



## IEAGHG Information Paper: 2015-IP31; Analysis: the key announcements from Day 1 at COP21 (30<sup>th</sup> November 2015)

More than 150 world leaders travelled to the French capital to show their support for the much-anticipated climate conference, which aims to secure a global deal on tackling climate change in the post-2020 period. A number of announcements and new initiatives and were made on Day 1 these included.

- The launch of an International Solar Alliance
- A Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Communique was presented to the UNFCCC
- A declaration by the Climate Vulnerable Forum
- The UN Secretary-General's announced Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI)
- The Breakthrough Energy Coalition and Mission Innovation was launched
- A number of countries made pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund
- The launch of the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility



**PARIS2015**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
**COP21·CMP11**

Of more interest to IEAGHG members is the Breakthrough Energy Coalition and Mission Innovation Fund which is discussed below. Summaries of the other initiatives are provided for reference.

*Mission Innovation and the Breakthrough Energy Coalition.* A group of 21 countries have come together to launch **Mission Innovation** to reinvigorate and accelerate public and private global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable at COP21

In their joint statement which can be found at: <http://mission-innovation.net/statement/>, the countries wish to accelerate widespread clean energy innovation as part of an effective, long-term global response to their shared climate challenge. Energy innovation they believe is necessary to provide affordable and reliable energy for everyone and to promote economic growth; and critical for energy security. They collectively feel that whilst important progress has been made in cost reduction and deployment of clean energy technologies, the pace of innovation and the scale of transformation and dissemination remains significantly short of what is needed.

The countries involved include: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the UK, the UAE, and the USA.

Each country has committed to:

- Double their current Investment in Clean Energy Innovation over the next 5 years
- Implement Mission Innovation in a transparent, effective, and efficient manner
- Provide, annually, transparent, easily-accessible information on its respective clean energy research and development efforts to promote transparency, engage stakeholders broadly, spur identification of collaborative opportunities, and provide the private sector more actionable information to improve its ability to make investment decisions

The countries also recognise that business needs to play a vital role in the commercialization and cost-effectiveness of clean energy breakthroughs, and participating countries commit to work closely with



the private sector as it increases its investment in the earlier-stage clean energy companies that emerge from government research and development programs.

The Breakthrough Energy Coalition, of investors from the 10 countries has also been created see: <http://www.breakthroughenergycoalition.com/en/index.html>. The group of 28 investors — which includes Microsoft’s Bill Gates, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon’s Jeff Bezos — have pledged to support early stage technologies, helping them to get off the ground at a time when other investors may be put off by the high risk factor involved

The investors say they will focus on projects coming out of the 19 countries that have created the Mission Innovation coalition.

More details of these two initiatives are expected in due course and we will keep members updated of progress that impacts on IEAGHG or CCS R&D.

***The International Solar Alliance***<sup>1</sup>. This Indian initiative aims to “significantly augment solar power generation”. The alliance will aim to foster cooperation and collaboration between solar-rich nations. A working paper lists 121 “prospective member [countries]”. India will provide \$62m over five years to 2020/21, including in-kind support such as land and \$27m of funding towards running costs. The alliance hopes to mobilise “more than \$1,000bn of investments that are needed by 2030 for the massive deployment of affordable solar energy”. An international steering committee will hold its first meeting on 1 December 2016.

***Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Communiqué***<sup>2</sup>. New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway presented the Communiqué to Christiania. The communiqué calls for three “interrelated principles”:

- Communication and Transparency about the merits of subsidy policies and reform timetables, including through engagement and communications with the general public and civil society stakeholders to ensure a smooth, inclusive, bottom-up approach to reform;
- Ambition in the scope and timeframe for implementing reforms; and
- Targeted support to ensure reforms are implemented in a manner that safeguards the poorest.

The ***Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)***<sup>3</sup>, a coalition of 20 countries from Afghanistan and Bangladesh to the Philippines, Rwanda and Vietnam, issued a declaration calling for the Paris agreement to include a 1.5C temperature limit. The countries also want goals of 100% renewable energy and full decarbonisation by 2050, with peak emissions by 2020 at the latest.

***The Climate Resilience Initiative***<sup>4</sup>. Ban Ki-moon announced this new initiative “to build climate resilience in the world’s most vulnerable countries”. He said the Climate Resilience Initiative (CRI) “will help address the needs of the nearly 634m people, or a tenth of the global population who live in at-risk coastal areas just a few meters above existing sea levels, as well as those living in areas at risk of droughts and floods”.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/clean-energy/international-solar-energy-alliance-launched-at-cop21/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://fffsr.org/communique/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.the cvf.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/11/un-secretary-generals-initiative-aims-to-strengthen-climate-resilience-of-the-worlds-most-vulnerable-countries-and-people/>



**The Least Developed Countries Fund**<sup>5</sup>. Switzerland, France, Germany, the US, the UK and others made a joint pledge of \$248m to the Least Developed Countries Fund, including \$51m from the US and \$53m from Germany. The fund helps the world's poorest nations draw up national adaptation plans to identify their climate vulnerabilities. It also funds urgent adaptation in sectors such as water and food security. The fund has allocated nearly \$1bn to projects since its inception in 2001, according to a joint statement published by the US State Department. This has unlocked \$3.8bn of co-finance from other sources, the statement says.

**Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF)**<sup>6</sup>. The World Bank, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland launched a new scheme to promote carbon pricing in developing countries. The fund aims to secure \$500m in initial funding to "spur greater efforts to price and measure carbon pollution". Fossil fuel subsidy reform, clean energy policy, carbon accounting, carbon pricing and carbon market initiatives could all benefit from TCAF support.

If you would like to read the full analysis from Day 1, please visit: [www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-the-key-announcements-from-day-1-at-cop21?utm\\_content=bufferfd322&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-the-key-announcements-from-day-1-at-cop21?utm_content=bufferfd322&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

**John Gale**  
**02/12/2015**

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[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/financial\\_mechanism/least\\_developed\\_country\\_fund/items/4723.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/least_developed_country_fund/items/4723.php)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/11/30/new-500-million-initiative-to-boost-large-scale-climate-action-in-developing-countries>