

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FRAMEWORK	
NAME	BRIEF OVERVIEW
EARTH SUMMIT	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio (1992) also known as the Earth Summit, is one of the foremost and historic conferences related to sustainable development. It was the Earth Summit that led to the launch of: i) the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); ii) the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and iii) the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
IPCC	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Established in 1988, the objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies. IPCC Assessment Reports (ARs) are also a key input into international climate change negotiations. To date, IPCC submitted five ARs, and the sixth AR is under process.
UNFCCC	While a number of multilateral environmental agreements and other international policy frameworks are relevant to combatting and coping with climate change, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was developed to specifically address the urgent issue of climate change, with the ultimate objective to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” While Parties ratify it, thereby entering it into force or validating it, the treaty provides a legal framework for further action.
COP	The Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. Since 1995, it meets every year to review the implementation of the UNFCCC and related legal instruments. A key task for the COP is also to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP.
KYOTO PROTOCOL	Given the nature of the climate change challenge and the need for decisive action, the international community established the Kyoto Protocol (KP) that legally binds signatory developed countries, which are primarily responsible for GHG emissions, to reduce those emissions. The first commitment period of the KP was 2008-2012, and the second was 2013-2020. The KP turned GHGs into a tradable commodity. While countries must meet their reduction targets primarily through national measures, the KP introduced three flexible market mechanisms that allow countries to meet their targets by encouraging GHG abatement where it is most cost-effective, for instance in developing countries. The aim is to reduce overall emissions from the planet’s atmosphere, while stimulating sustainable economic growth and technology transfer in developing countries. The three Kyoto mechanisms are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emissions Trading - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) - Joint Implementation (JI) These mechanisms are part of what is known as the carbon market.
BALI ACTION PLAN	One of the main questions confronting climate negotiators, as the first commitment period was scheduled to come to a close in 2012, was how to alter the architecture of international climate change agreements so as to engage developing non-Annex I countries but without binding them into top-down targets and timetables that might slow their development. The answer to this question came out of negotiations at COP13 in Bali (Indonesia). The Bali Action Plan, the key agreement from COP13, included provisions that called for developing country parties to take Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development in exchange for finance, technology and capacity building in a measurable, reportable, and verifiable manner. The Bali Action Plan also marks a major turning point in UNFCCC negotiations, with a shift from a technocratic top-down to a bottom-up approach.
PARIS AGREEMENT	The Paris Agreement (2015) is a landmark environmental accord that was adopted by nearly every nation in 2015 to address climate change and its negative impacts. The deal aims to substantially reduce global GHG emissions in an effort to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius° above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing means to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The agreement includes commitments from all major emitting countries to cut their climate-altering pollution and to strengthen those commitments over time. The pact provides a pathway for developed nations to assist developing nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, and it creates a framework for the transparent monitoring, reporting, and ratcheting up of countries’ individual and collective climate goals. At present, 197 countries have adopted the Paris Agreement.

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HYOGO FRAMEWORK	The 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was developed at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. It provides guidelines and global blueprint to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards, through a 10-year action plan. The HFA assisted the efforts of nations and communities to become more resilient to, and cope better with the hazards that threaten their development gains.
SENDAI FRAMEWORK	The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted by UN Member States on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. The Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.
NAPs	The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process helps countries conduct comprehensive medium- and long-term climate adaptation planning. It is a flexible process that builds on each country's existing adaptation activities and helps integrate climate change into national decision-making. The Parties to the UNFCCC established the NAP process in 2011 in Durban (South Africa).
NAPAs	The outcome of COP 7 in Marrakech (Morocco) included an agreement that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) would develop National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). NAPAs provide a process for the LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs on adapting to climate change wherein delays in meeting those need could significantly increase the vulnerability or lead to higher costs at a later stage.
NDCs	186 countries – responsible for more than 90 per cent of global emissions – submitted carbon reduction targets, known as “intended nationally determined contributions” (INDCs), prior to the Paris conference. These targets outlined each country's commitments for curbing emissions (including through the preservation of carbon sinks) through 2025 or 2030, including both economy-wide carbon-cutting goals and the individual commitments of around 2,250 cities and 2,025 companies.
NAMAs	According to the Copenhagen Accord, the non-committal outcome of COP 15 in 2009, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) are to be defined by developing country parties to the UNFCCC and “will be recorded in a registry along with relevant technology, finance and capacity building support.”
LWPG	In 2014, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC adopted the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), which established a plan for “promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy, developed for the purpose of guiding the effective participation of women in the bodies established under the Convention.”
GENDER COP	Sometimes referred to as the ‘Gender COP’ because gender issues garnered so much attention, COP 18 in 2012 produced a decision promoting gender balance and women's participation, and called for an in-session technical workshop on gender issues for the next year.

Source: UNFCCC (2014); UNISDR (2015); UNFCCC (2017); UNFCCC (2019); UNFCCC (n.d. (a)); UNFCCC (n.d. (b)); and UNFCCC (n.d. (c)).