

Article	Provision	Comment
-	<b>Preamble</b>	Like other international agreements, the preamble can give you pointers to help interpret parts of it which may be unclear, so you can say “this is what they had in mind, this is what they were aiming to do”.
<b>Article 1</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	Sets out the definitions used throughout the agreement, which are the same as Article 1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
<b>Article 2</b>	<b>Aims</b>	Contains the key text:  <i>(a) “Holding the increase in the global average temperature to <b>well below 2°C</b> above pre-industrial levels and <b>pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C</b> above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;</i>  <i>(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and:</i>  <i>(c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”</i>
<b>Article 3</b>	<b>NDCs, Ambition, Progression</b>	Countries commit “to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts...to achieving the purpose of this Agreement as set out in Article 2”. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are supposed to represent a progression, that is, to become increasingly ambitious.
<b>Article 4</b>	<b>Peaking of GHGs, progression of GHGs</b>	Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible, recognising that this may take longer for developing countries.  Article 4.3 re-states more clearly the need for Nationally Determined Contributions to represent a progression and to show the “ <i>highest possible ambition</i> ” each time.  The wording recognises the common responsibilities that all Parties share, and the differentiated responsibilities that depend on their resources and capabilities. Developed countries are expected to take the lead.

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<b>Article 5</b>	<b>Sinks and Reservoirs</b>	<p>Parties to the Paris Agreement commit to ‘conserve’ and ‘enhance as appropriate’ sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases. “Sinks and reservoirs” include “biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems”.</p> <p>Therefore, what this Article means is that each Party to the Paris Agreement is under a duty to conserve (protect) and enhance as appropriate (improve where it can) any such “sinks or reservoirs”. These might be a forest in Poland soaking up or holding greenhouse gases: or a terrestrial ecosystem such as the Arctic permafrost in Canada or Russia, holding in a large volume of methane.</p> <p>The Article also makes further specific commitments on implementing protections for forests.</p>
<b>Article 6</b>	<b>Voluntary Cooperation</b>	<p>This Article provides machinery to allow for and encourage Parties which aim to go further than the basic requirements of the Paris Agreement itself, and to set a framework for parties seeking results from “voluntary cooperation”, for example through systems such as emissions trading schemes.</p>
<b>Article 7</b>	<b>Adaptation</b>	<p>While Article 4 is really about “Mitigation”, or the measures that Parties agree to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this Article is about “Adaptation”, or the steps that Parties need to take to adapt their societies and infrastructure, and to build up their resilience against the effects of climate change that are going to happen anyway.</p> <p>For example, Malaysia, like other countries, will need to show how much it can do to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions through its Nationally Determined Contributions. But Malaysia will also have to adapt to climate change as it is predicted that it will affect the country, via rising sea levels affecting the coasts; changing weather patterns affecting agriculture, changed patterns of disease prevalence in different areas of the country affecting public health.</p> <p>This is the part of the Paris Agreement where the Parties agree that it is necessary to “Adapt” to climate change. Parties agree to build up their “adaptive capacity, to strengthen resilience and to reduce vulnerability to climate change.”</p> <p>As well as working on their national adaptation plans, Parties are urged by this Article to cooperate with each other.</p>

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<b>Article 8</b>	<b>Loss &amp; Damage</b>	This Article is about ways of Parties working together to avert, minimise and deal with the loss and damage caused by climate change, including for example extreme weather events. It covers areas such as early warning systems, emergency preparedness and risk insurance.
<b>Article 9</b>	<b>Financial Support</b>	<p>This is a key Article, under which developed country Parties commit to providing financial resources to help developing country parties address both Mitigation and Adaptation.</p> <p>It is a key area for negotiations. Developed countries will want to urge developing countries to do more to avoid the kind of emissions that have already had such major impacts on the climate. Developing countries will reply that they need financial and practical help (such as technical assistance) to do this.</p> <p>This Article is a key provision in starting to spell out the steps that developed countries need to take to mobilise climate finance, especially for countries hardest hit by climate change, such as small island states, some of which may disappear altogether as sea levels rise.</p>
<b>Article 10</b>	<b>Technology Development</b>	<p>This Article commits the Parties to work together in support and collaboration in the development of technology to address climate change, and also to promote the transfer of that technology to developing countries.</p> <p>This applies both to the technology to assist with Mitigation of emissions and also technology to improve resilience and help with Adaptation.</p>
<b>Article 11</b>	<b>Capacity Building</b>	<p>This Article supports “capacity building”, which means supporting the ability and building up the resources and know how. This is aimed at supporting least developed countries, and those particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as small island developing states.</p> <p>It aims to commit developed countries to support Mitigation, Adaptation, technology development, access to climate finance and other measures for building public awareness.</p>

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<b>Article 12</b>	<b>Education, Training, Public Awareness, Participation, Access to Information</b>	<p>Parties agree to cooperate in building up and strengthening climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information.</p> <p>This is a useful Article for activists to use as a reminder to their governments.</p>
<b>Article 13</b>	<b>Transparency</b>	<p>This Article commits Parties to an enhanced or strengthened framework of transparency for action and support. It tries to build on the provisions of the UNFCCC itself, and is based on the assumption that openness about progress in achieving climate objectives helps build political progress towards their fulfilment.</p> <p>So, specifically, Parties should provide a national inventory of man-made emissions, and the information necessary to track the progress that they are making in achieving their NDCs (A. 13.7).</p> <p>Published detailed information on national action on climate change will allow for a technical expert review, another technical measure to ensure that Parties are assisted to move forwards on climate change.</p>
<b>Article 14</b>	<b>Global Stocktake</b>	<p>This Article is very important.</p> <p>It commits the Conference of the Parties (COP) to periodically take stock of how the Agreement is being implemented, and its long-term goals.</p> <p>This is called the “<b>global stocktake</b>”, taking account of a number of factors including the: “best available science”.</p> <p>The first global stocktake is due to take place in 2023, and every five years thereafter unless the COP decides otherwise.</p>
<b>Article 15</b>	<b>Expert Committee to Facilitate Implementation and Compliance</b>	<p>This Article establishes an Expert Committee to help with implementation and compliance: it is supposed to help Parties, not to argue with them or punish them for non-compliance.</p>
<b>Article 16</b>	<b>Conference of Parties: UNFCCC/ Paris</b>	<p>This Article establishes the Conference of the Parties (COP) as the meeting that takes the key decisions about the Paris Agreement and how it is to be run. Non-Party states can be observers at proceedings of the COP. It also sets the working rules for how COPs are brought together. The 26<sup>th</sup> COP will take place in Glasgow in Nov 2021, hosted by the UK and Italy.</p>

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<b>Article 17</b>	<b>Secretariat</b>	The Secretariat of the UNFCCC is appointed to serve as the Secretariat of the Paris Agreement.
<b>Article 18</b>	<b>Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific &amp; Technical Advice</b>	Subsidiary Bodies, for Scientific and Technological Advice and for Implementation, set up under this Article provide very important technical input. Their work was also postponed in 2020, alongside the meeting of COP 26 itself.
<b>Article 19</b>	<b>Further Subsidiary Bodies</b>	A COP can set up further subsidiary bodies if it thinks they are needed.
<b>Article 20</b>	<b>Open for Signature /Accession /Ratification</b>	The Paris Agreement was opened for signature between 2016 and 2017. This Article sets out rules for countries and Parties signing up to the Agreement.
<b>Article 21</b>	<b>Entry into Force</b>	This Article provided for the Paris Agreement to come into force 30 days after at least 55 Parties to the UNFCCC, accounting for at least 55% of total global greenhouse gas emissions took steps to ratify the Paris Agreement.
<b>Article 22</b>	<b>Application of UNFCCC</b>	UNFCCC rules on proposals to adopt amendments to the Convention apply in the same way to the Paris Agreement.
<b>Article 23</b>	<b>Annexes</b>	Annexes on scientific, technical, procedural or administrative issues apply in the same way as provided for in the UNFCCC.
<b>Article 24</b>	<b>Settlement of Disputes</b>	UNFCCC rules on the settlement of disputes are imported into the Paris Agreement.
<b>Article 25</b>	<b>Voting</b>	This Article provides for Parties each to have one vote, except for special arrangements for regional economic integration organisations such as the European Union.
<b>Article 26</b>	<b>Depositary</b>	The Secretary General of the United Nations is the Depositary of the Paris Agreement: and Secretary General Antonio Guterres has shown himself to be active in speaking up for it and taking seriously his own responsibility to show leadership on the climate change issue.

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<b>Article 27</b>	<b>No Reservations</b>	Unlike some Treaties and Conventions, the Paris Agreement does not allow for countries to state 'reservations' saying which aspects of the Agreement they do not quite accept.
<b>Article 28</b>	<b>Withdrawal from the Agreement</b>	<p>Three years after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, a Party may withdraw from the Agreement on giving written notice to the Depositary.</p> <p>The United States, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, has given notice of its intention to withdraw from the Agreement. This take effect one year after notification, meaning the USA is currently set to formally leave the agreement on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, one day after the presidential election. The candidate for the Democratic party, Joe Biden, has said he will re-join the agreement if elected.</p>
<b>Article 29</b>	<b>Originals</b>	This is a technical Article about the status of official language versions of the Paris Agreement.