

Summits related to Climate Change

India launched an international solar alliance of over 120 countries (Completely or partially between tropic of cancer and Capricorn) at the **Paris COP21 climate summit**. Aided by the UN Environment Programme, the 2 day Forum had participants from business, Government, UN, NGO and civil society to bring scale to the emerging green economy. India's pledge to the Paris summit offered to draw 40% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement. It was agreed upon at the **Vienna Conference of 1985** and **entered into force in 1988**. In terms of universality, it is one of the most successful treaties of all time, having been ratified by 197 states (all United Nations members as well as the Holy See, Niue and the Cook Islands) as well as the European Union.

It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer. However, it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs, the main chemical agents causing ozone depletion. These are laid out in the accompanying **Montreal Protocol**.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion. It was agreed on 16 September 1987, and entered into force on 1 January 1989, followed by a first meeting in Helsinki, May 1989. Since then, it has undergone eight revisions, in 1990 (London), 1991 (Nairobi), 1992 (Copenhagen), 1993 (Bangkok), 1995 (Vienna), 1997 (Montreal), 1998 (Australia), 1999 (Beijing) and 2007 (Montreal).

The treaty is structured around several groups of halogenated hydrocarbons that have been shown to play a role in ozone depletion. All of these ozone depleting substances contain either chlorine or bromine (substances containing only fluorine do not harm the ozone layer). For each group, the treaty provides a timetable on which the production of those substances must be shot out and eventually eliminated primarily:

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) Phase-out Management Plan
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP)

As a result of the international agreement, the ozone hole in Antarctica is slowly recovering. Climate projections indicate that the ozone layer will return to 1980 levels between 2050 and 2070.

(First Earth Summit-1992)

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is an international environmental treaty (**currently the only international climate policy venue**

with broad legitimacy, due in part to its virtually universal membership) negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the **Earth Summit**, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June **1992**. It entered into force on 21 March 1994. As of March 2014, UNFCCC has 196 parties.

The objective of the treaty is to "**stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system**"

The treaty itself set no binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries and contains no enforcement mechanisms. In that sense, the treaty is considered legally non-binding. Instead, the treaty provides a framework for negotiating specific international treaties (called "protocols") that may set binding limits on greenhouse gases.

Article 3(1) of the Convention states that Parties should act to protect the climate system on the basis of "**common but differentiated responsibilities**", and that developed country Parties should "take the lead" in addressing climate change.

The extent to which developing country parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by **developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology** and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country parties.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty, which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits State Parties to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December, 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. There are currently 192 Parties (Canada withdrew effective December 2012) to the Protocol.

First commitment period: 2008–12

Under the Kyoto Protocol, 37 industrialized countries and the European Community (the European Union-15, made up of 15 states at the time of the Kyoto negotiations) commit themselves to binding targets for GHG emissions. The targets apply to the four greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), and two groups of gases, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs). The six GHG are translated into CO₂ equivalents in determining reductions in emissions. These reduction targets are in addition to the industrial gases, chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which are dealt with under the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The Protocol defines three "flexibility mechanisms" that can be used Parties in meeting their emission limitation commitments. The flexibility mechanisms are **International Emissions Trading (IET), the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and Joint Implementation (JI)**. IET allows Parties to "trade" their emissions (Assigned Amount Units, AAUs, or "allowances" for short). The economic basis for providing this flexibility is that the marginal cost of reducing (or abating) emissions differs among countries.

A second commitment period was agreed on in 2012, known as the Doha Amendment

Australia, the European Union (and its 28 member states), Belarus, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan have stated that they may withdraw from the Protocol or not put into legal force the Amendment with second round targets. Japan, New Zealand and Russia have participated in Kyoto's first-round but have not taken on new targets in the second commitment period. Other developed countries without second-round targets are Canada (which withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol in 2012) and the United States (which has not ratified the Protocol). As of July 2015, 36 states have accepted the Doha Amendment, while entry into force requires the acceptances of 144 states.

Negotiations were held in Lima in 2014 to agree on a post-Kyoto legal framework that would obligate all major polluters to pay for CO₂ emissions. China, India, and the United States have all signalled that they will not ratify any treaty that will commit them legally to reduce CO₂ emissions

(Second Earth Summit-2002, also called Rio+10)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, or Earth Summit 2002 took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. It was convened to discuss sustainable development by the United Nations. It gathered a number of leaders from business and non-governmental organizations, 10 years after the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. (It was therefore also informally nicknamed "Rio+10")

The Johannesburg Declaration was the main outcome of the Summit. An agreement was made to restore the world's depleted fisheries for 2015. Instead of new agreements between governments, the Earth Summit was organized mostly around almost 300 "partnership initiatives". These were to be the key means to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. These are kept in a database of Partnerships for Sustainable Development

(Third Earth Summit-2012, also called Rio+20)

In 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development the attending members reaffirmed their commitment to Agenda 21 in their outcome document called "The Future We Want". 180 leaders from nations participated.

Agenda 21 is a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development. It is a product of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. It is an action agenda for the UN, other multilateral organizations, and individual governments around the world that can be executed at local, national, and global levels. The "21" in Agenda 21 refers to the 21st Century. It has been affirmed and modified at subsequent UN conferences

Section I: Social and Economic Dimensions is directed toward combating poverty, especially in developing countries, changing consumption patterns, promoting health, achieving a more sustainable population, and sustainable settlement in decision making.

Section II: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development Includes atmospheric protection, combating deforestation, protecting fragile environments, conservation of biological diversity (biodiversity), control of pollution and the management of biotechnology, and radioactive wastes.

Section III: Strengthening the Role of Major Groups includes the roles of children and youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, business and industry, and workers; and strengthening the role of indigenous peoples, their communities, and farmers.

Section IV: Means of Implementation: implementation includes science, technology transfer, education, international institutions and financial mechanisms.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) is a Convention to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.

The Convention, the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21, was adopted in Paris, France on 17 June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996. It is the first and only internationally legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification. The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization—the backbone of Good Governance and

Sustainable Development. It has 196 parties, making it truly global in reach. In 2013, Canada became the first country to announce its intention to withdraw from the convention

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, set up at the request of member governments. It was first established in 1988 by two United Nations organizations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and later endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 43/53. Membership of the IPCC is open to all members of the WMO and UNEP. The IPCC produces reports that support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the main international treaty on climate change.

The IPCC does not carry out its own original research, nor does it do the work of monitoring climate or related phenomena itself. The IPCC bases its assessment on the published literature, which includes peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources.

Thousands of scientists and other experts contribute (on a voluntary basis, without payment from the IPCC) to writing and reviewing reports, which are then reviewed by governments. IPCC reports contain a "Summary for Policymakers", which is subject to line-by-line approval by delegates from all participating governments. Typically this involves the governments of more than 120 countries. The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was shared, in two equal parts, between the IPCC and Al Gore.
