

## **Brief Glossary and Chronology for UNFCCC Process**

For a more extensive set of climate change terms see <http://www.ipieca.org/publication/climate-change-glossary-terms-5th-edition>

### **UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

A treaty signed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro by more than 150 countries. Its ultimate objective is “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” The UNFCCC contains an unmet, voluntary goal for Annex 1 Parties (developed countries) to return their emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. The treaty took effect in 1994. In 1995 its Conference of Parties first met in Berlin (COP 1). The Secretariat is based in Bonn, Germany.

### **COP: Conference of the Parties**

The COP is the supreme body of the Convention. It comprises countries that have ratified the UNFCCC. The COP usually meets annually for two weeks in December.

### **CMP: Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (sometimes COP/MOP)**

The COP also serves as the meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, adopted at COP 3 in 1997, with emissions targets for Annex 1 Parties in the 1<sup>st</sup> period 2008-2012. CMP comprises only Parties that have ratified or acceded to the Protocol; it meets as a separate decision-making body at the annual joint meetings of the COP/CMP. CMP 1 convened in Montreal in 2005 with COP 11. In 2012 CMP 8 agreed terms in the Doha Amendment for a 2<sup>nd</sup> period (2013-2020). Notably, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, and the USA will not participate. As of 3 May 2018, only 112 of the required 144 Parties have ratified, so the Amendment has not officially entered into force.

### **SBs: Subsidiary Bodies**

The UNFCCC established two permanent, standing bodies, SBSTA and SBI, that review progress and develop recommendations to further implementation of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. All Parties are members of the SBs. They operate under mandates set by COP or CMP, depending on the topic, and prepare recommendations for decisions by COP or CMP. SBs typically meet twice a year: in a two-week session in Bonn in June and during the COP/CMP in December.

### **SBI: Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

SBI develops recommendations to assist the COP in assessing implementation of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. For example, SBI reviews and recommends conclusions regarding financial mechanisms and national communications and oversees the UNFCCC Budget and Secretariat.

### **SBSTA: Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

SBSTA serves as the link between the COP and CMP and scientific, technical and technological assessments and information provided by external groups, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For example, SBSTA reviews and

recommends methodologies and criteria for national emissions inventories and reports, carbon sequestration in forests, and carbon capture and storage.

**A Note on Ad Hoc Working Groups**

In UNFCCC nomenclature Ad Hoc Working Groups are *temporary* groups in which all participating Parties are members. The three groups established to negotiate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Commitment Period (KP CP2) and longer term action by all Parties have concluded and sunset.

**AWG-KP:** Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (2005-2012)

**AWG-LCA:** Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (2007-2012)

**ADP:** Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (2011-2015)

In 2015 COP 21 adopted the Paris Agreement (PA) and established a new ad hoc group (APA) to steer its implementation. Upon entry into force in 2016 PA established a new permanent plenary body (CMA):

**APA:** Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (2016- )

**CMA:** Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. CMA 1-1 convened at COP 22 in Marrakech (2016).

The Agreement includes ambitious aspirational long-term goals to limit global temperature change and reduce net global emissions to zero in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the century. Under the Paris Agreement, nations voluntarily submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that contain their pledges for action. Most initial NDCs cover the period through 2030, though a few end in 2025. Going forward NDCs will be updated at 5-year intervals covering a period to be determined (perhaps ten years ahead, i.e. pledges renewed in 2020 and 2025 would cover periods through 2030, and 2035, respectively). Parties will also consider global implications of overall effort beginning with a facilitative dialogue—recently rebranded as the Talanoa Dialogue—in 2018, followed by global stocktakes at 5-year intervals under CMA starting in 2023.

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**Official documents and other information are available at**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

See also: The International Institute for Sustainable Development (iisd) and their Earth Negotiations Bulletin for coverage between and during meetings: [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)