



Frequently asked questions relating to the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol*

1. What is the Doha Amendment?

The Doha Amendment is an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol that was adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (CMP) on 8 December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. The Amendment establishes the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which began on 1 January 2013 and will end on 31 December 2020.

The Amendment has not yet entered into force.

2. What is required for the Doha Amendment to enter into force?

The Doha Amendment will enter into force on the ninetieth day after three-fourths of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol have deposited their instruments of acceptance with the Depositary (See Article 20, paragraph 4 and Article 21, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol.).

Based on the current number of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (192), the Amendment will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the Depositary receives 144 instruments of acceptance.

3. What is an instrument of acceptance?

An instrument of acceptance expresses the will of a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to be bound by the Doha Amendment and constitutes an undertaking by that Party to observe in good faith and implement the provisions of the Amendment.

The deposit of an instrument of acceptance is preceded by the completion of domestic procedures for the ratification of the Amendment in accordance with a Party's constitutional arrangements.

A model instrument of acceptance for the Doha Amendment can be found on the UNFCCC website:

unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/doha_amendment/application/pdf/attachment_sg_letter_doha_amendment.pdf

Instruments of acceptance should be sent, through a country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, to the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York.



4. How can I find out if my country has deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Doha Amendment?

Information on the status of ratification of the Doha Amendment is available on the United Nations Treaty Collection website:

https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-c&chapter=27&lang=en

5. Why should Parties not included in Annex I deposit their instruments of acceptance?

The Doha Amendment is open to acceptance by all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. There are 38 Parties listed in Annex B in the Doha Amendment¹ that have quantified emission limitation or reduction targets for the second commitment period. Ratification by these Parties alone will not be sufficient for the entry into force of the Amendment. Acceptance of the Doha Amendment by Parties not included in Annex I expresses their continuing commitment and support to the implementation of the Protocol.

6. Why ratify this Amendment if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is expected to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties no later than 2015?

The 2015 agreement will only come into effect and be implemented from 2020. The Doha Amendment covers the pre-2020 period, which is critical in the overall mitigation effort to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2° C above pre-industrial levels.

The preamble of decision 1/CMP.8 emphasized the role of the Kyoto Protocol in the mitigation efforts by Parties included in Annex I and recognized the urgent need for a prompt entry into force. As indicated by the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, in his letter to Governments of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,² the Doha Amendment is a “critical step in the global effort to tackle climate change.” Quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol are part of efforts to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period.

7. Until when does my country have to complete this procedure?

The second commitment period began on 1 January 2013. Thus, ratification of the Doha Amendment by Parties to the Kyoto Protocol should take place as soon as possible to enable full implementation of the Protocol’s second commitment period. Delay in or failure of entry into force of the Amendment will have impacts on the international response to climate change.

¹ Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² Available at http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/doha_amendment/application/pdf/sg_letter_doha_amendment.pdf



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The authentic text of the Doha Amendment in all six official languages of the United Nations is available on the following page of the United Nations Treaty Collection website:

https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-c&chapter=27&lang=en

More information on the Doha Amendment is available on the UNFCCC website:

http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/doha_amendment/items/7362.php

For further information, please contact the secretariat at:

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* This FAQ list was prepared by the Climate Change Secretariat and made publicly available on 21 November 2014 for public information purposes. The responses contained in this document do not replace official documents and decisions relating to the Doha Amendment. This FAQ list may be freely reproduced in part or in full, provided that the source is acknowledged.