



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Ratifying the UNFCCC and its Protocol and Agreement: reservations and declarations

Reservations upon ratification or accession to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are not provided for – however, under international law, a country ratifying or acceding to a treaty may make a declaration where they express their understanding of some matter or the interpretation of a particular provision.

Unlike reservations, declarations merely clarify the country's position and do not modify the legal effect of a treaty. Usually, declarations are made at the time of ratification or signature.

Review: from the UNFCCC to Paris in a nutshell

1992 – UNFCCC adopted (entered into force in 1994)

1995 – First meeting of the UNFCCC COP and agreement to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol

1997 – the Kyoto Protocol adopted, establishing an international legal framework for emissions reduction targets for developed countries during the period 2008-2012 for developed countries (with a second period agreed in 2012 ending in 2020)

2005 – the Kyoto Protocol enters into force, eight years after adoption

2007 – Bali Action Plan set out a two-year process for arriving at an outcome that addressed political concerns around the Kyoto Protocol

2009 – the Copenhagen Accord, called for voluntary emissions reduction targets for all Parties and endorsed a cap of 2°C on the average global temperature increase. The UNFCCC COP officially “took note” of the Accord

2010 – the Cancun Agreements acknowledged within the UNFCCC framework the objective of keeping the average global temperature rise below 2°C

2011 – the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action mandated the creation of a new agreement (post-Kyoto Protocol) that would be “applicable to all” with a four-year negotiation window

2015 – the Paris Agreement mandates “all Parties” to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C

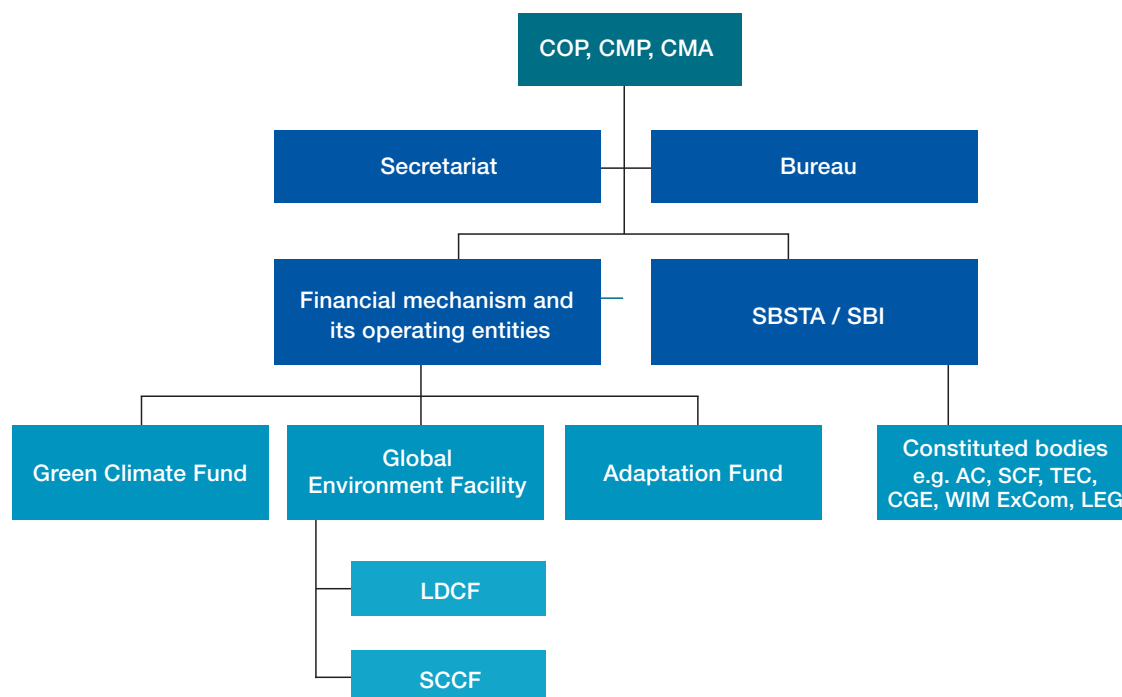


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Institutional arrangements of the UNFCCC



UNFCCC Negotiating Groups

- **Group of 77 and China (G77)** – 134 members, mainly developing countries
- **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** – 46 countries categorized as ‘least developed’ according to UN criteria
- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) negotiate as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** – 39 members
- **Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN)** – 54 countries
- **The Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC)** – Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru
- **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs)** – ~25 members
- **European Union (EU)** – 27 members
- **Umbrella Group** – Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, USA
- **Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)** – Mexico, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Republic of Korea, Switzerland

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