

Syria signs Paris Pact, US left as Pariah state

Before COP 23 kicked off in Bonn, the US, Syria and Nicaragua were the only non-signatories of the Paris accord. That has now changed with Syria signing the accord. Nicaragua having signed up last month effectively leaves the once mighty US as the pariah state on climate deals.

The Paris climate agreement sets out a goal to stop global temperatures from rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, a crucial threshold above which dangerous changes

to the climate are likely irreversible.

This requires the world to achieve net zero greenhouse-gas emissions by about 2050.

The climate accord lets each country determine its own plan of action. As per current commitments, even if Trump were to change his mind and re-engage the US in climate action, the total reduction in global



Syrian delegation desk at COP23

emissions would still warm the planet beyond the 2°C threshold.

Happenings in the social media

Let's not allow Donald Trump to rock the boat from within," says @PACJA1's Secretary General

Mithika : We are alarmed by the shifting of goalposts by developed countries regarding climate finance. #AfricaCOP23 #COP23

Climate Finance flowing to

the Asia Pacific does not match the needs of the people #Africa-Cop23 #COP23

Simon CHIN-YEE @Simon-ChinYee Side event: making #climate finance work for #Africa at #COP23. @PACJA1 @AfDB_Group @CSDDevNet1 @oxfam @ecowas_ cedeao @COP23

maimuna kabatesi @mu-

Why don't CSOs participate in the GCF? A few reasons include overall COP failure to promote civil society, inadequate information sharing, the expense (financial and otherwise) of participating in process and inexperience using participation rights #COP23

Diminishing S. Africa role @COPs



South Africa's low economic growth and budgetary restraints, as well as a turbulent political landscape preceding the Zuma-led ANC's elective congress has diminished its role in leading Africa's climate change aspirations.

Despite praise for South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme, under the country's Integrated Resource Plan, coal generation still accounts for the lion's share of energy production.

But South Africa, as regional leader and advocate for developing country interests, also has presumably an important role to play in demonstrating its continued support for the Paris Agreement, furthering its plans to deliver on the commitments it has made so far. South Africa has a responsibility to act, based on its high levels of current and historical carbon emissions.

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'We aren't flower girls,' African CSOs assert

The Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) Secretary General of PACJA, Mithika Mwenda told Press at the Bonn Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on the Climate Change that Africa is at the 23rd session to be heard.

"Part of the PACJA's mission at COP23 is to push industrialized countries to set more ambitious goals to reduce their carbon emissions so that African states don't have to contend with the adverse effects of climate change," Mithika is quoted telling the press.

The PACJA represents a coalition of civil society organizations from diverse backgrounds across Africa.

Mithika expressed frustration with the way global leaders have conducted themselves over the years. "It's like a jamboree where people come, make proclamations, and after two weeks they go back to their normal lives. We are insisting that it is no longer

business as usual. We need to acknowledge the expectations of poorer states and ensure that we

are taking action," he said. He added that the frustrations coalition of African countries have at the COP 23 specifically, is that there is no strong signal of something being done here.

Mwenda took issue with the US delegation at the COP 23 saying their presence may prove to be a bad influence on



Climate justice activists hold a street match in Bonn.

"Kick Trump and his government out of these COP 23 negotiations"

other states already reluctant to take serious action on climate change – something he terms as the "Trump effect."

"[The US] withdraws from the Paris Agreement, yet they still want to show that they can negotiate the implementation framework," said Mwenda, "That's why we are calling in delegates here to sign our petition to kick Trump and his government out of these negotiations. We have to make it very clear that we are not kicking

[out] the people of America. We are in solidarity with [those who oppose Trump's actions]. Our target is the Trump government." Holding high-polluters to account, including the possibility of financial reparations for small-polluters such as many African countries, is likely to be another flashpoint issue at this year's COP, especially with island nation Fiji at the helm. "It is quite symbolic that a small island state is hosting COP23," Mwenda told DW. "[Developed nations] hold a lot of power in terms of determining what is on the agenda... The problem is the apathy of industrialized countries. We want to challenge them on that."

38000

Delegates
@ COP21 in
Paris

9,411

UN bodies reps
@ COP21 in Paris

**124 number of
US delegation
in 2015**

19,000

Delegates
@ COP23 in
Bonn

6,176

UN bodies reps
@ COP23 in Bonn

**48 number of
US delegation
in 2017**

COP 23 FACTS

Leading delegations from Africa

Côte d'Ivoire (492)
Guinea (355)
DR Congo (340)
Congo (308)
Morocco (253)

Some prominent **greenhouse gas emitters**, who sent large delegations, include **Indonesia (158)** and **Japan (109)**

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