

## France's Initiatives to Support Low Carbon Development

David Peneau  
Political counselor  
Embassy of France to Korea

France has made the fight against climate change a priority and launched various initiatives, at both domestic and international levels. The priority now goes to action (implementation of the Paris agreement and channeling of international funding towards low-emissions and climate-resilient development).

**1. France has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40% between 1990 and 2030 and fourfold between 1990 and 2050 (-75%).** Our objective is to reduce the use of energy fuels by 30% in 2030 compared with 2012, increase the share of renewable energy sources to 32% of total energy consumption by 2030 and to 40% of electricity generation, reduce total consumption by 50% compared with 2012, reduce the amount of landfill waste by 50% by 2025, diversify electricity generation by 2025.

**In accordance with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, France communicated in 2016 to UNFCCC Secretariat a low greenhouse gas emission development strategy (French National Low Carbon Strategy, SNBC).** The SNBC outlines strategic guidelines for implementing the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy across all sectors of activity. It comprises a series of overarching and sector-specific recommendations that outline the pathway to a low-carbon economy that will improve well-being, growth and employment. It sets reduction targets to several sectors (transport, building sector, agriculture and forestry, industry, energy, waste) and defines the means to achieve those goals (improve the energy efficiency of vehicles and develop clean vehicles, speed-up the development of energy vectors with the lowest GHG emissions intensity, increase the resource recover through the recycling of waste, promote the circular economy, etc).

**This strategy comes with the Energy Transition for Green Growth Act of 17 August 2015.** This act encompasses various measures to stimulate change : support to local governments and clarification of

the responsibilities of central and local authorities, new requirement to improve building insulation, tax credit for energy renovation work, interest-free-eco-loan to property owners carrying out renovation work, mandatory renewing of public fleets with low-emission vehicles, rebates for the purchase of clean vehicles to replace polluting ones, reduced taxes for companies that provide bicycles, ban on single-use plastic bags, stronger powers for mayors to deal with broken-down abandoned vehicles, ship recycling requirement, supplementary payment to renewable energy producers, etc.

**France estimates that the energy transition and the development of a low-carbon economy will allow France to support growth and consequently the GDP throughout the next two decades (investments made are expected to boost the GDP by 0,8% in 2020 and by 1,5% in 2030). It will also increase the number of jobs(100,000 jobs in the short term and up to 300,000 jobs by 2030).**

**2. France strengthens its action against climate change abroad and to stimulate the implementation of the Paris agreement through concrete actions.**

**The fight against climate change is a cross-cutting priority of French development policy. (€8,7 billion in 2016, objective of €12,7 billion by 2020). With €24 billion committed since 2005, France has been strengthening its international programs in the area of climate change and the Agence Française de développement (France's development agency) achieved its goal of making 100 percent of its financing compatible with the Paris Agreement. 50% of grants and loans to foreign countries in 2016 have climate and development as co-benefits.**

**France has also made a priority to stimulate the international momentum in the fight against climate change.** While chairing the COP 21 in 2015, our priority was to achieve with all UNFCCC parties a universal and legally binding agreement (Paris agreement adopted in December 2015). Furthermore, and beyond the UNFCCC session, the Paris Climate change Conference (November/December 2015) aimed also at raising new solutions from all the actors of the fight against climate change (civil society, local governments, companies, et

c).

Two years later, France remains more committed than ever to stimulate international action in the fight against climate change. One of the main challenges in the implementation of the Paris agreement is to channel international funding toward low-emissions and climate-resilient development. The **One Planet Summit** convened in Paris by France, the United Nations and the World Bank aimed at stepping up finance for adaptation and resilience to climate change. The Summit gathered heads of State and governments, companies, NGOs, local governments.

**12 concrete commitments have been taken during the Summit**(mobilization of USD 3 billion in a public-private partnership within an 8 billion investment plan to make the Caribbean the first Climate Smart Zone; 16 countries and 32 cities committed to reach carbon neutrality by 2050; the Powering Past Coal alliance was launched during COP23 and brings together 58 actors to speed up the transition from fossil fuels towards renewable energy; 8 countries and 10 partners commit to decarbonized transport and clean mobility solutions, et c).

France supports low carbon development at both domestic and international levels. The focus is now on the implementation of the Paris agreement. The One Planet Summit aimed at putting forward new innovative solutions in the fight against climate change. Those solutions stem from public and private actors, from States and from local governments. President Macron announced that there would be a follow-up summit in 2018 (date and place to be defined) in order to keep the momentum.