



# THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## A *visual* INTRODUCTION

The Climate Convention has grown into a many ringed circus over the years and as such can be unnavigable to everyone but seasoned veterans. Despite being the most prominent multilateral environmental agreement, the interplay between the many features of the UNFCCC's structure is not well understood. We hope that this map gives at least a cursory overview from which to dive into the depths!

### WHY THE UNFCCC?

The international community has, since the 1980s, been concerned about climate change resulting from human activities. Following the first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, world governments agreed at the Rio Earth Summit to a Framework Convention with the objective to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." In 1997 the Kyoto Protocol was added to the Framework to establish legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Over the years the UNFCCC has raised the status of other climate change related activities besides mitigation of emissions. Such areas of activity include adaptation, technology transfer, capacity building, climate finance, and loss and damage resulting from climate change.

### WHAT IS A CONVENTION?

The term convention is generally used to refer to formal multilateral treaties with a large number of parties. Conventions negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, are legally binding for the parties that sign and ratify the treaty.

### WHAT IT ALL MEANS

## COP CMP

The Conference of Parties is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, where they review the implementation of the Convention. The COP takes decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

The COP serves as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). All States that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are represented at the CMP, while States that are not Parties participate as observers. The CMP reviews the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation.



The Subsidiary Body on Implementation supports the work of the COP and the CMP through the assessment and review of the effective implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.



The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice supports the work of the COP and the CMP through the provision of timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters as they relate to the Convention or its Kyoto Protocol.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The mandate of the Standing Committee is to assist the COP in exercising its functions with respect to the financial mechanism of the Convention improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing; rationalization of the financial mechanism; mobilization of financial resources; and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties. It was established by the COP at its sixteenth session by decision 1/CP.16. Its roles and functions were further defined and its composition and working modalities elaborated on at COP 17. The Standing Committee provides expert input into the preparation and conduct of the periodic reviews of the financial mechanism by the COP. The Standing Committee meets at least twice a year and has 20 members.

### ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

The Adaptation Committee was established by the COP at its sixteenth session (decision 1/CP.16) to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, through various functions. Its work was launched at COP 17. This Committee meets at least twice a year and has 16 members.



The 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC entered into force in 2005. It committed countries to binding emissions reduction targets, with the first period running 2008-2012. At COP18 in Doha, a second commitment period of 2013-2020 was agreed. While the Protocol targets are to be met primarily by Parties taking action nationally, there are three market based "flexibility mechanisms" - the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation, and International Emissions Trading. These help Parties meet their targets without actually reducing their own emissions, and remain controversial.

### CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND NETWORK

The Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) is the second half of the Technology Mechanism. It aims to facilitate an efficient global network of technology organizations and entities, by providing information, technical support, fundraising support and training. The CTCN communicates closely with countries through designated national focal points who bring national concerns to the Center.

### TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Technology Executive Committee, together with the Climate Technology Center and Network, consistent with their respective functions, is mandated to facilitate the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism, under the guidance of the COP. The TEC was established by the COP at its sixteenth session in decision 1/CP.16.

### COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The functions of the Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol are to provide advice and assistance to Parties in implementing the Kyoto Protocol. It also promotes compliance by Parties with their commitments and determine cases of non-compliance and apply consequences in cases where Parties are not complying with their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

### CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM). It supervises the Kyoto Protocol's CDM under the authority and guidance of the COP. The CDM Executive Board is the ultimate point of contact for CDM project participants for the registration of projects and the issuance of certified emission reductions.

### AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION

### AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

### AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON LONG TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION

### AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION

The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action is a subsidiary body that was established by decision 1/CP.17 to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties. The ADP is to complete its work as early as possible but no later than 2015 in order to adopt this outcome.

The Ad Hoc Working Groups on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and on Long term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) were established at COP 13 in Bali, Indonesia as the two negotiating tracks that would lead to comprehensive emissions reductions. In the AWG-KP, parties discussed the terms of the second and subsequent commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol that would come into place after the expiration of the first commitment period. In the LCA track, negotiators worked towards emissions reductions for all parties that weren't a party to the Kyoto Protocol, and also to enhance action on adaptation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. The LCA was closed at COP 18 in Doha, Qatar, and through a second commitment period was agreed, the future of the AWG-KP is unclear.



### OTHER AD-HOC WORKING GROUPS

### SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

The SCCEF was established in 2001 to support adaptation and technology transfer in all developing country Parties. It focuses on adaptation activities in water resources management, land management, agriculture, health, infrastructure development, fragile ecosystems, and integrated coastal zone management. As of 2012 it had mobilized approximately \$190 million, although it is intended to leverage additional finance from other sources. Both the LDCF and SCCEF are administered by the GEF.

### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

The GEF is an operational entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention that provides financial support to the activities and projects of developing country Parties. The COP regularly provides guidance to the GEF.

### LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND

The LDCF was established in 2001 to serve the special needs and priorities of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) under the Convention. Its primary focus was funding the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programs of Actions (NAPAs) but also focuses on reducing the vulnerability of sectors and resources that are central to development and livelihoods, as of 2012 it had approved approximately \$350 million. Both the SCCEF and LDCF are governed by the LDCF/SCCEF Council.

### ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Board supervises and manages the Adaptation Fund and is fully accountable to the CMP. The Adaptation Fund was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The Adaptation Fund is financed by a 2 per cent share of the proceeds from certified emission reductions issued by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism and from other sources of funding.

### GREEN CLIMATE FUND

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention and is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the COP. It is to be governed by a Board comprising 24 members (with equal numbers from developed and developing country Parties) and is intended to be the main fund for global climate change finance in the context of mobilizing USD 100 billion by 2020. The GCF was established by the COP at its sixteenth session by decision 1/CP.16, designed throughout 2011 by a Transitional Committee and launched at COP 17 through decision 3/CP.17.

### IPCC

The IPCC is a scientific body. It reviews and assesses, at regular intervals, the most recent scientific, technical and socioeconomic information produced worldwide, relevant to the understanding of climate change. It does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate-related data or parameters. The COP receives the outputs of the IPCC and uses IPCC data and information as a baseline on the state of knowledge on climate change in making science based decisions. For example, the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, which is due in 2014, will provide input into the COP review of the long term temperature goal and the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

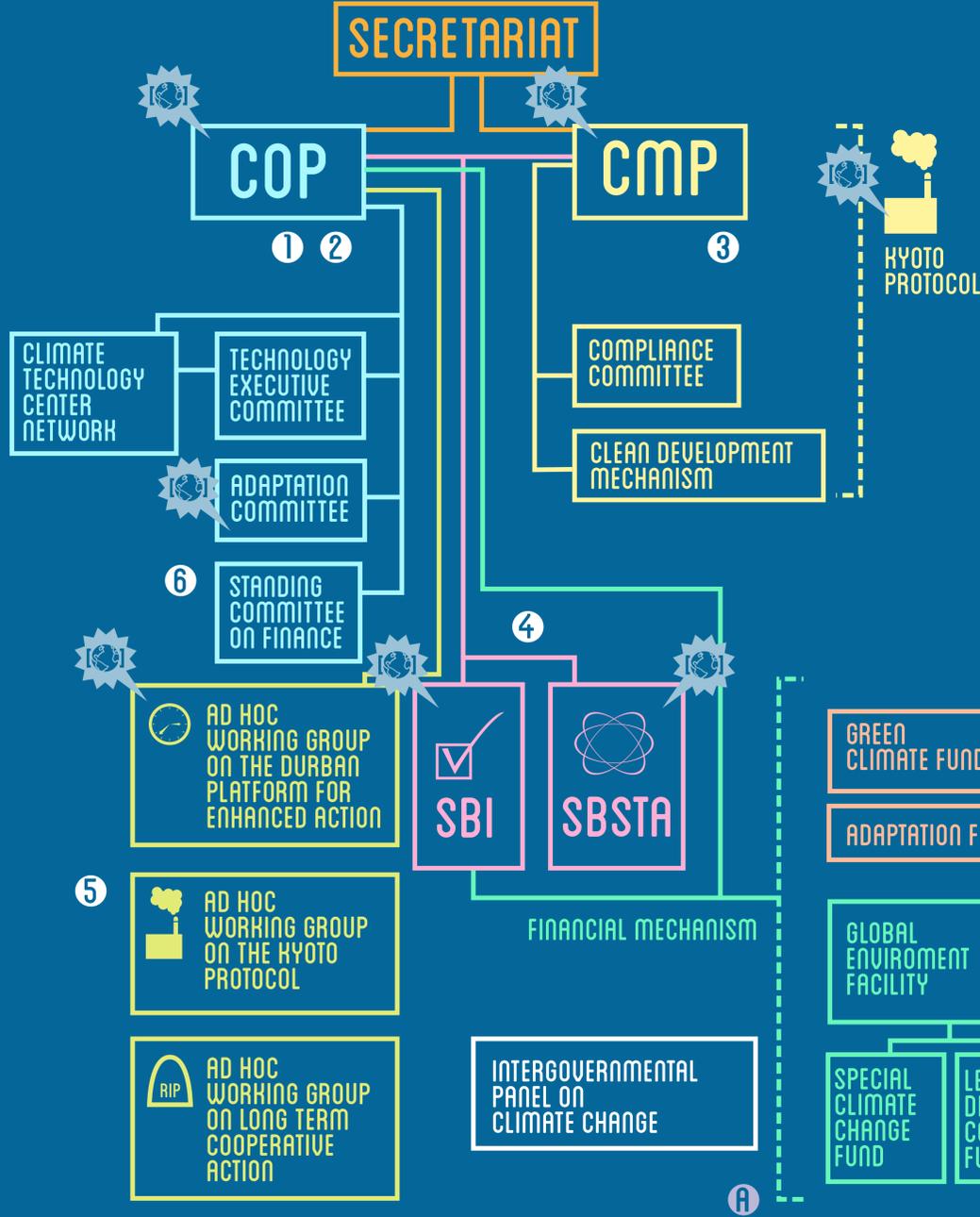
## RIO CONVENTIONS



BODIES THAT EARTH IN BRACKETS HAS ENGAGED WITH

### HOW IT ALL WORKS

- 1 The Conference of the Parties meets every year to make decisions advancing the implementation of the Convention. It often delegates its work to Working Groups, and the Subsidiary Bodies, or Committees.
- 2 The COP can create Work Programmes that focus on a particular topic, like long-term finance and loss and damage.
- 3 The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties, or CMP, was established by the COP and meets simultaneously to discuss matters relating to the Kyoto Protocol. Issues relating to carbon markets and compliance with Kyoto pledges are negotiated here. Countries that are not Party to the Kyoto Protocol do not have a say in its decisions.
- 4 The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) are permanent bodies established by the Convention. Their agenda is set by the COP and CMP, but other bodies can make recommendations for their work. The SBs meet at least twice a year, including during COPs, and negotiate recommendations back to the COP and CMP.
- 5 Working Groups are established by COP decisions, and cease to exist when they have completed the work set out in that decision. For example, the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP were both expired at COP19 in Doha.
- 6 The COP has also established several committees to work on topics in greater detail. The committees set their own agenda related to their COP mandate, and report back to the COP.
  - A The IPCC and GEF are external, independent bodies collaborating with the UNFCCC in their work.
  - B The GCF was created by the COP and has its own governing body. Its relationship with the COP is currently under negotiation.



### WHO WE ARE

Earth in Brackets is a student organization engaging in international environmental and sustainable development politics. Since 2006, we have worked to bring a sense of justice—environment and social—to international negotiations on biodiversity, climate change, sustainable development, and food security. We believe another world is not only possible, but necessary, and we want to bring more young people into the fight for and celebration of that world.

