

## Chapter 14: International cooperation

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Date of Draft: 08/01/2020

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## 2 **Executive summary**

3 **International cooperation is vital for achieving climate mitigation goals in the context of**  
4 **sustainable development, but new considerations that have emerged since AR5 are relevant for**  
5 **assessing the effectiveness of particular forms of cooperation (*robust evidence, high agreement*)**  
6 {14.3}. First, there are important synergies between undertaking climate mitigation and achieving  
7 other sustainable development objectives (*robust evidence, high agreement*). Second, there is an  
8 increasing recognition that sub-global and regional agreements, often described as “climate clubs,”  
9 can play an important role in accelerating mitigation (*medium evidence, high agreement*). Third, the  
10 emerging study of socio-technological transitions suggests that international cooperation can be  
11 effective when it directly supports countries’ development and diffusion of low-carbon technologies,  
12 often at the level of individual sectors (*medium evidence, medium agreement*).

13 **The Paris Agreement represents an important new direction in international cooperation for**  
14 **climate policy, and its architecture is fundamentally different from that of the Kyoto Protocol**  
15 **(*robust evidence, high agreement*)** {14.4}. The core national commitments under the Kyoto Protocol  
16 were oriented towards emissions outcomes, and tied to regimes for monitoring and enforcement,  
17 whereas those under the Paris Agreement are process-related (*robust evidence, high agreement*). The  
18 processes that parties commit to participate in are designed to build capacity and stimulate climate  
19 investments, particularly in developing countries, and to lead to rising levels of ambition across all  
20 countries (*robust evidence, high agreement*).

21 **The effectiveness of the Paris Agreement is contested, and reveals conflicting views held by**  
22 **different scholars** {14.4.2}. The strongest critique of the Paris Agreement is that current Nationally  
23 Determined Contributions (NDCs) are inconsistent in their level of ambition with achieving global  
24 climate mitigation goals identified in the Paris Agreement (*robust evidence, high agreement*).  
25 Arguments in support of the Paris Agreement are that the processes it initiates and supports will lead  
26 to rising levels of ambition over time, drawing from empirically grounded theories of technological  
27 transitions (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). These are met with counter arguments, either  
28 suggesting that the necessary change cannot happen within the narrow window of opportunity to  
29 avoid dangerous climate change, or that the incentives created under the Paris Agreement are  
30 insufficient to lead to necessary changes (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). The extent to which  
31 countries increase the ambition of their NDCs in the near future will determine the effectiveness of  
32 the Paris Agreement.

33 **International cooperation outside of the UNFCCC is playing an increasingly important role in**  
34 **climate mitigation (*medium evidence, high agreement*)** {14.4.3, 14.5}. Conventions addressing  
35 ozone depletion, transboundary air pollution, and mercury deposition all are leading to reductions in  
36 the emissions of greenhouse gases (*robust evidence, high agreement*). Climate change concerns are  
37 being reflected in a growing number of international agreements operating at the sub-global or  
38 sectoral levels, as well as within the practices of a number of multilateral institutions (*robust evidence,*  
39 *high agreement*). Trans-national partnerships and alliances involving non-state and sub-state actors  
40 are playing a growing role in stimulating low-carbon technology diffusion and emissions reductions  
41 (*medium evidence, medium agreement*).

42 **International cooperation will have to be strengthened in several key respects in order to have a**  
43 **strong effect, consistent with achieving the mitigation goals in the Paris Agreement (*limited***  
44 ***evidence, high agreement*)** {14.6}. There are some areas where international cooperation has already  
45 had a strong effect, such as reducing many countries’ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the AFOLU sector, as well  
46 as emissions of some non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). In most

1 areas, considering not only environmental effectiveness but also transformative potential, distributive  
2 outcomes, economic performance, and institutional strength, international cooperation is having a  
3 positive effect, but one that is as yet too weak to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement  
4 (*medium evidence, medium agreement*). In some areas, such as reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the  
5 AFOLU sector or promoting and managing technologies for negative emissions and solar radiation  
6 modification, international cooperation is currently having little to no effect (*robust evidence, high*  
7 *agreement*).

8

## 1 **14.1 Introduction**

2 This chapter assesses the role of international cooperation in mitigating the effects of climate change.  
3 Such cooperation includes multilateral global cooperative agreements between nation states such as  
4 within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
5 regime, but also plurilateral agreements involving fewer states, as well as those focused on particular  
6 economic and policy sectors, such as components of the energy system. Moreover, we assess the role  
7 of transnational agreements and cooperative arrangements between non-state and sub-state actors,  
8 including municipal governments, private-sector firms and industry consortia, and civil society  
9 organizations.

10 Past IPCC assessment reports have devoted considerable space to the theoretical literature, providing  
11 insights into the rationale for international cooperation, as well as guidance as to its structure and  
12 implementation. This chapter limits such theoretical discussion primarily to the new developments  
13 since AR5. Important developments in this respect are the Paris Agreement, and rules thereunder,  
14 attention to climate clubs – groups of countries that can work together to achieve particular objectives  
15 – and the effects of framing climate change mitigation as a problem of accelerating a socio-technical  
16 transition or transformation, in addition to (or rather than) solving a global commons problem.

17 The bulk of this chapter is then devoted to describing the existing cooperative international  
18 agreements, institutions, and initiatives with a view to clarifying how they operate, what effects they  
19 are meant to have, and ultimately, whether they are working. At the heart of this lies the Paris  
20 Agreement, which has taken over from the Kyoto Protocol as setting the overall framework for  
21 international cooperation at the global scale. In many ways, the Paris Agreement fundamentally  
22 reshapes the intention and structure of such cooperation, from one oriented around target setting,  
23 monitoring, and enforcement, to one that is oriented around supporting and enabling nationally  
24 determined actions, as well as catalysing non-state and sub-state actions. In addition to the Paris  
25 Agreement, there are many other forms of cooperation that have taken shape in parallel: those  
26 designed to address other environmental problems that have a significant impact on climate  
27 mitigation; those operating at the sub-global or sectoral level; and, those where the main participants  
28 are not nation states, but rather other organizations, including sub-national governments, private  
29 industry, and civil society. Early on, this chapter identifies and describes a set of criteria and  
30 indicators for assessing the effectiveness of each of these agreements, institutions, and initiatives. We  
31 use these criteria and indicators to assess the ongoing effectiveness of each of the forms of  
32 cooperation that we describe. Near the end of the chapter we synthesize these results to make an  
33 overall assessment of the effectiveness of international cooperation as it exists today, and to identify  
34 areas where the need for improved cooperation is acute.

35

## 36 **14.2 Key findings from AR5 and recent developments**

### 37 **14.2.1 Key findings from AR5**

38 AR5 found that two characteristics of climate change make international cooperation essential. First,  
39 it is a global commons problem; and second, the opportunities for mitigation, the origins of GHG  
40 emissions, the climate impacts, and the capacity for mitigation and adaptation are highly diverse  
41 (Chapter 13, 13.2.1.1). Consequently, evidence suggests that climate policies that are implemented  
42 across geographical regions are more effective (Chapter 13, 13.13, 13.6, 14.4). In the past,  
43 international cooperation has focused mainly on the coordination of national policies to address  
44 mitigation. More recently, there is recognition that regional cooperation offers opportunities beyond  
45 what countries are able to achieve through implementation in isolation. These opportunities are due to

1 geographic proximity, shared infrastructure and policy frameworks, trade, and cross-border  
2 investments. Examples include renewable energy pools across border, networks of energy  
3 infrastructure and coordinated forestry policies (Chapter 1, 1.2; Chapter 6, 6.6; Chapter 15, 15.2;  
4 14.2). Policy linkages among regional, national, and sub-national climate policies also offer climate  
5 change and adaptation benefits (Chapter 13, 13.3.1, 13.5.1.3). Although UNFCCC remains the  
6 primary international forum for climate negotiations, many other institutions have become actively  
7 engaged at the global, regional, and local level, making international cooperation on climate change  
8 more institutionally diverse (Chapter 1, 1.3.3.1; Chapter 13, 13.4.1.4, 13.5). The inclusion of climate  
9 change issues across many other sectors and policy arenas have contributed to this diversity and has  
10 facilitated linkages between mitigation and adaptation (Chapter 13, 13.3, 13.4.13.5). Whereas  
11 international cooperation has traditionally been ruled by centralized authority, there is now the  
12 emergence of new transnational climate-related institutions of decentralized authority such as public-  
13 private sector partnerships, private sector governance initiatives, transnational NGO programs and  
14 city-led initiatives (Chapter 13, 13.2, 13.3.1, 13.12). These have resulted in a multiplicity of  
15 cooperation in the form of multilateral agreements, harmonized national policies and decentralized but  
16 coordinated national and regional policies (TS 38, Chapter 13, 13.4.1, 13.3.2, 14.4). International  
17 cooperation may also have a role in promoting a more active engagement of the private sector in  
18 technological innovation and cooperative efforts leading to technology transfer and development of  
19 new technologies (Chapter 13, 13.3, 13.9, 13.12).

## 21 **14.2.2 Developments since AR5**

### 22 ***14.2.2.1 Negotiation of the Paris Agreement***

23 There architecture of global climate governance shifted fundamentally from Kyoto to Paris. This shift  
24 was driven by the need to engage developing countries in emissions reductions, to extend mitigation  
25 commitments to those developed countries that had rejected or withdrawn from the Kyoto Protocol,  
26 and to respond to the rapidly changing geopolitical context. The 2015 Paris Agreement is the  
27 culmination of a quarter-century of international climate diplomacy, launched with the UNFCCC at  
28 the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. We provide an overview of the negotiations that led to the Paris  
29 Agreement in section 14.4.

### 30 ***14.2.2.2 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals***

31 On 25 September 2015, all the member states of the United Nations endorsed the 2030 Agenda for  
32 Sustainable Development, which contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through an  
33 aspirational narrative for future development and an actionable agenda, the SDGs offer a coherent  
34 framework for addressing diverse issues of development through goals that balance the economic,  
35 social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as issues of governance and  
36 institutions (ICSU ISSC 2015). Scholars have noted that their implicit logic makes them dependent on  
37 each other (Nilsson, Mans, Griggs, Dave, Visbek 2016), and this inter-dependency reflects a belief  
38 that it is difficult if not impossible to achieve economic and social gains while neglecting  
39 environmental concerns, including climate change. The SDGs are therefore a framework to help  
40 countries address the challenges of development while addressing climate change (Le Blanc 2015),  
41 and are inextricably linked to the Paris Agreement, adopted a few weeks later. A large body of  
42 literature has focused on this linkage and on the socio-economic benefits of addressing climate  
43 change. AR5 provides an overview of the impacts of climate change on several sectors of the  
44 economy, finding that climate change exacerbates existing poverty, accentuates vulnerability and  
45 worsens inequality (IPCC 2014). But there is also a growing body of literature that examines the  
46 interlinkages between SDGs, including SDG 13 and others, concluding that without a proper response  
47 to climate change, success in many of the other SDGs would be difficult if not impossible (ICSU  
48 ISSC 2015; Le Blanc 2015; Nilsson, Mans, Griggs, Dave, Visbek 2016). Initiatives such as The

1 World in 2050 (TWI2050 2018), a large research initiative by a consortium of research and policy  
2 institutions from around the world, are based on the premise that pursuing climate action and  
3 sustainable development in an integrated and coherent way offers the strongest approach to enable  
4 countries to achieve their objectives in both agreements. But, TWI2050 suggests, this can only happen  
5 through truly integrated, comprehensive understanding of sustainable development pathways,  
6 accounting for the interlinkages (TWI2050 2018). In sum, the growing literature is evidence of the  
7 increasing awareness of the development co-benefits of climate mitigation, and linkages between  
8 these two issue areas.

### 9 **14.2.2.3 IPCC 1.5 Special Report**

10 In 2018 the IPCC released a special report on global warming of 1.5°C (IPCC 2018a). The report  
11 assessed on the one hand the differential impacts of limiting climate change to 1.5°C global average  
12 warming compared to 2°C warming, and on the other hand the emissions reductions necessary to stay  
13 within this limit. While the events that have unfolded since the report are recent, and not yet well  
14 documented in the literature, there are arguments that the report has led to a new perception of the  
15 urgency of climate mitigation (Wolf et al. 2019). In particular, the report appears to have crystalized  
16 media coverage around a need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to net zero by 2050, rather than delaying such  
17 reductions until the latter half of the century, as had been previously understood. Its release is hence  
18 one factor explaining the rise in a trans-national climate mobilization efforts (Boykoff and Pearman  
19 2019). There is reason to believe that the adoption of net zero targets for 2050 by a number of  
20 governments – at time of writing most recently by the European Union – follows as a result, although  
21 there is no literature as of yet testing this proposition.  
22

## 23 **14.3 Key concepts and frames for assessing international cooperation**

### 24 **14.3.1 Framing concepts for international climate policy**

25 One of the developments in AR6 is the framing of climate mitigation not only as one of managing  
26 global commons or a public good, but also as one triggering a transformation to a low carbon society.  
27 As described briefly in this section, there are clear points of overlap between these two framings in  
28 the application to challenges of international cooperation, but there are also important differences. A  
29 brief understanding of these issues is important for assessing the value of existing international  
30 cooperation and understanding whether new forms of cooperation are valuable.

31 As pointed out in previous IPCC reports, climate change mitigation can be framed as a public good  
32 because benefits are non-excludable (everybody can enjoy the benefits of a more stable climate) and  
33 non-rival (the enjoyment of a stable climate by one party does not interfere with the enjoyment by  
34 another party) (Stavins et al. 2014). This is consistent with framing climate change as a tragedy of the  
35 commons problem (Gordon 1954; Hardin 1968). This framing implies that, although countries may  
36 abate emissions based on their own interest, they would abate more if they take into account that  
37 reducing their emissions benefits not only themselves but also other countries as well. It also implies  
38 that, although an international agreement could potentially bring the world closer to fully cooperative  
39 abatement levels, such an agreement is difficult to reach and enforce due to the incentives to free-ride  
40 (Gollier and Tirole 2015). The theory does not preclude that one particular country may be interested  
41 in reducing its emissions based only on its own interest, potentially even bringing its greenhouse gas  
42 (GHG) emissions to zero. However, in this case too, the country would be interested in making such a  
43 transition to a zero-carbon economy even faster if it were to take into account the benefits to other  
44 countries. In general, the literature considers that without international cooperation, mitigation efforts  
45 at a global level would be at best modest, mainly due to the free-rider problem (Stavins et al. 2014),  
46 although recent theoretical developments point to factors that can mitigate this (Battaglini and Harstad  
47 2016). The public goods framing suggests that only a fully multilateral binding agreement, covering

1 all the countries of the world, could ensure that countries would take into account all the benefits that  
2 they are inducing to others by reducing their abatement (Stavins et al. 2014). However, given the  
3 difficulties encountered in reaching such an agreement (Asheim et al. 2006; Froyen and Hovi 2008),  
4 recent developments emphasize the importance of regional or sectoral agreements, or agreements  
5 focused on a particular subset of GHGs, which can be seen as building blocks towards a global  
6 approach (Sabel and Victor 2017; Stewart et al. 2017; Caparrós and Péreau 2017). The fact that global  
7 emissions have continued to grow (IPCC 2018b) can be taken as support for the proposition that the  
8 free-rider problem is important.

9 In addition to mitigation, technology innovation (knowledge) also has public good features: it is  
10 generally non-rival and partially non-excludable, resulting in less innovation than ideal in the absence  
11 of public-sector intervention (Jaffe et al. 2005). The combination of infrastructure lock-in, network  
12 effects with high switching cost, and dynamic market failures suggests that deployment and adoption  
13 of clean technologies is path dependent (Aghion et al. 2014; Acemoglu et al. 2012), with a  
14 multiplicity of possible equilibria. This implies that no outcome is guaranteed, although the most  
15 likely pathway will depend on economic expectations and initial conditions of the innovation process  
16 (Krugman 2011). Therefore, the government has a role to play, either by shifting expectations (e.g.  
17 credibly committing to climate policy), or by changing initial conditions (e.g. investing in green  
18 infrastructure or subsidizing clean energy research) (Aghion et al. 2014; Acemoglu et al. 2012). The  
19 general conclusion of this literature is that government intervention is needed, in the form of carbon  
20 taxes and/or subsidies for clean activities (Acemoglu et al. 2014). Introducing the irreversibility of  
21 energy investments, or the extremely long periods of operation of the typical energy investment,  
22 reinforces these results (Baldwin et al. 2019). In fact, not only subsidies but also flexible standards  
23 can be relevant in a dynamic context with irreversible investments, especially due to political  
24 economy considerations (Caparrós et al. 2015).

25 Since AR5 an alternative framing for climate policy has emerged in the scholarly literature. This  
26 framing views the issue as a case of accelerating a set of technological transitions: the wholesale  
27 transformation across different sectors from using one set of technologies (i.e., involving the  
28 combustion of fossil fuels) to produce a set of goods or services to using a different set of  
29 technologies (e.g., those relying on renewable energy sources). The roots of this transitions framing  
30 can be found in evolutionary economics. Here the guiding questions are not concerned with market  
31 failures – and indeed evolutionary economics does not start from a general hypothesis of efficient  
32 markets – but rather the processes that accelerate or postpone changes in economic production and  
33 consumption systems. A core finding is that established technologies enjoy lower production costs –  
34 as a result of past innovation and learning by doing – as well as higher value to consumers, when such  
35 value correlates positively with the number of other people using the same technology. These factors  
36 make it initially costly and unattractive to switch from an established technology to a newer one, even  
37 if the new one is objectively superior (Arthur 1989). This theory has been further developed with a set  
38 of empirical case studies, diving more deeply into social and political processes (Geels 2002).

39 As described in Chapter 1 of this report, theories of transitions suggest that overcoming lock-in, and  
40 enabling new technologies to flourish, often requires government action. This may be for the purpose  
41 of stimulating technological research and development, but also for adapting the ‘regime’ within  
42 which technologies operate – including physical infrastructure networks, firm production capacities,  
43 and institutional frameworks – in order to fit the new technologies’ particular performance profiles  
44 (Mazzucato 2016; Geels 2002; Grubb 2014). In the case of climate change, the transitions framing  
45 suggests other possible causes for continued emissions of GHGs, compared to a market-failure  
46 framing and the emphasis on free-riding, and a somewhat different policy architecture in order to end  
47 them (Geels et al. 2017). Most importantly, neither the presence of a negative environmental  
48 externality nor the possibility for free-riding plays a major role in the transitions framing, and the



1 correction of such an externality may do little to induce change (Patt and Lilliestam 2018). Once the  
2 ‘lock-in’ factors have been addressed in this manner, the clean technology may require no continued  
3 policy support in order to maintain market dominance vis-à-vis the polluting one (Lilliestam et al.  
4 2012).

5 With respect to considerations of international cooperation, the two framings call attention to different  
6 indicators of progress, and potentially different types of cooperative action. Within the public goods  
7 or global commons framing, the primary indicator of progress is the actual level of GHG emissions,  
8 and the effectiveness of policies can be measured in terms of whether such emissions rise or fall (Patt  
9 and Lilliestam 2018). In the transitions framing, by contrast, emissions levels are the end (and often  
10 greatly delayed) result of a large number of transformative processes. A given policy may be effective  
11 at stimulating such processes, even if a change in emissions is not yet evident (Patt 2017). In the  
12 public goods or global commons framing, there is traditionally an emphasis on treaties containing  
13 binding commitments (Olmstead and Stavins 2012), which are self-enforcing, as a way of dealing  
14 with the overarching problem of free-ridership (Barrett 1994; Finus and Caparrós 2015). In the  
15 transitions framing, by contrast, the emphasis is on treaties providing mechanisms to support parties’  
16 voluntary actions, such as with financial and capacity-building support for new technologies and  
17 technology regimes within specific economic sectors (Geels et al. 2019).

### 18 19 **14.3.2 Mitigation links to adaptation, loss and damage, human rights and sustainable** 20 **development**

21 As discussed in chapter 1, the emerging framing for the issue of climate mitigation is that it is no  
22 longer to be considered in isolation but rather in the context of its linkages with other areas.  
23 Adaptation, loss and damage, human rights and sustainable development are all areas where there are  
24 clear or potential overlaps, synergies, and conflicts with the cooperation underway in relation to  
25 mitigation.

26 Adaptation involves actions to lessen the harm associated with climate change, or take advantage of  
27 potential gains (Smit and Wandel 2006). It can seek to reduce exposure to specific climate risks  
28 (Adger et al. 2003), mainstream climate information into existing planning efforts (Gupta et al. 2010),  
29 and reduce vulnerability (or increase resilience) of people or communities to the effects of climate  
30 change (Kasperson and Kasperson 2001). There is a body of literature highlighting potential synergies  
31 and conflicts between adaptation actions – in any of the three areas above – and mitigation actions  
32 (Watkiss et al. 2015; Casado-Asensio and Steurer 2014; Suckall et al. 2015; Locatelli et al. 2011;  
33 Duguma et al. 2014). Distinct from project or programmatic level activities, however, international  
34 cooperation for adaptation operates to provide finance and technical assistance (Bouwer and Aerts  
35 2006). In some cases it involves transboundary actions, such as in the case of transboundary  
36 watershed management (Milman et al. 2013; Wilder et al. 2010). In others it involves the  
37 mainstreaming of climate change projections into existing treaties, such as for the protection of  
38 migratory species (Trouwborst et al. 2012).

39 International cooperation in adaptation and in mitigation share many of the same challenges,  
40 including the need for effective institutions. The UNFCCC, for example, addresses international  
41 financial support for adaptation and for mitigation in the same general category, and subjects them to  
42 the same sets of institutional constraints (Peterson and Skovgaard 2019). At a more general level,  
43 Sovacool and Linnér (2016) argue that the history of the UNFCCC and its sub-agreements has been  
44 shaped by an implicit bargain that developing countries participate in global mitigation policy in  
45 return for receiving financial and technical assistance for adaptation and development from  
46 industrialized countries. Khan and Roberts (2013) contend that this played out poorly under the Kyoto  
47 framework: the Protocol’s basic architecture, oriented around legally binding commitments, was not

1 amenable to merging the issues of adaptation and mitigation. Kuyper et al. (2018a) argue that the  
2 movement from Kyoto to Paris represents a shift in this regard; Paris was designed not primarily as a  
3 mitigation policy instrument, but rather one encompassing mitigation, adaptation, and development  
4 concerns. While this argument suggests that the Paris architecture, involving voluntary mitigation  
5 actions and a greater attention to issues of financial support and transparency, functions better to  
6 leverage adaptation support into meaningful mitigation actions, this issue is not directly examined in  
7 the literature.

8 There are recognized limits to adaptation (Dow et al. 2013), and exceeding these limits results in loss  
9 and damage, a topic that is gathering salience in the policy discourse. The term ‘loss and damage’  
10 refers to an evolving legal framework that covers issues of liability for the losses that states incur due  
11 to climate change, and the technical assistance to reduce those losses. The climate change regime has  
12 attempted to address the less controversial aspects of this. UNFCCC parties established the Warsaw  
13 international mechanism (WIM) to address loss and damage associated with climate change in  
14 particularly vulnerable developing countries (UNFCCC 2014), and the Paris Agreement contains a  
15 stand-alone article on loss and damage (see section 14.4.2.12). There are direct links between climate  
16 mitigation efforts, adaptation and loss and damage - the higher the collective mitigation ambition, and  
17 the likelihood of achieving it, the lower the need for adaptation and likelihood of loss and damage.  
18 The liability of states, either individually or collectively, for loss and damage is contested, and no  
19 litigation has yet been successfully launched to pursue such claims. The science of attribution,  
20 however, is developing (Marjanac and Patton 2018), and while it has the potential to address the  
21 thorny issue of causation, and thus compensation, it could also be used to develop strategies for  
22 climate resilience (James et al. 2014). There are additional links between climate mitigation efforts  
23 and liability for loss and damage that have not been explored in the literature, for instance the  
24 question of whether a state engaged in aggressive mitigation policies, and with an ambitious NDC,  
25 should be wholly or partly absolved of legal liability for loss and damage, should such liability ever  
26 come to pass.

27 Sustainable development refers to meeting the needs of the present generation – especially in  
28 countries where many needs are currently unmet – in a manner that will allow future generations to  
29 meet their needs as well (WCED 1987). The international agendas for mitigation and for sustainable  
30 development have shaped each other, around concepts such as common but differentiated  
31 responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as the distinction – in the UNFCCC and later the  
32 Kyoto Protocol – between Annex I and non-Annex I countries (Patt 2015; Victor 2011). The same  
33 implicit bargain that developing countries would support mitigation efforts in return for assistance  
34 with respect to adaptation also applies to support for development (Sovacool and Linnér 2016). That  
35 linkage between mitigation and sustainable development has become even more specific with the  
36 Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each of which explicitly pursues  
37 a set of goals that encompass both mitigation and development (Schmieg et al. 2017), reflecting the  
38 recognition that achieving sustainable development and climate mitigation goals are mutually  
39 dependent (Gomez-Echeverri 2018). It is well-accepted that the long-term effects of climate  
40 mitigation will benefit sustainable development. A more contested finding is whether the mitigation  
41 actions themselves promote or hinder short-term poverty alleviation. One study, analysing the  
42 economic effects of developing countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions, finds that mitigation  
43 actions slow down poverty reduction efforts (Campagnolo and Davide 2019). Other studies suggest  
44 possible synergies between low-carbon development and economic development (Hanger et al. 2016;  
45 Labordena et al. 2017a). Where these studies typically converge is that financial assistance flowing  
46 from developed to developing countries enhances any possible synergies or lessens the conflicts.

47 The literature also identifies institutional synergies at the international level, related to the importance  
48 of addressing climate change and development in an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive

1 manner across constituencies, sectors and administrative and geographical boundaries (Le Blanc  
2 2015). Also stressed is the important role that robust institutions have in making this happen,  
3 including in international cooperation in key sectors for climate action as well for development  
4 (Waage et al. 2015). Since the publication of AR5, which emphasized the need for a type of  
5 development that combines both mitigation and adaptation as a way to strengthen resilience, much of  
6 the literature has focused on ways to address these linkages and the role institutions play in key  
7 sectors that are often the subject of international cooperation – for example, environmental and soil  
8 degradation, climate, energy, water resources, forestry (Hogl et al. 2016).

### 10 **14.3.3 Lessons from the implementation of other environmental agreements**

11 In assessing international cooperation on climate mitigation, lessons from the implementation of other  
12 multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) provide guidance, particularly ‘successful’  
13 agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol (Green 2009). There is a great deal of literature on this  
14 topic, most of which predates AR5, and which we will therefore not cover in detail here. Issues  
15 include ways to enhance compliance, and the fact that a low level of compliance with an MEA does  
16 not necessarily mean that the MEA has no effect (Weiss and Jacobson 1998; Victor et al. 1998;  
17 Downs et al. 1996). Recent research examines effectiveness from the viewpoint of the extent to which  
18 an MEA influences domestic action, including the adoption of implementing legislation and policies  
19 (Brandi et al. 2019). Evaluations of effectiveness typically require comparing observed results under  
20 an agreement with a theoretically driven counterfactual scenario, and the literature suggests  
21 challenges associated with this (Helm and Sprinz 2000; Hovi et al. 2003a; Young 2001, 2003; Hovi et  
22 al. 2003b). Furthermore, it is crucial to take into account the fundamental problem structure (such as  
23 the centrality of the behaviour causing the problem to the global economy), as well as the existing  
24 institutional capacities (Mitchell 2006; Miles et al. 2002; Young 2013, 2011). The Montreal Protocol,  
25 for example, may not be instructive in solving climate change, because the former was facilitated by  
26 factors such as the technically discoverable and calculable stock of ozone depleting chemicals, and the  
27 availability of commercially viable substitutes (Falkner 1998; DeSombre 2000; Parson 2003). On the  
28 other hand some features of the regime may be transferable, such as the provision of financial  
29 assistance to developing countries through the Multilateral Ozone Fund, which maximized  
30 participation by providing incentives for states to become party to the Protocol and its amendments  
31 (Benedick 1998; Barrett 2011), as well as the ‘ratcheting up’ of its commitments through an  
32 adjustment mechanism that does not require formal treaty amendments (Young 2016).

33 The Paris Agreement heralds a new era of ‘hybrid multilateralism’ (Bäckstrand et al. 2017) with  
34 greater flexibility for recognizing the benefits of working in diverse forms and groups and allowing  
35 for more decentralized ‘polycentric’ forms of governance that engage diverse actors at the regional,  
36 national and sub-national levels (Victor 2016; Jordan et al. 2015; Falkner 2016; Ostrom 2010). In this  
37 context, lessons drawn from studies of MEA regimes need to be supplemented with assessments of  
38 the effectiveness of cooperative efforts at other governance levels and in other forums. Emerging  
39 research in this area proposes methodologies for this task (Hsu et al. 2019a). Findings highlight the  
40 persistence of similar imbalances between developed and developing countries as at the global level,  
41 as well as the need for more effective ways to incentivize private sector engagement in transnational  
42 climate governance (Bansard et al. 2017; Chan et al. 2018b).

### 43 **14.3.4 Criteria and indicators for assessing effectiveness**

44 Building on these insights, we identify the following assessment criteria and indicators for different  
45 forms of international cooperation. These criteria and indicators strike a balance between applying the  
46 same standards developed and applied to international cooperation in AR5, maintaining consistency  
47 with other chapters of this report (primarily Chapters 1, 4, 13, and 15), and reflecting new

1 developments in social science theory. Table 14.1 provides an overview of the criteria and indicators,  
2 and the remainder of this section describes them in greater detail.

3

4 **Table 14.1 Criteria and indicators for assessing effectiveness of international cooperation**

Criterion	Indicators
Environmental effectiveness	AFOLU: limits CO <sub>2</sub> emissions AFOLU: limits other emissions of other Kyoto Annex A gases Non-AFOLU: limits CO <sub>2</sub> emissions Non-AFOLU: limits emissions of other Kyoto Annex A gases Non-AFOLU: limits emissions of non-Annex A gases
Transformative potential	Improves the cost/performance frontier of low-carbon technologies Promotes increased investment flows into low-carbon pathways Promotes low-carbon infrastructure planning and construction Improves low-carbon engineering and institutional capacity Promotes technologies or regimes for non-AFOLU negative emissions Advances technologies or institutions to manage solar radiation modification
Distributive outcomes	Industrialized country leadership in mitigation actions Differentiation in favour of developing countries Promotion of co-benefits
Economic performance	Cost effectiveness: reaches targets in a least-cost manner Efficiency: maximises the net benefits to society
Institutional strength	Regulative quality Mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability Administrative capacity

5

6 A critical aspect of any environmental policy evaluation, including policies in the domain of  
7 international cooperation, is whether they do in fact lead to a change in the physical environment. It is  
8 clear that separate actions are required in different economic sectors (Chapters 1 and 13), and that  
9 achieving temperature targets such as 1.5°C – 2°C requires progress in all areas (Chapter 17). For that  
10 reason, it is essential not to group all actions together, but rather to ensure that progress with respect  
11 to environmental effectiveness is being made in each of many separate areas. Following this, and  
12 consistent with Chapter 4, we distinguish between progress made in the AFOLU sector, and that made  
13 in all other sectors. Furthermore, we distinguish between different types of gases, as these reflect  
14 different types of activities. Within the AFOLU sector, for example, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which mainly  
15 result from land management practices such as deforestation, while other greenhouse gases such as  
16 methane result from agricultural practices, as well as societal dietary choices such as meat  
17 consumption. Outside the AFOLU sector, CO<sub>2</sub> primarily comes from the use of fossil energy, while  
18 other gases listed in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol are covered by agreements with respect to

1 chemicals used in industry, such as the Montreal Protocol. A third group of gases, not included in  
2 Kyoto Annex A, have been recognized to have a substantial greenhouse forcing potential, including  
3 water vapour and particulates from the aviation sector (Chen and Gettelman 2013), and black carbon  
4 from biomass burning (Peng et al. 2016).

5 As is recognized throughout this report, the achievement of climate objectives such as limiting global  
6 average warming to 1.5°C – 2°C will require the transition from high- to low-carbon technologies,  
7 and the transformation of the sectors within which those technologies operate. It is clear that such  
8 transformations are not linear processes, and hence many of the early steps taken – such as supporting  
9 early diffusion of new renewable energy technologies – will have little immediate effect on GHG  
10 emissions (Patt 2015; Geels et al. 2017). Hence the effect of policies and cooperative frameworks that  
11 are potentially important for such transformation to take place may not appear in terms of their current  
12 environmental effectiveness, but rather in their laying the groundwork for future policies that will be  
13 environmentally effective. Consistent with Chapter 1 of this report, we frame the causal pathways by  
14 which transformation occurs according to the “multi-level perspective”, or MLP, which in turn  
15 suggests three main areas where changes lead to transformation: at the level of individual new  
16 technologies, often operating in distinct niches; at the level of sector-specific regimes, which  
17 encompass infrastructure networks, supply chains, and governance institutions; and at the level of the  
18 societal landscape within which those regimes operate (Geels 2002). Shifts in niche technologies and  
19 regimes are influenced heavily by policy (Mazzucato 2016). Four indicators to cover these two levels  
20 can be identified: improvements in specific low-carbon technologies; levels of investment in the  
21 sectoral regime that are favourable to the low-carbon technologies; planning and development of  
22 infrastructure networks consistent with the envisioned transformation; and, capacity raising efforts in  
23 ways that will provide the institutional and human capital requirements for the new regime. Finally,  
24 there is a need to pay particular attention to two sets of technologies and associated regimes that  
25 cannot necessarily be considered low carbon, and yet which fall within this report: negative emission  
26 technologies lying outside of the AFOLU sector, such as ocean fertilization or direct air capture of  
27 CO<sub>2</sub> coupled to carbon storage (DACCS); and, solar radiation modification.

28 Equity is of central importance to the climate change debate, and hence for evaluating the effects of  
29 policies. This is reflected in the climate regime’s principle of “common but differentiated  
30 responsibilities and respective capabilities” (Art 3, UNFCCC 1992), with the added dimension of “in  
31 light of different national circumstances” in the Paris Agreement (Art 2), and repeated references to  
32 “equity” in the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the Paris Rulebook (Rajamani and Guérin 2017;  
33 Winkler 2019). Equity encompasses the notion of distributive justice which refers to the distribution  
34 of goods, burdens, costs and benefits among agents (Kverndokk 2018). Drawing on cues from the  
35 international climate change regime, the following indicators can be identified to assess the  
36 effectiveness of intra-generational distribution of burdens and benefits: industrialized country  
37 leadership in mitigation actions; differentiation in favour of developing countries, both in terms of a  
38 recognition of their diminished capacity to respond, as well as in the availability of support for  
39 mitigation; and, the extent to which climate mitigation promotes co-benefits, and is embedded in  
40 larger sustainable development actions. There are inextricable links between inter-and intra-  
41 generational equity, in that in so far as inequities remain or are accentuated in current generations  
42 through current climate policies, future generations will be left with a greater burden of climate  
43 impacts, and of addressing such inequities.

44 As described in AR5, measuring the aggregate economic performance of a climate policy requires a  
45 consideration both of its economic efficiency and its cost-effectiveness. Economic efficiency refers to  
46 the maximization of net benefits, the difference between total social benefits and total social costs.  
47 Cost-effectiveness refers to the ability of a policy to attain a prescribed level of environmental  
48 performance at least cost, taking into account impacts on dynamic efficiency, notably technological

1 innovation. Unlike net benefit assessment, cost-effectiveness analysis takes the environmental  
2 performance of a policy as given and seeks the least-cost strategy to attain it.

3 The literature on the performance of other MEAs highlights the importance of institutional factors.  
4 Here, we identify three indicators: regulative quality; mechanisms to enhance transparency and  
5 accountability; and administrative capacity. Regulative quality has two dimensions: first, institutions  
6 and agreements have a fundamental guidance and signalling function (Oberthür et al. 2017). This  
7 derives from the principles and objectives on which they are commonly based (and hence from the  
8 normative dimension of international institutions). The second dimension relates to clear rules and  
9 standards to facilitate collective action. These rules and standards can be procedural or substantive,  
10 and entail obligations of conduct or of result (Oberthür and Bodle 2016). There is an important  
11 distinction to be made between legally binding obligations (which require the formal expression of  
12 state consent) and non-binding recommendations. Although binding rules are formally stronger than  
13 non-binding ones and could be expected to lead to greater behavioural change, research on  
14 international environmental cooperation indicates that non-binding international declarations can be  
15 just as effective, under certain conditions (Skjærseth et al. 2006). There is also an important  
16 distinction to be made between the form of an agreement (could be binding, such as a treaty) and the  
17 character of obligations within it (could be on a spectrum of bindingness) (Rajamani 2016a).  
18 Mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability are essential to collect and analyse relevant  
19 data about parties' implementation of their obligations, and to identify and address challenges in  
20 implementation. Institutions/secretariats may collect and aggregate data themselves or – more  
21 commonly – rely on self-reporting by parties, and this may dovetail with compliance procedures and  
22 mechanisms. Administrative capacity refers to the strength of the formal bodies established to serve  
23 the parties to the regime and help ensure compliance and goal attainment (Biermann and Siebenhüner  
24 2009; Bauer et al. 2017). An important dimension of this is the capacity of the secretariat, in particular  
25 whether its size and expertise is adequate in light of the breadth of participation in the regime, and the  
26 complexity of the regulatory architecture.

## 28 **14.4 International cooperation through global agreements**

### 29 **14.4.1 The international climate change regime**

30 The international climate change regime, in evolution for three decades, comprises the 1992  
31 UNFCCC, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and the 2015 Paris Agreement. The UNFCCC is a 'framework'  
32 convention, capturing broad convergence among states on an objective, a set of principles, and  
33 general obligations relating to mitigation, adaptation, reporting and support. It also establishes the  
34 institutional building blocks for global climate governance.

35 The Kyoto Protocol concretizes the general obligations in the UNFCCC for developed countries,  
36 specifying GHG emissions reduction targets for the 2008-2012 commitment period for countries  
37 listed in Annex I to the UNFCCC (UNFCCC 1997, Art. 3 and Annex B). The Kyoto Protocol entered  
38 into force in 2005. Shortly thereafter, states began negotiating a second commitment period under the  
39 Protocol, as well as to expand the coverage of parties with GHG mitigation commitments.

40 At COP 13 in Bali in 2007 parties adopted the *Bali Action Plan* that launched negotiations aimed at a  
41 new agreement providing for the UNFCCC's 'full, effective and sustained implementation.' The  
42 agreement was to be adopted at COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009, but negotiations failed to deliver a  
43 consensus document. The result instead was the *Copenhagen Accord*, which was taken note of by the  
44 COP; while it was a political agreement operating outside of the UNFCCC, it reflected significant  
45 progress on several fronts: setting a goal of limiting global temperature increase to 2°C; calling on all  
46 countries to put forward mitigation pledges; establishing broad terms for the reporting and verification

1 of countries' actions; setting a goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 in public and private  
2 finance for developing countries; and, calling for the establishment of a new Green Climate Fund  
3 (Rogelj et al. 2010; Rajamani 2010). Following the Copenhagen Accord, the European Union (EU)  
4 approached developing countries that shared its desire for a legally binding regime covering all major  
5 emitters, and explored compromises with veto players, such as China and the United States (US). This  
6 bridge-building strategy was combined with a conditional pledge to agree to an extension of the  
7 Kyoto Protocol (Bäckstrand and Elgström 2013).

8 At COP 16 in Cancun in 2010, parties adopted a set of decisions termed the *Cancun Agreements* that  
9 effectively formalized the core elements of the Copenhagen Accord under the UNFCCC. The Cancun  
10 Agreements were regarded as an interim arrangement through to 2020, and parties left the door open  
11 to further negotiations toward a legally binding successor to the Kyoto Protocol (Freestone 2010; Liu  
12 2011).

13 At the 2011 Durban climate conference, parties launched negotiations for 'a Protocol, another legal  
14 instrument or agreed outcome with legal force' with a scheduled end to the negotiations in 2015  
15 (UNFCCC 2012b, Dec. 1, para. 2). At the 2012 Doha climate conference, parties adopted a second  
16 commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, running from 2013-2020. This has yet to enter into force  
17 as only 134 of the required 144 countries (3/4 of Kyoto Parties) have thus far ratified the Doha  
18 amendment. In any case, the Kyoto Protocol is unlikely to continue beyond 2020 (Bodansky,  
19 Brunnée, & Rajamani, 2017). At the end of the compliance assessment period under the Kyoto  
20 Protocol, Annex B parties were in full compliance with their targets, in some cases, through the use of  
21 the Protocol's flexibility mechanisms (Shishlov et al. 2016).

22 The Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement represent fundamentally different approaches to  
23 international cooperation on climate change (Falkner 2016; Held and Roger 2018); the latter is  
24 characterized as a 'decisive break' from the former (Keohane and Oppenheimer 2016). The mitigation  
25 efforts under the Kyoto Protocol take the form of multilaterally negotiated targets, whereas under the  
26 Paris Agreement parties have 'nationally determined' contributions. Some have characterized this as a  
27 distinction between a 'top down' and 'bottom up' approach (Doelle 2016; Chan 2016). The Kyoto  
28 Protocol's core obligations are legally binding, substantive obligations of result. By contrast, the Paris  
29 Agreement's core obligations are legally binding procedural obligations, complemented by  
30 obligations of conduct (Rajamani 2016b).

31 The broad differences between the two treaties are summarized in Table 14.2 below. The Kyoto  
32 targets apply only to developed country/Annex B parties, but the procedural obligations relating to  
33 NDCs in the Paris Agreement apply to all parties, with some flexibilities for Least Developed  
34 Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDs), and developing countries that need it in  
35 light of their capacities. The Kyoto targets are housed in its Annex B, therefore requiring a formal  
36 process of amendment for revision, whereas the Paris NDCs are located in an online registry that  
37 parties can operate themselves. The Kyoto Protocol allows Annex B parties to use three market-based  
38 mechanisms – the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation and Emissions  
39 Trading – to fulfil their GHG targets. The Paris Agreement permits parties to cooperate voluntarily on  
40 markets, subject to rules relating to integrity and accounting. The Kyoto Protocol contains an  
41 extensive reporting and review process, backed by a compliance mechanism. This mechanism  
42 includes an enforcement branch, to ensure compliance, and sanction non-compliance, with its GHG  
43 targets. By contrast, the Paris Agreement relies on informational requirements and flows to enhance  
44 the clarity of NDCs, and to track progress in the implementation and achievement of NDCs.

45  
46 **Table 14.2 Key differences between the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol**

Feature	Kyoto Protocol	Paris Agreement
Objective	Primarily mitigation-focused (although in continuation of UNFCCC objective, which refers to food security and sustainable development)	Mitigation in line with a long-term temperature goal, adaptation and finance goals, as well as sustainable development and equity
Architecture	Multilaterally negotiated ('top-down') with differentiated targets based on national offers	Nationally determined ('bottom-up' or 'hybrid') with contributions subject to transparency and multilateral consideration of progress
Coverage of mitigation-related obligations	Developed country parties (Annex I/Annex B)	All parties
Targets	Legally-binding, differentiated targets inscribed in treaty	Non-binding pledges incorporated in parties' NDCs but subject to several normative expectations relating inter alia to progression and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances, in their formulation
Timetable	Two commitment periods (2008-2012; 2013-2020 – latter not yet in force)	Initial NDCs for timeframes 2025 or 2030 with new NDCs every five years
Implementation	Flexibility mechanisms (emissions trading, joint implementation, CDM)	Voluntary cooperation on mitigation; encouragement of REDD+
Transparency	Reporting and review – developed country parties only	Enhanced transparency framework and five-yearly global stocktake for a collective assessment of progress towards goals – all parties
Compliance	Compliance committee with facilitative and enforcement branches; sanctions for non-compliance	Facilitative compliance committee; no sanctions

1

## 2 14.4.2 Paris Agreement

3 The 2015 Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC is at the centre of international cooperative efforts for  
4 climate change mitigation and adaptation in the post-2020 period. Although its legal form was heavily  
5 disputed in its four-year negotiating process (Maljean-Dubois and Wemaëre 2016; Rajamani 2015;  
6 Bodansky et al. 2017), the Paris Agreement is a treaty containing provisions of differing levels of  
7 “bindingness” (Bodansky 2016; Oberthür and Bodle 2016; Rajamani 2015). The legal character of  
8 provisions within a treaty, and the extent to which particular provisions lend themselves to



1 assessments of compliance or non-compliance, depends, *inter alia*, on the normative content of the  
2 provision, the precision of its terms, the language used, and the oversight mechanisms in place  
3 (Bodansky 2015; Oberthür and Bodle 2016; Rajamani 2016a; Werksman 2010). Assessed on these  
4 criteria, the Paris Agreement contains the full spectrum of provisions, from hard to soft law (Pickering  
5 et al. 2019; Rajamani 2016a) and even non-law, which plays a narrative-building and context-setting  
6 role (Rajamani 2016a). The key features of the Paris Agreement are set out in Box 14.1.

7 The centrepiece of the Paris Agreement is a set of binding procedural obligations requiring parties to  
8 ‘prepare, communicate, and maintain’ ‘nationally determined contributions’ (NDCs) (UNFCCC 2015,  
9 Art. 4.2) every five years (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.9). These obligations are complemented by: (1) an  
10 ‘ambition cycle’ that expects parties’ successive NDCs, informed by five-yearly global stocktakes  
11 (Art 14), to represent a progression on their previous NDCs (Bodansky, Brunnée, & Rajamani, 2017;  
12 UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 4.3), and (2) an ‘enhanced transparency framework’ that places extensive  
13 informational demands on parties, and establishes review processes to enable tracking of progress  
14 towards achievement of NDCs (Oberthür and Bodle 2016). In contrast to the ‘top-down’ Kyoto  
15 Protocol with its internationally inscribed targets and timetable for emissions reduction, the Paris  
16 Agreement is a hybrid of ‘bottom-up’ national pledges embedded in an international system of  
17 transparency and accountability (Doelle 2016; Maljean-Dubois and Wemaëre 2016), which promises  
18 more durable international cooperation (Falkner 2016).

#### 19 **14.4.2.1 Context, objective and purpose**

20 The preamble of the Paris Agreement lists several factors that provide the interpretative context for  
21 the Agreement (Carazo 2017; Bodansky et al. 2017), including a reference to human rights. The  
22 human rights implications of climate impacts garnered particular attention in the lead up to Paris  
23 (Duyck 2015; Mayer 2016). In particular, the Human Rights Council, its special procedures  
24 mechanisms, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, through a series of  
25 resolutions, reports, and activities, advocated a rights-based approach to climate impacts, and sought  
26 to integrate this approach in the climate change regime. The Paris Agreement’s preambular recital on  
27 human rights recommends that parties take into account ‘their respective obligations on human rights’  
28 (UNFCCC 2015, preambular recital 14), a first for an environmental treaty (Knox 2016). The  
29 ‘respective obligations’ referred to in the Paris Agreement include those relating to the right to life  
30 (UNGA 1948, Art. 3, 1966, Art. 6), right to health (UNGA 1966b, Art. 12), right to an adequate  
31 standard of living, including the right to food (UNGA 1966b, Art. 11), which has been read to include  
32 the right to water and sanitation (CESCR 2002, 2010), the right to housing (CESCR 1991), and the  
33 right to self-determination (UNGA 1966a,b, Art. 1). In addition, climate impacts contribute to  
34 displacement and migration (Mcadam 2016; Mayer and Crépeau 2016), and have disproportionate  
35 effects on women (Pearse 2017). There are differing views on the value and operational impact of the  
36 human rights recital in the Paris Agreement (Adelman 2018; Boyle 2018; Savaresi 2018; Duyck et al.  
37 2018; Knox 2019; Rajamani 2018), and notwithstanding opportunities to mainstream and  
38 operationalize human rights in the climate regime post-Paris (Duyck et al. 2018), the 2018 Paris  
39 Rulebook contains limited and guarded references to human rights (Duyck 2019; Rajamani 2019).

40 The overall purpose of international cooperation through the Paris Agreement is to enhance the  
41 implementation of the UNFCCC, including its objective of stabilizing atmospheric GHG  
42 concentrations ‘at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate  
43 system’ (UNFCCC 1992, Art. 2). The Paris Agreement’s aims to strengthen the global response to the  
44 threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, by  
45 ‘[h]olding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial  
46 levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels’  
47 (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 2(1)(a)). This is a single temperature goal with two inseparable elements, the  
48 well below 2°C goal pressing towards 1.5°C (Rajamani and Werksman 2018). Although having a long

1 term goal has clear advantages, the literature has stressed that the long periods of time involved imply  
2 that the challenge of credible commitment over time looms (Urpelainen 2011). As noted by (Gerlagh  
3 and Michielsen 2015), even if available information does not change, future regulators may have  
4 incentives to relax current climate plans. Their numerical illustration shows that this may have a  
5 significant effect on the GHG stabilization level finally achieved.

6 As the risks of adverse climate impacts, even 2°C, are profound, the objective extends to increasing  
7 adaptive capacity and fostering climate resilience (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 2(1)(b)), as well as  
8 redirecting investment and finance flows (Thorgeirsson, 2017; UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 2(1)(c)). The  
9 finance and adaptation goals are not quantified in the Paris Agreement, but the temperature goal and  
10 the pathways they generate will enable a quantitative assessment of the resources necessary to reach  
11 these goals, and the nature of the impacts requiring adaptation (Rajamani and Werksman 2018). The  
12 decision accompanying the Paris Agreement records an agreement to set a new collective quantified  
13 goal prior to 2025 (not explicitly limited to developed countries), with \$100 per year as a floor  
14 (Bodansky et al. 2017b; UNFCCC 2016a, para. 53) . The objective also references sustainable  
15 development and poverty eradication, and underscores the need to integrate the SDGs in the  
16 implementation of the Paris Agreement (Sindico 2016).

17 The Paris Agreement’s objective is accompanied by an expectation that the Agreement ‘will be’  
18 implemented to ‘reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and  
19 respective capabilities (CBDRRC), in the light of different national circumstances’ (UNFCCC 2015,  
20 Art. 2.2). This carefully drafted provision generates an expectation that parties will implement the  
21 agreement to reflect CBDRRC, and is not an obligation to do so (Rajamani 2016b). Further, the  
22 inclusion of the term ‘in light of different national circumstances’ introduces a dynamic element into  
23 the interpretation of the CBDRRC principle. As national circumstances evolve, the application of the  
24 principle will also evolve (Rajamani 2016b). This change in the articulation of the CBDRRC principle  
25 is reflected in the shifts in the nature and extent of differentiation in the climate change regime  
26 (Maljean-Dubois 2016; Rajamani 2016b; Voigt and Ferreira 2016a), including through a shift towards  
27 ‘procedurally-oriented differentiation’ for developing countries (Huggins and Karim 2016).

28 Although NDCs are developed by individual state parties, the Paris Agreement requires that these are  
29 undertaken by parties ‘with a view’ to achieving the Agreement’s purpose and collectively ‘represent  
30 a progression over time’ (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 3). The Paris Agreement also encourages parties to  
31 align the ambition of their NDCs with the temperature goal through the Agreement’s ‘ambition cycle’,  
32 thus imparting operational relevance to the temperature goal (Rajamani and Werksman 2018). Article  
33 4(1) contains a further non-binding requirement that parties ‘aim’ to reach global peaking of GHG ‘as  
34 soon as possible’ and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter to achieve net zero emissions ‘in the  
35 second half of the century’. Coupling this requirement with the long-term temperature goal in Article  
36 2.1(a) implies a need to reach net zero emissions considerably in advance of 2100; for example, by  
37 between 2045-2060 in energy systems (Rogelj et al. 2015). This, in turn, may imply resorting to  
38 carbon dioxide removal technologies (IPCC 2018c) on which there are divergent views. The Paris  
39 Rulebook, agreed at the Agreement’s first meeting of the parties in 2018, further strengthens the  
40 operational relevance of the temperature goal by requiring parties to provide information when  
41 submitting their NDCs on how these contribute towards achieving the objective identified in  
42 UNFCCC Article 2, and Paris Agreement Articles 2.1 (a) and 4.1 (UNFCCC 2019a, Annex I, para. 7).

#### 43 **14.4.2.2 NDCs, progression and ambition**

44 Each party to the Paris Agreement has a binding procedural obligation to ‘prepare, communicate and  
45 maintain’ successive NDCs ‘that it intends to achieve.’ Parties have a further binding procedural  
46 obligation to ‘pursue domestic mitigation measures’ (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.2). These procedural  
47 obligations are coupled with an obligation of conduct to make best efforts to achieve the objectives of  
48 NDCs (Mayer 2018; Rajamani 2016b).

1 The framing and content of NDCs is thus largely left up to parties, although certain normative  
2 expectations apply. These include developed country leadership through these parties undertaking  
3 economy-wide absolute emissions reduction targets (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.4), as well as  
4 ‘progression and highest possible ambition’ (Art 4.3). There is ‘a firm expectation’ that for every five  
5 year cycle a party puts forward a new NDC that is ‘more ambitious than their last’ (Rajamani 2016b).  
6 While what represents a party’s highest possible ambition and progression is not prescribed by the  
7 Agreement or elaborated in the Paris Rulebook (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019), these obligations  
8 could be read to imply a due diligence standard (Voigt and Ferreira 2016b).

9 In communicating their NDCs, every five years (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.9), all parties have a binding  
10 obligation to ‘provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding’  
11 (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.8). These requirements are further elaborated in the Paris Rulebook  
12 (UNFCCC 2019b; Doelle 2019) . This includes binding requirements—for Parties’ second and  
13 subsequent NDCs—to provide quantifiable information on the reference point e.g. base year,  
14 reference indicators and target relative to the reference indicator (UNFCCC 2019a, Annex I). It also  
15 requires parties to provide information on how they consider their contribution ‘fair and ambitious in  
16 light of different national circumstances’, and how they address the normative expectations of  
17 developed country leadership, progression and highest possible ambition (UNFCCC 2019a, Annex I,  
18 para. 6). However, parties are required to provide the enumerated information only ‘as applicable’ to  
19 their NDC (UNFCCC 2019a, Annex I, para. 7). This allows parties to determine the informational  
20 requirements placed on them through their choice of NDC. In respect of parties’ first NDCs or NDCs  
21 updated before 2020, such quantifiable information ‘may’ be included, ‘as appropriate’, signalling a  
22 softer requirement (UNFCCC 2019a, Annex I, para. 9).

23 Parties’ first NDCs submitted to the registry maintained by the UNFCCC vary in terms of type of  
24 NDC, reference points, time frames, and scope and coverage of GHGs. A significant number of NDCs  
25 include an adaptation component, and several NDCs are conditional, for instance, on the use of  
26 market mechanisms or on the availability of support (UNFCCC 2016b). There are variations across  
27 NDCs with many omitting important mitigation sectors, providing little detail on financing  
28 implementation, and poorly designed to meet assessment and review needs (Pauw et al. 2018). These  
29 variations make it challenging to aggregate the efforts of countries and compare them to each other  
30 (Carraro 2016). For countries with NDCs conditional on the provision of support, international  
31 cooperation on finance, technology and capacity-building is essential for fulfilment of their NDCs  
32 (Kissinger et al. 2019). For others with NDCs conditional on the use of market mechanisms,  
33 international cooperation on markets is essential. Although parties attempted to discipline the  
34 variation in NDCs, including whether they could be conditional, through elaborating the ‘features’ of  
35 NDCs in the Rulebook, no agreement was possible on this. Thus, parties continue to enjoy  
36 considerable national discretion in the formulation of NDCs (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019;  
37 Weikmans et al. 2019).

38 There are several approaches to evaluating NDCs incorporating indicators such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,  
39 GDP, energy intensity of GDP, CO<sub>2</sub> per energy unit, CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of fossil fuels, and share of fossil  
40 fuels in total energy use (Peters et al. 2017). However, some favour approaches that use metrics  
41 beyond emissions such as infrastructure investment, energy demand, or installed power capacity  
42 (Jeffery et al. 2018; Iyer et al. 2017). One approach is to combine the comparison of aggregate NDC  
43 emissions using Integrated Assessment Model scenarios with modelling of NDC scenarios directly,  
44 and carbon budget analyses (Jeffery et al. 2018). Another approach is to engage in a comprehensive  
45 assessment of several approaches that reflect the different viewpoints of the Parties under the  
46 UNFCCC (Höhne et al. 2018; Aldy et al. 2017).

47 It is clear, however, that the NDCs communicated by parties for the 2020-2030 period are insufficient  
48 to achieve the temperature goal (Alcaraz et al. 2019; Schlessner et al. 2016; UN Environment

1 Programme 2018), and the emissions gap is larger than ever (Christensen and Olhoff 2019). Some  
2 even note that leadership by conditional commitments, and the system of pledge-and-review, does not  
3 motivate countries to make deeper contributions over time, rather contributions decrease (Helland et  
4 al. 2017). On a less sombre note, others note that many of the NDCs are conservative and may be  
5 overachieved, NDCs may be strengthened over time as expected under the Paris Agreement, and there  
6 are significant non-state actions that have not been adequately captured in the NDCs (Höhne et al.  
7 2017). Further, if all conditional and unconditional NDCs are implemented, net land use, land use  
8 change and forestry emissions decrease in 2030 compared to 2010 levels, but large uncertainties still  
9 surround how Parties estimate, project and account for emissions and removals from this sector  
10 (Forsell et al. 2016). According to the estimates in Table 4.3 (chapter 4), communicated unconditional  
11 commitments imply about a 7% reduction of world emissions by 2030, in terms of Kyoto GHG,  
12 compared to a scenario where only current policies are in place. If conditional commitments are also  
13 included, the reduction in world emissions by 2030 would be about 12%.

#### 14 **14.4.2.3 NDCs, fairness and equity**

15 The Paris Agreement encourages Parties, while submitting their NDCs, to explain how these are ‘fair  
16 and ambitious’ (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 4.8 read with UNFCCC 2016a, para. 27). The Rulebook obliges  
17 Parties to provide information on ‘fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity’ as  
18 applicable to their NDC (UNFCCC 2019a, paras 7 and 9, Annex, paras. 6(a) and (b); Rajamani and  
19 Bodansky 2019).

20 In the first round of NDCs, most Parties declared their NDCs as ‘fair’ (Robiou du Pont et al. 2017).  
21 Their claims, however, were largely unsubstantiated or drawn from analysis by in-country experts  
22 (Winkler et al. 2018). Although NDCs are bottom-up, a comprehensive content analysis of NDCs  
23 revealed pre-existing top-down institutional divisions and divergent climate priorities between Annex  
24 I and non-Annex I Parties, suggesting that long-standing equity and fairness concerns will likely  
25 remain salient and need to be addressed (Stephenson et al. 2019). It is challenging, however, to  
26 address fairness and equity in a world of voluntary climate contributions (Chan 2016), in particular  
27 since these contributions are insufficient (Robiou du Pont et al. 2017). One option is for Parties to  
28 provide more rigorous information to assess fair shares (Winkler et al. 2018), and another is for  
29 Parties to articulate what equity principles they have adopted in determining their NDCs, how they  
30 have operationalized these principles, and explain their mitigation target in terms of the portion of the  
31 appropriated global budget (Hales and Mackey 2017).

32 More generally, self-differentiation has led to fairness and equity being discussed in terms of  
33 individual national contributions rather than between categories of countries (Chan 2016). Given the  
34 limited avenues for multilateral determination of fairness, the onus is on the scientific community to  
35 generate methods to assess fairness (Herrala and Goel 2016), and on peer-to-peer comparisons to  
36 create pressure for ambitious NDCs (Aldy et al. 2017). There are a range of options to assess or  
37 introduce fairness. These include: adopting differentiation in financing rather than in mitigation  
38 (Gajevic Sayegh 2017); adopting a carbon budget approach (Alcaraz et al. 2019; Hales and Mackey  
39 2017), which may occur through the transparency processes (Hales and Mackey 2017); quantifying  
40 national emissions allocations using different equity approaches (Robiou du Pont et al. 2017); using  
41 data on adopted emissions targets to find an ethical framework consistent with the observed  
42 distribution (Sheriff 2019); adopting common metrics for policy assessment (Bretschger 2017); and  
43 developing a template for organizing metrics on mitigation effort - emission reductions, implicit  
44 prices, and costs - for both ex ante and ex post review (Aldy et al. 2017). The burden of agricultural  
45 mitigation can also be distributed using different approaches to effort sharing (responsibility,  
46 capability, need, equal cumulative per-capita emissions) (Richards et al. 2018). Further, there are  
47 temporal (inter-generational) and spatial (inter-regional) dimensions to the distribution of the

1 mitigation burden, with additional emissions reductions in 2030 improving both inter-generational  
2 and inter-regional equity (Liu et al. 2017).

#### 3 **14.4.2.4 Transparency and accountability**

4 Although NDCs reflect a bottom-up, self-differentiated approach to climate mitigation actions, the  
5 Paris Agreement couples this to an international transparency framework designed to track progress in  
6 implementing and achieving mitigation contributions (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 13). This transparency  
7 framework is applicable to all parties, although with flexibilities for developing country parties that  
8 need it in light of their capacities (Mayer 2019). Each Party is required to submit a national inventory  
9 report as well as ‘the information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving’ its NDC  
10 (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 13.7) biennially (UNFCCC 2016a, para. 90). The Paris Rulebook requires all  
11 Parties to submit their national inventory reports using 2006 IPCC Guidance (UNFCCC 2019c,  
12 Annex, para. 20).

13 In relation to the provision of information necessary to track progress towards implementation and  
14 achievement of NDCs, the Paris Rulebook allows each party to choose its own qualitative or  
15 quantitative indicators (UNFCCC 2019c, Annex, para. 65), a significant concession to national  
16 sovereignty (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019). The Rulebook phases in uniform reporting requirements  
17 for developed and developing countries (except LDCs and SIDs) in 2024 (UNFCCC 2019c, para. 3),  
18 but offers flexibilities in ‘scope, frequency, and level of detail of reporting, and in the scope of the  
19 review’ for developing countries that need it in light of their capacities (UNFCCC 2019c, para. 5).  
20 Some differentiation also remains for information on support provided to developing countries  
21 (Winkler et al. 2017), with developed country parties required to report such information biennially,  
22 while others are only ‘encouraged’ to do so (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 9.7).

23 The information provided by parties in biennial reports and GHG inventories will undergo technical  
24 expert review, which must include assistance in identifying capacity-building needs for developing  
25 country parties that need it in light of their capacities. Each party is also required to participate in a  
26 ‘facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress’ of implementation and achievement of its NDC.  
27 Although the aim of these processes is to expose each party’s actions on mitigation to international  
28 review, thus establishing a weak form of accountability for NDCs at the international level, the  
29 Rulebook circumscribes the reach of these processes (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019). The technical  
30 expert review teams are prohibited in mandatory terms (‘shall not’) from making ‘political judgments’  
31 or reviewing the ‘adequacy or appropriateness’ of a party’s NDC, domestic actions, or support  
32 provided (UNFCCC 2019c, Annex, para. 149). This, among other such provisions has led some to  
33 argue that the scope and practice of existing transparency arrangements reflects rather than mediates  
34 ongoing disputes around responsibility, differentiation and burden sharing, and thus there is limited  
35 answerability through transparency (Gupta and van Asselt 2019). More generally, there has been  
36 weak translation of transparency norms into accountability (Ciplet et al. 2018). Hence, the Paris  
37 Agreement’s effectiveness in ensuring NDCs are met will depend on additional accountability  
38 pathways at the domestic level involving political processes and civil society engagement (Karlsson-  
39 Vinkhuyzen et al. 2018; Jacquet and Jamieson 2016; Van Asselt 2016).

40

#### 41 **14.4.2.5 Global stocktake**

42 The Paris Agreement’s transparency framework is complemented by the global stocktake which will  
43 take place every five years (starting in 2023) and assess the collective progress towards achieving the  
44 Agreement’s purpose and long-term goals (UNFCCC 2015, Art. 14). The scope of the global  
45 stocktake is comprehensive – covering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and  
46 support – and the process is to be facilitative and consultative. The Paris Rulebook cautiously (i.e. ‘as  
47 appropriate’) expands the scope of the global stocktake to take into account social and economic

1 consequences and impacts of response measures, and loss and damage associated with the adverse  
2 effects of climate change (UNFCCC, 2019d, paras. 8-10).

3 The global stocktake is to occur ‘in the light of equity and the best available science.’ While the focus  
4 of the global stocktake is on collective and not individual progress towards the goals of the  
5 Agreement, the inclusion of equity in the global stocktake ‘leaves the door open for a dialogue on  
6 equitable burden sharing’ (Rajamani 2016b). The Paris Rulebook seeks to operationalize equity by  
7 including consideration of it in the modalities and sources of inputs for the global stocktake  
8 (UNFCCC, 2019d, paras 1, 2, 13, 27, 31, 36h and 37g), which will likely result in equity being  
9 factored into the outcome of the stocktake (Winkler 2019). The Rulebook does not, however, resolve  
10 the tension between the collective nature of the assessment that is authorized by the stocktake and the  
11 individual assessments required to determine relative fair share (Zahar 2019; Rajamani and Bodansky  
12 2019).

13 The global stocktake is seen as crucial to encouraging parties to increase the ambition of their NDCs  
14 (Huang 2018; Milkoreit and Haapala 2019) as its outcome ‘shall inform Parties in updating and  
15 enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support’ (Art 14.3). The Rulebook  
16 provides for the stocktake to draw on a wide variety of inputs sourced from a full range of actors,  
17 including ‘non-Party stakeholders’ (UNFCCC, 2019d, para. 37). However, the Rulebook specifies  
18 that the global stocktake will be ‘a Party-driven process’ (UNFCCC, 2019d, para. 10), will not have  
19 an ‘individual Party focus’, and will include only ‘non-policy prescriptive consideration of collective  
20 progress’ (UNFCCC, 2019d, para. 14).

#### 21 **14.4.2.6 Finance**

22 As highlighted above, the objective of the Paris Agreement includes the goal of ‘[m]aking finance  
23 flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient  
24 development’ (UNFCCC 2015, Art 2.1(c)). Provision of finance will be critical to achievement of  
25 many parties’ NDCs, particularly those that are framed in conditional terms (Zhang and Pan 2016;  
26 Kissinger et al. 2019). International cooperation on climate finance represents ‘a complex and  
27 fragmented landscape’ with a range of different mechanisms and forums involved (Roberts and  
28 Weikmans 2017). These include entities set up under the international climate change regime, such as  
29 the UNFCCC financial mechanism, with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate  
30 Fund (GCF) as operating entities; special funds, such as the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least  
31 Developed Countries Fund (both managed by the GEF), and the Adaptation Fund established under  
32 the Kyoto Protocol; the Standing Committee on Finance, a constituted body which assists the COP in  
33 exercising its functions with respect to the UNFCCC financial mechanism; and other bodies outside  
34 of the international climate change regime, such as the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) administered  
35 through multilateral development banks (discussed further below). Pursuant to decisions adopted at  
36 the Paris conference and 2018 Katowice meeting, countries agreed that the operating entities of the  
37 financial mechanism – GEF and GCF – as well as the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least  
38 Developed Countries Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Standing Committee on Finance, all serve  
39 the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2016b, paras 58 and 63, 2019a). The GCF, which became  
40 operational in 2015, is expected to become the main compensatory mechanism for transferring public  
41 funds, and some private funds, to developing countries to address climate change (Brechin and  
42 Espinoza 2017; Antimiani et al. 2017) (see further section 14.5.4 below).

43 Much of the current literature on climate finance and the Paris Agreement focuses on the obligations  
44 of developed countries to provide climate finance to assist the implementation of mitigation and  
45 adaptation actions by developing countries. The principal provision on finance in the Paris Agreement  
46 is the binding obligation on developed country parties to provide financial resources to assist  
47 developing country parties (UNFCCC 2015, Art 9.1). This provision applies to both mitigation and  
48 adaptation and is in continuation of developed country parties’ existing obligations under the

1 international climate change regime. This signals that the Paris Agreement finance requirements must  
2 be interpreted in light of the UNFCCC (Yamineva 2016). The principal novelty introduced by the  
3 Paris Agreement is an expansion in the potential pool of donor countries as article 9.2 encourages  
4 ‘other parties’ to provide or continue to provide such support on a voluntary basis. However,  
5 ‘developed countries should continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance’, with a  
6 ‘significant role’ for public funds, and a requirement that such mobilization of finance ‘should  
7 represent a progression beyond previous efforts’ (UNFCCC 2015, Art 9.3). Beyond this there are no  
8 new recognized promises (Ciplet et al. 2018). In the Paris Agreement negotiations, parties merely  
9 formalized and extended to 2025 previous long-term finance pledges made under the international  
10 climate regime, such as the Copenhagen Accord’s pledge by developed countries to raise USD 100  
11 billion per year by 2020. The Paris Agreement decision also provided for the CMA to set a new  
12 collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and  
13 priorities of developing countries (UNFCCC, 2016b, para. 53). This new collective goal on finance is  
14 not explicitly limited to developed countries and could therefore encompass finance flows from major  
15 developing countries donors (Bodansky et al. 2017). A decision on the initiation of a process for  
16 determining a new collective goal on finance has been deferred to 2020 (UNFCCC, 2019b, para. 1; H.  
17 Zhang, 2019).

18 It is widely recognized that the USD 100 billion figure is a fraction of the broader finance and  
19 investment needs of mitigation and adaptation embodied in the Paris Agreement (Peake and Ekins  
20 2017). One estimate, based on a review of 160 (I)NDCs, suggests the financial demand for both  
21 mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries could reach US\$474 billion by 2030 (Zhang  
22 and Pan 2016). Some research has also sought to quantify the climate finance ‘gap’ resulting from the  
23 US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, with estimates that the GCF funding gap will increase by  
24 USD 2 billion, while the long-term finance gap for mobilization of the \$100 billion per annum will  
25 increase by around USD 5 billion per year (Chai et al. 2017). More broadly there is recognition of the  
26 need for better accounting, transparency and reporting rules to allow evaluation of the fulfilment of  
27 finance pledges and the effectiveness of how funding is used (Xu et al. 2016; Roberts et al. 2017;  
28 Gupta and van Asselt 2019). Some authors see the ‘enhanced transparency framework’ of the Paris  
29 Agreement (see 14.4.2.4 above), and the specific requirements for developed countries to report on  
30 financial support and mobilization efforts (articles 9.5 and 9.7), as promising marked improvements  
31 (Weikmans and Roberts 2019), including for the fairness of effort-sharing on climate finance  
32 provision (Pickering et al. 2015). Others offer a more circumspect view of the transformative  
33 capability of these transparency systems (Ciplet et al. 2018).

34 The more limited literature focusing on the specific finance needs of developing countries,  
35 particularly those expressed in NDCs conditional on international climate finance, suggests that once  
36 all countries have fully costed their NDCs, the demand for (public and private) finance to support  
37 NDC implementation is likely to be orders of magnitude larger than funds available from bilateral and  
38 multilateral sources. This could leave ‘NDC ambitions in the forest and land use sector in a precarious  
39 position, unless more diversified options are pursued to reach climate goals’ (Kissinger et al. 2019). In  
40 addition, there is a need for fiscal policy reform in developing countries to ensure international  
41 climate finance flows are not undercut by public and private finance supporting unsustainable  
42 activities (Kissinger et al. 2019). During 2018 Katowice meeting, UNFCCC parties agreed to conduct  
43 an assessment of developing countries financial needs and priorities and requested the Standing  
44 Committee on Finance to produce a ‘2020 Needs Report’ for presentation at COP26 (UNFCCC  
45 2019g).

46

#### 1 **14.4.2.7 Capacity-building**

2 Capacity building, a priority for many countries, has primarily been implemented through  
3 partnerships, collaboration and different cooperative activities, inside and outside the UNFCCC.  
4 Beyond the UNFCCC, other climate cooperation and partnerships activities on capacity building  
5 include those organized by the OECD, IFDD (Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development),  
6 UNDP-NCSP programme, UNEP and the World Bank. There are also a number of regional  
7 cooperative structures with capacity-building components, including ClimaSouth, Euroclima+, the  
8 UN-REDD Programme, the Caribbean Regional Strategic Programme for Resilience, the Caribbean  
9 Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool, a project on accelerating low carbon and resilient society  
10 realization in the Southeast Asian region, the World Health Organization's Global Salm-Surv network  
11 and the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

12 The Paris Agreement urges all parties to cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing countries to  
13 implement the Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 11.3), with a particular focus on LDCs and SIDs  
14 (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 11.1). The focus of capacity-building activities should be on enabling  
15 developing countries to take effective climate change action, given that most developing countries  
16 continue to face significant capacity challenges, undermining their ability to effectively or fully carry  
17 out the climate actions they intend to pursue (Dagnet et al. 2016). Under the Paris Agreement,  
18 capacity-building can take a range of forms, including: facilitating technology development,  
19 dissemination and deployment; access to climate finance; education, training and public awareness;  
20 and the transparent, timely and accurate communication of information (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 11.1).  
21 Principles guiding capacity-building support are that it should be: country-driven; based on and  
22 responsive to national needs; fostering country ownership of parties at multiple levels; guided by  
23 lessons learned; and an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-  
24 responsive (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 11.2).

25 The UNFCCC established the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (UNFCCC, 2016b, para. 71) is  
26 designed to play a key role in coordinating capacity-building activities under the Convention. The  
27 COP decision accompanying the Paris Agreement established a Capacity Building Initiative for  
28 Transparency designed to support developing country parties in meeting the reporting and  
29 transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (Khan et al. 2018).

30 In its annual synthesis report for 2018, the UNFCCC secretariat stressed the importance of capacity-  
31 building for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and NDCs, with focus on measures already in  
32 place, regional and cooperative activities, and capacity-building needs for strengthening NDCs  
33 (UNFCCC 2019h). The synthesis report compiled information submitted by parties on the  
34 implementation of capacity-building in developing countries, highlighting cooperative and regional  
35 activities on NDCs, including projects to build capacity for implementation, workshops related to  
36 transparency under the Paris Agreement and collaboration to provide coaching and training  
37 (UNFCCC 2019h). A number of developing country Parties also highlighted their contributions to  
38 South-South cooperation (discussed further at section 14.5.6 below), and identified capacity-building  
39 projects undertaken with others (e.g. capacity-building for risk management in Latin America and the  
40 Caribbean, improving capacity for MRV through the Alliance of the Pacific and a climate action  
41 package launched by Singapore).

#### 42 **14.4.2.8 Technology transfer**

43 Article 10 of the Paris Agreement articulates parties' 'long-term vision on the importance of fully  
44 realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to  
45 reduce greenhouse gas emissions' (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 10.1). Technology development and the  
46 transfer of environmentally sound technologies for climate mitigation have been heavily contested  
47 issues between developed and developing countries, and these differences are likely to continue under  
48 the Paris Agreement (Oh 2019). The Technology Mechanism under the UNFCCC, which consists of



1 the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network  
2 (CTCN), also serves the Paris Agreement, subject to guidance of a new ‘technology framework’  
3 (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 10.4). The Paris Rulebook further elaborates the guiding principles and ‘key  
4 themes’ for the technology framework, including innovation, implementation, enabling environment  
5 and capacity-building, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, and support (UNFCCC 2019b).

#### 6 **14.4.2.9 Forests and REDD+**

7 Article 5 of the Paris Agreement explicitly calls for parties to take action to conserve and enhance  
8 sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests, and encourages countries to engage in  
9 cooperative approaches to this end. The explicit inclusion of land use sector activities, including forest  
10 conservation, is potentially a ‘game changer’ as it encourages countries to safeguard ecosystems for  
11 climate mitigation purposes (Grassi et al. 2017). Analyses of parties (I)NDCs shows pledged  
12 mitigation from land use, and forests in particular, provides a quarter of the emission reductions  
13 planned by parties and, if fully implemented, would result in forests becoming a net sink of carbon by  
14 2030 (Forsell et al. 2016; Grassi et al. 2017).

15 A key cooperative approach endorsed by Article 5 is REDD+, which refers to mechanisms established  
16 under the UNFCCC for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of  
17 conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in  
18 developing countries (Park et al. 2013). Article 5.2 encourages parties to implement and support the  
19 existing framework for REDD+, including through ‘results-based payments’ i.e. provision of financial  
20 payments for verified avoided or reduced forest carbon emissions (Turnhout et al. 2017). The existing  
21 REDD+ framework set up under decisions of the UNFCCC COP includes the Warsaw Framework for  
22 REDD+, which specifies modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) greenhouse gas  
23 emissions and removals. This provides an essential tool for linking REDD+ activities to results-based  
24 finance (Voigt and Ferreira 2015). Appropriate finance support for REDD+ is also considered critical  
25 to move from its inclusion in many countries’ NDCs to implementation on the ground (Hein et al.  
26 2018).

27 Article 5.2 also encourages parties’ support for ‘alternative policy approaches’ to forest conservation  
28 and sustainable management such as ‘joint mitigation and adaptation approaches.’ It reaffirms the  
29 importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches (e.g.  
30 improvements in the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, facilitating poverty reduction and  
31 sustainable development). This provision, along with the support for non-market mechanisms in  
32 Article 6 (discussed below), is seen as an avenue for cooperative joint mitigation-adaptation and non-  
33 market REDD+ activities with co-benefits for biodiversity conservation (Gupta and Dube 2018).

#### 34 **14.4.2.10 Voluntary additional cooperation on mitigation**

35 Article 6.1 of the Paris Agreement recognizes the role that cooperative approaches can play, on a  
36 voluntary basis, in implementing parties’ NDCs ‘in order to allow for higher ambition’ in their  
37 mitigation actions and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity. It lists a  
38 number of specific types of cooperative approaches that come within its ambit, including  
39 internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), a ‘mechanism to contribute to mitigation  
40 and support sustainable development’, and a framework for non-market mechanisms.

41 Article 6.2 suggests ITMOs can originate from a variety of sources including regional carbon markets  
42 or REDD+. Parties can use ITMOs to achieve their NDCs but when engaging in this activity shall  
43 promote sustainable development, ensure environmental integrity, ensure transparency, including in  
44 governance, and apply ‘robust accounting’ in accordance with CMA guidance to prevent double  
45 counting. While this provision, unlike similar provisions in the Kyoto Protocol, does not create an  
46 international carbon market, it enables parties to pursue this option should they choose to do so, for  
47 example, through the linking of domestic or regional carbon markets (Marcu 2016; Müller and  
48 Michaelowa 2019). Article 6.2 could also be implemented in other ways, including direct transfers

1 between governments, linkage of mitigation policies across two or more parties, sectoral or activity  
2 crediting mechanisms, and other forms of cooperation involving public or private entities, or both  
3 (Howard 2017).

4 Assessments of Article 6.2 generally find that ITMOs are likely to result in cost savings in achieving  
5 mitigation outcomes, with the potential for cost reductions to enhance ambition and accelerate parties'  
6 progression of mitigation pledges across NDC cycles (Mehling 2018; Gao et al. 2016; Fujimori et al.  
7 2016). However, a growing body of research – usually drawing from experience with existing carbon  
8 markets and the Kyoto mechanisms – highlights environmental integrity risks associated with using  
9 ITMOs under the Paris Agreement given the challenges that the diverse scope, metrics, types and  
10 timeframes of NDC targets pose for robust accounting (Schneider and La Hoz Theuer 2019) and the  
11 potential for transfers of 'hot air' as occurred under the Kyoto Protocol (La Hoz Theuer et al. 2019).  
12 What these studies collectively affirm is that robust governance, including guidance on accounting for  
13 ITMOs, will be critical to ensuring environmental integrity (Müller and Michaelowa 2019; Mehling  
14 2018).

15 Article 6.4 concerns the mitigation mechanism, referred to by some parties as the 'sustainable  
16 development mechanism' or SDM. It is a mechanism that has as an output of GHG emissions  
17 reductions, which can be used by any party towards its NDC, subject to the limit that emissions  
18 reductions cannot be used towards the NDC of the host party if they are used by another party to  
19 demonstrate achievement of its NDC. Unlike the CDM, there is no restriction specified regarding  
20 which parties can host mitigation projects and which parties can use the resulting emissions  
21 reductions towards their NDCs (Marcu 2016). The SDM will operate under the authority and  
22 guidance of the CMA, and is to be supervised by a body designated by the CMA in a similar fashion  
23 to the CDM.

24 The SDM also has a mission to foster sustainable development. The decision adopting the Paris  
25 Agreement specifies experience with Kyoto mechanisms like the CDM as a basis for the new  
26 mitigation mechanism (UNFCCC, 2016b, para. 37(f)). Compared with the CDM under the Kyoto  
27 Protocol, which had a climate-centric focus on measuring emissions reductions, the SDM has a more  
28 balanced focus on both climate and development objectives, and a stronger political mandate to  
29 measure sustainable development impact and to verify that the impacts are 'real, measurable, and  
30 long-term' (Olsen et al. 2018). There are also opportunities to integrate human rights in the SDM  
31 (Calzadilla 2018; Obergassel et al. 2017). It is further subject to a specific requirement that it must  
32 deliver 'an overall mitigation in global emissions,' which operates in addition to the general  
33 requirement in Article 6 for cooperation to enhance ambition (Kreibich 2018).

34 Negotiations over rules to operationalize Article 6 have proven intractable, failing to deliver both at  
35 COP-24 in Katowice in 2018, where the rest of the Paris Rulebook was agreed, and in COP-25 in  
36 Madrid in 2019. There are entrenched differences between parties on several issues including:  
37 whether to permit the carryover and use of Kyoto CDM credits, and AAUs, towards compliance with  
38 parties' NDCs, as this would substantially lower the overall mitigation ambition; whether to impose a  
39 mandatory share of proceeds on both Article 6.2 and 6.4 mechanisms to fund adaptation, as this would  
40 increase the transaction costs; and, whether credits generated under Article 6.4 should be subject to  
41 accounting rules under Article 6.2, as lack thereof could result in double counting, and impact the  
42 environmental integrity of the entire regime.

#### 43 **14.4.2.11 Implementation and compliance**

44 The Paris Agreement establishes a mechanism to facilitate implementation and promote compliance  
45 under Article 15. This mechanism is to operate in a transparent, non-adversarial and non-punitive  
46 manner (Voigt 2016; Campbell-Durufflé 2018; Oberthür and Northrop 2018) that distinguishes it from  
47 the more stringent compliance procedures of the Kyoto Protocol's Enforcement branch. The Paris  
48 Rulebook elaborated the modalities and procedures for the implementation and compliance

1 mechanism, specifying the nature and composition of the compliance committee, the situations  
2 triggering its procedures, and the facilitative measures it can apply which include a ‘finding of fact’ in  
3 limited situations, dialogue, assistance and recommendations (UNFCCC 2019b). This compliance  
4 committee, characterized as ‘one of a kind’ and an ‘an important cornerstone’ of the Agreement’s  
5 legitimacy, effectiveness and longevity (Zihua, Voigt, & Werksman, 2019), is designed to facilitate  
6 compliance rather than penalize non-compliance.

#### 7 **14.4.2.12 Loss and Damage**

8 The Paris Agreement contains a free-standing article on loss and damage (UNFCCC, 2015, Art. 8),  
9 focused on cooperation and facilitation, under which parties have established a clearing house on risk  
10 transfer, and a task force on displacement (UNFCCC, 2016b, paras. 48 and 49). The COP decision  
11 accompanying the Paris Agreement specifies that ‘Article 8 does not involve or provide a basis for  
12 any liability or compensation’ (UNFCCC, 2016b, para. 51). There is a range of views on the  
13 treatment of loss and damage in the Paris Agreement, how responsibility for loss and damage should  
14 be allocated (Lees 2017; McNamara and Jackson 2019), and how it could be financed (Roberts et al.  
15 2017; Gewirtzman et al. 2018). Some scholars argue that there are continuing options to pursue  
16 compensation and liability in the climate change regime (Mace and Verheyen 2016; Gsottbauer et al.  
17 2018). There have also been efforts to establish accountability of companies—particularly ‘carbon  
18 majors’ (Frumhoff et al. 2015)—for climate damage in domestic courts (Ganguly et al. 2018). In any  
19 case, states that have suffered loss and damage can pursue ‘state responsibility’ claims under general  
20 international law. Many small island states entered declarations on acceptance of the UNFCCC and  
21 Paris Agreement that they continue to have rights under international law regarding state  
22 responsibility for the adverse effects of climate change, and that no provision in these treaties can be  
23 interpreted as derogating from any claims or rights concerning compensation and liability due to the  
24 adverse effects of climate change.  
25

#### 26 **Box 14.1 Key features of the Paris Agreement**

27 The Paris Agreement that entered into force on 4 November 2016 has 187 Parties to date, but the  
28 United States notified its intent to withdraw on 4 November 2019.

29 The Paris Agreement’s overall aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change,  
30 in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This aim is explicitly  
31 linked to enhancing implementation of the UNFCCC, including its objective of stabilizing greenhouse  
32 gas emissions at safe levels. The Agreement sets three additional goals:

- 33 1. *Temperature*: holding the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-  
34 industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial  
35 levels.
- 36 2. *Adaptation* and climate resilience: increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of  
37 climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a  
38 manner that does not threaten food production.
- 39 3. *Finance*: making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas  
40 emissions and climate-resilient development.

41 In order to achieve the long-term temperature goal, parties collectively aim to reach global peaking of  
42 emissions as soon as possible and then to undertake rapid reductions in accordance with the best  
43 available science. This is designed to reach global net zero emissions in the second half of the century,  
44 with the share of emissions reductions effort borne by different parties to be determined on the basis

1 of equity and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. In addition,  
2 implementation of the Agreement as a whole is expected to reflect equity and parties' differentiated  
3 responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

4 The core mitigation commitments of parties under the Paris Agreement centre on preparing,  
5 communicating and maintaining successive 'nationally determined contributions' (NDCs), the  
6 contents of which countries determine for themselves. All parties must have NDCs and pursue  
7 domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of their NDCs, but parties  
8 NDCs are neither subject to a review of adequacy nor legally binding. The compliance mechanism is  
9 correspondingly facilitative.

10 The efficacy of the Paris Agreement in achieving its goal is therefore dependent upon three additional  
11 elements:

12 1. *Voluntary ratcheting of NDCs*: Parties must submit a new NDC every 5 years that is in line  
13 with the Paris Agreement's expectations of progression over time and reflecting the party's highest  
14 possible ambition.

15 2. *Enhanced transparency framework*: Parties actions to implement their NDCs are subject to  
16 international transparency and review requirements, which will generate information that may also be  
17 used by domestic constituencies to pressure governments to increase the ambition of their NDCs.

18 3. *Collective global stocktake*: The global stocktake undertaken every 5 years will review the  
19 collective progress of countries in achieving the Paris Agreement's objectives, in light of equity and  
20 best available science. The outcome of the global stocktake informs parties in updating and enhancing  
21 their subsequent NDCs.

22 These international processes establish an iterative ambition cycle for the preparation, implementation  
23 and review of NDCs, illustrated below.

24 For developing countries, the Paris Agreement recognizes that increasing mitigation ambition and  
25 realizing long-term low-emissions development pathways depends upon the provision of financial  
26 resources, capacity building, and technology development and transfer. The Paris Agreement also  
27 permits voluntary cooperation between parties in the implementation of their NDCs to allow for  
28 higher ambition in their mitigation actions and to promote sustainable development and  
29 environmental integrity.

30 The Paris Agreement establishes a global goal on adaptation, and recognizes the importance of  
31 averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage that arises where mitigation and adaptation  
32 efforts are insufficient.

#### 33 34 **14.4.2.13 Assessments of the Paris Agreement**

35 Given the comparatively recent conclusion of the Paris Agreement, ex post assessments are not yet  
36 feasible. Ex ante assessments are necessarily speculative and limited by the lack of credible  
37 counterfactuals. Despite these limitations, numerous ex-ante assessments exist of the potential for  
38 international cooperation under the Paris Agreement to advance climate change mitigation. These  
39 assessments are mixed and reflect uncertainty over the outcomes the Paris Agreement will achieve  
40 (Keohane and Oppenheimer 2016; Young 2016; Christoff 2016; Cléménçon 2016; Dimitrov et al.  
41 2019). A general divide can be discerned between studies that reach a more pessimistic conclusion  
42 and those that take a more optimistic approach. Those expressing pessimism base this assessment on  
43 factors such as: US non-cooperation and the resulting gap in mitigation, finance and governance; a

1 lack of clarity in the expression of obligations and objectives; a lack of concrete plans collectively to  
2 achieve the temperature goal; extensive use of soft law provisions, limited incentives to avoid free-  
3 riding, and the Agreement's weak enforcement provisions (Kemp 2018; Bang et al. 2016; Thompson  
4 2017; Chai et al. 2017; Lawrence and Wong 2017; Spash 2016; Barrett 2018). Studies reaching a  
5 more optimistic conclusion emphasize factors such as: the breadth of participation enabled by self-  
6 differentiated NDCs; the 'logic' of domestic climate policies driving greater national ambition; the  
7 multiplicity of actors engaged by the Paris Agreement's facilitative architecture; the falling cost of  
8 low-carbon technologies; provision for financial, technology and capacity-building support to  
9 developing country parties; possibilities for voluntary cooperation on mitigation under Article 6; and  
10 the potential for progressive ratcheting up of parties' pledges over time fostered by transparency of  
11 reporting and international scrutiny of national justifications of the 'fairness' of contributions (Chan  
12 2016; Victor 2016; Caparrós 2016; Urpelainen and Van de Graaf 2018; Morgan and Northrop 2017;  
13 Falkner 2016).

14 Turning to the assessment criteria articulated in this chapter, the following preliminary assessments of  
15 the Paris Agreement can be made.

16 In relation to the criterion of *environmental effectiveness*, the Paris Agreement covers a broader range  
17 of greenhouse gas emissions than the Kyoto Protocol, thus potentially enhancing its performance  
18 against this criterion. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement does not explicitly limit its  
19 coverage of greenhouse gases and parties may include a wide range of climate mitigation actions in  
20 their NDCs. Moreover, the Paris Agreement makes express reference to parties taking action to  
21 conserve and enhance 'sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases' (art 5). This allows for coverage of  
22 AFOLU emissions, both CO<sub>2</sub> and emissions of other Kyoto Annex A gases. A small number of  
23 countries, particularly LDCs, include quantified non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions from the agricultural  
24 sector in their NDCs, and many others include agriculture in their economy-wide targets (Richards et  
25 al. 2018). Some studies find that agricultural development pathways with mitigation co-benefits can  
26 deliver 21–40% of needed mitigation for the 2°C limit, thus necessitating 'transformative technical  
27 and policy options' (Wollenberg et al. 2016). Other studies indicate that broader natural climate  
28 solutions, including forests, can provide 37% of the cost-effective CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation needed through  
29 2030 for a more than 66% chance of holding warming to below 2°C (Griscom et al. 2017). Moreover,  
30 the estimates in Table 4.3 (chapter 4) show that communicated unconditional NDCs imply a reduction  
31 of about a 7% of world emissions by 2030, in terms of Kyoto GHG, compared to a scenario where  
32 only current policies are in place; and that conditional NDCs could increase this reduction to about  
33 12%. This demonstrates the importance of meeting the targets in the conditional NDCs.

34 In relation to the criterion of *transformative potential*, there is presently limited empirical data or  
35 theoretical analysis on which to assess the Paris Agreement's transformative potential. The linking of  
36 the UNFCCC financial apparatus, including the GCF, to the Paris Agreement, and the provisions on  
37 technology support and capacity-building, provide potential avenues for promoting increased  
38 investment flows into low-carbon technologies and development pathways. However, the extent of  
39 the 'investment signal' sent by the Agreement to business is unclear (Kemp 2018). US non-  
40 cooperation also poses a significant threat to adequate investment flows through the GCF (Urpelainen  
41 and Van de Graaf 2018; Chai et al. 2017). The IPCC's 1.5°C report concluded that pathways limiting  
42 global warming to 1.5°C would require systems transitions that are 'unprecedented in terms of scale'  
43 (IPCC 2018c). There is limited evidence to suggest that this is underway.

44 In relation to the criterion of *distributive outcomes*, the Kyoto Protocol performs better than the Paris  
45 Agreement in respect of some indicators such as industrialized country leadership, and differentiation  
46 in favour of developing countries. The Kyoto Protocol implemented a multilaterally agreed burden  
47 sharing arrangement, reflected in Annex-based differentiation in mitigation obligations, while the  
48 Paris Agreement relies on NDCs, accompanied by self-assessments of the fairness of these

1 contributions. At present, mechanisms for promoting equitable burden-sharing and evaluating the  
2 fairness of parties' contributions are undefined, although numerous proposals have been developed in  
3 the literature (Sheriff 2019; Herrala and Goel 2016; Alcaraz et al. 2019; Robiou du Pont et al. 2017;  
4 Ritchie and Reay 2017) (discussed in section 14.4.2.3, above).

5 In relation to other indicators such as the provision of support, distributive outcomes are heavily  
6 dependent on the effectiveness of compensatory mechanisms, such as the GCF, to meet the mitigation  
7 and adaptation financing needs of developing countries (Chan et al. 2018a; Antimiani et al. 2017).  
8 This is particularly important given that the implementation of the emissions reduction objectives  
9 stated in the NDCs implies trade-offs with poverty reduction efforts needed to achieve SDGs  
10 (Campagnolo and Davide 2019). Finally, in relation to the promotion of co-benefits, compared with  
11 the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement has enhanced mechanisms for promoting co-benefits (e.g.  
12 for biodiversity conservation through the endorsement of REDD+) and linkages to sustainable  
13 development (e.g. through the SDM).

14 On the criterion of *economic performance*, this is potentially enhanced by the capacity for parties to  
15 link mitigation policies, therefore improving aggregate cost-effectiveness. ITMOs, allowed for under  
16 Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, are regarded as a reasonable vehicle to facilitate linkage (Chan et al.  
17 2018a). A combination of common accounting rules and the absence of restrictive criteria and  
18 conditions on the use of ITMOs could accelerate linkage and increase the latitude of parties to scale  
19 up the ambition of their NDCs. However, significant question marks remain over how the  
20 environmental integrity of traded emissions reductions can be ensured (Mehling 2018). The ability of  
21 Article 6 to contribute to the goal of the Paris Agreement will depend on the extent to which the rules  
22 ensure environmental integrity and avoid double counting, while utilizing the full potential of  
23 cooperative efforts (Schneider et al. 2019).

24 In relation to the criterion of *institutional strength*, the performance of the Paris Agreement compared  
25 with the Kyoto Protocol is enhanced on some indicators but reduced on others. For example, the Paris  
26 Agreement has broad participation, with 187 parties thus far who have submitted 185 NDCs. On the  
27 other hand, the durability and future ambition of NDCs is potentially threatened by the US withdrawal  
28 (Chan et al. 2018a; Pickering et al. 2018). In addition, the trade-off for securing broad participation in  
29 the Paris Agreement was greater discretion for parties, vagueness of obligations and a weak  
30 compliance system (Keohane and Oppenheimer 2016), elements that reduce institutional strength.

31 The Paris Agreement's institutional strength in terms of its signalling and guidance function, is  
32 arguably high. The Paris Agreement has the potential to interact with complementary approaches to  
33 climate governance emerging beyond it (Held and Roger 2018). It may also be used by publics –  
34 organized and mobilized in many countries and transnationally – as a point of leverage in domestic  
35 politics to encourage countries to take costly mitigation actions (Keohane and Oppenheimer 2016).  
36 More broadly, the Paris Agreement's architecture provides flexibility for decentralized forms of  
37 governance (Victor 2016; Jordan et al. 2015). The Agreement has served a catalytic and facilitative  
38 role in enabling and facilitating climate action from non-state and sub-state actors (Hale 2016; Chan et  
39 al. 2016, 2015; Kuyper et al. 2018b; Bäckstrand et al. 2017). Such action could even bridge the  
40 ambition gap created by insufficient NDCs from parties (Hsu et al. 2019b). Non-state actors are also  
41 playing a role in enhancing the ambition of individual NDCs by challenging their adequacy in  
42 national courts (see Chapter 13 and section 14.5.8 below).

43 The Paris Agreement's institutional strength in terms of 'rules and standards to facilitate collective  
44 action' is disputed given the current lack of clear reporting requirements and comparable information  
45 in NDCs (Mayer 2019; Pauw et al. 2018; Zihua et al. 2019; Peters et al. 2017), and the extent to  
46 which its language, as well as that of the Rulebook, strikes a balance in favour of discretion over  
47 prescriptiveness (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019). Similarly, in terms of 'mechanisms to enhance  
48 transparency and accountability', although detailed rules relating to transparency have been developed

1 under the Paris Rulebook, these rules permit parties considerable self-determination in the extent and  
2 manner of application (Rajamani and Bodansky 2019). Further the Paris Agreement’s compliance  
3 committee is facilitative and designed to ensure compliance with the procedural obligations in the  
4 Agreement, rather than with the NDCs themselves, which are not subject to obligations of result.

5 Ultimately, the overall effectiveness of the Paris Agreement depends on its ability to lead to ratcheting  
6 up of collective climate action (Bang et al. 2016; Christoff 2016; Dimitrov et al. 2019; Gupta and van  
7 Asselt 2019; Young 2016). The design of the Paris Agreement, which has ‘nationally determined’  
8 contributions at its centre, countenances an initial shortfall in collective ambition on the understanding  
9 and expectation that parties will enhance the ambition of their NDCs over time (art. 4). This is  
10 essential given the current shortfall in ambition. The pathways reflecting current NDCs, according to  
11 various estimates, imply global warming in the range of 3°C by 2100 (UN Environment Programme  
12 2018; UNFCCC 2016b). NDCs will need to be substantially scaled up if the temperature goal of the  
13 Paris Agreement is to be met (Rogelj et al. 2016, 2018; Höhne et al. 2017; UN Environment  
14 Programme 2019). The Paris Agreement’s ‘ambition cycle’ is designed to trigger such enhanced  
15 ambition over time. Some studies find that like-minded climate mitigation clubs can deliver  
16 substantial emission reductions (Hovi et al. 2017) and are reasonably stable despite the departure of a  
17 major emitter such as the United States (Sprinz et al. 2018), other studies find that conditional  
18 commitments in the context of a pledge and review mechanism are unlikely to substantially increase  
19 countries’ contributions to emissions reductions (Helland et al. 2017), and hence need to be  
20 complemented by the adoption of instruments designed differently from the Paris Agreement (Barrett  
21 and Dannenberg 2016). In any case, high (but not perfect) levels of mean compliance rates with the  
22 Paris Agreement have to be assumed for reaching the ‘well below 2°C’ temperature goal (Håkon  
23 Sælen, Hovi, Jon, Detlef Sprinz 2020). This is by no means assured.

24 In conclusion, it remains to be seen whether the Paris Agreement—which represents a fundamental  
25 shift in architecture from the Kyoto Protocol—will deliver the collective ambition necessary to meet  
26 the temperature goal. While the Paris Agreement does not contain strong and stringent obligations of  
27 result for major emitters, backed by a coercive compliance system, it establishes binding procedural  
28 obligations, lays out a range of normative expectations, and creates mechanisms for regular review,  
29 stock taking, and revision of NDCs. In combination with complementary approaches to climate  
30 governance, engagement of a wide range of non-state and sub-state actors, and domestic enforcement  
31 mechanisms, these have the potential to deliver the necessary collective ambition.

### 32 33 **14.4.3 Other relevant non-climate agreements**

34 As a result of the expanding scope of global climate governance, matters relevant to climate change  
35 mitigation are addressed by a range of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) beyond those  
36 of the international climate regime.

37 The 1987 Montreal Ozone Protocol is the leading example of a non-climate MEA with significant  
38 implications for mitigating climate change (Barrett 2008). The Montreal Protocol regulates a number  
39 of substances that are both ozone depleting substances (ODS) and GHGs with a significant global  
40 warming potential (GWP), including chlorofluorocarbons, halons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons  
41 (HCFCs). As a result, implementation of phase-out requirements for these substances under the  
42 Montreal Protocol has made a significant contribution to mitigating climate change (Molina et al.  
43 2009). Velders et al estimate that the climate protection achieved by the Montreal Protocol alone was  
44 far larger than the reduction target of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (Velders et  
45 al. 2007).

46 The 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol applies to the production and consumption of  
47 hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs, which are widely used as refrigerants (Abas et al. 2018), have

1 high GWP values ranging from 53 to 14,800 for HFC-23. The Kigali Amendment addresses the risk  
2 that the phase-out of HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol and their replacement with HFCs could  
3 exacerbate global warming (Akanle 2010; Hurwitz et al. 2016), especially with the predicted growth  
4 in HFC usage for applications like air conditioners (Velders et al. 2015). It requires developed country  
5 parties to phase-down HFCs by 85% from 2011-2013 levels by 2036. Developing country parties are  
6 permitted longer phase-down periods (out to 2045 and 2047), but must freeze production and  
7 consumption between 2024 and 2028 (UN 2016; Ripley and Verkuil 2016). A ban on trade in HFCs  
8 with non-parties will come into effect from 1 January 2033. For HFC-23, which is a by-product of  
9 HCFC production rather than a ODS, parties are required to report production and consumption data,  
10 and to destroy all emissions of HFC-23 occurring as part of HCFCs or HFCs to the extent practicable  
11 using approved technologies (Ripley and Verkuil 2016). Full compliance with the Kigali Amendment  
12 is predicted to reduce global HFC emissions by 61% of the global baseline by 2050 (Höglund-  
13 Isaksson et al. 2017), with avoided global warming of up to 0.5°C this century (Roberts 2017;  
14 Graziosi et al. 2017). However, achievement of this objective is dependent on ratification of the  
15 Amendment by key developed countries, such as the United States, and the provision of funds by  
16 developed countries through the Protocol's Multilateral Fund to meet developing countries' 'agreed  
17 incremental costs' of implementation (Roberts 2017). The Kigali Amendment came into force on 1  
18 January 2019 and has been ratified by 87 of the 196 parties to the Montreal Protocol.

19 MEAs dealing with transboundary air pollution, such as the Convention on Long-Range  
20 Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) and its implementing protocols, which regulate non-GHG  
21 like particulates, nitrogen oxides and ground-level ozone, can also have potential benefits for climate  
22 change mitigation (Erickson 2017). Studies have indicated that rigorous air quality controls targeting  
23 short-lived climate forcers, like methane, ozone and black carbon, could slow global mean  
24 temperature rise by about 0.5°C by mid-century (Schmale et al. 2014). Steps in this direction were  
25 taken with 2012 amendments to the LRTAP Gothenburg Protocol to include black carbon, which is an  
26 important driver of climate change in the Arctic region (Yamineva and Kulovesi 2018). The amended  
27 Protocol, which has 22 parties including the US and EU, entered into force in October 2019.  
28 However, its limits on black carbon have been criticized as insufficiently ambitious in light of  
29 scientific assessments (Khan and Kulovesi 2018).

30 Another, recently concluded MEA that may play a role in aiding climate change mitigation is the  
31 2013 Minamata Mercury Convention, which came into force on 16 August 2017. Coal burning for  
32 electricity generation represents the second largest source (behind artisanal and small-scale gold  
33 mining) of anthropogenic mercury emissions to air (UNEP 2013). Efforts to control and reduce  
34 atmospheric emissions of mercury from coal-fired power generation under the Minamata Convention  
35 may reduce GHG emissions from this source (Eriksen and Perrez 2014; Selin 2014). For instance,  
36 (Giang et al. 2015) have modelled the implications of the Minamata Convention for mercury  
37 emissions from coal-fired power generation in India and China, concluding that reducing mercury  
38 emissions from present-day levels in these countries is likely to require 'avoiding coal consumption  
39 and transitioning toward less carbon-intensive energy sources' (Giang et al. 2015). Parties to the  
40 Minamata Convention include five of the six top global CO<sub>2</sub> emitters – China, the United States, the  
41 EU, India and Japan (Russia has not ratified the Convention). The Minamata Convention also  
42 establishes an Implementation and Compliance Committee to review compliance with its provisions  
43 on a 'facilitative' basis (Eriksen and Perrez 2014).

44 MEAs that require state parties to conserve habitat or to protect certain ecosystems like wetlands may  
45 also have co-benefits for climate change mitigation through the adoption of well-planned conservation  
46 policies (Phelps et al. 2012; Gilroy et al. 2014). REDD+ activities have been identified as a particular  
47 opportunity for achieving climate mitigation objectives while also conserving tropical forest  
48 biodiversity, although actual biodiversity co-benefits are dependent on the design and implementation



1 of REDD+ programs (Panfil and Harvey 2016). Busch et al have found that elements of REDD+ that  
2 are most effective for climate change mitigation (e.g. greater finance combined with reference levels  
3 which reduce leakage by promoting broad participation across countries with both high and low  
4 historical deforestation rates) also offer the greatest benefits for biodiversity conservation (Busch et  
5 al. 2011).

## 7 **14.5 Institutions and instruments for sub-global and/or sectoral specific** 8 **cooperation**

9 As discussed above, the Paris Agreement sets in place a new framework for international climate  
10 policy that some cite as leading to a new era of hybrid multilateralism (Bäckstrand et al. 2017).  
11 Whereas international governance had assumed centre stage earlier, the Paris Agreement recognizes  
12 the primacy of domestic politics in the governance of climate change. The new architecture also  
13 provides more flexibility for recognizing the benefits of working in diverse forms and groups and  
14 allowing for more decentralized “polycentric” forms of governance (Victor 2016; Jordan et al. 2015).

15 A similar evolution can be observed in theoretical analyses, which in general no longer deal with  
16 multilateral negotiations over a global agreement. The focus has shifted towards regional or sectoral  
17 agreements, or agreements focused on a particular subset of GHGs (Stewart et al. 2017; Falkner 2016;  
18 Sabel and Victor 2017). However, these institutions are no longer static, as the key idea is that self-  
19 enforcing cooperation can emerge in small groups which can serve as “building blocks” towards  
20 global cooperation.

21 One theoretical basis for this is that of socio-technological transitions. Geels et al. (2019) suggest that  
22 the elimination of net greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of society, within a specific  
23 timeframe, requires anticipatory investments in new technologies, which differ substantially across  
24 sectors. Cross-sectoral policies, such as economy-wide emissions reduction targets, do not lead to this  
25 result, as they often result in delaying action in those sectors where decarbonization is most  
26 challenging. They suggest that greater attention to specific technology or performance standards  
27 within separate sectors, supplemented with direct technology support, can address this issue, not only  
28 at national levels but also in the area of international cooperation. A second theoretical basis comes  
29 from club theory. Technology innovation can be transformed easier than climate change mitigation  
30 into a club good, as it is possible to exclude non-members of the club. Economic theory of clubs  
31 shows that cooperation in clubs is easier than at a global level, under certain conditions (Buchanan  
32 1965). In exchange for curbing their emissions, club participants receive some benefits that they  
33 would not receive otherwise (Green 2017). Along these lines, Stewart et al. (2017) consider clubs  
34 which are established around producing and disseminating green technology, and Potoski (2017)  
35 analyzes voluntary clubs built around a certification system (in both cases developing previous  
36 contribution within a logic of building blocks). Similarly, Nordhaus (2015) advocates the creation of  
37 climate clubs, focusing on the use of trade penalties to outsiders (Keohane et al. 2017). Using  
38 different methods, but with similar outcomes, several studies have shown that cooperation can evolve  
39 gradually starting with the actions from a leader, or a group of committed countries (Caparrós and  
40 Péreau 2017; Sprinz et al. 2018; Hovi et al. 2016).

### 41 **14.5.1 International emissions trading mechanisms**

42 In theory, trading carbon assets can reduce the costs of global climate mitigation, by helping facilitate  
43 abatement of greenhouse gases at least-cost locations. This could help countries ratchet up their  
44 ambitions more than in a situation without such mechanisms (Mehling et al. 2018). Progress as to  
45 developing such mechanisms has however so far been moderate and uneven.

1 As described in previous IPCC reports the 1997 Kyoto Protocol included three international market-  
2 based mechanisms, both among Annex I Parties (i.e. International Emissions Trading and Joint  
3 Implementation) and between Annex I Parties and non-Annex I countries (i.e. the Clean Development  
4 Mechanism) (Grubb 2014; World Bank 2018). Joint Implementation, with projects and credits mainly  
5 being developed by Russia, Ukraine and some Eastern European countries, never took off and only a  
6 limited number of trades were conducted. International Emissions Trading has been a bit more  
7 important, with trades mainly with the Russian and Eastern European countries as sellers and Japan as  
8 the key buyer. Demand has generally been low (World Bank 2018). As the basis for these credits was  
9 mainly post-Communist economic restructuring and not climate policy the credits have been criticized  
10 for constituting ‘hot air’ and not real and additional reductions.

11 The CDM market has been the most important, with something of a ‘gold rush’ period between 2005  
12 and 2011, although CDM projects have also been criticized, for lack of ‘additionality’, problems of  
13 baseline determination and uneven geographic coverage (as most projects were in India, China and  
14 Brazil) (Michaelowa, A. and Michaelowa 2011; Öko-Institut 2016; Michaelowa, A., Shishlov, I.;  
15 Brescia 2019). The EU, the main buyer of credits, tightened its rules and restricted the use of CDM  
16 credits in 2011, contributing to a sharp drop in the price of CDM credits in 2012. As the second  
17 commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol has yet to be formally initiated, the Doha Amendment not  
18 having entered into force, this price has not recovered.

19 Assessing the effectiveness of international emissions trading mechanisms is a challenge. The CDM  
20 has been the most prominent of the mechanisms. In relation to environmental effectiveness, a number  
21 of studies raise serious concerns about the independent value of many CDM projects (Michaelowa,  
22 A., Shishlov, I.; Brescia 2019). This points to a ‘likely low and also uncertain’ environmental  
23 effectiveness score. In relation to transformative potential, the picture is mixed. On the one hand, the  
24 CDM’s contribution to capacity building in some developing countries has been lauded as its possible  
25 most important achievement (Spalding-Fecher, R., Achanta, A. N., Erickson, P., Haites, E., Lazarus,  
26 M., Pahuja, N., Tewari, 2012). On the other hand, the CDM seems also to have led to prioritizing  
27 ‘low-hanging fruits’ over more fundamental measures (e.g. (Akita, J., Imai, H., & Niizawa 2012;  
28 Newell, P., & Bumpus 2012). So, an overall ‘moderate’ score appears reasonable. As to distributive  
29 outcomes, as noted, the mechanisms have been criticized for a ‘familiarity focus’ and steering money  
30 into only a handful of key countries (China, India, Brazil). A low to medium score is given here. With  
31 regard to economic performance, the mechanism has reportedly lowered compliance costs  
32 significantly for the EU and Japan (Spalding-Fecher, R., Achanta, A. N., Erickson, P., Haites, E.,  
33 Lazarus, M., Pahuja, N., Tewari, 2012). This points to a medium score in this respect. Finally, as to  
34 institutional strength, the assessment is mixed: while the experiences from the International  
35 Transaction Log (ITL) and the accounting apparatus helped establish a certain administrative capacity  
36 in this issue area, there were also governance challenges such as lack of transparency on project  
37 decisions.

38 A relevant and promising new development is the international linkage of existing regional or national  
39 emission trading systems. Several emission trading systems are now operational in different  
40 jurisdictions, including the EU, Switzerland, China, South Korea, New Zealand, and several US states  
41 and Canadian provinces (Wettstad, J. and Gulbrandsen 2018). More systems are in the pipeline,  
42 including Mexico and Thailand (ICAP 2019). Some of these jurisdictions have agreed to link their  
43 systems (the EU and Switzerland agreed in 2016) and other linkages are being negotiated. (Doda and  
44 Taschini 2017; Doda et al. 2019) analyse the potential benefits of these multilateral linkages and  
45 demonstrate that these are significant. Over time, the linkages of these emission trading systems can  
46 be seen as a building blocks to a strategic enlargement of international cooperation (Mehling 2018;  
47 Caparrós and Péreau 2017).

1 However, it is important to distinguish between theory and practice. The practice of ETS linking so  
2 far shows few links having been made and several processes breaking down due to shifts of  
3 governments and political preferences (for instance the process between the EU and Australia, and  
4 Ontario withdrawing from the WCI). It is worth noting that the linking of carbon markets raises  
5 problems of distribution of costs and loss of political control and hence does not offer a politically  
6 easy alternative route to a truly international carbon market. Careful, piece-meal and incremental  
7 linking may be the most feasible approach forward (Green, J., Sterner, T., & Wagner 2014;  
8 Gulbrandsen, L.H., Wettstad, J., Victor 2019). It is premature for any serious assessment of the  
9 practice of ETS linking to be conducted. Environmental effectiveness, transformative potential,  
10 economic performance, institutional strength and even distributional outcomes can potentially be  
11 significant and positive if linking is done carefully (Mehling et al. 2018; Doda and Taschini 2017;  
12 Doda et al. 2019), but are all marginal if one focuses on existing experiences.

### 13 **14.5.2 International sectoral agreements and institutions.**

14 Sectors refer to distinct areas of economic activity, often subject to their own governance regimes;  
15 examples include energy production, mobility, and manufacturing. A sectoral agreement could  
16 include virtually any type of mitigation commitment. It could establish sectoral emission targets, on  
17 either an absolute or an indexed basis. It could also require states (or particular groups of states, if  
18 commitments are differentiated) to adopt uniform or harmonized policies and measures for a sector,  
19 such as technology-based standards, taxes, or best-practice standards. It could provide for cooperation  
20 on technology research or deployment. Or a sectoral agreement could combine a number of  
21 approaches (Bodansky 2007).

#### 22 **14.5.2.1 Forestry sector**

23 Since 2008, several, often overlapping, voluntary and non-binding international efforts and  
24 agreements have been established to reduce net emissions from the forestry sector. These initiatives  
25 have varying levels of private sector involvement and different objectives, targets, and timelines.  
26 Some efforts focus on *reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation*, while other focus on  
27 *negative emissions through restoration* of cleared or degraded landscapes. These initiatives do not  
28 elaborate specific policies, procedures, or implementation mechanisms. They merely set targets,  
29 frameworks, and milestones, aiming to catalyze further action, investment, and transparency in  
30 conservation and consolidate individual country efforts.

31 The longest standing program in the forestry sector is the UN REDD+ Programme, started in 2008,  
32 which aims to reduce forest emissions and enhance carbon stocks in forests while contributing to  
33 national sustainable development. These efforts tend to focus on reducing emissions through the  
34 creation of protected areas, payments for ecosystem services, and/or land tenure reform (Pirard et al.  
35 2019). The programme supports national REDD+ efforts, inclusion of stakeholders in relevant  
36 dialogues, and capacity building toward REDD+ readiness in partner countries. The Forest Carbon  
37 Partnership Facility is a related initiative that helps facilitate funding for REDD+ readiness and  
38 specific projects. To date the conservation and emissions impacts of REDD+ remain poorly  
39 understood (Pirard et al. 2019), but existing evidence suggests that reductions in deforestation from  
40 subnational REDD+ initiatives have been minimal (Bos et al. 2017).

41 Another relevant initiative is the 2015 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
42 (UNCCD), which targets land degradation neutrality (“A state whereby the amount and quality of  
43 land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security,  
44 remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”) (Orr et al.  
45 2017). This overarching goal was recognized as also being critical to reaching the more specific  
46 avoided deforestation and degradation and restoration goals of the UNFCCC and UNCBD.

1 Recent efforts toward reduced emissions from the forestry sector have the overarching goal of  
2 reaching zero *gross* deforestation globally (no more clearing of natural forests). The New York  
3 Declaration on Forests was the first international pledge to call for a halving of “natural forest” loss  
4 by 2020 and the elimination of natural forest loss by 2030 (Streck et al.). It was endorsed at the United  
5 Nations Climate Summit in September 2014. By September 2019 the list of NYDF supporters  
6 included over 200 actors: national governments, sub-national governments, multi-national companies,  
7 groups representing indigenous communities, and non-government organizations. These endorsers  
8 have committed to doing their part to achieve the NYDF’s ten goals, which further include ending  
9 deforestation for agricultural expansion by 2020, reducing deforestation from other sectors, restoring  
10 forests, and providing financing for forest action (Forest Declaration 2019). The effectiveness of these  
11 agreements, which lack binding rules, can only be judged by the supplementary actions they have  
12 catalyzed. The NYDF contributed to the development of a number of other zero-deforestation  
13 pledges, including the Amsterdam Declarations by seven European nations to achieve fully  
14 sustainable and deforestation-free agro-commodity supply chains in Europe by 2020 and over 150  
15 individual company commitments to not source products associated with deforestation (Lambin et al.  
16 2018; Donofrio et al. 2017). Recent studies indicate that these efforts currently lack the potential to  
17 achieve wide-scale reductions in clearing and associated emissions due to low implementation  
18 (Garrett et al. 2019), but may have triggered small additional reductions in deforestation in some  
19 areas, particularly for soy, and to a lesser extent cattle, in the Brazilian Amazon(Lambin et al. 2018).  
20 Though deforestation levels and associated emissions continue to be high, and even increasing in  
21 many regions of the world (Curtis et al. 2018), global targets are clearly not being met.

22 In 2010 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 was adopted by the parties of the UN  
23 Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) in 2010. This plan included 20 targets known as the  
24 Aichi Biodiversity targets(Marques et al. 2014). Of relevance to the forestry sector, Aichi Target 15  
25 sets the goal of enhancing ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks  
26 through conservation and restoration, including “restoration of at least 15% of degraded  
27 ecosystems”(UNCBD 2010). The plan elaborates milestones, including the development of national  
28 plans for potential restoration levels and contributions to biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration,  
29 and climate adaptation to be integrated into other national strategies, including REDD+.

30 Recent efforts toward negative emissions through restoration include the Bonn Challenge, the African  
31 Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR 100) and Initiative 20X20. The Bonn Challenge was  
32 initiated in 2011 by the Government of Germany and the IUCN to serve as a catalyst to realizing the  
33 existing international AFOLU commitments. It sets the target of bringing 150 million hectares (Mha)  
34 of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 Mha by 2030. AFR has  
35 the goal of restoring 100 Mha specifically in Africa (Nhlapho 2019), while 20X20 aims to restore 20  
36 Mha in Latin America and the Caribbean (Peimbert 2019). Increasing commitments for restoration  
37 have created momentum for restoration interventions (Chazdon et al. 2017; Mansourian et al. 2017;  
38 Djenontin et al. 2018). To date 97 Mha have been pledged in Intended Nationally Determined  
39 Contributions. Yet only a small part of this goal has actually been achieved. The Bonn Challenge  
40 Barometer – a progress-tracking framework and tool to support pledgers - indicates that 27 Mha  
41 (InfoFLR 2018) are currently being restored, equivalent to 1.379 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq sequestered  
42 (Dave et al. 2019). A key challenge in scaling up restoration has been how to mobilize sufficient  
43 financing (FAO and UNCCD 2015; Djenontin et al. 2018). This underscores the importance of  
44 building international financing for restoration (equivalent to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility  
45 focused on avoided deforestation and degradation).

46 In sum, existing international agreements have had a small impact on reducing emissions from the  
47 forestry sector and some success in achieving negative emissions through restoration, but these  
48 outcomes are nowhere near levels required to meet the Paris Agreement - turning land use an forests

1 globally “from a net anthropogenic source during 1990-2010 ( $1.3 \pm 1.1 \text{ GtCO}_2\text{eq y}^{-1}$ ) to a net sink of  
2 carbon by 2030 (up to  $-1.1 \pm 0.5 \text{ GtCO}_2\text{eq y}^{-1}$ ), and providing a quarter of emission reductions  
3 planned by countries”(Grassi et al. 2017). The forestry sector continues to be a large source of  
4 emissions that is not even close to being offset by existing restoration initiatives.

#### 5 **14.5.2.2 Energy sector**

6 International cooperation on issues of energy supply and security has a long history. Most of this  
7 history, however, has centred on fossil fuels, oil and gas in particular. As Goldthau and Witte (2010)  
8 document, the majority of governance effort, outside of oil and gas producing states, was oriented  
9 towards ensuring reliable and affordable access to oil and gas imports. For example, the original  
10 rationale for creation of the International Energy Agency (IEA), during the oil crisis of 1973-74, was  
11 to manage a mechanism to ensure importing countries access to oil (Van de Graaf and Lesage 2009).  
12 On the other side of the aisle, oil exporting countries created the international institution of OPEC to  
13 enable them to control oil output and prices (Fattouh and Mahadeva 2013). For years, energy  
14 governance was seen as a zero-sum game between these poles (Goldthau and Witte 2010). The only  
15 international governance agency focusing on low carbon energy sources was the International Atomic  
16 Energy Agency, and this organization was primarily concerned with nuclear safety non-proliferation  
17 of weapons, rather than promoting a low-carbon energy source (Scheinman 1987).

18 More recently, however, new institutions have emerged, and existing institutions have realigned their  
19 missions, in order to promote capacity raising and global investment in low carbon energy  
20 technologies. In 2005 the IEA broadened its mission from one concerned primarily with security of  
21 oil supplies, to one also concerned with the sustainability of energy use, including work programs on  
22 energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. Included in this work has been the maintenance of  
23 databases on alternative energy production and consumption, development of renewable energy  
24 scenarios, and performing advisory functions, such as in the context of UNFCCC negotiations (Van  
25 de Graaf and Lesage 2009). Nevertheless, the perception that the IEA was primarily interested in  
26 promoting the continued use of fossil fuels, and underplaying the potential role of renewable  
27 technologies led a number of IEA member states to successfully push for the creation of a parallel  
28 organization, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which was then established in  
29 2009 (Van de Graaf 2013). An assessment of IRENA’s activities in 2015 suggested that the agency  
30 could have a positive effect as a result of three core activities: offering advisory services to member  
31 states regarding renewable energy technologies and systems; serving as a focal point for data and  
32 analysis for renewable energy; and, mobilizing other international institutions, such as multilateral  
33 development banks, to promote renewable energy (Urpelainen and Van de Graaf 2015). Similar work  
34 has also been conducted by the Committee on Sustainable Energy within the United Nations  
35 Economic Commission for Europe. Finally, there have emerged a number of transnational  
36 organizations and activities, such as REN21, a global community of renewable energy experts  
37 (REN21 2019), and RE100, an NGO led initiative to enlist multilateral companies to shift towards  
38 100% renewable energy in their value chains (RE100 2019).

39 Whether a result of the above activities or not, multilateral development banks’ lending practices have  
40 shifted in the direction of renewable energy (Delina 2017). Activities include new sources of project  
41 finance, concessional loans, as well as loan guarantees, the latter through the Multilateral Investment  
42 Guarantee Agency (MIGA 2019). This appears to matter. For example, Frisari and Stadelmann (2015)  
43 find concessional lending by multilateral development banks to solar energy projects in Morocco and  
44 India to have reduced overall project costs, due to more attractive financing conditions from  
45 additional lenders, as well as reducing the costs to local governments. Labordena et al. (2017b)  
46 projected these results into the future, and found that with the drop in financing costs, renewable  
47 energy projects serving all major demand centers in sub-Saharan Africa could reach cost parity with

1 fossil fuels by 2025, whereas without the drop in financing costs associated with concessional  
2 findings, this would not be the case.

3 Despite improvements in the international governance of energy, it still appears that a great deal of  
4 this is still concerned with promoting further development of fossil fuels. For example, Gallagher et  
5 al. (2018) examine the role of national development finance systems, focusing in particular on China.  
6 They find the majority of finance devoted to projects associated either with fossil fuel extraction or  
7 with fossil fuel-fired power generation.

8 There are no empirical analyses of the combined effectiveness of international cooperation in the  
9 energy sector. Given the separate analyses reviewed here, it appears that pre-existing governance had  
10 a negative overall effect towards achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, while more recent  
11 progress is having a weakly positive effect. The latter is primarily associated with the criterion of  
12 transformative potential, as the new initiatives are primarily associated with improving capacity,  
13 financing, and performance of low carbon technologies, rather than engaging in direct regulation that  
14 would lead to an observable environmental impact. Such efforts would also contribute to  
15 improvements in the institutional strength of national governments in the area of renewable energy  
16 development.

### 17 **14.5.2.3 Transportation sector**

18 Regulations introduced by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil  
19 Aviation Organization (ICAO) have played a role in controlling emissions from international shipping  
20 and aviation. Emissions from these elements of the transportation sector are generally excluded from  
21 national emissions reduction policies because of the ‘international’ location of emissions release that  
22 makes allocating them to individual nations difficult (Bows-Larkin 2015; Lyle 2018). Aviation  
23 emissions currently account for 2-2.5% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Grote et al. 2014), with total  
24 shipping emissions contributing 2.6% global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Olmer et al. 2017). Despite increasing  
25 efficiency, emissions from both sectors are growing substantially with increasing demand (Bows-  
26 Larkin 2015). By 2050, emissions from these sectors combined are projected to reach a level  
27 equivalent to 10-32% of the total global emissions consistent with a 2°C pathway (Gençsü and Hino  
28 2015).

29 The Kyoto Protocol required developed country parties to pursue emissions reductions from aviation  
30 and marine bunker fuels by working through IMO and ICAO (Art. 2.2). Although limited progress  
31 was made by these organizations on emissions controls in the ensuing decades (Liu 2012), conclusion  
32 of the SDGs and Paris Agreement (Martinez Romera 2016), together with unilateral actions such as  
33 the EU’s inclusion of aviation emissions in its Emissions Trading Scheme (Kulovesi 2012; Gössling  
34 and Upham 2009), have prompted greater action. The Paris Agreement neither explicitly addresses  
35 emissions from international aviation and shipping, nor repeats the Kyoto Protocol’s provision  
36 requiring parties to work through ICAO/IMO to address these emissions. This leaves unclear the  
37 status of the Kyoto Protocol’s article 2.2 directive after 2020, potentially opening up scope for more  
38 attention to aviation and shipping emissions under the Paris Agreement, as well as within the IMO  
39 and ICAO (Doelle and Chircop 2019).

40 ICAO has adopted a ‘basket’ of mitigation measures for the aviation sector consisting of technical and  
41 operational measures, sustainable alternative fuels and a market-based measure, known as the Carbon  
42 Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) introduced in 2016 (ICAO 2016).  
43 CORSIA includes an aspirational goal to keep global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation  
44 from 2020 at the same level, which is to be implemented in phases after 2020. However, it is unclear  
45 whether this goal and further emissions reduction in the sector will be possible solely through the use  
46 of offsets without additional constraints on demand (Lyle 2018). Other measures adopted by ICAO  
47 include an aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> emissions standard that will apply to new aircraft type designs from 2020, and  
48 to aircraft type designs already in production as of 2023 (Smith and Ahmad 2018).

1 The IMO has also considered a range of measures to reduce shipping emissions, with a focus on  
2 energy efficiency (Martinez Romera 2016). The IMO's Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for  
3 new ships is intended over a ten-year period to improve energy efficiency by up to 30% in several  
4 categories of ships propelled by diesel engines (Smith and Ahmad 2018). However, it is unlikely that  
5 the EEDI and other IMO technical and operational measures will be sufficient to produce necessary  
6 emissions reduction because of the future growth in international seaborne trade and world population  
7 (Shi and Gullett 2018). Consequently, in 2018, the IMO adopted an initial strategy on reduction of  
8 GHG emissions from ships, which aims for peaking of emissions as soon as possible and reducing the  
9 total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008 levels (IMO 2018). The  
10 strategy identifies a series of candidate short-term, medium-term and long-term measures for  
11 achieving this goal, including possible market-based measures. Further progress on market-based  
12 measures faces difficulty in light of conflicts between the CBDR principle of the climate regime and  
13 the traditional non-discrimination approach that has guided past IMO regulation (Zhang 2016).  
14 Overall, the IMO strategy is seen as a reasonable first step that is ambitious for the industry, although  
15 in its next iteration of the strategy to 2023 there is a need to specify concrete implementation  
16 measures and to strengthen targets to catch up with the goals of the Paris Agreement (Doelle and  
17 Chircop 2019).

### 18 **14.5.3 International cooperation in science, technology, and innovation**

19 Science, technology and innovation are essential for the design of effective measures to address  
20 climate change and, more generally, for economic and social development. The OECD (2012a) finds  
21 that single countries alone often cannot provide effective solutions to the global challenges of today,  
22 as these cross national borders and affect different actors. However the capacity for scientific and  
23 technological innovation is not evenly distributed, particularly across the developed and the  
24 developing world. For this reason, many countries have been introducing strategies and policies to  
25 enhance international cooperation in science and technology and have made this a priority (Chen et al.  
26 2019; OECD 2012a). Partnerships and international cooperation can play a role in establishing  
27 domestic innovation systems, which enable more effective science and technology innovation (de  
28 Coninck and Sagar 2015a,b).

29 International cooperation in science and technology occurs across different levels, with a growing  
30 number of international cooperation initiatives aimed at research and collaborative action in  
31 technology development. Weart (2012) finds that such global efforts are effective in advancing  
32 climate change science due to the international nature of the challenge. Global research programmes  
33 and institutions have also provided the scientific basis for major international environmental treaties.  
34 For example, the Transboundary Air Pollution Convention and the Montreal Protocol were both  
35 informed by scientific assessments based on collaboration and cooperation of scientists across several  
36 geographies. Furthermore, the Global Energy Assessment (GEA) (2012) provided the scientific basis  
37 and evidence for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG7 to ensure access  
38 to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy for all. The GEA drew on the expertise of  
39 scientists from over 60 countries and institutions. Several other platforms exist to provide scientists  
40 and policymakers an opportunity for joint research and knowledge sharing, such as The World in  
41 2050, an initiative that brings together scientists from some 40 institutions from around the world to  
42 provide the science for SDG and Paris Agreement implementation (TWI2050 2018).

43 Non-state actors are also increasingly collaborating internationally. Such collaborations, referred to as  
44 international cooperative initiatives (ICIs), bring together multi-stakeholder groups across industry,  
45 communities, and regions and operate both within and outside the UNFCCC process. While a large  
46 number of ICIs exist, Bakhriari (2018) finds that the impact on greenhouse gas reduction of these  
47 initiatives is hindered due to a lack of coordination between ICIs, overlap with other activities  
48 conducted by the UNFCCC and governments, and a lack of monitoring system to measure impact.

1 Increasing the exchange of information between ICIs, enhancing monitoring systems, and increasing  
2 collaborative research in science and technology would help address these issues (Boekholt et al.  
3 2009; Bakhtiari 2018).

4 At the level of research institutes, there has been a major shift to a more structured and global type of  
5 cooperation in research, building on the existing bottom-up, informal and regional (mostly European)  
6 cooperation (Georghiou 1998). Wagner et al (2017) find that number of scientific papers that are co-  
7 authored internationally has increased from 10 percent to 25 percent, and the amount of countries  
8 participating in international research has grown by 58 countries in the period 1990 to 2015. Although  
9 only a portion of these scientific papers address the issue of climate change specifically, this growth  
10 of scientific collaboration across borders provides a comprehensive view of the conducive  
11 environment in which climate science collaboration has grown.

12 However, there are areas in which international cooperation can be strengthened. Both the Paris  
13 Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development call for more creative forms of  
14 international cooperation in science that can help bridge the science and policy interface, and that can  
15 provide learning processes and places to deliberate on possible policy pathways across disciplines on  
16 a more sustainable and long-lasting basis. Scientific assessments, such as the IPCC and IPBES offer  
17 this possibility, but the processes need to be enriched for this to happen more effectively (Kowarsch et  
18 al. 2016). This is especially apparent in literature surrounding scenarios, where researchers are  
19 collaborating to produce new families of scenarios that aim to be more comprehensive and inclusive  
20 of economic, social and environmental dimensions (Riahi et al. 2017; Ebi et al. 2014). These efforts  
21 involve researchers and institutions globally, drawing expertise from individuals in both the  
22 developed as well as developing world. The IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) in  
23 2000, the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) (van Vuuren et al. 2011), and the current  
24 collaboration on Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) (Riahi et al. 2017; O'Neill et al. 2017) all  
25 relied on the successful cooperation of scientists across borders

26 Rapid advances in technology, major geopolitical changes, shifts in the way research is funded, and  
27 more pressures for open access will all have major impacts on international cooperation in science. A  
28 report by Elsevier and Ipsos (2019) find that these new developments have the potential, if well  
29 managed, to bring positive impacts. Major advances in general purpose technologies such as digital  
30 technology will have implications across sectors and have already been disruptive in the energy sector  
31 (Skea et al. 2019). Big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and augmented reality are opening not  
32 only new way of sharing and accessing data and providing new learning tools, but also changing the  
33 shape of science and technology (Elsevier and IPSOS MORI 2019). Digital technologies such as  
34 nanotechnologies and nanobiotechnology, genetic engineering, synthetic biology, biometrics, and  
35 additive manufacturing, all have the potential to open new frontiers in the complex fight against  
36 climate change. However, if not well managed, these developments might not be realised by all  
37 countries, thus creating a new divide (TWI2050 2018). International cooperation strengthens  
38 institutional and policy frameworks in developing countries and builds their innovation systems can  
39 aid technology transfer and knowledge to flow to their advantage (de Coninck and Sagar 2015a,b;  
40 Niosi 2018).

#### 41 **14.5.4 International governance of SRM and CDR technologies**

##### 42 ***14.5.4.1 Global governance of solar radiation modification and associated risks***

43 Solar radiation modification (SRM) refers to a range of deliberate attempts to reduce the amount of  
44 sunlight absorbed by the planet in order to counteract warming caused by greenhouse gases. SRM  
45 proposals include those that increase land and ocean albedo, brighten marine clouds or inject  
46 reflective particles into the stratosphere. Several SRM techniques were already discussed in AR5 and  
47 SR1.5. In AR6, Working Group I chapters 4 and 5 assess the physical climate system and  
48 biogeochemical responses to different SRM approaches (sections 4.6.3 and 5.6.3). SRM has been



1 suggested as a potential response option within a broader climate risk management strategy in  
2 addition to mitigation, carbon dioxide removal and adaptation (Crutzen 2006; Royal Society 2009),  
3 for example as a temporary measure to address temperature overshoot (MacMartin et al. 2018). SRM  
4 is still at an early stage of research. Assessments rely primarily on modelling efforts, first and  
5 foremost in the context of the Geoengineering Model Intercomparison Project GeoMIP6 (Kravitz et  
6 al. 2015).

7 Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) – the most researched SRM method – would carry global risks,  
8 and since it could potentially be deployed uni- or minilaterally and alter the global mean temperature  
9 much faster than any other climate policy measure, it poses significant governance challenges (Parson  
10 2014; Sugiyama et al. 2018; Nicholson et al. 2018; Reynolds 2019). Both benefits (Irvine et al. 2019)  
11 and adverse geophysical effects (e.g. on precipitation patterns, crop growth, biodiversity or the ozone  
12 layer) (Pitari et al. 2014; Visoni et al. 2017; Trisos et al. 2018) will be unevenly distributed.  
13 Perceptions could exacerbate geopolitical conflicts, not the least depending on which countries are  
14 part of a deployment coalition (Maas and Scheffran 2012; Zürn and Schäfer 2013). Premature  
15 deployment triggered by perceived climate emergencies would create international tensions (Corry  
16 2017; Lederer and Kreuter 2018).

17 There is broad agreement in the literature that emerging and potentially disruptive SRM technologies  
18 should not be governed through comprehensive institutional architectures designed well in advance  
19 (Rayner et al. 2013; Sugiyama et al. 2018; Reynolds 2019). Such arrangements would likely prove  
20 either too restrictive or too permissive in light of subsequent developments (Bodansky 2013).  
21 Accordingly, governance arrangements should co-evolve with respective SRM technologies, aiming  
22 to be at least one step ahead of research, development, demonstration, and—potentially—deployment  
23 (Parson 2014). A recent literature review (Nicholson et al. 2018) distills four core objectives for near-  
24 term polycentric SRM governance: (1) Guard against potential risks and harms; (2) Enable  
25 appropriate research and development of scientific knowledge; (3) Legitimize any future research or  
26 policy-making through active and informed public and expert community engagement; (4) Ensure that  
27 SRM is considered only as a part of a broader portfolio of responses to climate change. Given that  
28 risks and potentials of SRM techniques are differing substantially and that their large-scale  
29 deployment is highly speculative, there is a wide array of concrete proposals for anticipatory and/or  
30 adaptive governance. Regarding options for institutionalization, proposals range from formal  
31 integration into existing UN bodies like the UNFCCC (Nicholson et al. 2018) creation of specific, but  
32 less formalized global fora (Parson and Ernst 2013) to forms of club governance (Bodansky 2013;  
33 Lloyd and Oppenheimer 2014).

34 Currently, there is no targeted governance for SRM. Some multilateral agreements—such as the UN  
35 Convention on Biological Diversity, the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer,  
36 and the Environmental Modification Convention—cover parts, but none is comprehensive (Bodansky  
37 2013; Reynolds 2019). An attempt to pass a resolution on CDR and SRM at the UN Environment  
38 Assembly (UNEA) that would have, among others, mandated an assessment of future global  
39 governance options, failed recently (Jinnah and Nicholson 2019).

#### 40 **14.5.4.2 Carbon dioxide removal**

41 Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies such as ocean fertilization also pose similar governance  
42 challenges. The current governance frameworks for CDR have inadequacies, gaps and limits (Liu and  
43 Chen 2015), but there is a need for governance (Pasztor 2017), and potential for global  
44 experimentalist governance in this field (Armeni 2015). Instruments such as the London Dumping  
45 Convention and its 1996 Protocol, and the CBD have adopted a precautionary approach and imposed  
46 moratoria on ocean fertilization, except for small-scale studies or legitimate scientific research (Sands  
47 & Peel, 2018). The London Convention/Protocol has also developed an Assessment Framework for  
48 Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization (London Convention/Protocol 2010) and in 2013

1 adopted amendments (which are not yet in force) to regulate marine geoengineering activities,  
2 including ocean fertilization. Some question whether there is a need for a facilitative approach to  
3 marine geo-engineering, since assumptions about negative emissions are playing a significant role in  
4 modelling for future temperature stabilization pathways consistent with the Paris Agreement's  
5 temperature goal (McGee et al. 2018). Given the obstacles to the uptake of negative emissions at  
6 scale, others, however, challenge these assumptions and argue that even a modest consideration of  
7 equity, instead requires, stringent mitigation policy, including curbing energy demand, in the short-  
8 term (Larkin et al. 2018).

## 10 **14.5.5 Multilateral and bilateral development institutions and instruments**

### 11 **14.5.5.1 *Bilateral development assistance***

12 The UNFCCC website cites some 20 bilateral development agencies providing support to climate  
13 change programs in developing countries. These agencies provide a mix of development cooperation,  
14 policy advice and support and financing of climate change projects. Article 11.5 of the Convention  
15 states that the developed country Parties may also provide and developing country Parties avail  
16 themselves of, financial resources related to the implementation of the Convention through bilateral,  
17 regional and other multilateral channels (UNFCCC 2019i). Since the year 2000, the OECD  
18 Development Assistance Committee has been tracking trends in climate-related development finance  
19 and assistance. The sectors receiving the highest percentage of the funding include the following:  
20 energy which is by far the largest; agriculture forestry and fishing follows with a slightly reduced  
21 amount; water supply and sanitation, transport and storage, and other multisector support; and,  
22 governance and social infrastructure. The statistics do not include references to what percentage of  
23 this assistance is used for regional or international programs, as for example in energy regional  
24 integration schemes or transboundary environment and ecosystem protection, which must exist. The  
25 amount of bilateral development finance allocated to climate change has increased exponentially since  
26 the year 2000 (OECD 2019). Both the Paris Agreement and the SDGs reinforce the need to forge  
27 strong linkages between climate and development. Both refer to the need to address the growing  
28 needs of development while at the same time addressing the challenges of climate change (Fay et al.  
29 2015). This in turn has highlighted the urgent need for greater attention to the relationship between  
30 development assistance and finance and climate change (Steele 2015). But the literature on how these  
31 programs promote international cooperation is still scarce.

### 32 **14.5.5.2 *Multilateral development institutions***

33 The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is the largest implementer of climate action  
34 among the UN Agencies. Its program to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and its  
35 support for adaptation and mitigation helps countries integrate climate risks into their development  
36 planning and to develop programs to adopt low carbon and climate resilient and sustainable  
37 development. Many of these activities promote either transboundary or regional cooperation.  
38 Thematic cooperation across countries is also promoted through the global thematic centers (UNDP).  
39 Furthermore, the majority of the other agencies are also engaged in activities related to their area of  
40 mandate, such as FAO and the impacts of climate on food security, WHO and the impacts of climate  
41 on health, UNIDO on the impacts of climate on industry and infrastructure, to name just the few.  
42 Most of these also promote cooperation across geographical boundaries. And lastly, there is the UN  
43 Office of South-South Cooperation set up to promote cooperation among developing countries, and  
44 triangular cooperation (UNOSSC).

1 The term Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) includes a large variety and number of  
2 institutions. These include global, regional and sub-regional development banks, some 25 in all<sup>1</sup>  
3 (Prizzon and Engen 2018) . They play a key role in international cooperation at the global, regional  
4 and sub-regional level because of their growing mandates and proximity to policymakers. They are  
5 key partners in the growing importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation. For many, climate  
6 change is a growing priority and for some, because of the needs of the regions, or sub-regions in  
7 which they operate, climate change is embedded in many of their operations (Nakhooda 2011). A  
8 large group of them have established a system for tracking climate finance (funding of mitigation and  
9 adaptation activities) and for sharing experiences and establishing cooperation (African Development  
10 Bank et al. 2017). More recently, there have been calls for focusing not just on climate finance and  
11 tracking climate finance, but also in examining how the lending activities of the multilateral  
12 development banks contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement. Arguably, it is only through closer  
13 linkages between climate and development that significant inroads can be made in addressing climate  
14 change. MDBs can play a major role through the totality of their portfolios (Larsen et al. 2018)

15 Over time the World Bank has steadily increased its engagement with the climate change issue, in line  
16 with a growing realization of the important links between reducing poverty and addressing climate  
17 change. A number of initiatives have been taken, mostly in the field of ‘carbon finance’ (World Bank  
18 2018). These include the Prototype Carbon Fund and several subsequent ‘national’ funds, the Forest  
19 Carbon Partnership Facility, and the Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (Hale, T. and Roger  
20 2014). In addition, several carbon pricing initiatives and partnerships have been established, such as  
21 the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) in 2010, Networked Carbon Markets (NCM) in 2013,  
22 and Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) in 2015 (World Bank 2018)(World Bank 2019).  
23 Furthermore, complementing initiatives such as the NCM and the CPLC the post-2012 phase - with  
24 Jim Yon Kim as Bank President from 2012 on - has seen several important climate policy decisions  
25 and programs adopted. In 2013 the Bank decided to limit financing of coal power only to ‘rare  
26 circumstances.’ In 2016 a Climate Change Action Plan was adopted, with targets such as helping  
27 client countries add 30 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2020. Furthermore, in 2017 the Bank  
28 announced it would no longer finance upstream oil and gas from 2019 on except in special  
29 circumstances. Then in December 2018 the Bank, along with eight other MDBs, announced a joint  
30 framework for aligning their activities with the Paris Agreement, and the World Bank Group also  
31 announced a new set of climate targets for 2021-2025, doubling its current 5-year investments to  
32 around 200 billion dollars. In January 2019 an Action Plan on Adaptation and Resilience was  
33 published, including a goal to increase adaptation finance to 50 billion dollars by 2025.

34 The operating entity of the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism, the Global Environment Facility,  
35 manages two special funds, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed  
36 Countries Fund (LDCF) (UNFCCC). In 2010, at COP 16, parties established the Green Climate Fund

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<sup>1</sup> Six global development banks that include European Investment Bank (EIB), international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Investment Bank (IIB), New Development Bank (NDB), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), World Bank Group; six regional development banks that include African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (AsDB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter American Development Bank (IADB), and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); and thirteen sub-regional development banks that include Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Development Bank of the Central African States (BDEAC), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), East African Development Bank (EADB), Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB), Economic Cooperation Organization Trade and Development Bank (ETDB), ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Eurasian Development Bank EDB), West African Development Bank (BOAD).

1 and in 2011 designated it as another operating entity of the Financial Mechanism. In 2015, the Green  
2 Climate Fund was given a special role in supporting the Paris Agreement. It aims to provide funding,  
3 balanced between mitigation and adaptation, in the form of either grants, loans, equity, or guarantees  
4 to activities that are aligned with the priorities of the countries compatible with the principle of  
5 country ownership (Green Climate Fund). The Green Climate Fund faces many challenges. While  
6 some see the GCF as an opportunity to transform and rationalize what is now a complex and  
7 fragmented climate finance architecture with insufficient resources and overlapping remits (Smita,  
8 Nakhooda 2014), others see it as an opportunity to address the frequent tensions which arise between  
9 mitigation-focused transformation and national priorities of countries. This tension is at the heart of  
10 the principle of country ownership and the need for transformational change (Winkler, Harald and  
11 Dubash 2016). Leveraging private funds and investments by the public sector is another expressed  
12 aim of the GCF (Green Climate Fund). Given the demand for financial resources, which need to come  
13 from many sources, the leveraging of private funds is a crucial task for the GCF. In assessing the  
14 effectiveness of the GCF, one needs to consider the extent to which it is successful in leveraging these  
15 investments. The establishment of a Private Sector Facility by the GCF, for instance, is seen as a step  
16 in the right direction. The current architecture of climate finance is one that is primarily based on  
17 north-south, developed-developing country dichotomies. As more and more climate finance flows  
18 across developing countries, enhanced by international cooperation, the GCF could also be assessed  
19 based on the extent it promotes climate finance between developing countries and in so doing acts as a  
20 facilitator of international cooperation (Ha,Sangjung , Hale 2016).

21 The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has since 2009 engaged in  
22 environmental issues, including climate change. It established the Climate Change Expert Group to  
23 promote dialogue on and enhance understanding in the international climate change negotiations, and  
24 it has other programs on climate finance as well. The OECD Declaration on Green Growth  
25 acknowledges that “green and growth can go hand-in-hand” (OECD 2009). The Green Growth  
26 Strategy, presented in the Rio+20 Conference 2012, brings together economic, environmental, social,  
27 technological, and development aspects into a comprehensive framework. The strategy proposes a  
28 flexible policy framework that can be tailored to different country circumstances and stages of  
29 development, and strengthening arrangements for managing global public goods, especially  
30 biodiversity and climate (OECD 2011). The OECD Environmental Outlook 2050 addresses the  
31 implications of demographic and economic trends over the next decades using model-based  
32 projections for four key areas of global concern: climate change, biodiversity, water and the health  
33 impacts of environmental pollution (OECD 2012b)

#### 34 **14.5.6 South-South cooperation**

35 South-South (SSC) and triangular (TrC) cooperation are bold, innovative, and rapidly developing  
36 means of strengthening cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs (FAO 2018). SSC is gaining  
37 momentum in achieving sustainable development and climate actions in developing countries (UN  
38 2017). Through SSC, countries are able to map their capacity needs and knowledge gaps and find  
39 sustainable, cost-effective, long-lasting and economically viable solutions (FAO 2019).

40 There has been a recent resurgence of South-South cooperation (Gray and Gills (2016), signaled inter  
41 alia by the South-South Cooperation Action Plan adopted by the UN as a substantive pillar to support  
42 the implementation of the UN Climate Change Engagement Strategy 2017 (UNOSC 2017).

43 Janus, Klingebiel and Hahn (2014) explore the evolving development cooperation and its future  
44 governance architecture based on The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation  
45 (GPEDC) and The United Nations (UN) Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). Drawing on  
46 evidence from the hydropower, solar and wind energy industry in China, Urban (2018) introduces the  
47 concept of ‘geographies of transfer and cooperation’ and challenges the North-South technology

1 transfer and cooperation paradigm for low carbon innovation and climate change mitigation. While  
2 North-South technology transfer and cooperation (NSTT) for low carbon energy technology has been  
3 implemented for decades, South-South technology transfer and cooperation (SSTT) and South-North  
4 technology transfer and cooperation (SNTT) have only recently emerged. Kirchher and Urban (2018)  
5 provide a meta-synthesis of the scholarly writings on NSTT, SSTT and SNTT from the past 30 years.  
6 The discussion focuses on core drivers and inhibitors of technology transfer and cooperation,  
7 outcomes as well as outcome determinants. A case study of transfer of low-carbon energy innovation  
8 and its opportunities and barriers, based on first large Chinese-funded and Chinese-built dam in  
9 Cambodia is presented by Urban et al. (2015a).

10 Urban, Zhou, Nordensward and Narain (2015b) explore the role that technology transfer/cooperation  
11 from Europe played in shaping firm level wind energy technologies in China and India and discuss  
12 the recent technology cooperation between the Chinese, Indian, and European wind firms. The  
13 research finds that firm-level technology transfer/cooperation shaped the leading wind energy  
14 technologies in China and to a lesser extend in India. Thus, the technology cooperation between  
15 China, India, and Europe has become more multi-faceted and increasingly Southern-led.

16 Rampa, Bilal and Sidiropoulos (2012) focus on the manner in which African states understand and  
17 approach new opportunities for cooperation with emerging powers, especially China, India and Brazil,  
18 including the crucial issue of whether they seek joint development initiatives with both traditional  
19 partners and emerging powers. UN (2018) presents and analyses case studies of SSTT in Asia-Pacific  
20 and Latin America and Caribbean regions. Illustrative case studies on TrC can be consulted in  
21 Shimoda and Nagasawa (2012), and specific cases on biofuel SSC and TrC in UNCTAD (2012).

22 In order to maximize its unique contribution to Agenda 2030, southern providers recognize the  
23 benefits of measuring and monitoring South–South cooperation, and there is a clear demand for better  
24 information from partner countries. Di Ciommo (2017) argues that better data could support  
25 monitoring and evaluation, improve effectiveness, explore synergies with other resources, and ensure  
26 accountability to a diverse set of stakeholders.

27 The central argument of the majority of the case studies is that South–South cooperation, which is  
28 value-neutral, is contributing to sustainable development and capacity building (Rampa et al. 2012;  
29 Shimoda and Nakazawa 2012; UN 2018). An important new development in SSC is that in relation to  
30 some technologies the cooperation is increasingly led by Southern countries (for instance, wind  
31 energy between Europe, India and China), challenging the classical North–South technology  
32 cooperation paradigm. More broadly, parties should ensure the sustainability of cooperation, rather  
33 than focusing on short-term goals (Eyben 2013).

34 The global landscape of development cooperation has changed dramatically in recent years, with  
35 countries of the South engaging in collaborative learning models to share innovative, adaptable and  
36 cost-efficient solutions to their development and socio-economic-environmental challenges, ranging  
37 from poverty and education to climate change. The proliferation of new actors and cross-regional  
38 modalities had enriched the understanding and practice of development cooperation and generated  
39 important changes in the global development architecture towards a more inclusive, effective, and  
40 horizontal development agenda. South-South cooperation will grow in the future. However, there are  
41 knowledge gaps in relation to the precise volume, impact, effectiveness and quality of development  
42 cooperation from emerging development partners. This gap needs to be plugged, and evidence on  
43 such cooperation strengthened.

#### 44 **14.5.7 Trade agreements and regional economic communities**

45 There is a widespread perception that many trade agreements stand in the way of both national- and  
46 global-level progress on climate mitigation. Universal tariff reduction and growth in foreign  
47 investment flows has increased trade in carbon-intensive and environmentally destructive products,

1 such as fossil fuels and timber, more than it has for environmental goods (Tamiotti et al. 2009; Griffin  
2 et al. 2019). There is, as well, the potential that developed countries with stringent domestic climate  
3 policies may adopt trade measures to ameliorate the competitive impacts of those policies vis-à-vis  
4 countries with laxer climate mitigation policies, with the WTO-compatibility of such ‘response  
5 measures’ as yet unresolved (Cosbey 2016). Equally, while investment agreements may facilitate  
6 flows of foreign investment to support green technology development, more commonly these  
7 agreements have protected investor rights at the expense of host countries’ environmental and  
8 renewable energy policies (Miles 2019).

9 Trade policies can have an impact on the climate change mitigation efforts of countries, just as  
10 policies for addressing climate change can influence trade among countries. This relationship is  
11 entering a new phase as significant changes in the policy landscape emerge from the adoption by the  
12 United Nations of a universal post-2015 development agenda, sustainable development goals and the  
13 Paris Agreement (UNCTAD 2015). These include transmitting and strengthening best practices from  
14 recent trade and investment agreements and increasing WTO–UNFCCC cooperation.

15 Environmental provisions in RTAs have become increasingly far-reaching over time. Early RTAs  
16 merely replicated the WTO’s environmental provisions. More recent RTAs typically include a full-  
17 length chapter entirely devoted to environmental protection, with precise and enforceable obligations  
18 on various environmental issue areas. Innovative climate provisions are in some cases more specific  
19 and enforceable than those found in the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Nonetheless, these  
20 climate provisions offer limited progress because they remain limited to RTAs. Moreover, most RTAs  
21 do not provide for third party dispute settlement, and even when they do, few provide for sanctions or  
22 remedies in case of violation. Since there are fewer parties involved, strong enforcement mechanisms,  
23 and room for policy experimentation, RTAs hold great potential to enhance climate change  
24 governance. Yet, the contribution of RTAs to climate governance remains underexplored.

25 New trade and investment agreements are usually more open to environmental and climate issues. The  
26 latest efforts to consider climate change within trade rules are just beginning—and they will have  
27 major implications for agriculture markets and food security (Baldos and Hertel 2015; Lilliston 2019).  
28 Mattoo and Subramanian (2013) consider four areas: subsidization of green goods and technologies;  
29 border tax adjustments related to carbon content; restrictions on the export of fossil fuels; and  
30 intellectual property protection of new technologies and products related to climate change. There are  
31 additional opportunities for boosting climate-friendly trade flows: removal of tariff and non-tariff  
32 barriers on environmental goods and services; approval on non-discriminatory renewable energy  
33 subsidies; green procurement; and, explicit limitation of fossil fuel subsidies. Nordhhaus (2015)  
34 argues that a uniform tariff mechanism for nonparticipants could increase the participation of  
35 countries in climate agreements. Another commercial instrument could be the tariff in relation to the  
36 good’s carbon content. To truly align the global climate and trade architecture, Heal and Kunreuther  
37 (2017) recommend discussing the introduction of a “climate waiver” that would permit countries to  
38 impose trade-restrictive climate policy response measures that are in line with Paris Agreement  
39 obligations.

40 In 2018, the European Commission passed a non-binding resolution to only engage in trade talks with  
41 countries that are part of the Paris Climate Agreement (Lee and Vaughan 2019). But the EC has  
42 wavered in its talks with the Trump administration—which is in the process of withdrawing the U.S.  
43 from the Paris Agreement (Sauer 2019). With its wide coverage of economic spheres, the TTIP opens  
44 windows of opportunity for advancing action on climate change. In this respect Holzer and Cottier  
45 (2015) examine possible avenues and international trade law implications for an alignment of carbon-  
46 related standards between the EU and the US. The EU-Singapore FTA recognizes the need for parties  
47 take “proper account” of the need to reduce GHG emissions when designing subsidy systems. The  
48 CETA also carves out a number of important provisions to support climate action. In deals with Japan

1 and Mexico, the EU has referenced the Paris deal. The EU is pushing for a clause in any Australia-EU  
2 FTA that includes full implementation of the Paris Agreement (Lilliston 2019). The EU has taken a  
3 similar position in relation to its partnership agreements with The Forum of the Caribbean Group of  
4 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM) and the EuroMediterranean Partnership,  
5 as well as the different association agreements signed by the EU.

6 The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Mechanism (APEC) adopted a Declaration on Climate  
7 Change, Energy Security and Clean Development in 2007, and the 21 APEC economies (emitting  
8 more than 60% of GHG) began significant efforts to decrease their GHG emissions, to foster the use  
9 of green technologies and exchange environmental friendly goods (Ivanova and Cuevas Tello 2016).

10 NAFTA was formulated as a straight free-trade agreement (FTA), but it also establishes separate side-  
11 agreements to deal with environmental and labor concerns. The North American Agreement on  
12 Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), a side agreement to NAFTA, establishes the Commission for  
13 Environmental Cooperation (CEC) as its implementation body. Betsill (2007) evaluates the CEC as a  
14 site of regional climate governance based on three potential advantages of governance through  
15 regional organizations: a small number of actors; opportunities for issue linkage; and, linkage between  
16 national and global governance systems. The 2003 United States – Singapore Free Trade Agreement  
17 recognizes the links between economic development, social development, and environmental  
18 protection.

19 The Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement, the Canada-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement, the Canada  
20 Peru Free Trade Agreement, the Oman-US Free Trade Agreement, the US-Colombia Free Trade  
21 Agreement and the Chile-US Free Trade Agreement all enshrine commitments to pursue and support  
22 policies that promote sustainable development, and environmental and natural resource management.  
23 The US-Australia and Australia –Japan FTAs provide that parties will conduct their activities “in a  
24 manner consistent with their commitment to high labor standards, sustainable development, and  
25 environmental protection.” (Gehring et al. 2013).

26 In many RTAs, parties include provisions committing to improve and strengthen laws or their  
27 enforcement, including regulations addressing climate change, promoting climate finance instruments  
28 and carbon markets. Similar provisions are found in the Canada Chile FTA, the Canada-Costa Rica  
29 FTA, the Canada-Colombia FTA and the US-Central America-Dominican Republic FTA, among  
30 others. Prom (Gehring et al. 2013).

31 Casola and Freier (2017) analyze the climate change and renewable energy regulations in Argentina  
32 and Brazil, as Mercosur's economically and politically most powerful nations, which have shown to  
33 be particularly affected by climate change. The authors examine if domestic regulations prioritize  
34 sustainable development or energy security, how Mercosur policies influence national decisions, and  
35 if common standards leading to a future regional integration in this field can be observed between the  
36 two countries.

37 Moulot (2016) assesses the African regional economic communities, presenting eight case studies,  
38 only four of which have specific climate provisions. The Economic Community of West Africa States  
39 (ECOWAS) has established common Renewable Energy Policies, while East Africa Community  
40 (EAC) has two initiatives: Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management<sup>[SEP]</sup> and EAC  
41 Climate Change. The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) has The NBI Climate Change Strategy, focusing on  
42 transboundary water resources management and The Economic Community of Central Africa States  
43 (EC- CAS) has adopted the Regional Strategy of Disaster Management and Adaptation.

44 Broader models of RTAs, many negotiated more recently, tend to include provisions on further issues,  
45 such as investment, labor standards or environmental protection. For example, as a twenty-first-  
46 century trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) presents an important  
47 opportunity to address a range of environmental issues, from illegal logging to climate change and to

1 craft rules that strike an appropriate balance between supporting open trade and ensuring governments  
2 can respond to pressing environmental issues (Meltzer 2013).

3 The synthesis article by Schwerhoff (2016) describes possible positive reaction mechanisms from  
4 different fields of economics, some of which have scarcely been linked to climate economics  
5 previously. All these mechanisms have a leader, a nation or group of nations, that sets an example  
6 with the intention of motivating others to contribute to the public good.

7 The inclusion and reinforcement of environmental and climate action clauses in RTAs could  
8 contribute to global mitigation goals. Thus, the regional efforts of climate action undertaken within  
9 regional trade and integration agreements (RTA) can successfully complement the efforts on global  
10 level Although deep cooperation remains elusive, many partial efforts could build confidence and lead  
11 to larger cuts in emissions (Keohane and Victor 2011, 2016).

#### 12 **14.5.8 Transnational civil society movements and actions**

13 Civil society groups and transnational coalitions have had a long-standing involvement in  
14 international climate policy. During the 1990s and early 2000s, the activities of the global climate  
15 movement were concentrated in developed countries and largely sought to exercise influence through  
16 participation in UNFCCC COPs and side events (Almeida 2019). Beginning in the mid-2000s, the  
17 movement began to use more non-institutionalized tactics, such as simultaneous demonstrations  
18 across several countries, focusing on a grassroots call for climate justice that grew out of previous  
19 environmental justice movements (Almeida 2019). Contemporary climate justice groups mobilize  
20 multiple strands of environmental justice movements from the Global North and South, as well as  
21 from indigenous and peasant rights movements, and are organized as a decentralized network of  
22 semiautonomous, coordinated units (Tormos-Aponte and García-López 2018; Claeys and Delgado  
23 Pugley 2017). This polycentric arrangement of the climate justice movement allows simultaneous  
24 influence on multiple sites of climate governance, from the local to the global levels (Tormos-Aponte  
25 and García-López 2018).

26 Climate justice has been variously defined, but centres on addressing the disproportionate impacts of  
27 climate change on the most vulnerable populations and calls for community sovereignty and  
28 functioning (Schlosberg and Collins 2014; Tramel 2016). The climate justice movement held global  
29 days of protest in most of the world's countries in 2014 and 2015, and mobilized another large  
30 campaign in 2018 (Almeida 2019). The most recent manifestations of the movement are Extinction  
31 Rebellion and Fridays for Future, which have each held hundreds of coordinated protests across the  
32 globe in 2019 marking out 'the transnational climate justice movement as one of the most extensive  
33 social movements on the planet' (Almeida 2019).

34 Fridays for Future is a children's and youth movement that began in August 2018, inspired by the  
35 actions of then 15-year old Greta Thunberg who pledged to strike in front of the Swedish parliament  
36 every Friday to protest against a lack of action on climate change in line with the Paris Agreement  
37 targets (Fridays for Future 2019). Fridays for Future events worldwide now encompass more than 200  
38 countries and close to 10 million strikers. The movement is unusual for its focus on children and the  
39 rights of future generations, with children's resistance having received little previous attention in the  
40 literature. Fridays for the Future is regarded as a progressive resistance movement that has quickly  
41 achieved global prominence (for example, Thunberg was invited to address governments at the UN  
42 Climate Summit in New York in September 2019) and is credited with helping to support the  
43 discourse about the responsibility of humanity as a whole for the climate emergency (Holmberg and  
44 Alvinus 2019).

45 Whereas Fridays for Future has focused on periodic protest action, Extinction Rebellion has pursued a  
46 campaign based on sustained non-violent direct citizen action that is focused on three key demands:  
47 declaration of a climate emergency, acting now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas



1 emissions to net zero by 2025, and creation of a citizen’s assembly on climate and ecological justice  
2 (Extinction Rebellion 2019; Booth 2019). The movement first arose in the UK – where it has claimed  
3 credit for adoption of a climate emergency declaration by the UK government – but now has a  
4 presence in 45 countries with some 650 groups having formed globally (Gunningham 2019).

5 Other transnational civil society organizations are also seen to have played an important role in  
6 influencing climate policy. For example, 350.org has supported mobilization of youth and university  
7 students around a campaign of divestment that has persuaded 985 institutions (including insurance  
8 companies, sovereign wealth funds and pension funds) across 37 countries to commit to divesting  
9 from fossil fuel companies (Gunningham 2019). Although the direct impacts of the divestment  
10 movement have been small (given that replacement investors usually acquire any divested shares), it  
11 has had a more significant impact on public discourse by raising the profile of climate change as a  
12 financial risk for investors (Bergman 2018).

13 Climate justice campaigns by transnational civil society movements have often embraced action  
14 through the courts. Chapter 13 discusses the growth and policy impact of climate litigation brought by  
15 civil society actors in domestic courts. Transnational and international court actions focused on  
16 climate change, by contrast, have been relatively few in number (Peel and Lin 2019). However, there  
17 have been active discussions about seeking an advisory opinion on states’ international obligations  
18 regarding the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the International Court of Justice (Sands  
19 2016), or bringing a case to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on marine pollution  
20 harms caused by climate change (Boyle 2019). The aim of climate litigation is generally to  
21 supplement other regulatory efforts by filling gaps and ensuring that interpretations of laws and  
22 policies are aligned with climate mitigation goals (Osofsky 2010).

23 It is too early at this stage to know what the overall impact of transnational civil society climate  
24 movements will be for international cooperation on climate change mitigation. The polycentric  
25 organization of the movement poses challenges for coordinating between groups operating in different  
26 contexts, acting with different strategies and around multiple issues, and lobbying multiple decision-  
27 making bodies at various levels of government in a sustainable way (Tormos-Aponte and García-  
28 López 2018). Influence may be enhanced through taking advantage of ‘movement spillover’ (the  
29 involvement of activists in more than one movement) (Hadden 2014) and coordination of activities  
30 with a range of ‘non-state governors,’ including cities, sub-national governments, and investor groups  
31 (Gunningham 2019). Studies of societal change suggest that once 3.5% of the population are  
32 mobilized on an issue, far-reaching change becomes possible (Gladwell 2002) – a tipping point that  
33 may be approaching in the case of climate change (Gunningham 2019).

#### 34 **14.5.9 Transnational business and public-private partnerships**

35 An important feature of the evolving international climate policy landscape of the recent years is the  
36 entrepreneurship of UN agencies such as UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank in initiating public-  
37 private partnerships. (Andonova 2017) calls this ‘governance entrepreneurship’. Such partnerships  
38 can be defined as ‘voluntary agreements between public actors (IOs, states, or sub-state public  
39 authorities) and non-state actors (non-governmental organizations (NGOs), companies, foundations,  
40 etc.) on a set of governance objectives and norms, rules, practices, and/or implementation procedures  
41 and their attainment across multiple jurisdictions and levels of governance’ (Andonova 2017):2).  
42 Partnerships may carry out different main functions: first, *policy development*; establishing new  
43 agreements on norms, rules, or standards among a broader set of governmental and non-governmental  
44 actors; second, *enabling implementation and delivery of services*, by combining resources from  
45 governmental and non-governmental actors; and, third, *knowledge production and dissemination*, to  
46 e.g. the evolution of relevant public policies.

1 UNEP has initiated a number of public-private-partnership climate change finance initiatives. These  
2 are designed to increase the financing for the purposes of disseminating low-carbon technologies to  
3 tackle climate change and promote clean energy in many parts of developing countries  
4 (UNEP/CPR/142/4 2018; Charlery and Traerup 2019).

5 The World Bank has established several partnerships since 2010, mainly in the field of carbon pricing.  
6 Prominent examples are the Networked Carbon Markets initiative (established 2013; spanning both  
7 governmental actors and experts) and the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (established 2015;  
8 spanning a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors, not least within business)  
9 (World Bank 2018, 2019). These partnerships deal with knowledge production and dissemination and  
10 seek to enable implementation of carbon pricing policies. The leadership role of the international  
11 ‘heavyweight’ World Bank gives these partnerships additional comparative political weight, meaning  
12 also a potentially greater involvement of powerful finance ministries/ministers generally involved in  
13 Bank matters and meetings.

14 The World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a global, CEO-led  
15 organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a  
16 sustainable world. Member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies,  
17 representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and with 19 million employees. The  
18 WBCSD enhances the business case for sustainability through tools, services, models and  
19 experiences. It includes a Global Network of almost 70 national business councils across the globe.  
20 The overall vision is to create a world where more than 9 billion people are all living well and within  
21 the boundaries of our planet, by 2050. Vision 2050, released in 2010, explored what a sustainable  
22 world would look like 2050, how such a world could be realized, and the role that business can play in  
23 making that vision a reality. A few years later, Action2020 took that Vision and translated it into a  
24 roadmap of necessary business actions and solutions (WBCSD 2019). WBCSD focuses on those areas  
25 where business operates and can make an impact. They identify six system transformation systems  
26 that are critical in this regard: Circular Economy, Climate and Energy, Cities and Mobility, Food and  
27 Nature, People and Redefining Value. All have an impact on climate. A new important initiative  
28 launched in September of 2008 – the “natural climate solutions”, has the objective of leveraging  
29 business investment to capture carbon out of the atmosphere. This initiative has quickly built strong  
30 cross-sectoral partnerships and is intended to tap into this immense emissions reduction solution  
31 potential through natural methods with the help of private investment.

32 In 2010 FAO delivered the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance. The  
33 Framework draws on several approaches currently in use or under development in major forest  
34 governance-related processes and initiatives, including the World Bank’s Framework for Forest  
35 Governance Reform. The Framework builds on the understanding that governance is both the context  
36 and the product of the interaction of a range of actors and stakeholders with diverse interests (FAO  
37 2010). For example, UNFCCC and UN-REDD program focus on REDD+ and UNEP focus on TEEB  
38 institutional mechanisms have been conceptualized as a “win-win-win” for mitigating climate,  
39 protecting biodiversity and conserving indigenous culture by institutionalizing payments on carbon  
40 sequestration and biodiversity conservation values of ecosystems services from global to local  
41 communities. These mechanisms include public-private partnership, and non-governmental  
42 organization participation. REDD+ and TEEB allocation policies will be interventions in a highly  
43 complex system, and will inevitably involve trade-offs; therefore, it is important to question “win-  
44 win-win” discourse (Zia and Kauffman 2018; Goulder et al. 2018). The initial investment and the  
45 longer periods of recovery of investment are sometimes barriers to private investment. In this sense, it  
46 is important to have government incentives and encourage public-private investment (Ivanova and  
47 Lopez 2013).

1 Another potentially influential type of business partnership is investor coalitions or alliances formed  
2 for the purpose of pushing investee companies to adopt stronger measures for stranded asset  
3 management and climate change mitigation. MacLeod & Park (2011, p. 55) argue that these  
4 transnational groups ‘attempt to re-orient and “regulate” the behaviour of business by holding  
5 corporations accountable via mechanisms of information sharing, monitoring of environmental  
6 impacts, and disclosure of activities related to the corporate climate footprint’. This favours a theory  
7 of active ownership (investor engagement with corporate boards) over capital divestment as the  
8 optimal pathway to shape the behaviour of corporate actors on climate risk (Kruitwagen et al. 2017;  
9 Krueger et al. 2018).

10 PPP funding for cities expanded rapidly in the 1990s and outpaced official external assistance almost  
11 tenfold. Most of the PPP infrastructure investment has been aimed at telecommunications, followed  
12 by energy. However, with the exception of the telecommunications sector, PPP investments have  
13 generally bypassed low-income countries (Ivanova 2017). It is therefore not surprising that PPPs have  
14 added relatively little to the financing of urban capital in developing countries over the past two  
15 decades (Bahl and Linn 2014). Liu and Waibel (2010) argue that the inherent risk of urban  
16 investment is the main obstacle to increasing the flow of private capital. Nevertheless, there have been  
17 cases where PPP investments have exceeded official external aid flows even for water and sanitation,  
18 and highly visible projects have been funded with PPPs in selected metropolitan areas of developing  
19 countries, including urban rail projects in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Manila (Liu and Waibel  
20 2010).

21 In 2017 the Financial Stability Board’s Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)  
22 adopted international recommendations for climate risk disclosure (TCFD 2017). These  
23 recommendations, which apply to all financial-sector organizations, including banks, insurance  
24 companies, asset managers, and asset owners, have received strong support from investor coalitions  
25 globally, including Climate Action 100+ (with 300 investors with more than USD \$33 trillion in  
26 assets under management) and the Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change (a coalition of  
27 regional investor groups across Asia, Australia, Europe and North America). One of the key  
28 recommendations of the TCFD calls for stress-testing of investment portfolios taking into  
29 consideration different climate-related scenarios, including a 2° C or lower scenario. Broad adoption  
30 of the TCFD recommendations could provide a basis for decisions by investors to shift assets away  
31 from climate-risk exposed assets such as fossil fuel extraction projects (Osofsky et al. 2019). There is  
32 strong evidence showing the urgent need for scaling-up climate finance to mitigate greenhouse gases  
33 in line with the 2°C target, and to support adaptation to safeguard the international community from  
34 the consequences of a changing climate. While public actors have a responsibility to deploy climate  
35 finance, it is clear that the contribution from the private sector needs to be significant (Gardiner et al.  
36 2016).

37 As most of these partnerships are of recent vintage an assessment of its effectiveness is premature.  
38 Instead, these partnerships can be assessed on the basis of the three main functions introduced earlier.  
39 Starting with *policy development*, i.e. establishing new agreements on norms, rules, or standards  
40 among a broader set of governmental and non-governmental actors, this is not the most prominent  
41 aspect of partnerships so far, although both the cities’ networks and risk disclosure recommendations  
42 include some elements of this. The second element, *enabling implementation and delivery of services*,  
43 by combining resources from governmental and non-governmental actors, seems to be a more  
44 prominent part of the partnerships. Both UNEP financing, the World Business Council on Sustainable  
45 Development (WBCSD), the REDD+ and TEEB mechanisms, and PPP funding for cities are  
46 examples here. Finally, the third element, *knowledge production and dissemination* in the evolution of  
47 relevant public policies, is perhaps the most prominent part of these partnerships, with most of them  
48 including such activities. There is a relatively large volume of literature that assesses public private

1 partnerships in general. And much of this applies to partnerships which, either by design or not,  
2 advance climate goals. This literature provides a good starting point for assessing these partnerships  
3 as they become operational. These can help assess whether such partnerships are worth the effort in  
4 terms of their performance and effectiveness (Junxiao, Liu. 2015), their economic and social value  
5 added (Quelin, B.V, Kivleniece, i., Larazzaini 2017), their efficiency (Estache, Antonio, Saussier  
6 2014) and the possible risks associated with them (Darrin, Grimsey and Mervyn 2002).). What is less  
7 common, but gradually growing, is an important and more relevant literature on criteria to assess  
8 sustainability and impact on climate and development goals. A recent study using a systematic review  
9 of business and public administration literature on PPPs concludes that past research rarely  
10 incorporates sustainability concepts. The authors propose a research agenda and a series of success  
11 factors that, if appropriately managed can contribute to sustainable development, and in so doing  
12 contribute to a more solid scientific evaluation of PPPs (Alexander Pinz 2018). There is evidence that  
13 with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many of which are directly linked to  
14 climate goals, PPPs will become even more prominent as they will be called upon to provide  
15 resources, knowledge, expertise, and implementation support in a very ambitious agenda. PPPs in the  
16 developing world needs to take into account different cultural and social decision making processes,  
17 language differences, and unfamiliar bureaucracy (Gardiner et al. 2016). Having more evidence on  
18 what norms and standards in relation to sustainability are used and their governance is essential (Axel  
19 2019). Some recent studies aim to provide systems to assess the impact of PPPs beyond the much-  
20 used notion of value for money. One of these recent studies proposes a conceptual model that  
21 addresses six dimensions relevant to economic, social and environmental progress. These include  
22 resilience and environment, access of services to the population, scalability and replicability,  
23 economic impact, inclusiveness, and finally, degree of engagement of stakeholders (Pacual 2019).  
24 These systems will most likely continue to evolve.

#### 25 **14.5.10 International co-operation at the sub-national and city levels**

26 Local and regional governments have an important role to play in global climate action, something  
27 recognized by the Paris Agreement, and also assessed in Chapter 13 of this report. There are several  
28 ways they can be useful. First, subnational governments can contribute insights and experience that  
29 provide valuable lessons to national governments, as well as offering needed implementation capacity  
30 (GIZ 2017; Leffel 2018). A great deal of policy-making has occurred at the level of city governments  
31 in particular. Cities are responsible for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and  
32 generate over 80% of global income (World Bank 2010), and many of them have started to take their  
33 own initiative in enacting and developing mitigation policies (CDP 2015). Most of these activities aim  
34 at the reduction of GHG emissions in the sectors of energy, transportation, urban land use and waste  
35 (Bulkeley 2010; Xuemei 2007), and are motivated by concerns not only over climate, but also a  
36 consideration of local co-benefits (Rashidi et al. 2017, 2019). Second, sub-national governments can  
37 fill the void in policy leadership in cases where national governments are ineffectual, even to the point  
38 of claiming leadership and authority with respect to foreign affairs (Leffel 2018).

39 With respect to their role in formal international cooperation, however, it is unclear what authority, as  
40 a non-state actor, they actually have. Several researchers suggest that their role is important in  
41 informal ways, given issues about the legitimacy of non-state actors Paris (Chan et al. 2016;  
42 Nasiritousi et al. 2016). Bäckstrand et al. (2017) advance the concept of ‘Hybrid Multilateralism’  
43 (HM) as a heuristic to capture this intensified interplay between state and non-state actors in the new  
44 landscape of international climate cooperation. The effectiveness of such non-state government  
45 actors should be measured not only by their contribution to mitigation, but also by their success to  
46 enhance the accountability, transparency and deliberative quality of the UNFCCC and the Paris  
47 Agreement (Hale et al. 2016; Chan et al. 2015; Busby 2016). In the post-Paris era, effectiveness also  
48 revolves around how to align non-state and intergovernmental action in a comprehensive framework

1 that can help achieve low carbon futures (Chan et al. 2016). Such effectiveness has to be  
2 complemented also by *normative questions*, applying a set of democratic values: participation,  
3 deliberation, accountability, and transparency (Bäckstrand and Kuyper 2017). Such concepts of  
4 polycentric governance offer new opportunities for climate action, but it has been argued that it is  
5 too early to judge its importance and effects (Jordan et al. 2015).

6 In addition to their role as non-state actors in formal international cooperation, sub-national  
7 governments also engage in transnational cooperation. Several international networks, such as C40,  
8 ICLEI, and Mayors for Climate Protection, have played an important role in defining and developing  
9 climate-policy initiatives at the city level (Fünfgeld 2015). While the networks differ from each other,  
10 they generally are voluntary and non-hierarchical, intended to support the horizontal diffusion of  
11 innovative climate policies (Kern and Bulkeley 2009). The literature has addressed the questions of  
12 why cities join the networks (Betsill and Bulkeley 2004; Pitt 2010), what recognition benefits cities  
13 can expect (Buis 2009; Kern and Bulkeley 2009), and how memberships can provide visibility to  
14 leverage international funding (Betsill and Bulkeley 2004; Heinrichs et al., 2013). Membership in the  
15 networks has been found to be a significant predictor of cities' adoption of mitigation policies  
16 (Rashidi and Patt 2018).

## 18 14.6 Synthesis

### 19 14.6.1 Changing nature of international cooperation

20 International cooperation is vital for achieving climate mitigation goals in the context of sustainable  
21 development. As in AR5, there is still *robust evidence* and *high agreement* in the literature in that  
22 direction. However, the reasons it is vital, and the precise forms of cooperation that are most useful,  
23 have evolved since AR5. This reflects many factors: changing geo-politics; a rising level of public  
24 attention, activism and demand; increasing, although still inadequate, ambition with respect to  
25 mitigation targets; improvements to low-carbon technologies; new empirical evidence and theory with  
26 respect to the processes of socio-technological transitions and transformations; an increasing emphasis  
27 on national autonomy, and decentralized solutions; and, an expanding evidence base with respect to  
28 the effectiveness of multi-level and multi-actor climate governance approaches.

29 At the time of AR5, the importance of international cooperation was understood to be “principally due  
30 to the fact that greenhouse gases (GHGs) mix globally in the atmosphere, making anthropogenic  
31 climate change a global commons problem”. That in turn suggested the need for a top-down  
32 approach: countries agree to be legally bound by specific emissions reduction targets in the  
33 knowledge that other countries face similar constraints, and an international governance regime has  
34 the capacity to monitor and enforce compliance, as a way of eliminating free riders. The Kyoto  
35 Protocol fit this model, and the findings of AR5 suggested the need to negotiate a successor treaty of  
36 similar architecture, albeit with greater levels of ambition and participation.

37 In addition to the global commons nature of the problem, the literature now highlights evidence that  
38 an important barrier to achieving decarbonization objectives is the pace at which societies can move  
39 from the use of high-carbon to low-carbon technologies. This has aspects of market failure, such as  
40 with respect to technology spill overs, which may call for top-down solutions, but also aspects calling  
41 for bottom-up and sectoral approaches. With respect to the latter, there is evidence that many  
42 industrialized countries have the resources and capacity to engage in a rapid technology turnover,  
43 whereas many developing countries do not, and require assistance for rapid decarbonization. The  
44 Paris Agreement reflects this new logic. Many developing countries have submitted conditional  
45 pledges, where conditionality is typically with respect to international financial, technological and  
46 capacity-building support. And, countries have agreed to set a new collective quantified goal prior to

1 2025 (not explicitly limited to developed countries) to mobilize \$100 billion per year, as a floor, to  
2 assist developing countries.

3

#### 4 **14.6.2 Evolving international cooperation instruments**

5 The main development in terms of international climate cooperation has been the negotiation and  
6 subsequent operationalization of the Paris Agreement. As we have noted, the Paris Agreement is  
7 tailored to the evolving understanding of the climate mitigation challenge as well as shifting political  
8 imperatives and constraints. Whether the Paris Agreement will in fact be effective in supporting  
9 global action sufficient to achieve its objectives is contested, with competing arguments supporting  
10 different views. The strongest critique of the Paris Agreement is that the NDCs themselves fail by a  
11 wide margin to add up to the level of aggregate emissions reductions necessary to achieve the  
12 objectives of holding global average warming well below 2°C, much less 1.5°C. Arguments in  
13 support of Paris are that it puts in place the processes, and generates normative expectations, that  
14 nudge NDCs to become progressively more ambitious over time. But then these are met with  
15 counterarguments, that even with Paris processes in place, given the logic of iterative, rising levels of  
16 ambition over time, this is unlikely to happen within the narrow window of opportunity that exists to  
17 avert dangerous levels of global warming. The degree to which countries are willing to increase the  
18 ambition of their NDCs over time will be an important indicator of the success of the Paris  
19 Agreement; evidence of this will be available by the end of 2020.

20 An increasing role is also played by other cooperative agreements, trans-national partnerships, and the  
21 institutions that support them. This fits both a transitions narrative that cooperation at the sub-global  
22 and sectoral levels is necessary to enable specific system transformations, and a recent emphasis in  
23 the public goods literature on club goods and a gradual approach to cooperation. There has been little  
24 analysis of whether these other agreements are of sufficient scale and scope to ensure that  
25 transformations happen quickly enough. Our judgment, appraising them together, is that they are not.  
26 First, many agreements, such as those related to trade, may stand in the way of bottom-up mitigation  
27 efforts (14.5.7). Second, many sectoral agreements aimed at decarbonization – such as within the air  
28 travel sector – have not yet adopted targets comparable in scale, scope or legal character to those of  
29 the Paris Agreement (14.5.2.3). Third, there are many sectors for which there are no agreements in  
30 place. At the same time, there are some important bright spots, many in the area of trans-national  
31 partnerships. A growing number of cities have committed themselves to adopting urban policies that  
32 will place them on a path to rapid decarbonization, while learning from each other how to implement  
33 successful policies to realize climate goals. An increasing number of large corporations have  
34 committed to decarbonizing their industrial processes and supply chains. And, an ever-increasing  
35 number of non-state actors are adopting goals and initiating mitigation actions. These goals and  
36 actions, some argue, could bridge the mitigation gap created by inadequate NDCs, however there is  
37 less transparency of and limited accountability for such actions.

#### 38 **14.6.3 Overall assessment**

39 Where are the major gaps in international cooperation? Earlier in this chapter we identified a set of  
40 criteria for assessing the effectiveness of international cooperation, and we return to these now. Our  
41 five main criteria are environmental effectiveness, transformative potential, distributive outcomes,  
42 economic performance, and institutional strength. Within each criterion are a number of indicators. In  
43 Figure 14.1, we provide an overall assessment of the current state of these indicators.

44

45

	Environmental effectiveness	Transformative potential	Distributive outcomes	Economic performance	Institutional strength
<b>Strong positive effect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-AFOLU emissions of other Kyoto gases</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Weak positive effect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-AFOLU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> <li>• AFOLU sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost / performance frontier</li> <li>• Increased investment flows</li> <li>• Infrastructure expansion</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; institutional capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed country leadership</li> <li>• Differentiation in favour of developing countries</li> <li>• Promotion of co-benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic efficiency</li> <li>• Cost effectiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transparency &amp; accountability</li> <li>• Regulative quality</li> </ul>
<b>Little effect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFOLU non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</li> <li>• Non-AFOLU sector emissions of non-Kyoto gases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technologies for non-AFOLU negative emissions</li> <li>• Technologies for solar radiation management</li> </ul>			
<b>Negative effect</b>					

**Figure 14.1 Overall Assessment of Current Levels of International Cooperation**

The top row in Figure 14.1, in dark green, represents areas where international cooperation is having a strong positive effect towards achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. There are two indicators which we classify here. First, The Kigali Amendments to the Montreal Protocol are having a strongly positive effect on emissions of many of the most serious non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases, supplemented as well by agreements falling under the LRTAP convention (14.5.2.1). Second, one of the indicators associated with institutional strength, administrative capacity, falls into this category. On this indicator, the Paris Agreement is supplemented by a number of other forms of cooperation. There is evidence that trans-national city partnerships have contributed to administrative capacity at the municipal level [14.5.10]. Bilateral development agreements have also focused on building capacity (14.5.5).

The largest number of indicators fall into the second category, where international cooperation is having a weak positive effect. Virtually all NDCs concern emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from the non-AFOLU sectors; the literature suggests that Paris processes will have some positive effect on the ratcheting up of levels of ambition, although it is too early to say whether the effect will be major or adequate (14.4.2.13). Additionally, the LRTAP and Minamata Mercury Convention appear to be having an effect on further use of coal (14.4.3). There are also sectoral agreements that could provide further support and can be anticipated to have a weakly positive effect, such as for shipping and for aviation

1 (14.5.2.3). The evidence also suggests that international cooperation is making a weakly positive  
2 influence on reducing emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from the AFOLU sector, driven by several complementary  
3 measures. These include the Paris Agreement NDCs, which contain a number of commitments to  
4 reduce such emissions (14.4.2.13), supplemented by a number of initiatives covering the forestry  
5 sector, including trans-national industrial agreements limiting the marketability of products from  
6 unsustainably managed forests (14.5.2.1). Most of the indicators for transformative potentially fall  
7 within the weakly positive category, due to a number of factors. The assessment of the Paris  
8 Agreement suggests that, presently, it is having limited effect on these indicators, arguably in part  
9 because of the announced withdrawal of the United States, which is one of several drivers for  
10 potentially transformative technologies. (14.4.2.13). Other agreements and institutions, however, do  
11 appear to be having an effect. International cooperation in science and technology is substantial, and  
12 arguably pushing the cost/performance frontier for a number of technologies (14.5.3). This is further  
13 augmented by cooperative R&D within sectors, such as shipping and aviation (14.5.2.3), as well as  
14 South-South cooperation (14.5.6). A number of multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, are  
15 having a positive effect on investment flows, although these would need to be scaled up substantially  
16 to have a strongly positive effect (14.5.5, 14.5.7). Much of this is related to infrastructure expansion,  
17 which is why the infrastructure indicator is assigned to the weakly positive category as well. South-  
18 South cooperation (14.5.6), as well as bilateral development institutions (14.5.5) are having effects on  
19 engineering and institutional capacity. These support mechanisms for capacity building, technology  
20 transfer, and investment all have an impact with respect to distributional outcomes, and the indicator  
21 pertaining to mitigation support. Based on our assessment of the Paris Agreement (14.4.2.13), all  
22 three indicators for distributive outcomes fall into the middle category of effectiveness. With respect  
23 to economic performance, a number of international mechanisms are leading or could lead to  
24 enhanced cost-effectiveness. These include cooperation with respect to international market  
25 mechanisms (14.5.1) and voluntary cooperative agreements under the Paris Agreement (14.4.2.13).  
26 Economic efficiency can also be classified within this category. There are multiple strands of  
27 evidence that international cooperation is having an effect on domestic politics and pushing countries  
28 to increase their levels of ambition (14.4.2.13, 14.5.1, 14.5.2.1, 14.5.2.2, 14.5.3, 14.5.8). Since the  
29 evidence suggests that the benefits of these higher levels of ambition substantially outweigh their  
30 costs, the effect on economic efficiency is positive. However, many of the NDCs are conditional on  
31 support pursuant to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the final details of which have yet to be agreed.  
32 Two of the indicators for institutional strength fall into the weak positive effect category as well. The  
33 Paris Agreement focuses heavily on transparency and accountability, with attention to regular  
34 reporting not only of emissions, but also of the policies, actions and financial flows that will influence  
35 emissions in the future. The Paris Rule Book provides detailed rules for such reporting, but it allows  
36 parties considerable discretion in determining the extent to which particular rules apply to them. It is  
37 not yet clear to what extent the rules on transparency will generate accountability. However, such  
38 rules will likely play a role in developing administrative capacity both at the international and  
39 municipal levels (14.4.2.13). With respect to regulative quality, there is evidence that a number of  
40 trans-national cooperative mechanisms are leading to some improvements, such as at the municipal  
41 level (14.5.10).

42 There are several areas where international cooperation is having little effect, either due to an absence  
43 of attention within existing agreements, or to a need for new agreements, which have not yet been  
44 agreed. Falling under the former category are non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases in the AFOLU sector; while several  
45 NDCs cover these, the evidence suggests that the commitments are both weak and scarce (14.4.2.13).  
46 There is a lack of other agreements, such as with respect to methane emissions from agriculture, that  
47 would supplement these (14.5.2.1). Also falling into this category are non-Kyoto gases and forcings,  
48 such as black carbon and contrail cirrus clouds. While LRTAP covers some of the former, it is weak  
49 with respect to black carbon (14.4.3). The ICAO has yet to tackle issues associated with non-CO<sub>2</sub>



1 radiative forcing from aviation (14.5.2.3). Further, there has been an identified need for international  
2 cooperation to play a role in developing and managing transformative technologies such as negative  
3 emissions from outside the AFOLU sector, and the solar radiation modification, but there is limited  
4 international cooperation in these areas currently (14.5.4).

5 There are no indicators identified for which the net effect of international cooperation is negative in  
6 terms of achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. That is not to say that there are not  
7 individual forms of cooperation that are negative, but rather that these are balanced by positive forces  
8 elsewhere. For example, there is mixed evidence with respect to trade agreements and regional  
9 economic communities, including some evidence that these have stifled the ability of countries to  
10 enact particular kinds of legislation that would accelerate mitigation efforts (14.5.7). At the same  
11 time, there are some instances where these agreements have been modified to facilitate greater  
12 national autonomy with respect to mitigation. More importantly, there are other agreements that have  
13 equally strong positive effects.

## 14.7 Gaps in Knowledge and Data

16 Any assessment of the effectiveness of international cooperation is limited by the methodological  
17 challenge of observing sufficient variance in cooperation in order to support inference on effects.  
18 There is little in the way of cross-sectional variance, given that most of the governance mechanisms  
19 we assess here are global in their geographical coverage. Time series analysis is also of little value,  
20 given the other determinants of climate mitigation, including technology costs and the effects of  
21 national and sub-national level policies, are rapidly evolving. The only remaining possibility is to  
22 compare observations with theory-based counter-factual scenarios.

23 Many of the international agreements and institutions that we have described in this chapter, in  
24 particular the Paris Agreement, are new. The logic and architecture of the Paris Agreement, in  
25 particular, is a break from the past, giving us little in the way of prior experience to draw on. It has  
26 evolved in response to geo-political and other drivers, that are changing rapidly, and will continue to  
27 shape the nature of international cooperation under it and triggered by it. The Paris Agreement is  
28 also, in common with other multilateral agreements, a ‘living instrument’ evolving through  
29 interpretative and operationalizing rules, and forms of implementation, that parties continue to  
30 negotiate at conferences year on year. It is a constant ‘work in progress’ and thus challenging to  
31 assess at any given point in time. The Paris Agreement also engages a larger set of variables – given  
32 its privileging of national autonomy and politics, integration with the sustainable development  
33 agenda, and its engagement with actions and actors at multiple levels – than earlier international  
34 agreements, which further complicates the task of tracing causality between observed effects and  
35 international cooperation through the Paris Agreement.

36 Our understanding of the effectiveness of international agreements and institutions is driven entirely  
37 by theory driven prediction of how the world will evolve, both with these agreements in place and  
38 without them. The former predictions in particular are problematic, because governance regimes are  
39 complex adaptive systems, making it impossible to predict how they will evolve over time, and hence  
40 what their effects will be. Time will cure this in part, as it will generate observations of the world with  
41 the new regime in place, which we can compare to the counterfactual situation of the new regime’s  
42 being absent, which may be a simpler situation to model. But even here our modelling capacity is  
43 limited: it may simply never be possible to know with a high degree of confidence whether  
44 international cooperation, such as that embodied in the Paris Agreement, is having a significant effect,  
45 no matter how much data we accumulate.

1 Given the importance of theory for guiding assessments of the past and likely future impacts of  
2 policies, it is important to note that among the alternative theoretical frameworks for analysis, some  
3 have been much more extensively developed in the literature than others. In this chapter we have  
4 noted in particular the partial dichotomy between a global-commons framing of climate change and a  
5 transitions framing, which include different criteria for assessment. The latter framing is particularly  
6 under-developed. Greater development of theories resting in social science disciplines such as  
7 economic geography, sociology, and psychology could potentially provide us with a more complete  
8 picture of the nature and effectiveness of international cooperation.

## 10 **Frequently Asked Questions**

11 **FAQ 14.1: Now that the Paris Agreement has entered into force, and it requires countries to**  
12 **develop their own nationally determined emissions reduction contributions, does this mean that**  
13 **international cooperation no longer plays a useful role in achieving long-term climate goals?**

14 Continued international cooperation remains important. The Paris Agreement has changed the  
15 framework for international cooperation, from one built on multilaterally negotiated emissions  
16 reduction targets, backed by a compliance mechanism, with an enforcement branch, and penalties for  
17 non-compliance, to one relying on nationally determined contributions that are subject to an  
18 international oversight system, and bolstered through international support. The international  
19 oversight system is designed to generate transparency and accountability for individual emission  
20 reduction contributions, and regular moments for stock-taking of these efforts towards global goals.  
21 Such enhanced transparency may instill confidence and trust, and foster solidarity among nations. It  
22 can also influence domestic politics in these countries, with theory-based arguments that this will lead  
23 to greater levels of ambition. Further, for most developing countries, international cooperation and  
24 support is important for their mitigation efforts. Such support includes bilateral and multilateral  
25 cooperation on low-carbon finance, technology support, capacity building, and enhanced South-South  
26 cooperation. It can take place through the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and through a large  
27 number of sub-global and sectoral agreements, as well as the actions of transnational organizations  
28 (high confidence).

30 **FAQ 14.2: Is international cooperation working?**

31 Countries' emissions were in line with their internationally agreed targets – the collective GHG  
32 mitigation stabilization target for Annex I countries in the UNFCCC for 2000, and their individual  
33 target in the Kyoto Protocol for 2008-12. Neither of these required transformational policy changes,  
34 whereas meeting the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement will. International support of the kinds  
35 that the Paris Agreement establishes but are yet to be implemented, as well as those embodied in other  
36 cooperative agreements at the sub-global and sectoral levels, play an important role in making  
37 political, economic, and social conditions more favorable to ambitious mitigation efforts in the  
38 context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty (high confidence). The degree to  
39 which countries are willing to increase the ambition of their NDCs over time, which has yet to be  
40 observed, will be an important indicator of the success of the Paris Agreement.

42 **FAQ 14.3: Are there any important gaps in international cooperation, which will need to be**  
43 **filled in order for countries to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, such as holding**  
44 **temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels?**

1 While international cooperation is contributing to global mitigation efforts, its effects are far from  
2 uniform. Cooperation has made a significant contribution to rapidly falling CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the  
3 AFOLU sector, although these gains are not immune to backsliding in some countries. Likewise,  
4 international cooperation is leading to rapid reduction in emissions of many non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse  
5 gases, such as those covered under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, and it may  
6 influence institutional factors vital for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, such as with  
7 respect to administrative capacity. In most other respects, international cooperation is making a weak  
8 contribution, and there is evidence that further strengthening of cooperation would improve the  
9 likelihood of achieving the Paris Agreement objectives. Finalizing the rules to pursue voluntary  
10 cooperation in the implementation of NDCs, without compromising environmental integrity, may be  
11 key for the success of the Paris Agreement. Finally, there are several areas where international  
12 cooperation potentially could, but is not yet making a discernable contribution. These include  
13 reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the AFOLU sector, reducing emissions of gases not covered under  
14 the Kyoto Protocol, and for developing or managing technologies associated with negative emissions  
15 and solar radiation modification.

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