

NATIONS:

G-7 leaders appear close to announcing a global greenhouse gas emissions goal

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BONN, Germany -- President Obama and other Group of Seven leaders are expected to chart a path to a carbon-free future today when they emerge from two days of meetings in Bavaria.

Diplomats and activists gathered about 400 miles away in this Rhine River city to develop a new global accord in Paris in December are keeping a close eye on the G-7 summit, where the world's wealthiest countries have put climate change high on the agenda.

A communiqué that will be issued later today, several sources here familiar with drafts of it said, will include a hard-fought, long-term global goal on climate change. Leaders will urge reaching the "upper end" of a 40 to 70 percent cut in global emissions below 2010 levels by midcentury. The document will also outline hopes for a Paris deal that demands increased ambition over time and a signal to poor countries that wealthy ones will make good on a long-ago promise to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020.

Observers said a strong outcome from the G-7 summit could deliver important momentum for a new international agreement.

"A positive signal on the long-term goal and those kinds of issues will really help," said Ned Helme, president of the Center for Clean Air Policy. Other countries, he said, "feel safer progressing here if they feel the big players are really on board. It really sets the table."

Activists said the contentious discussions over the long-term goal were worked out last night, with Europe largely pushing Canada and Japan. The deal is also expected to include measures to deliver renewable energy to Africa and a disaster-risk insurance mechanism to help vulnerable countries address the problems they already are facing from climate change.

"We haven't had a leaders' statement on climate like this for quite some time," said Jennifer Morgan, global director of the climate program at the World Resources Institute. "The fact that it's a positive signal on a number of fronts bodes well for Paris."

Meanwhile, diplomats here moved into a second week of negotiations toward a Paris deal. Negotiators' top goal by Friday is to slice down the sprawling 90-page text that offers multiple options for every conceivable decision negotiators might have to make.

At a stock-taking session this morning after a week's worth of work, officials said 59 out of 150 paragraphs had been consolidated. Observers said the work has been slow-going but upbeat.

"The mood is positive," Helme said. "I don't sense a lot of the posturing that we usually see at this stage."

***ClimateWire's* Friedman discusses expectations for Bonn climate talks, G-7 meeting**

As climate delegates convened in Bonn, Germany, last week for the next round of negotiations on an international agreement, how were the discussions expected to pave the way to December's final negotiations in Paris? On Friday's *The Cutting Edge*, *ClimateWire* deputy editor Lisa Friedman discussed the goals for the Bonn meeting and the impact resistance to climate action in the United States is having on the international talks.