

Climate negotiations terminology: the essentials

November 2024

Full climate negotiations
terminology toolkit:



Preambular wording

Acknowledging

Admitting something to be true or real, or recognising the existence of a fact.

Cognizant of

Demonstrating awareness of facts and information, used to remind parties of its relevance.

Concurring

Agreeing with something, generally another decision.

Emphasizing/Stressing

Giving special significance, importance or drawing attention to an issue.

Endorsing

Supporting an idea or a previous decision or document.

Expressing concern

Strong diplomatic language to express displeasure.

Having concluded that

The COP or other institution has made an assessment based on information, and then reached a conclusion.

Having considered

Something has been carefully evaluated or thought out in order to make a decision.

Noting/Noting with concern/Noting with satisfaction

Acknowledging something in a neutral, negative or positive way.

Reaffirming

Repeating an issue or decision already made and maintaining it.

Recalling

Highlights a previous action, decision or statement.

Urging

Strongly insisting and encouraging parties to an urgent action.

Warning

Alerting about a potential danger, risk or undesirable outcome.

Welcoming

Receiving or accepting positively.



Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE
INITIATIVE

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Basic drafting language and decision verbs

Adopts

Parties accept and incorporate a decision into their commitments.

Agrees upon/agrees to

Parties support what is being said/the decision.

Approves

Means to 'confirm' and is often used to endorse budgets, staffing plans or conclusions from governing bodies.

Authorizes

Gives authority or official power to someone or another body.

Calls for

Expresses a request or appeal directed towards parties to take specific actions.

Calls upon/on

Asks certain or all parties, or another entity, to undertake an action.

Confirms

Restates and endorses previous arrangements and conclusions.

Decides that/to

A binding agreement between parties to undertake an action. However, a decision may also command a soft and vague action.

Develop

Create, improve or make something grow or succeed.

Emphasizes

Underlines a situation or idea, without particularly doing something about it.

Encourages

Suggests or expresses hope that another party or entity will act.

Endorses

Supports an idea or a previous decision or document.

Enhance

Further develop or improve something.

Establishes

Widely used to create something (rights, institutions...).

Expresses

Normally used in conjunction with 'appreciation', 'gratitude', 'concern' or 'disappointment', to signal the COP's feeling.

Insists

Non-binding but strong expectation of compliance from the COP.

Invites

Non-binding, but requests the presence, participation or engagement of parties or another entity, in a diplomatic way.

May

Offers a possibility or alternative course of action, but does not create an obligation on the party carrying out the action.

Must

Action is required and almost always binding.

Recalls

To repeat a fact, an invitation or a request.

Recommends

Advises parties, an entity or a body to undertake a given course of action.

Shall

'Shall' indicates that the following action is obligatory or binding. However, when used with a weaker word, such as in 'shall endeavour' or 'shall strive', it only requires parties to 'try to do' something.

Should/ought to

Means an action is not required but recommended.

Strengthen

Increase, accelerate, reinforce or intensify something.

Will

Means that the action is going to take place with certainty.