



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

Executive Secretary

Nations Unies
Secrétariat sur les changements climatiques

Secrétaire exécutive

Date: 2 March 2016
Reference: CAS/LA/Paris Agreement

MESSAGE TO PARTIES

I would like to refer to the Paris Agreement adopted on 12 December 2015 at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP) held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015.

On 16 February 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary of the Agreement, issued a Notification informing Parties that, in accordance with paragraph 3 of COP decision 1/CP.21, he is convening a high-level ceremony for the opening for signature of the Agreement at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 April 2016. I would like to encourage all Parties to participate in the signing ceremony organized by the Secretary-General.

In this context, it should be noted that Parties intending to sign the Paris Agreement at the high-level signature ceremony on 22 April 2016 need to send to the Treaty Section, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs as soon as possible, and well in advance of the ceremony, a letter or note verbale confirming their participation in the signature ceremony indicating the name and title of the representative who will sign the Agreement on their behalf. When needed, the communication should be accompanied by the instrument of full powers authorizing the representative to sign the Agreement.

In this regard, it is recalled that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign the Agreement on behalf of their State without having to produce full powers. Any other representatives wishing to sign the Agreement must be in possession of appropriate full powers emanating from one of these three competent authorities.

I am pleased to inform Parties that the Agreement is now available in all six official United Nations languages on the [UNFCCC website](#) and that certified true copies of the Agreement, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, are under preparation and will be circulated to States by the Depositary as soon as possible.

I take this opportunity to thank all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for their continued support to the UNFCCC secretariat.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed by)

Christiana Figueres