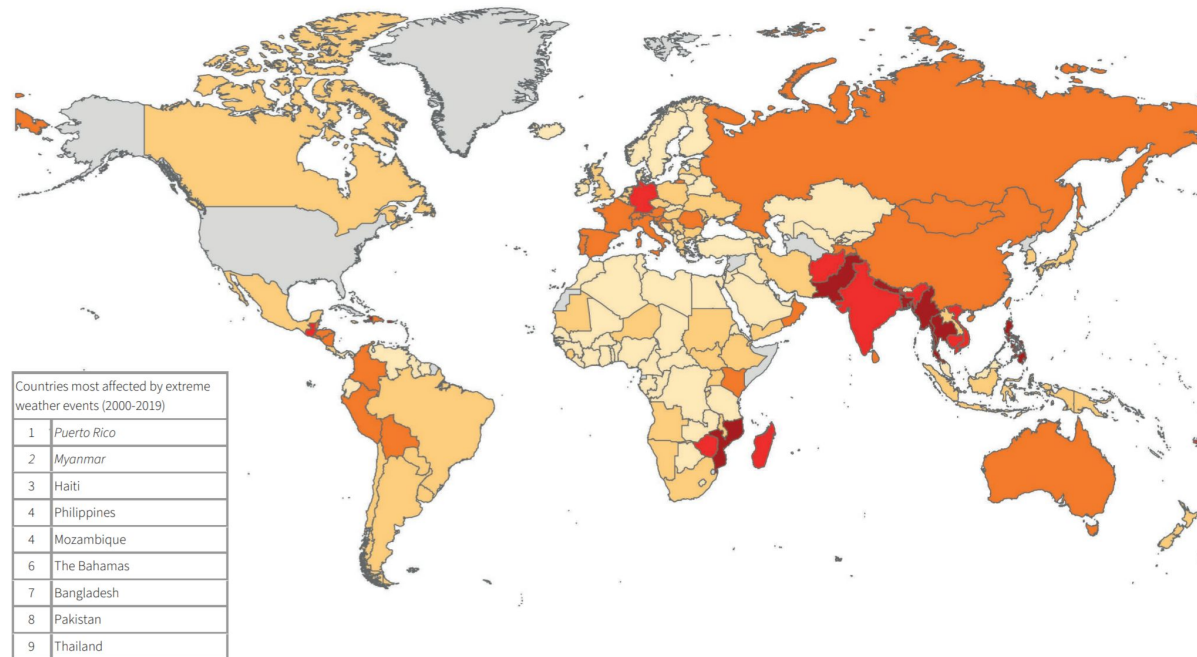


Urgency & Vulnerability

- Island countries vs. land-locked countries
- Impact of extreme weathers

Resource imbalance

- Economical
- Technical
- Educational
- Access to renewable energy source
 - Solar, wind, water...
- ...



Italics: Countries where more than 90% of the losses or deaths occurred in one year or event

Climate Risk Index: Ranking 2000 - 2019



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Main Issues to Negotiate

Issue	Legal binding for Developed Countries	Long Term Emission Reduction	Limit Temperature Increase to 1.5°C	Finance Differentiation	International Transparency
In Favor	EU, AILAC, AOSIS	AOSIS, EU	106 Countries	G77	EU
Not In Favor	US	LMDC, US	China, India, Iran, US	Umbrella Group, EU, Switzerland, US	China



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Main Challenge

Finding the balance point between interests and conflicts from multi-parties without sacrificing the legitimacy and feasibility of the agreement.



A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a waterfall on the left side, cascading down a dark, layered rock cliff into a dark pool of water. The surrounding terrain is rugged and rocky, with some green grass on the upper slopes. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy, overcast sky. The text "Key Drivers" is overlaid in the center of the image.

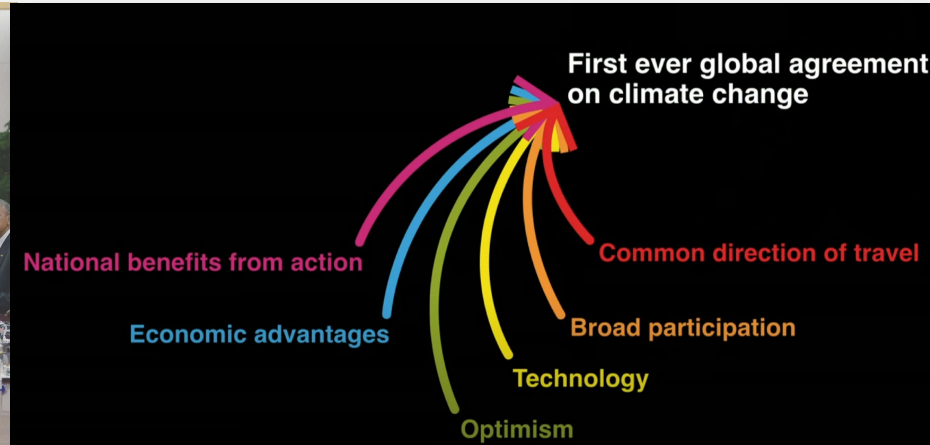
Key Drivers

Key Drivers of the Agreement

1. Bilateral agreement between China and the US in 2014

2. UN's diplomatic & social preparation before negotiation

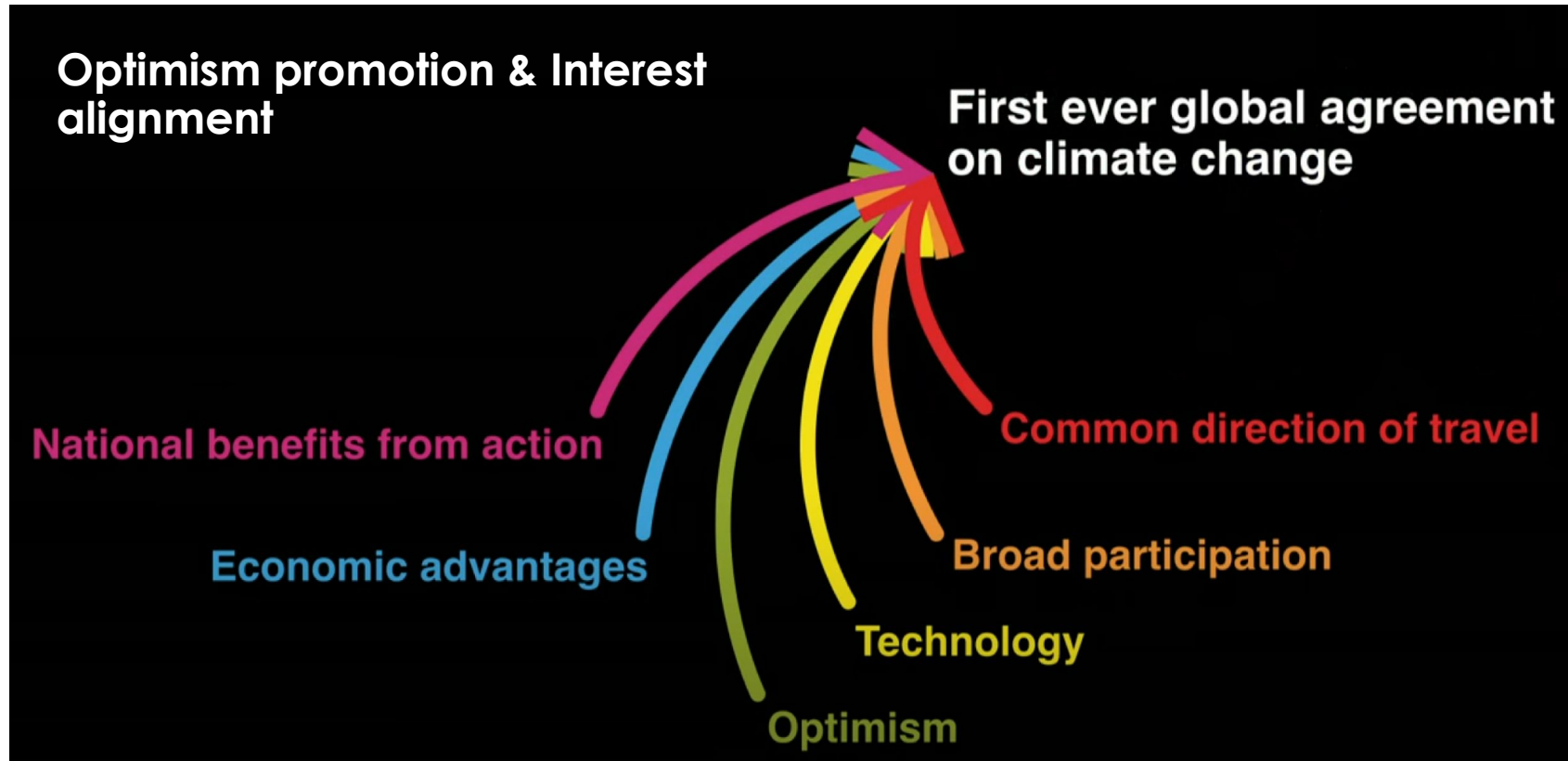
3. Orchestrated negotiation process by French Presidency



UN's diplomatic & social preparation

"Impossible is not a fact, it is an attitude"

Christiana Figueres - Executive Secretary of UNFCCC



189 governments send Intended National distributed Contributions(INDC)/ national plans before the opening of COP21

Orchestrated negotiation process by French Presidency

- **Heavy Use of Secrecy**

- Government delegates ONLY
 - No civil society delegates
 - 4 diplomats per delegation
- Between delegates
 - Only knows about the comprises and tradeoffs involved
 - Keep all delegates in the dark about tradeoffs others made until the last day

- **Tightly Controlled Process**

- Secure deals only among key players on each contentious issues
- 2 days of private consultation session
- Last day: Take it or leave it



Outcome

Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015

COP21/CMP11

Paris France



Achievements

- **174 countries & EU** signed the agreement, covers over 90% emission
- **1st** legally binding universal agreement
- **Weaken the differentiating** between developing and developed countries
- Policy obligation for **ALL** countries
- Strong international **transparency** for national plans and actions
- Successive and progressively **stronger** national plans
- Follow up with **annual conferences** and **stocktakes** every 5 years for further implementations and assessments

“Revolutionary” (Venezuela)

“A tremendous collective achievement” (the EU)

“A resounding triumph of multilateralism” (St. Lucia)

“New era of global climate governance” (Egypt)

“A tremendous victory for the planet” (USA)

“The Paris Agreement is fair and just, comprehensive and balanced, highly ambitious, enduring and effective, and with legally binding force.”

- China's Closing Statement at COP21, December 12, 2015



Reciprocal Concessions

	China	US	EU	Island Countries
Gains	Differentiation in both finance and mitigation	Weaken legally binding of national actions	Transparency, Finance, loss and damage	Setting 1.5 degrees limit as the goal of the treaty
Concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally binding actions in the North • More international transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial differentiation • Resource assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative global emission targets • Restrictions on fuel usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally binding actions • Loss and damage

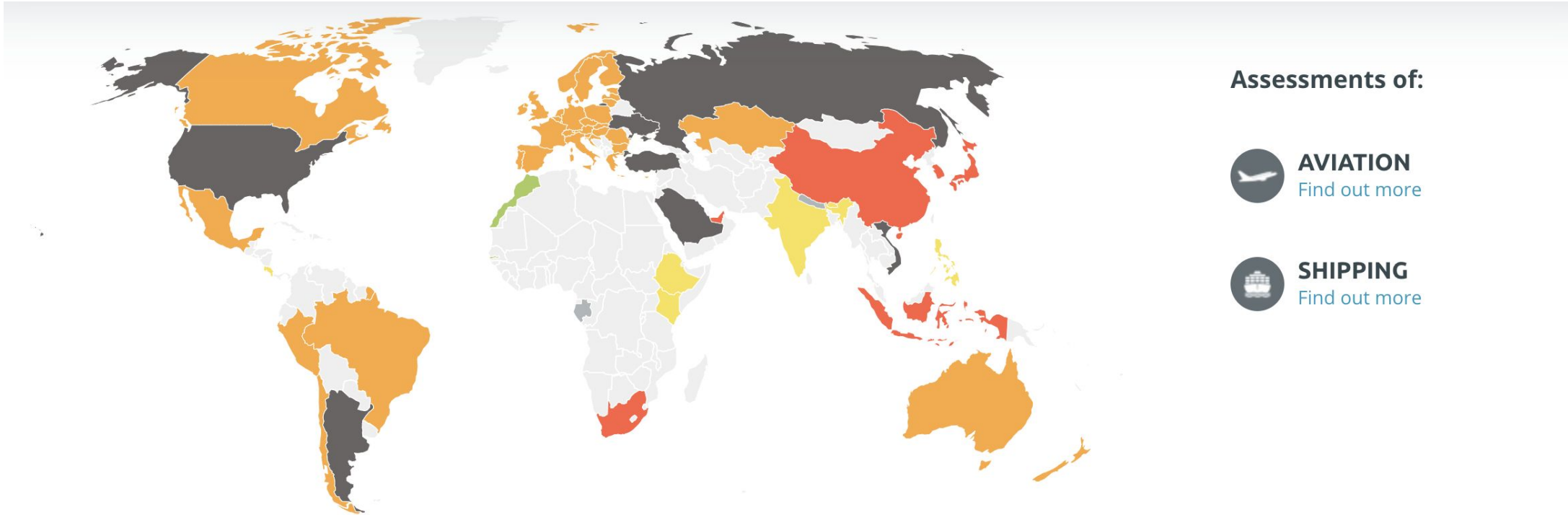
Shortcomings

- Least fair to African Group and other Least Developed Countries
- Precludes compensation for loss and damage
- Less prescriptive on adaptation

NDCs:

- Not obligated to fulfill, not legally binding
- Unclear timeframe
- Unlink to long term strategies
- No assessment on the ambition of goals

Current stage of Paris Agreement



The maps displayed are for reference only.

LAST UPDATE: November 2020



Improvements

A night landscape featuring a calm lake reflecting the aurora borealis and a starry sky. The word "Improvements" is overlaid in white text. The scene is dominated by deep blues and greens, with the aurora's light reflecting on the water's surface. The sky is filled with stars, and the mountains in the background are silhouetted against the dark night.

Negotiation challenges

Threatening

- *“Any change in our position on finance will have seismic effects on the negotiations and will wreck the entire deal.”* - European diplomats
- *“If we insist on legally binding, the deal will not be global because we will lose the US”* - EU official

Position Bargaining

- Take it or Leave it

Improvements – Preparation (UN)

1. Promote the common grounds from the proposals to stimulate collaborating environment and build trust
2. Set objective metrics & standards as anchor points
3. Allow pre-meeting negotiations

Improvements – Negotiation Process

1. **More Transparency on tradeoffs & interests**

- Winning defined as reaching an agreement--now
- Undermine the degree of commitment to implementation

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3. **Negotiate several issues simultaneously**
 - Identify potential values and create tradeoffs

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4. **Create opportunities to propose “options” to mitigate the constraints**

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5. **Have a logical, fair and objective decision-making process**
 - Objective metrics as anchor points to avoid position-bargaining

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6. **Build a better process for review, revision, and conflict management into long-term agreements**

1. Paris Agreement is a multi-party negotiation with many interest conflicts and prior failures.

2. UN's diplomatic & social preparation + French Presidency's orchestrated negotiation process are the key factors to success.

Summary

3. Achieved great outcome given its complexity, number of parties involved.

4. Typical negotiation challenges and areas of improvements in both preparation and process are found.

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