

Road to curb temperature rises

The goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, COP21, is to achieve a legally binding, international agreement to keep average global temperatures no more than 2°C above pre-industrial temperatures*

Global mean temperatures above pre-industrial levels

1850-1900

Average temperature
13.7°C

1.0°C

Temperature rise expected to surpass 1°C in 2015

2.7°C

Forecast warming[†] by 2100 even if all COP21 pledges are implemented

4-5°C

Forecast rise by 2060 if current emissions levels continue

2.0°C

2010: 193 nations sign Cancun Agreements committing governments to “hold increase in global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels”

3-5°C

Warming on existing emissions-reduction policies. Low-lying island states at risk from rising sea levels



*Accurate assessment of temperatures in 1750s – when industrial revolution began – is difficult. To overcome problem, climatologists use average temperatures recorded between 1850 and 1900. [†]United Nations Synthesis report on aggregate effect of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)