



BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

Despite much scepticism, international agreements grounded within a legal framework enable the '200' nations of the world to demonstrate their commitment towards tackling climate-change. These agreements also act as benchmarks for civil-society to hold their elected representatives too.

For example: the Montreal Protocol on CFCs worked because it operated with strong legislation and with market mechanisms to reinforce the agreement. The Montreal Protocol was linked to trade sanctions which meant that nations could only trade with other nations that had signed up to the agreement. As soon as the big economies had signed up to the agreement, everyone else wanted to be a part of it too and the result was full sign-up, even from the countries where CFCs were heavily produced. Importantly the agreement also gave developing economies time and money to help them with the transition.

The resolute statements of the UN secretary Ban Ki-moon and the progress in the joint US-China agreement are positive indicators for Paris. The emphasis at the Paris conference must be to assert that in order to keep below 2°C prospecting, drilling and burning of fossil fuels must end, whether they be in the UK or the Arctic.