

# **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

## What is UNFCCC ?

It is an international environment treaty signed in 1992 at UN conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro (the Earth Summit)

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994.

Today, it has near-universal membership. The 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.

## What is the main aim of UNFCCC ?

The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system."

It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

## What is COP ?

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

## What is relationship between UNFCCC and other RIO Conventions ?

The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of two opened for signature at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **Convention to Combat Desertification**. The three are intrinsically linked.

It is in this context that the Joint Liaison Group was set up to boost cooperation among the three Conventions, with the ultimate aim of developing synergies in their activities on issues of mutual concern.

## 1995 : COP 1 : Berlin, Germany

It voiced concerns about the adequacy of countries' abilities to meet commitments under the Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (BSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

COP 1 agreed on "Activities Implemented Jointly", first joint measures in international climate action.

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## 1996 : COP 2 : Geneva, Switzerland

1. Accepted the scientific findings on climate change offered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its second assessment (1995)
2. Rejected uniform "harmonized policies" in favor of flexibility;
3. Called for "legally binding mid-term targets"

## 1997 : COP 3 : Kyoto, Japan

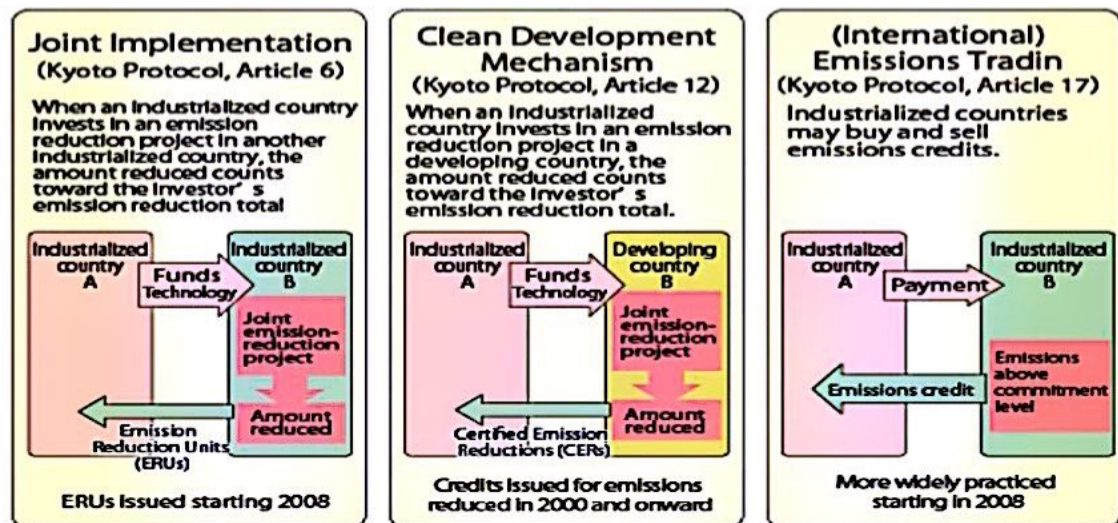
After intensive negotiations, it adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which outlined the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligation for Annex I countries, along with what came to be known as Kyoto mechanisms such as

- 1. Emissions Trading**
- 2. Clean Development Mechanism and**
- 3. Joint Implementation**



# Emission Trading, CDM and Joint Implementation

The Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms for fulfilling emission reductions commitments



## Who are Annex I Parties ?

The Convention divides countries into three main groups according to differing commitments:

**Annex I** Parties include the **industrialized countries** that were members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in 1992 plus countries with economies in transition (the EIT Parties), including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States.

## Who are Annex II Parties?

**Annex II** Parties consist of the OECD members of Annex I, but not the EIT Parties. They are required to provide financial resources to enable developing countries to undertake emissions reduction activities under the Convention and help them adapt to adverse effects of climate change.

In addition, they have to "take all practicable steps" to promote the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to EIT Parties and developing countries. Funding provided by Annex II Parties is channelled through the Convention's financial mechanism.

## Who are Non-Annex I Parties ?

Non-Annex I Parties are mostly **developing countries**. Certain groups of developing countries are recognized by the Convention as being especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including countries with low-lying coastal areas and those prone to desertification and drought. Others (such as countries that rely heavily on income from fossil fuel production and commerce) feel more vulnerable to the potential economic impacts of climate change and request special response measures. The Convention emphasizes activities that promise to address the special needs and concerns of these vulnerable countries, such as investment, insurance and technology transfer.

## LDCs according to UNFCCC

The 49 Parties classified as **least developed countries** (LDCs) by the United Nations are given special consideration under the Convention on account of their limited capacity to respond to climate change and adapt to its adverse effects. Parties are urged to take full account of the special situation of LDCs when considering funding and technology-transfer activities.

# Emissions Trading

Parties with commitments under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Parties) have accepted targets for limiting or reducing emissions. These targets are expressed as levels of allowed emissions, or assigned amounts, at over the 2008-2012 commitment period. The allowed emissions are divided into assigned amount units (AAUs).

# Clean Development Mechanism

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets.

A CDM project activity might involve, for example, a rural electrification project using solar panels or the installation of more energy-efficient boilers. The mechanism stimulates sustainable development and emission reductions, while giving industrialized countries some flexibility in how they meet their reduction or limitation targets.

# Joint Implementation

The mechanism known as "**joint implementation**", defined in Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, allows a country with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to earn emission reduction units (ERUs) from an emission-reduction or emission removal project in another Annex B Party, each equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which can be counted towards meeting its Kyoto target. Joint implementation offers Parties a flexible and cost-efficient means of fulfilling a part of their



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Most industrialized countries and some central European economies in transition (all defined as Annex B countries) agreed to legally binding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of an average of 6 to 8% below 1990 levels between the years 2008–2012, defined as the first emissions budget period.

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## 1998 : COP 4 : Buenos Aires, Argentina

It had been expected that the remaining issues unresolved in Kyoto would be finalized at this meeting. However, the complexity and difficulty of finding agreement on these issues proved insurmountable, and instead the parties adopted a 2-year "**Plan of Action**" to advance efforts and to devise mechanisms for implementing the Kyoto Protocol, to be completed by 2000.

During COP4, Argentina and Kazakhstan expressed their commitment to the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligation, the first two non-Annex

## **1999: COP 5 : Bonn, Germany**

It was primarily a technical meeting, and did not reach major conclusions.

## 2000: COP 6 : The Hague, Netherlands

The discussions evolved rapidly into a high-level negotiation over the major political issues. These included major controversy over the United States' proposal to allow credit for carbon "sinks" in forests and agricultural lands that would satisfy a major proportion of the U.S. emissions reductions in this way; disagreements over consequences for non-compliance by countries that did not meet their emission reduction targets; and difficulties in resolving how developing countries could obtain financial assistance to deal with adverse effects of climate change and meet their obligations to plan for measuring and possibly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## **2001 : COP 6 : Bonn, Germany**

The meeting took place after George W. Bush had become the President of the United States and had rejected the Kyoto Protocol in March 2001; as a result the United States delegation to this meeting declined to participate in the negotiations related to the Protocol and chose to take the role of observer at the meeting. The agreements included:

# Flexible Mechanisms

**Flexible mechanisms:** The "flexibility mechanisms" which the United States strongly favored when the Protocol was initially put together, including emissions trading, joint implementation (JI), and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which allows industrialized countries to fund emissions reduction activities in developing countries as an alternative to domestic emission reductions. One element of this agreement was that there would be no quantitative limit on the amount a country could claim from use of these mechanisms provided domestic action constituted a significant element of the efforts of each Annex B country to meet its targets.

# Carbon Sinks

## **Carbon sinks:**

It was agreed that credit would be granted for broad activities that absorb carbon from the atmosphere or store it, including forest and cropland management, and re-vegetation, with no overall cap on the amount of credit that a country could claim for sinks activities.



# Compliance

**Compliance:** Final action on compliance procedures and mechanisms that would address non-compliance with Protocol provisions was deferred to COP 7, but included broad outlines of consequences for failing to meet emissions targets that would include a requirement to "make up" shortfalls at 1.3 tons to 1, suspension of the right to sell credits for surplus emissions reductions, and a required compliance action plan for those not meeting their targets.

## Financing

**Financing:** There was agreement on the establishment of three new funds to provide assistance for needs associated with climate change:

(1) a fund for climate change that supports a series of climate measures;

(2) a least-developed-country fund to support National Adaptation Programmes of Action; and

(3) a Kyoto Protocol adaptation fund supported by a CDM levy and volu

## 2001: COP 7 : Marrakech, Morocco

The negotiators wrapped up the work on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, finalizing most of the operational details and setting the stage for nations to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. The completed package of decisions is known as the **Marrakech Accords**. The United States delegation maintained its observer role, declining to participate actively in the negotiations.

The date of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (August–September 2002) was put forward as a target to bring the Kyoto Protocol into force. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## 2002 : COP 8 : New Delhi, India

COP 8 adopted the **Delhi Ministerial Declaration** that, amongst others, called for efforts by developed countries to transfer technology and minimize the impact of climate change on developing countries. It is also approved the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention.

The COP8 was marked by Russia's hesitation, stating that it needed more time to think it over. The Kyoto Protocol could enter into force once it was ratified by 55 countries, including countries responsible for 55 per cent of the developed world's 1990 carbon dioxide emissions.

With the United States (36.1 per cent share of developed-world carbon dioxide) and Australia's ratification, Russia's agreement (17% of global emissions in 1990) was required to meet the ratification criteria and therefore Russia could delay the process.

## 2003 : COP 9 : Milan, Italy

The parties agreed to use the Adaptation Fund established at COP7 in 2001 primarily in supporting developing countries better adapt to climate change.

The fund would also be used for capacity-building through technology transfer.

## 2004 : COP 10 : Buenos Aires, Argentina

COP10 discussed the progress made since the first Conference of the Parties 10 years ago and its future challenges, with special emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To promote developing countries better adapt to climate change, the **Buenos Aires Plan of Action** was adopted. The parties also began discussing the post-Kyoto mechanism, on how to allocate emission reduction obligation follow

## 2005 : COP 11 /CMP 1 : Montreal,Canada

It was the **first Conference of the Parties** serving as the **Meeting of the Parties** to the **Kyoto Protocol (CMP 1)** since their initial meeting in Kyoto in 1997.

The Montreal Action Plan was an agreement to "**extend the life of the Kyoto Protocol beyond its 2012** expiration date and negotiate deeper cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions".

Canada's environment minister at the time, Stéphane Dion, said the agreement p  
a "**map for the future**".

## 2006 : COP 12 /CMP 2 : Nairobi, Kenya

At the meeting, BBC reporter Richard Black coined the phrase "**climate tourists**" to describe some delegates who attended "to see Africa, take snaps of the wildlife, the poor, dying children and women". Black also noted that due to delegates' concerns over economic and possible losses of competitiveness, the majority of the discussions avoided any mention of reducing emissions. Black concluded that there was a disconnect between the political process and the scientific imperative.

Despite such criticism, the parties adopted a five-year plan of work to support climate change adaptation by developing countries, and agreed on the **procedures and modalities for the Adaptation Fund**. They also agreed to improve the projects for clean development mechanism.



## 2007 : COP 13/CMP 3 : Bali, Indonesia

Agreement on a timeline and structured negotiation on the post-2012 framework (the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol) was achieved with the adoption of the **Bali Action Plan**.

The **Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)** was established as a **new subsidiary body** to conduct the negotiations aimed at urgently enhancing the implementation of the Convention up to and beyond 2012.

## 2008 : COP 14/CMP 4 : Poznan, Poland

Delegates agreed on principles for the financing of a fund to help the poorest nations cope with the effects of climate change and they approved a mechanism to incorporate forest protection into the efforts of the international community to combat climate change.

Negotiations on a successor to the Kyoto Protocol were the primary focus of the conference.

## **2009 : COP 15/CMP 5 : Copenhagen, Denmark**

The overall goal for the COP 15 was to establish an ambitious global climate agreement for the period from 2012 when the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol expires.

Limiting maximum Global Average temperature increase to not more than 2 degree Celsius above pre - Industrial level (1990).

## 2009 : COP 15/CMP 5 : Copenhagen, Denmark

The conference did not achieve a binding agreement for long-term action. A 13-paragraph 'political accord' was negotiated by approximately 25 parties including US and China, but it was only 'noted' by the COP as it is considered an external document, not negotiated within the UNFCCC process.

The accord was notable in that it referred to a collective commitment by developed countries for new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, that will approach US\$30 billion for the p

## 2010 : COP 16/CMP 6 : Cancun, Mexico

The outcome of the summit was an agreement adopted by the states' parties that called for the **US\$100 billion per annum "Green Climate Fund"**, and a **"Climate Technology Centre"** and network. However the funding of the Green Climate Fund was not agreed upon. Nor was a commitment to a second period of the Kyoto Protocol agreed upon, but it was concluded that the **base year shall be 1990** and global warming potentials shall be those provided by the IPCC.

## 2010 : COP 16 /CMP 6 : Cancun, Mexico

All parties "*Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all Parties,*".

It recognizes the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report goal of a maximum 2 °C global warming and all parties should take urgent action to meet this goal.

It also agreed upon greenhouse gas emissions should peak as soon as possible, recognizing that the time frame for peaking will be longer in developing countries since social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first overriding priorities of developing countries.

## 2011: COP 17/CMP 7 : Durban, South Africa

The conference agreed to start negotiations on a **legally binding deal** comprising all countries, to be adopted in 2015, governing the period post 2020.

There was also progress regarding the creation of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) for which a management framework was adopted

## 2012 : COP 18/CMP 8 : Doha, Qatar

The Conference produced a package of documents collectively titled *The Doha Climate Gateway*. The documents collectively contained:

1. The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (to be accepted before entering into force) features a second commitment period running from 2012 until 2020 limited in scope to 15% of the carbon dioxide emissions due to the lack of commitments of Japan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and New Zealand (nor the United States and Canada, who are not parties to the Protocol in that period) and due to the fact that developing countries like China (the world's largest emitter) and Brazil are not subject to emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Language on loss and damage, formalized for the first time in the conference document.

The conference made little progress towards the funding of the Green Climate Fund.



# 2013 : COP 19/CMP 9 : Warsaw, Poland and 2014: COP 20/CMP 10 : Lima, Peru

## Warsaw Mechanism

Aid and Expertise to developing countries to cope with loss and damage from natural extremities , like heat waves , drought , flood , rising sea level and desertification

INDC Coined : Intended Nationally determined contribution .

LIMA : INDC Pledge

## 2015 : COP 21/CMP 11 : Paris, France

Negotiations resulted in the adoption of the **Paris Agreement on 12 December**, governing climate change reduction measures from 2020. The adoption of this agreement ended the work of the Durban platform, established during COP17.

The agreement will enter into force (and thus become fully effective) on 4 November 2016. On 4 October 2016 the threshold for adoption was reached with over 55 countries representing at least 55% of the world's greenhouse emissions ratifying the Agreement.

## 2015 : Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, recognizing that this would substantially reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

This should be done by reducing emissions as soon as possible, in order to "achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases" in the second half of the 21st century.

It also aims to increase the ability of parties to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and make "finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient

# PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Historical document that legally binds the whole World to participate in climate change fight.

196 countries



## Finance

Rich countries will provide minimum of \$100 billion to developing ones for climate change adaptation by 2020

## Adopted the Agreement

officially recognizing human influence on climate



2020

## Will come into force by 2020

If signed by 55 countries covering 55% of global emissions



## 5 years Ambitious

Every 5 years countries shall revise their emissions reduction targets and measures

Holding the increase in the global average temperature well below

2°C

Pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to

1.5°C



## Climate neutrality 2050

The balance between emissions and sinks should be reached in the second half of XXI century



## Climate damage

For the first time ever the Agreement defines climate loss and damage terms but liability and compensation are not mentioned



## Clean technologies

The Agreement urges to speed up clean tech development and international technology transfer



## Role of forests

The Agreement binds saving and increasing forest area in order to capture GHGs from the atmosphere

Source : [https://www.clatpo-  
climate-agreement](https://www.clatpo-<br/>climate-agreement)

# INDIA'S CLIMATE PLAN FOR 2030

## THE PROMISES

- ▶ Propagate healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation
- ▶ Reduce emissions intensity of country's GDP by 33-35% by 2030 from 2005 level
- ▶ Achieve 40% power generation from renewables (solar, wind, biomass, hydro and nuclear)
- ▶ Create additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 by adding to forest and tree cover
- ▶ Better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management

## COST OF IMPLEMENTATION

A preliminary estimate suggests that at least USD 2.5 trillion (at 2014-15 prices) will be required for meeting India's climate change actions between now and 2030

India to mobilise new and additional funds from developed countries to implement its mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the huge fund requirement and resource gap



## WHAT GOVT WOULD DO TO ACHIEVE ITS TARGET

Introduce new, more efficient and cleaner technologies in thermal power generation	Reduce emissions from transportation sector 	Promote energy efficiency in the economy, notably in industry, transportation, buildings and appliances	Build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies
Reducing emissions from waste 	Developing climate resilient infrastructure	Full implementation of Green India Mission and other programmes 	

## WHAT OTHER MAJOR ECONOMIES HAVE PROMISED

<b>EU (28 countries)</b>   Cut emissions by at least 40% from 1990 levels by 2030	<b>USA</b>   Reduce emissions by 26-28% below its 2005 levels by 2025	<b>China</b>   Achieve peak emissions by 2030. Emissions to decline thereafter. Cut carbon intensity (emissions per unit of GDP) by 60-65% from 2005 levels by 2030	<b>Australia</b>   Implement economy-wide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030	<b>Brazil</b>   Commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37% below 2005 by 2025
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ALL THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO COMMITTED TO INCREASE SHARE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THEIR TOTAL ENERGY MIX

Source : <https://ecomes.com/n-pollution/in-35-cut-in-e-2030/article-cms?from=>

# 2016 : COP 22 / CMP 12 / CMA 1 : Marrakech, Morocco

Unfarkar

- Countries gave themselves two years to 2018 to agree rules and procedures for the Paris Agreement
- Technical work produced guidance and questions for work-plans, focusing on: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); a transparency framework; global stocktake; technology development and transfer; adaptation, and market and non-market approaches.
- Countries agreed a five-year work plan on Loss and Damage.
- Developed countries launched a roadmap to 2020 on reaching the agreed goal of \$100bn per annum in climate finance for developing countries.
- A statement of the need for action and countries' will to act was agreed - the Marrakech A

## 2017 : COP 23 / CMP 13 / CMA 1 -2: Bonn, Germany

The COP was presided over by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Frank Bainimarama, marking the first time a small-island developing state assumed the presidency of the negotiations.

Although COP23 focused primarily on technical details of the Paris Agreement, it was the first conference of the parties to take place after President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would withdraw from the agreement.

COP23 concluded with what was called the '**Fiji Momentum for Implementation**,' which outlined the steps that need to be taken in 2018 to make the Paris Agreement operational and launched the **Talanoa Dialogue** - a process designed to help countries enhance and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020

# 2018 : COP 24/ CMP 14 / CMA 1-3 : Katowice, Poland

The conference agreed on rules to implement the Paris Agreement, which will come into force in 2020, that is to say the rulebook on how governments will measure, and report on their emissions-cutting efforts.

Silesia Declaration for JUST Transition : Quality Work is the key .

Due to difficulty to reach agreement between parties, some difficult questions such as ways to scale up existing commitments on cutting emissions, ways to provide financial help for developing countries, wording that does not allow double counting and whether countries are doing enough to cut their emissions (in the light of the IPCC report) were postponed to the next conference



## **2019 : COP 25/ CMP 15/ CMA 2 : Madrid Spain**

Rule book yet to be finalised

New Carbon markets and individual country targets remain unresolved

No substantial announcements regarding Emission target reduced only voluntary targets

Creation of New carbon Markets

# 2019 : COP 25/ CMP 15/ CMA 2 : Madrid Spain

## **Chile Madrid Time for Action**

It calls for improving their pledges to reduce Green House gas emissions

Endorsed to help poor countries fight with Climate Change but no new funds allocated or raised

Called for 'urgent' need to cut Green House Gases aligned with goals of Paris Climate Change Accord,2015