

## **COP21 and the Paris Agreement**

In December 2015, the approval of the Paris Agreement during COP21/CMP 11 changed the international climate change governance landscape significantly, and while less than perfect, marked an important and positive change towards increased climate action by all key stakeholders. Importantly for determining the future of the Durban Adaptation Charter, the Paris Agreement includes a global adaptation goal (Article 7) and recognises the importance of action by 'non-Party stakeholders' such as civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities. As such, the Paris Agreement addresses the two key needs which motivated the establishment of the Durban Adaptation Charter: the need to prioritise adaptation action alongside mitigation action, and to create a mandate for adaptation action at the local and city level. Given the fact that the Paris Agreement provides the basis for all climate action for the foreseeable future, it makes sense that the Durban Adaptation Charter and other global advocacy platforms, like the Mexico City Pact, the Compact of Mayors, carbonn Climate Registry and CDP should now focus on alignment under the Paris Agreement and the implementation of the goals established therein.

In terms of the Durban Adaptation Charter, the intention is to review the Charter principles against the adaptation requirements of the Paris Agreement in order to ensure that there is consistency. Also, given that the recognition of the importance of adaptation action and the role of cities and sub-national actors within the Paris Agreement creates the mandate for local government adaptation action in cities around the world that the Durban Adaptation Charter has championed, the need for a standalone secretariat is no longer necessary as all cities will be reporting on their action through their national level reporting process and the global stocktake envisaged under the Paris Agreement. The focus should therefore be on enhancing local adaptation effort in alignment with the Paris Agreement, by using inter alia the Hub and Compact approach, through the development of TAP proposals, and reporting adaptation efforts on the carbonn Climate Registry. Durban Adaptation Charter Hub cities are also well-placed to publish their adaptation experience in peer-review literature for inclusion in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report. Having developed the DAC into a recognisable brand globally, it is important that these gains are not lost, but that the brand is used to enhance local adaptation effort. This is proposed to be through ICLEI regional offices and within other organisations.