



# SIERRA STUDENT COALITION INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY BRIEF



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## The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)

### What does ADP stand for?

Officially, ADP stands for The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. In much simpler terms, ADP is a dedicated group that is tasked with coming up with a starting point for the next big climate treaty. ADP was established in December 2011 at the COP17 in Durban, South Africa. Within the organizational structure of the UNFCCC, ADP is a peer to other committees under the UNFCCC such as the Adaptation Committee and the Standing Committee on Finance, each tasked with the most important thematic elements of climate change policy.

### What does the ADP do?

ADP is responsible for two major priorities known as Workstream 1 and Workstream 2. While they sound generic, the workstreams are differentiated by their timelines. Workstream 1 refers to actions countries will take after 2020 and Workstream 2 refers to all of the things countries can do right now without a legally-binding agreement.

Workstream 1 requires ADP to develop a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed upon outcome for countries to be legally bound to reduce their emissions. Under Workstream 1, ADP is required to come up with draft negotiating text no later than 2015 in order for it to be adopted COP21 in Paris and for it to come into effect in 2020.

Workstream 2 requires ADP to come up with a recommendation for what countries can do to help mitigate climate change in addition to or in the absence of a legally-binding agreement. While this workstream might seem redundant to Workstream 1, it's actually an important acknowledgement from the UNFCCC that the world can't wait until 2020 to start addressing climate change. Furthermore, many countries are ready to act on climate change right now and who don't have to wait for an agreement to start reducing emissions in significant areas. Some examples of possible recommended actions as a result Workstream 2 include:

- Reduction of GHG in international transport
- Reduction of production and use of HFCs
- Enhancing energy efficiency
- Promoting renewable energy
- Encouraging further work on international sustainability standards and eco-labeling

### Another important term...

The term "ambition gap" is often used in regards to ADP. There is a recognition that at the current rate, the world will not meet the ambitious goals for a post-2020 climate treaty if we don't start taking action right now. While Workstream 2 is designed to help address that problem by recommending near-term actions, the



“ambition gap” is the amount of emissions that must be reduced if the world wants to have any chance of meeting the post-2020 targets.

### **Why does ADP matter?**

ADP is an important group to watch because they are responsible for writing the first draft of the world’s next climate agreement. ADP is the group responsible for the core purpose of the UNFCCC, which is getting nations to agree to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be legally enforced by the United Nations. ADP will be central to the COP20 in Lima because ADP is supposed to have a draft of negotiating text prepared by December 2014.

### **Resources:**

UNFCCC

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6645.php>

RTCC.org

<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/10/20/bonn-climate-talks-key-steps-to-support-the-worlds-most-vulnerable/>

