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Paris climate agreement seen as turning point by UN

Less than two months after 196 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the [Paris Agreement](#), the global community is already seeing signs of it being a decisive turning point, according to a senior UN official dealing with climate issues.

A month and a half since 196 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the [Paris Agreement](#), the global community is already seeing signs of it being a decisive turning point, according to a senior UN official dealing with climate issues.

"Much has been happening since Paris – the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed that 2015 was the hottest year on record, not just by a little but by a lot," Janos Pasztor, who was today appointed as Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Change, told reporters at a briefing in New York.

For the past year, Mr. Pasztor had been leading the UN's climate change efforts as Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change, working towards last December's 21st United Nations climate change conference (COP21).

Recalling that UN [Secretary-General](#) Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders to a signing ceremony on 22 April – which coincides with International Mother Earth Day – the climate advisor noted that it will be the first day the Agreement is open for formal signatures.

He said Mr. Ban is urging countries to quickly ratify the agreement so it can enter into force as soon as possible, adding that the event will also be an opportunity to discuss efforts to implement national climate plans, known as INDCs, and to generally "maintain the momentum of the action agenda."

Image shows Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Change Janos Pasztor. UN Photo/Mark Garten

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