

## Nature Hustings - 6th April 2016

### Background notes on COP21 meeting in Paris

(With grateful thanks to Adrian Shaw of EcoCongregation Scotland) Adrian was at the Paris meeting and these notes are based on the presentation he gave at a post COP21 eco-congregation event at St John's earlier this year. These notes may be of use for the meeting tonight.

### United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- 12 December 2015. An historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future was agreed by 195 nations in Paris.
- The Paris Agreement for the first time brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities.
- The universal agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

### The Responses

The Paris Agreement is a monumental triumph for people and our planet. It sets the stage for progress in ending poverty, strengthening peace and ensuring a life of dignity and opportunity for all.

*United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon*

It's a fraud really, a fake. it's just bullshit for them to say: 'We'll have a 2C warming target and then try to do a little better every five years.' It's just worthless words. There is no action, just promises.

*Jim Hansen, climatologist*

By comparison to what it could have been, it's a miracle. By comparison to what it should have been, it's a disaster.

*George Monbiot, environmental campaigner*

### CoP 21: what was decided?

- Mitigation – reduce emissions to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius
- Open and transparent reporting of emissions
- Adaptation to deal with climate impacts
- Loss and damage - to help countries recover from climate impacts
- Support for nations to build low carbon futures

### Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- 188 countries submitted their intended NDCs before Paris CoP
- Analysis suggests these will result in about 2.7 Celsius warming
- Global stocktake of NDCs in 2023
- New NDCs must be submitted every five years with more ambitious reduction targets

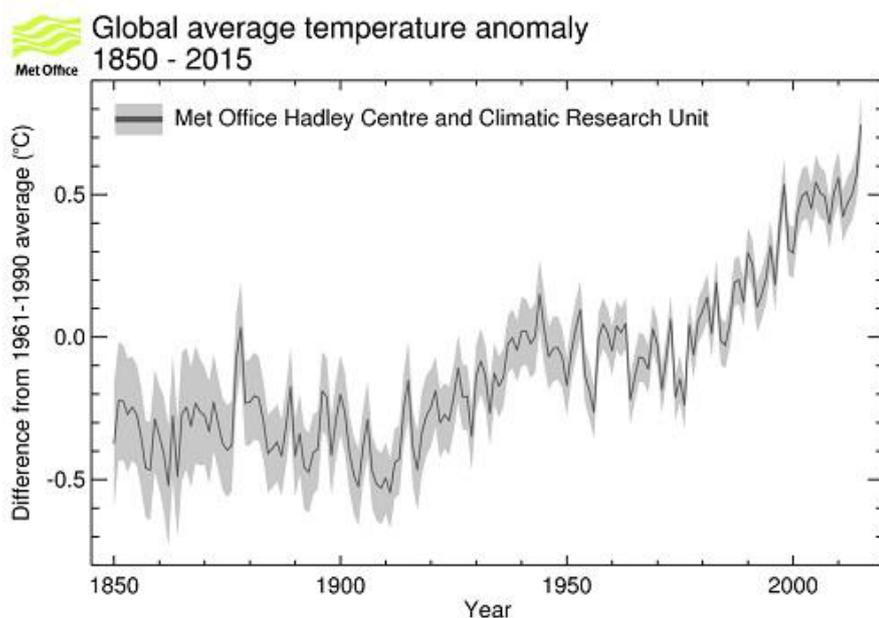
### Global Warming: How Much?

Degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels

+ 4	Business as usual
+ 3	Current government commitments (NDCs)
+ 2	Agreed CoP 21 limit
+ 1.5	CoP 21 target
+ 1	2015 temperature

When compared with the pre-industrial period, the 2015 average global temperature was around 1 °C above the long-term average from 1850 to 1900

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### What next?

- At Paris the text of the agreement was 'adopted'
- From 22 April 2016 it needs to be ratified
- 55 countries must sign up accounting for 55% of total global emissions
- Comes into effect 2020
- Global stocktake of national plans every five years from 2023
- What does this mean for countries?
- China – the biggest polluter by far must cut its use of coal dramatically
- USA - a poor record of national political leadership but now decarbonising significantly
- EU – a mixed bag of high achievers and less enthusiastic participants
- Middle East oil rich countries?
- Africa, South Asia, and South America?
- AOSIS (Alliance of Small island States) – is it too late?

### What does this mean for Scotland

- The UK/Scottish Climate Acts give us a head start
- Progress made towards targets, but concern about mixed messages from governments
- Demands changes to electricity generation/domestic heating/transport
- What is future for coal/oil/gas industries?
- What is role for financial sector?
- Scotland will be **affected** – river and coastal flooding

### What does this mean for eco-congregations?

- Your faith and determination has been rewarded in the CoP outcome: this is a tremendous achievement
- We now enter a new phase with new challenges
- Explore what this now means in faith and action for our energy use, heating, transport, finance and spiritual lives.

### Climate Change Changes Lives

**Save the date:** Christian Aid/Church of Scotland Climate Change Conference 1 October 2016, Bridge of Allan Church. Contributions from global partners on climate impacts and climate action after CoP21

Keep your diary free