

# Syria Will Join Paris Climate Accord, US is the Only Country Which Refuses to Sign

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***Syria plans to join the Paris climate accord***, an official from the war-ravaged country said Tuesday, a move that leaves the United States as the only United Nations member state not supporting the agreement, according to Associated Press.

While the United States ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement last year, **President Donald Trump** announced in June that he wants to pull out unless the U.S. can get a better deal.

Syria was the last U.N. member state not to have signed the accord after Nicaragua did so last month. Not all signatories have ratified the treaty yet.

Its ascension can also be seen as a kind of geopolitical troll. [Since Nicaragua signed onto Paris last month](#), Syria was the only remaining country left out of the Paris process. Nicaragua gets almost all of its energy from renewable sources, and it declined to join the treaty in 2015 because it said the accord did not go far enough.








If the Trump administration follows through with its threat, the U.S. withdrawal would take effect in November 2020.

In an address to delegates at a global climate meeting in Bonn, Germany, Syria's deputy minister of local administration and environment, **M. Wadah Katmawi**, said his country would join the Paris deal "as soon as possible."

# The Paris climate agreement: key points

The historic pact, approved by 195 countries, will take effect from 2020



<p><b>Temperatures</b> 2100</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep warming “well below 2 degrees Celsius”. Continue all efforts to limit the rise in temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Finance</b> 2020-2025</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich countries must provide 100 billion dollars from 2020, as a “floor”</li> <li>• Amount to be updated by 2025</li> </ul>	<p><b>Differentiation</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed countries must continue to “take the lead” in the reduction of greenhouse gases</li> <li>• Developing nations are encouraged to “enhance their efforts” and move over time to cuts</li> </ul>	<p><b>Emissions objectives</b> 2050</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for greenhouse gases emissions to peak “as soon as possible”</li> <li>• From 2050: rapid reductions to achieve a balance between emissions from human activity and the amount that can be captured by “sinks”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Burden-sharing</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed countries must provide financial resources to help developing countries</li> <li>• Other countries are invited to provide support on a voluntary basis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Review mechanism</b> 2023</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review every five years First world review: 2023</li> <li>• Each review will inform countries in “updating and enhancing” their pledges</li> </ul>	<p><b>Climate damage</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable countries have won recognition of the need for “averting, minimising and addressing” losses suffered due to climate change</li> </ul>	



Katmawi said Syria will seek foreign aid to help it meet its commitments under the climate accord, which aims to limit global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

“Nations that are entering the phase of post-war recovery - as my nation has seen a war that was oppressive upon it - should be given the priority in reconstruction and reorganizing the environment and climate,” he said.

Syria’s ascension to the treaty is the first major news to emerge from this year’s UN climate talks, which are being held in Bonn, Germany, this month.

**Sophie Mangal** is a special investigative correspondent at Inside Syria Media Center where this article was originally published.

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