

No Acronym Left Behind Education Programme (NAL-BEP)

Welcome to the wonderful world of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)! Here are some explanations about what all of the terms and acronyms we hear about within the UNFCCC system mean, the issues that surround them and how they fit together. This is a mixture of original writing, paraphrasing and copy-pasting from IGO and NGO documents and various internet sites where appropriate.

Please note that the terms 'the UNFCCC' and 'the Convention' are used interchangeably throughout this document. Terms 'the Protocol' and 'the KP' are also used interchangeably.

Refer to the acronyms list on page 24 if you see one you don't recognise.

The full text of the UNFCCC can be found [here](#).



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Groups of Countries:

Official UNFCCC Country Groupings

Annex I

Parties that are members of the Annex I grouping are those that are classified either as industrialised countries, or as countries with economies in transition (EIT). The industrialised countries are those that were members of the OECD in 1992. The EIT Parties include the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States. The EIT Parties face additional challenges to those of other Annex I Parties, and have specific needs for capacity building, as outlined [here](#).

Annex I Parties committed to return their GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 as per Article 4.2 (a) and (b) of the Convention. Those that ratified the Kyoto Protocol (KP) (not the United States) also accepted emissions targets for the period 2008-2012 as per Article 3 and Annex B of the KP.

Czechoslovakia was removed from the Annex I list [in 1997](#), and replaced with the admittance of the Czech Republic and Slovakia as EIT Parties. Croatia, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Slovenia were also admitted as EIT Parties in this year. There are 40 country members of the Annex I grouping, and the EU is also a member – resulting in 41 members in total.

A full list of Annex I Parties can be found [here](#). New Zealand is a member.

Annex II

Annex II is a subgroup of Annex I, comprising the Parties that are classified as 'industrialised countries' within the Annex I grouping. Annex I's EIT Parties are not members. Annex II Parties are required to provide financial resources to enable developing countries (mainly Non-Annex I Parties) to undertake emissions reduction activities under the Convention, and to help them adapt to adverse effects of climate change. In addition, they have to "take all practicable steps" to promote the development and transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to EIT Parties and developing countries. Funding provided by Annex II Parties is channelled mostly through the Convention's financial mechanism.

At its request to recognise its economy as 'in transition', Turkey was removed from the Annex II list [in 2001](#). At present, there are 23 country members of Annex II, and the EU is also a member – resulting in 24 members in total.

New Zealand is a member.

Non-Annex I

'Non-Annex I' refers to the countries that have ratified or acceded to the UNFCCC, but are not included in Annex I of the Convention.

Parties that are members of the Non-Annex I grouping are considered particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and are predominantly developing countries. Non-Annex I Parties include countries with low-lying coastal areas and those prone to desertification and drought. They also include countries that feel more vulnerable to the potential economic impacts of climate change response measures (such as those which rely heavily on income from fossil fuel production and commerce), and others that simply cannot afford to adapt.

The Convention emphasises activities that promise to answer the special needs and concerns of these vulnerable countries, such as investment, insurance and technology transfer. Non-Annex I Parties are not required to reduce their emission levels unless developed countries (mainly Annex II Parties) supply sufficient funding and technology.

There are 153 Non-Annex I Parties. Most notably, they include Brazil, China, India and South Africa.

A full list of Non-Annex I Parties can be found [here](#).

Annex B

'Annex B' under the KP lists Parties which have committed to binding emissions reduction targets, and specifies them.

The Annex B list is almost identical to the UNFCCC Annex I list, but there are some differences. Although they are listed in the Convention's Annex I, Belarus and Turkey are not included in the KP's Annex B as they were not Parties to the Convention when the Protocol was adopted.

While the US is listed under Annex B, its targets do not apply as it never ratified the Protocol.

The list of Annex B Parties, and their emissions reduction targets, can be found [here](#).

Negotiating Groups

Negotiating groups are official or unofficial groups which align on issues being negotiated under the UNFCCC.

G77 plus China

The G77 (Group of 77) is "a Caucus organisation that helps developing states pursue common goals and develop leverage in United Nations deliberations". Initially comprising 77 Parties, it was founded in 1964 at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),

and now functions throughout the United Nations (UN) system. Today, the G77 comprises 132 members. It consists of a selection of small island countries, oil-exporting countries, LDCs, economies in transition, and middle-income countries. Although China is not officially a member of the group, it almost always supports the group's position.

The G77 has developed a system of 'coordinators' who take the lead in negotiations on particular issues. Coordinators are chosen informally, based mostly on areas of expertise and expressions of interest from delegations. The coordinators arrange meetings on their particular topics so that fellow G77 members can express their views, before developing draft text to represent a common position. Common positions must then be approved by the Group; the coordinators are given a mandate to negotiate on behalf of the G77 and to defend the Group's position.

Statements made on behalf of the G77 are given precedence in the speakers list over statements made by subsidiary groups such as the African Group and GRULAC.

For more information about the G77, look [here](#).

The full list of G77 Parties can be found [here](#).

There are a number of smaller lobby groups whose members are part of the G77 plus China:

LDCs

The Least Developed Countries are the 49 countries defined as least developed by the UN, according to low income, human resource weakness and economic vulnerability criteria. With the exception of Somalia, all members of this grouping are Convention Parties. The LDCs include, among others, members of the African Group and of AOSIS (the Alliance of Small Island States). They are increasingly active in climate change negotiations, often working together to defend their common interests, such as vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The particular situation of LDCs is recognised by the Convention (Article 4.9, Article 12.5).

The full list of LDCs can be found [here](#).

AOSIS

The Alliance of Small Island States is an alliance of small island and low-lying coastal countries which share similar development challenges and environmental concerns; in particular their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. This grouping was established in November 1990 during the Second World Climate Conference. The AOSIS countries, united by the threat that climate change poses to their survival, frequently adopt a common stance in negotiations. They were the first to propose a draft text during the KP negotiations – it called for cuts in carbon dioxide emissions of 20 per cent from 1990 levels by 2005. Most of the AOSIS members also belong to the SIDS coalition.

The Alliance's positions are developed on the basis of consensus, and spokespersons are appointed to take the lead on particular issues, akin to the coordinator system of the G77.

The UN's SIDS project provides some administrative support to AOSIS.

The 42 AOSIS members include five non-UN Member States, and represent close to 20 percent of the UN's total membership.

For more information about AOSIS, look [here](#).

The full list of AOSIS Parties can be found [here](#).

SIDS

The Small Island Developing States unit is a project of the UN DESA's (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) DSD (Division for Sustainable Development). SIDS is also a caucus group that comprises countries defined by the UN as small island and low-lying coastal developing countries.

The 51 SIDS members include 14 non-UN Member States, and represent five percent of the global population.

For more information about SIDS, look [here](#).

The full list of SIDS Parties can be found [here](#).

African Group

The African Group is one of five unofficial regional groupings within the UN. It is a caucus group composed of all states in Africa, including the island states of the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Western Indian Ocean. The African Group is the only regional group working as an active negotiating group. Its Parties have various common concerns, including poverty, a lack of resources and vulnerability to extreme weather. The African Group often makes common statements, on a number of issues such as capacity-building and technology transfer.

There are 53 African Group members.

The full list of African Group Parties can be found [here](#).

EU

Between 1993 and 2009, the EU (European Union) legally consisted of a 'three pillar' system, which allocated different responsibilities to each of three sectors within the EU. The European Community (the pillar responsible for Environmental Law) became a Party to the Convention in 2002, and was represented at negotiations by the European Commission. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009, the three pillar system was abolished, leaving the EU as its own legal personality as Party to the Convention.

The 27 EU Member States, plus the European Parties, groups and observer states, meet in private to agree on common positions. The state which holds the EU Presidency - a position that rotates every six months - speaks on the EU and its Member States' behalf. In certain instances, individual Member States may be appointed to take the lead in bilateral negotiations with other states or groups and may act as leaders on particular issues.

For more information about the EU, look [here](#).

The full list of EU Member States can be found [here](#).

OPEC

OPEC (the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) was founded by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela in 1960. Its members meet during negotiations to coordinate their positions. These parties are commonly vulnerable to the potential economic impacts of climate change response measures, as their economies rely heavily on fossil fuel production and commerce.

All the Parties that are members of OPEC are also G77 members. From December 1992 until October 2007, Ecuador suspended its membership. Gabon terminated its membership in 1995, and Indonesia suspended its membership effective January 2009.

For more information about OPEC, look [here](#).

The full list of OPEC members can be found [here](#).

JUSSCANNZ

The JUSSCANNZ (Japan, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand) group is a coalition representing usually Japan, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Iceland. Mexico and South Korea are observers. Its membership, however, has varied over time – and has included nations such as Andorra, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Argentina and Turkey. Occasionally, Israel works with JUSSCANNZ.

JUSSCANNZ is active throughout the UN.

With the rise of the Umbrella Group, JUSSCANNZ is much less active than it once was in the climate change regime, although it still functions as an information-sharing coalition and usually meets once or twice during sessions.

GRULAC

GRULAC is the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. Like the African Group, it is one of five unofficial regional groupings within the UN.

There are 33 GRULAC members.

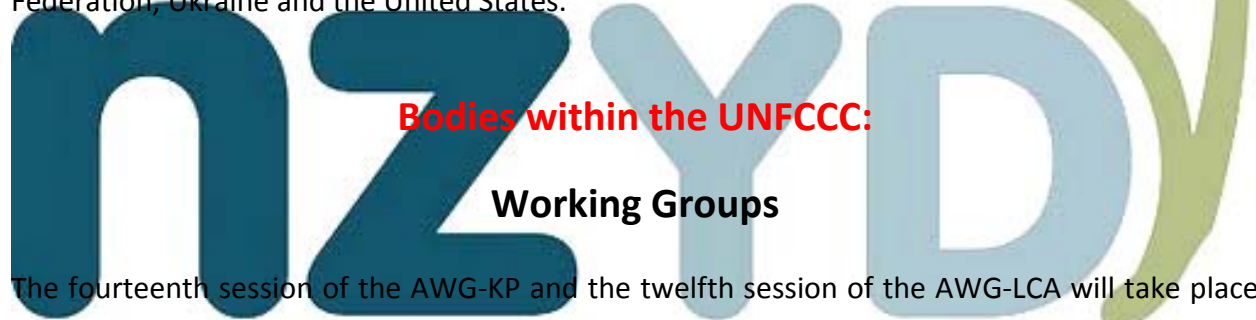
The full list of GRULAC Parties can be found [here](#).

The Umbrella Group

The Umbrella Group first emerged at COP3 in 1997, initially to oppose the EU's attempt to restrict the use of flexibility mechanisms. The Group is brought together by a common motivation to ensure cost-effectiveness and flexibility within the KP system. It operates under the idea of 'working together but not tied together', focusing on sharing information rather than developing detailed common positions.

The focus of the Group has expanded to now encompass issues other than the flexibility mechanisms. For instance, it has pressed much harder than the EU to initiate debate on developing country commitments. The Group does put forward common submissions and statements, but these usually relate to the flexibility mechanisms. The position of spokesperson is allocated at random, depending on which country volunteers.

The Umbrella Group evolved from the longer-standing JUSSCANNZ group, the main difference between the two being that the former excludes Switzerland, whose position on flexibility mechanisms is more closely aligned with that of the EU. Additionally, the Umbrella Group includes the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. Although there is no formal list, the group is usually made up of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States.



Bodies within the UNFCCC:

Working Groups

The fourteenth session of the AWG-KP and the twelfth session of the AWG-LCA will take place October 4 to October 9, 2010, in Tianjin, China. Preparatory meetings of the G77 plus China, the African Group, SIDS and the LDCs will take place from September 28 to October 3, 2010.

The fifteenth session of the AWG-KP and the thirteenth session of the AWG-LCA will take place during COP16/CMP6 from November 29 to December 10 2010, in Cancún, Mexico.

AWG-KP

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol was established at COP11/CMP1 in 2005. Its purpose is to facilitate discussion concerning future commitments for industrialised countries under the KP.

The AWG-KP was due to present the outcome of its work by the end of 2009, but its mandate has been extended.

The most recent draft proposal by the AWG-KP can be found [here](#). Parties' submissions relating to this draft were due August 31 2010.

For more information about the AWG-KP, look [here](#).

AWG-LCA

The Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention was established at COP13 in 2007. Its purpose is to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012. This may be produced in the form of a further commitment period beyond that detailed by the KP, or even in the form of a deal to succeed it. Ideally, its recommendations will incorporate the United States and developing countries.

The AWG-LCA was due to present the outcome of its work for adoption at COP15 in 2009, but decision [1/CP.15](#) extended its deadline to COP16 in 2010.

The most recent AWG-LCA negotiating text can be found [here](#) (it is an advance version for the Tianjin session).

For more information about the AWG-LCA, look [here](#).

Subsidiary Bodies

Permanent

Two permanent subsidiary bodies – the SBI and the SBSTA – were established under the Convention at COP1 in August, 1995. These bodies give advice to the COP, each with a specific mandate. Both are open to participation by any Party, and governments often send their experts to participate in SB work.

The two SBs have traditionally met in parallel. Their meetings are at least twice a year, and one is usually in conjunction with the COP. When not meeting with the COP, they usually convene at the seat of the secretariat in Bonn, Germany.

The SBI and SBSTA work together if an issue affects them both. Such issues include capacity building, the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change and response measures, and the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

SBI

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation gives advice to the COP on all matters concerning the implementation of the Convention. One particularly important task is to examine the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties in order to assess the Convention's overall effectiveness. The SBI also reviews the financial assistance given to NAIPs, to help them implement their Convention commitments – and provides advice to the COP on guidance to the financial mechanism (operated by the GEF). The SBI also advises the COP on budgetary and administrative matters.

Importantly for YOUNGO, it's also the SBI that decides the rules on NGO participation – so blame them when we get shut out!

SBSTA

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice provides the COP and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to the Convention. Two key areas of its work are promoting the development and transfer of technologies, and conducting technical work to improve the guidelines for preparing national communications and emission inventories.

The SBSTA carries out methodological work in specific areas – such as the LULUCF sector, adaptation and vulnerability. It also plays an important role as the link between the scientific information provided by sources such as the IPCC, and the policy-oriented needs of the COP. It works closely with the IPCC, sometimes requesting specific information or reports from it, and also collaborates with other international organisations concerned about sustainable development.

Temporary

Two temporary SBs were created at COP1 in August, 1995: the AG13, and the AGBM.

AG13

The Ad Hoc group on Article 13 was formed to explore how to help governments to overcome the difficulties they faced in meeting their new commitments under the Convention:

“Article 13: RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION

The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, consider the establishment of a multilateral consultative process, available to Parties on their request, for the resolution of questions regarding the implementation of the Convention.”

The AG13 was active from 1995-1998.

AGBM

The Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate was created to consider the adequacy of Convention Parties' commitments for the period beyond the year 2000. This was in accordance with the Berlin Mandate, which aimed to strengthen the commitments of Annex I Parties through the adoption of a protocol or other legal instrument – the result being the KP. The AGBM was active from 1995-1997, when the KP was adopted; at which point its work was complete.

LULUCF

LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) is an inventory sector which examines the emission and removal of GHGs as a result of land use, land use change and forestry – and sets out guidelines for accounting these emissions. Under LULUCF, activities such as curbing deforestation, planting trees and reverting agricultural land to forest should generate credits, whereas emission-producing activities such as chopping down trees, converting land to agricultural pasture, and burning forest should result in emission debts.

LULUCF is renowned as one of the most complex and tricky sectors within the UNFCCC. It is also very controversial.

For more information on LULUCF, take a look [here](#).

Problems with LULUCF

Some of the LULUCF negotiations concern the idea of a reference level against which sequestration and emissions should be counted; a comparison point used to determine the progress made in reducing emissions. The debate asks whether present emissions should be judged against an historic date (for example, 1990), or against a business-as-usual projection. Many Parties are currently favouring the latter, ‘forward-looking’ option; but this means they could easily inflate their reference level. In doing so, they’d stand to benefit in a couple of ways: if their emissions do not reduce, they might not be penalised if they had made allowances for it in their predictions. If they end up emitting less than their predictions, they could earn a significant number of credits – which don’t actually equate to any carbon sequestration. Such credits could then be used to offset dirty business-as-usual emissions from the power and industry sectors.

While there is currently a cap on how many LULUCF credits can be imported to offset developed country targets, developed countries are lobbying to do away with this cap - meaning there would be even less of an incentive for developed countries to actually reduce their emissions domestically.

The definition of a ‘forest’ under LULUCF is not clear. Since no distinction is made between ‘natural forests’ and ‘plantation forest’, the conversion of natural forests to plantations is not classed as deforestation. Thus, there is no obligation to account for it.

LULUCF explicitly exempts areas ‘temporarily unstocked’ (without vegetation) from accounting – but fails to define how long a ‘temporary’ period can be. This enables yet more emissions to evade accounting.

Due to the voluntary nature of LULUCF, countries can currently choose what types of activity within the forestry sector they account for. This means that they can theoretically choose to account only for activities which sequester carbon, and not for those that emit it.

For more information on LULUCF's flaws, take a look at the full report where these were sourced, [here](#).

REDD+

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), as its name suggests, is a mechanism which gives incentives to countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This can take the form either of a fund (where countries are awarded or funded for reducing deforestation) or by market means (where countries earn credits for their actions, which are then sold to developed countries to help them to meet their targets). Current discussions favour a market based mechanism, and a progression from a funded to a market based approach.

REDD+ was initially named 'RED' (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation), then was expanded to 'REDD' (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), before becoming 'REDD+' (the '+' standing for conservation, sustainable forest management and forest carbon stock enhancement).

Where LULUCF is about accounting for emissions relating to land use, REDD is about giving incentives for leaving land alone!

The RED mechanism was introduced at COP13 in Bali, in 2007, and is implemented by 37 different countries. It is not a component of the KP, and has, as yet, been incorporated into any international deal.

REDD+ has been praised by a number of groups, who argue that it has multiple benefits, such as the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

REDD projects will probably become more common by around 2013.

Problems with REDD+

REDD+ encourages developed countries to continue with 'business as usual' approaches, by enabling them to buy emission reductions from offshore.

REDD+ carries huge potential for the abuse of indigenous peoples' customary rights to forests. It could lead to the private ownership of forests on such a scale that would leave indigenous peoples with nothing. Some, however, argue that the scheme would instead help indigenous people, by providing them with revenue.

REDD+ can be implemented in 'fake forests' – industrial plantations, possibly even of genetically modified trees.

A baseline needs to be set against which emissions can be measured. If emissions are measured against future predictions, countries could exaggerate inflate their predictions, to ensure that they receive credits when they emit less than the target requires.

For more information about REDD+, see [here](#).

KP Mechanisms

By setting targets under the KP, emission reductions took on economic value. To help countries meet their targets, and to encourage the private sector and developing countries to contribute to emission reduction efforts, negotiators established market mechanisms for carbon reduction under the KP. These KP Mechanisms are also known as 'flexible mechanisms' (or 'flex-mex'), because they give Annex I Parties flexibility in how they meet their emission targets. The three mechanisms are Emissions Trading (which is too extensive to cover below), the CDM and JI.

The inclusion of market mechanisms under the KP was highly controversial, but was insisted upon by the United States (even though it never ratified the Protocol).

Emissions trading places a limit, or 'cap' on the quantity of emissions which can be produced by a country. Countries which produce fewer emissions than they are allowed can sell their excess for monetary gain – and other nations can buy this from them to increase their allowance. JI and the CDM are based, instead, on 'offsets'; they involve trading units which represent MINUS emissions rather than units which represent PLUS emissions.

CDM

The CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) is a system where developing countries can earn CER credits by undertaking emission reduction projects. These CERs can be sold, and bought by Annex B Parties as 'offsets' to help them meet their targets under the KP. CDM has been operating since 2006, and has over 1000 projects underway. During the first KP commitment period, it is expected to produce CERs amounting to more than 2.7 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

CDM projects have to be verified by a DNA before they can proceed. They must also be new and additional to any projects that would have occurred in the host country under normal circumstances.

For more information about CDM, see [here](#).

JI

JI (Joint Implementation) is similar to CDM in that it is also a way for Annex B Parties to earn offsets, and to meet their KP targets by investing in projects in another country. The main differences between the two are that JI projects take place in another Annex B country rather than a developing country, and that the two parties involved in JI share ERUs that result from the project, rather than a host country (the country where the project is located) receiving CERs. To qualify as a JI project, any reduction in emissions resulting from a project must be additional to any reductions that would have been made without the mechanism.

There are two ways in which ERUs are verified and issued; they are referred to as 'Track 1' and 'Track 2' procedures:

Track 1

The host party meets all of the eligibility requirements to acquire and/or transfer ERUs. This allows it the authority to verify JI reductions as additional to any that would have otherwise occurred, and to issue ERUs.

Track 2

The host party does not meet all the eligibility requirements to acquire and/or transfer ERUs. The verification process is undertaken by the JISC, which issues the ERUs.

For more information on JI, see [here](#).

Market Mechanism Acronyms

For more detailed definitions, see the extended list of acronyms on page 24.

DNA	Designated National Authority (A national board which verifies CDM projects.)
CER	Certified Emission Reduction (Credits used within CDM; a unit representing one tonne of CO ₂ equivalent.)
DOE	Designated Operational Entity (A body which validates CDM projects.)
ERU	Emission Reduction Unit (Units used within JI; a unit representing one tonne of CO ₂ equivalent.)
CDM EB	Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (The board supervising the CDM.)
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage/Sequestration (Mitigating CO ₂ emissions by capturing and storing them.)

Problems with Market Mechanisms

This is a very small sample of the many criticisms of market mechanisms. Many of the criticisms revolve around the usage of the market in general as a way to combat climate change, ineffectiveness, and a perpetuation of injustice for the poor. Most relate to CDM.

For more information, [Carbon Trade Watch](#) is invaluable.

'Hot Air'

Under the UNFCCC, Annex I Parties were each allocated an 'Assigned Amount' of permissible emissions per year, based on projections modelled from their 1990 emissions levels. These were to be measured in 'AAUs' (Assigned Amount Units).

'Hot Air' is a term commonly given to AAUs that are likely to be surplus to a Party's needs even without that Party making additional efforts (beyond any policies that existed in 1990) to reduce its emissions. The most commonly used example to demonstrate the concept of Hot Air is that of the Soviet Union. With the fall of USSR shortly after 1990, the emissions profiles of the region changed drastically to match countries' economic downturn and the decline of industry. In the long run, this has meant that the former Soviet Union possesses credits that do not represent their true emissions profiles. These nations are able to sell their huge excess of credits to other developed countries, helping both the sellers and the purchasers to achieve their KP targets at little effort and without true emissions reductions.

Basically, a lot of credits are floating around which don't relate to any real GHG emissions, and countries (or companies within countries) have very little incentive to actually reduce emissions. This surplus will likely be made available to other Annex I countries through Emissions Trading and JI. Russia and Ukraine are widely seen as having the most Hot Air to sell.

CDM Issues

Critics argue that CDM gives rich countries the opportunity to avoid responsibilities at home, and instead make the majority of their reductions through foreign investment; resulting, arguably, in no real emission reductions – as the decrease in emissions in developing nations is matched by an increase in emissions in the countries that buy CERs. It is also claimed that instead of providing important technology transfer to developing countries (enabling and empowering them to develop and produce further clean technologies themselves), the free-trade aspects to the mechanism would instead lead to further dependency by developing countries – on, ironically, the very multinational corporations that are criticised as being the heaviest polluters.

By treating emissions as commodities, the structural inequity seen between North and South in the trading of commodities in general is feared to continue.

In essence, the critique of CDM is that it allows rich countries to continue using and burning fossil fuels, while paying the third world not to – delaying even further the transition in industrialised countries to low carbon infrastructure and industry.

Additionally, as the *Centre for Science and Environment* points out, CDM allows rich nations to use poorer countries' land to tackle their own issues, rather than to help the poor; while not even actually concentrating on reducing emissions.

Limits on scale have not been decided upon, and whether limits should exist at all hasn't been agreed.

It has not been made clear what types of projects can be considered for CDM; for example, it is uncertain whether projects like nuclear energy generation and CCS should qualify.

Furthermore, as the *Corporate Europe Observatory* points out, the trade in emissions and the concept of carbon credits runs the risk of leading to "unequal property rights to the atmosphere", which "would consolidate the historic overuse by Northern industry at the expense of the South" (80% of all CO₂ emitted since 1850 has come from the Northern Hemisphere).

Much of this information was sourced from [here](#).

Funding/Finance

Some might argue this is where the real problems lie in finalising any deal: who will pay for what? When will they pay? How much will it cost? It's all about the money, honey!

GEF
The GEF (Global Environment Facility) is an intergovernmental fund for environmental projects, which also serves as the financial mechanism for the UNFCCC and the KP. Established in 1991, the GEF unites 179 member governments – in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector – to allocate and disburse approximately \$250 million per year for projects in energy efficiency, renewable energies, and sustainable transportation. It is the world's largest funding body of environmental projects, and operates as an umbrella for multiple funds. The GEF is managed jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and the UNDP.

In its role as the financial mechanism for the UNFCCC and KP, the GEF is ultimately directed by the COP. Three special funds fall under this area: the SCCF, the AF and the LDCF.

For more information on the GEF, look [here](#).

SCCF

The SCCF (Special Climate Change Fund) was established under the Convention in 2001 to finance projects relating to adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy,

transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification. The fund is designed to complement the other funding mechanisms that aid the implementation of the Convention.

For more information about the SCCF, see [here](#).

AF

The AF (Adaptation Fund) was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in the developing country Parties to the KP that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The AF is financed by a combination of proceeds from CDM project activities and other sources. In total, a 2% share of the CERs issued for a CDM project activity is contributed to the AF. Funding is processed through NIEs.

The AF has been praised by NGOs as it has innovative features: direct access for developing countries, commendable developing country participation and equitable governance.

For more information about the AF, see [here](#).

LDCF

The LDCF (Least Developed Countries Fund) was established to support a programme to assist LDCs in, among other things, the preparation and implementation of their NAPAs (see below).

For more information about the LDCF, see [here](#).

NAPAs

NAPAs (National Adaptation Programmes of Action) are reports submitted by each LDC to the UNFCCC, outlining its most urgent needs regarding adaptation to climate change. These reports also outline the immediate actions that need to be taken to prevent a state's increased vulnerability to climate change. The international donor community uses NAPAs to determine the quantity of adaptation funding that is appropriate for an individual Member Party to receive.

For more information about NAPAs, see [here](#).

Basic Issues with Financing

In Rio, in 1992, developed countries committed to providing funding to developing nations for adaptation and mitigation, because it was recognised that climate change was a result, predominantly, of their emissions. They made the same promise in the Bali Action Plan of 2007. From the perspective of developing nations, developed countries have failed to deliver on these promises. This has led to an atmosphere of distrust.

There are fundamental differences in the ways that UNFCCC Parties view the funding that should be given to developing nations. While many developed countries see the funds for

developing countries as aid, developing countries and most NGOs see it as compensation, or the necessary paying of the developed world's 'climate debt'.

The current structure and operation of the institutions through which money flows from Annex I to Non-Annex I Parties are considered, by almost all countries, to be inadequate or flawed. A lot of negotiations regarding finance focus on ways to reform these institutions; with aims to make the money more accessible, the processes more transparent, and the participation within the institutions more truly representative of developing countries and civil society.

Many developed nations try to source their aid from existing ODA, but most developing countries and NGOs insist that it should instead be new and additional.

There is controversy over who should direct and manage the UNFCCC and KP's funding mechanisms under the GEF. Currently, the COP has this authority, but some suggest that an institution like the World Bank would be more appropriate – with the argument that such an institution would have no vested interest in any given outcome, and would rule objectively.

Most countries agree that public financing is needed, but the ratio of public finance to finance coming from the private sector is an issue of contention in the negotiations.

Given the failure of countries to deliver on aid promises made in past years, many Parties have been calling for a strong compliance mechanism, to ensure that any financial pledges are met.

MRV
'MRV' (Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable) is a term which describes the expected characteristics of countries' processes to produce information about their emissions and the actions they are taking to curb them.
Ideally, this means (according to Climate Action Network):

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Measurement | both the collection and the quantification of data |
| Reporting | regular and timely reports by Parties, using an appropriate format |
| Verification | technical assessment of the accuracy and reliability of reported information |

Under the KP, Annex B countries are required to:

- Keep annual emissions inventories which fully cover sources and sinks, using consistent guidelines, rules and methodologies.
- Report frequently.
- Account for progress of national emissions against a common set of rules.

- Complete transparent, independent and scientifically based assessments by expert review teams, to verify whether a country's emissions accounting is reflective of its real situation.
- Assess compliance against international commitments.

Basic Issues with MRV

There is no process for dealing with problems detected by expert reviewers. There need to be consequences for the Parties that don't comply.

MRV financial support should ensure that mitigation and adaptation funding is new and additional to existing aid, is equitable and responds to developing countries' needs appropriately. Presently there aren't systems in place to ensure this.

MRV systems are not the same in all countries, resulting in a mixed bag of outcomes. Common rules need to be put in place around MRV – and the whole process must be transparent

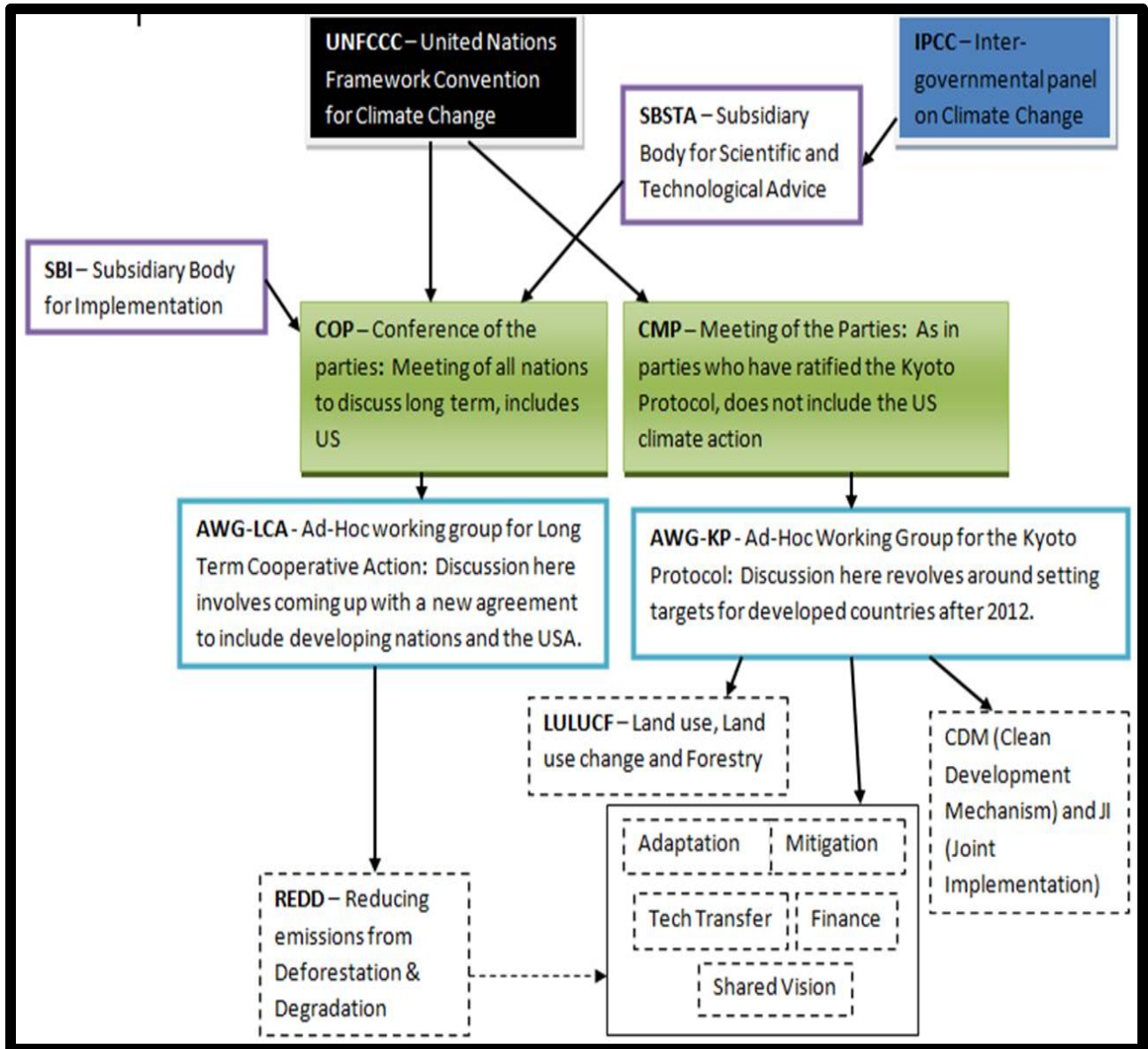
Many argue that MRV rules for developing countries are not stringent enough. This sort of reporting, however, would cost more than these countries can often afford.



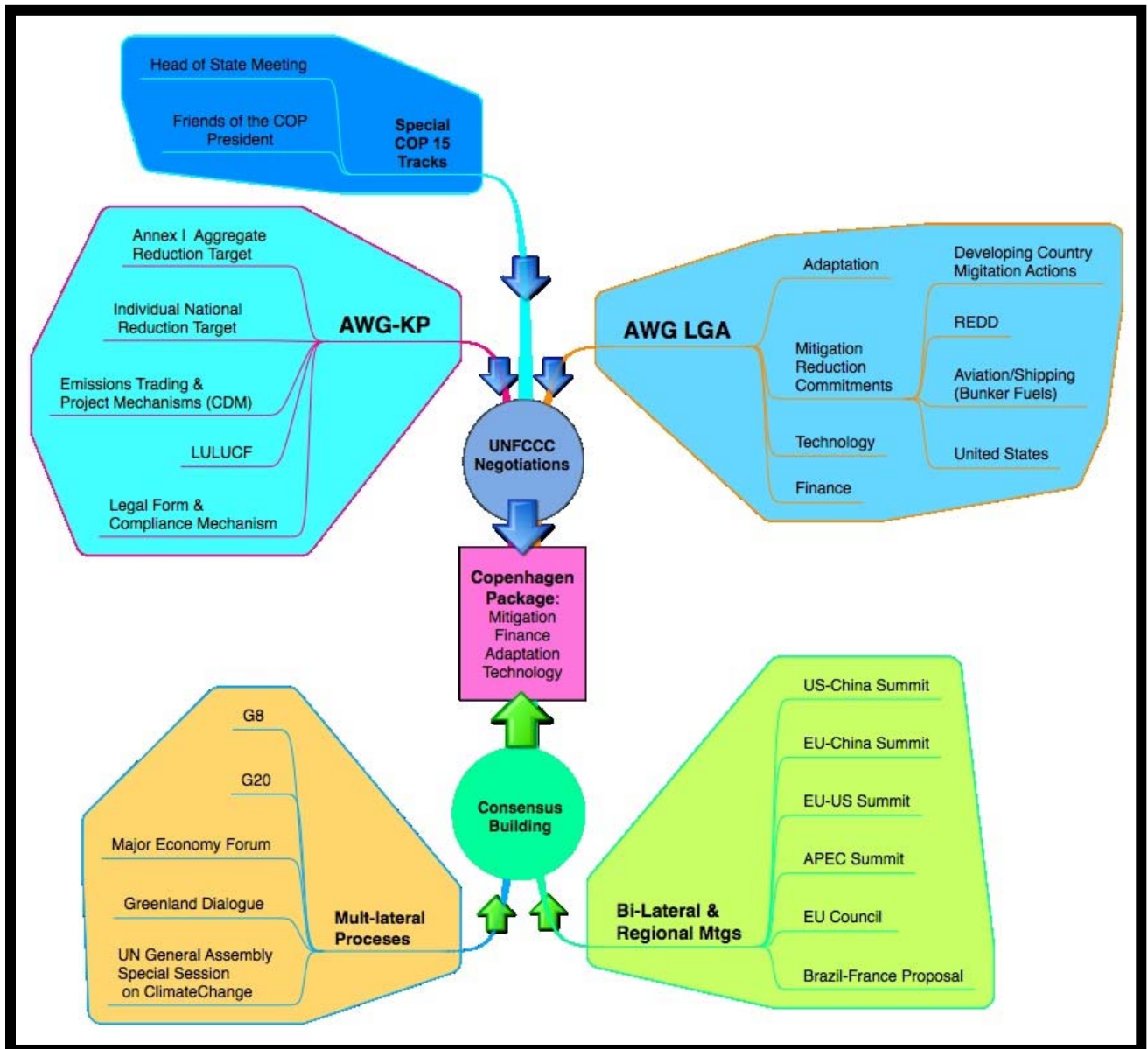
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Structure

Here are some diagrams to give an indication of how the different stakeholders in the climate change negotiations interact with one another.



Courtesy of the New Zealand Youth Delegation



Courtesy of coveringcopenhagen.com

Extended List of Acronyms

AAU	Assigned Amount Unit (A KP unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO ₂ equivalent. Each Annex I Party issues AAUs up to the level of its assigned amount, as established under the KP. AAUs may be exchanged through emissions trading.)
<u>AF</u>	Adaptation Fund (Established by the Parties to the KP to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties. For further information and reports, see here .)
<u>AFB</u>	Adaptation Fund Board (Established in 2007 as the operating entity to supervise and manage the AF, under the authority and guidance of the CMP. The CMP decides on the overall policies of the AF. The AFB will have its twelfth meeting from December 13-15, in Cancún, Mexico.)
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (A broad category for this sector used more widely than 'LULUCF'. LULUCF is specific to the UNFCCC whereas AFOLU is used more broadly. LULUCF focuses more specifically on land use change, and AFOLU includes the component of agriculture – absent from LULUCF. They are otherwise very similar terms.)
<u>AG13</u>	Ad Hoc Group on Article 13
<u>AGBM</u>	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group [on Biodiversity and Climate Change] (Met for the first time in 2008, in response to a decision made by the COP to the CBD.)
AIJ	Activities Implemented Jointly (A pilot project of JI active 1995-2000. Involved activities to mitigate climate change, using partnerships between an investor from a developed country and a counterpart in a host country, in an attempt to involve private-sector money in the transfer of technology. Unlike JI, AIJ did not enable Parties to offset their Kyoto obligations. Also unlike JI, AIJ was able to occur between merely any two countries party to the UNFCCC.)
<u>AIP</u>	Annex I Parties
<u>AOSIS</u>	Alliance of Small Island States
<u>AR4</u>	Fourth Assessment Report [of the IPCC, 2007]
Art.	Article (A section of a convention or protocol.)
AWG	Ad Hoc Working Group (A working group created with a unique and specific purpose or task. Once it has studied and reported on a matter, it is discontinued.)
<u>AWG-LCA</u>	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action
<u>AWG-KP</u>	Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol
<u>BAP</u>	Bali Action Plan (Adopted at COP13 in Bali, in 2007, the BAP is one component of the BRM. The BAP charted the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change, with a goal of completion in 2009. For a useful BAP guide and summary for policymakers, see here .)
<u>BAPA</u>	Buenos Aires Plan of Action (Provided a guide to realising the goals of the UN's Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. A result of COP4, 1998.)
BINGO	Business and Industry Non Governmental Organisations (Observer constituency comprised of representatives from business and industry sectors.)
<u>BRM</u>	Bali Road Map (Adopted at COP13 in Bali, the Road Map outlines the decisions that are essential to reaching a secure climate future. Its components include the BAP, the AWG-KP negotiations and their 2009 deadline, the launch of the AF, and reviews of the KP, technology transfer and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation.)
BTU	British Thermal Unit (A unit of energy equal to about 1055.05 joules. It is approximately the amount of energy needed to heat 1 pound of water 1°F.)
<u>C₂F₆</u>	Tetrafluoroethane (GHG.)
CACAM	Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova (A UNFCCC negotiating coalition.)
<u>CAN</u>	Climate Action Network (A coalition of environmental NGOs. Notably, CAN is responsible for producing ECO.)
CBD	(See UNCBD.)
CCD	(See UNCCD.)
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage/Sequestration (A means of mitigating CO ₂ emissions, by capturing and storing the gas in such a way that it does not enter the atmosphere.)
<u>CDI</u>	Capacity Development Initiative [of the GEF and UNDP]

<u>CDM</u>	Clean Development Mechanism (One of three mechanisms for implementation of the KP. It allows developed countries to finance GHG emission reduction or removal projects in developing countries. They receive credits for doing so, which they can use to help to meet their legal obligations under the KP.)
<u>CDM EB</u>	Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (A 10-member panel elected at COP7, which supervises the CDM. It began operation in advance of the Protocol's entry into force.)
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CEIT	Countries with Economies In Transition (See EITs.)
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CER	Certified Emission Reduction (A KP unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO ₂ equivalent. CERs are issued to recognise emission reductions from CDM project activities.)
<u>CF₄</u>	Carbon Tetrafluoride / Tetrafluoromethane (GHG.)
<u>CFC</u>	Chlorofluorocarbon (GHG regulated by the Montreal Protocol 1987, and later banned entirely in a 1990 amendment.)
CG11	Central Group 11 (Active 2000-2003. A negotiating coalition of Central European Annex I Parties.)
<u>CGE</u>	Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (In accordance with Article 12.7 of the Convention, COP5 established the CGE to improve the process of preparation of <u>national communications</u> from Non-Annex I Parties.)
<u>CH₄</u>	Methane (GHG.)
<u>CMP</u>	COP serving as the MOP to a Protocol. (For example, a UNFCCC COP serving as a KP MOP. The conferences are held at the same time to reduce costs and to improve coordination between the convention and the protocol in question. The CMP, in the instance of climate change negotiation, is the "supreme body" of the Kyoto Protocol. Also referred to as a 'COP/MOP'.)
<u>CMS</u>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
<u>CO</u>	Carbon monoxide (GHG.)
<u>CO₂</u>	Carbon dioxide (GHG.)
<u>COP</u>	Conference of the Parties (A meeting to oversee the implementation of a treaty or convention, such as the UNFCCC or the CBD. COPs usually convene on an annual or biannual basis. If no country offers to host the COP, it is held at the seat of the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn, Germany. The COP, in the instance of climate change negotiation, is the "supreme body" of the UNFCCC.)
COP/MOP	See CMP.
COW	Committee of the Whole (Sometimes created by a conference to facilitate negotiation, it is the situation in which all conference members are regarded as one large committee. The power of the COW is limited to making recommendations to the conference, which may be adopted in a plenary session.)
<u>CPF</u>	Collaborative Partnership on Forests (A voluntary arrangement among 14 international organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. Its mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and strengthen long term political commitment to achieving these goals.)
CRF	Common Reporting Format (The standardised format for reporting estimates of greenhouse-gas emissions and other relevant information by Annex I Parties.)
CRPs	Conference Room Papers (A text distributed by the conference secretariat, containing new proposals or outcomes of in-session work as an aid to debate. CRPs are only for use during the session concerned.)
<u>CSD</u>	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (Established by the GA in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the UNCED. It is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of the <u>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21</u> and the <u>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</u> . The CSD meets annually in New York, and is recognised as the high-level forum for sustainable development within the UN system.)
<u>DAC</u>	Development Assistance Committee (An OECD forum for selected member states to discuss issues surrounding aid, development and poverty reduction in developing countries.)
DNA	Designated National Authority (An office, ministry, or other official entity appointed by a Party to the KP to review and give national approval to projects proposed under the CDM.)

<u>DOE</u>	Designated Operational Entity (A body which validates CDM projects.)
<u>DSD</u>	United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (An authoritative source of expertise, which promotes sustainable development through technical cooperation and capacity building at international, regional and national levels. It is the substantive secretariat to the CSD.)
<u>EA</u>	Enabling Activity (GEF project category. EA grants help countries to prepare national inventories, strategies, and action plans in cooperation with the CBD and UNFCCC. They enable countries to assess their situations and determine the most promising opportunities for project development.)
<u>EC</u>	European Community (One of three pillars of the EU, effective from 1992 until 2009 with the abolition of the pillar system. It was a collective term for the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. Until 2009, the EC was the EU body responsible for environmental law.)
<u>ECO</u>	(A detailed daily newsletter produced by CAN during UNFCCC conferences.)
<u>ECOSOC</u>	United Nations Economic and Social Council (One of the principal organs of the UN, it serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the UN system. ECOSOC was <u>established</u> under the UN Charter.)
<u>EGTT</u>	Expert Group on Technology Transfer (An expert group established at COP7 with the objective of enhancing the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention, by analysing and identifying ways to facilitate and advance technology transfer activities.)
<u>EIG</u>	Environmental Integrity Group (A negotiating group comprising Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, and occasionally additional members.)
<u>EITs</u>	Economies In Transition (Central and East European countries and former republics of the Soviet Union, in transition from state-controlled to market economies.)
<u>ENB</u>	Earth Negotiations Bulletin (Published by the IISD, the ENB reports on most international environmental meetings and negotiations. During negotiations, it publishes short daily reports which highlight the developments of the previous day. ENB also publishes longer summaries of the meetings. It is an indispensable resource for finding out what is happening at environmental negotiations.)
<u>ENGO</u>	Environmental Non Governmental Organisations (Observer constituency.)
<u>ERU</u>	Emission Reduction Unit (A KP unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO ₂ equivalent. ERUs are generated to recognise emission reductions or emission removals through JI projects.)
<u>EU</u>	European Union (The European regional integration organisation in which the Member States partly pool their sovereignty. It is Party to the UNFCCC in its own right.)
<u>FAO</u>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (Leads international efforts to defeat hunger. The FAO serves both developed and developing countries, and acts as a neutral forum for agreements to be negotiated. It also helps developing countries and EITs improve their agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices.)
<u>FAR</u>	First Assessment Report [of the IPCC, 1990]
<u>FCCC</u>	(See UNFCCC.)
<u>FSP</u>	Full-Sized Project (A GEF project category which develops project ideas that are consistent both with the country's national programs and priorities and with GEF's operational strategy and programs. Regional or global programs and projects can be developed in all countries that endorse the proposed activity.)
<u>G77</u>	Group of 77 plus China (A negotiating group that helps developing states pursue common goals and develop leverage in the UN.)
<u>GA</u>	(See UNGA.)
<u>GATT</u>	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Signed in 1947, the GATT is a multilateral agreement regulating trade between about 150 countries. The GATT <u>functioned</u> de facto as an organisation conducting several negotiating rounds. The 1986-1994 Uruguay Round's decisions came into effect in 1995, creating the WTO.)
<u>GCOS</u>	Global Climate Observing System (Established in 1992, it focuses on satellite and <i>in situ</i> observations for climate in the atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial domain. GCOS is co-sponsored by the WMO, IOC, UNEP and the ICSU.)

<u>GEF</u>	Global Environment Facility (An intergovernmental fund for environmental projects, which also serves as the financial mechanism for the Convention and the KP. The GEF is managed jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP.)
<u>GEO</u>	Ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (Established at the first Earth Observation Summit, in 2003. An intergovernmental group, co-chaired by Japan, South Africa, the European Commission and the USA, charged with the task of developing a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained GEOSS.)
<u>GEOSS</u>	Global Earth Observation System of Systems (A global and flexible network of content providers, with an aim to allow negotiators to access an extraordinary range of information. This 'System of Systems' will link together existing and planned observing systems around the world and support the development of new systems where gaps currently exist. Established by the GEO.)
<u>GET</u>	Global Environment Trust Fund (A pilot project in effect 1991-1994, under the administration of the GEF. Succeeded by the <u>GEF Trust Fund</u> from 1994.)
<u>GHGs</u>	Greenhouse Gases (Under the KP, CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF ₆ are regulated.)
<u>GOOS</u>	Global Ocean Observing System (Under the authority of UNESCO. A permanent global system for observations, modelling and analysis of marine and ocean variables to support operational ocean services worldwide. GOOS provides the basis for forecasts of climate change.)
<u>GRULAC</u>	Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (One of five unofficial UN regional groupings.)
<u>GTOS</u>	Global Terrestrial Observing System (A programme for observations, modelling, and analysis of terrestrial ecosystems to support sustainable development. GTOS enables researchers and policy makers to detect and manage global and regional environmental change.)
<u>GTZ</u>	German Technical Cooperation Agency (The 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit'. A federally owned organisation, which works worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. Its key competency is capacity development.)
<u>GWP</u>	Global Warming Potential (An index representing the combined effect of the differing times GHGs remain in the atmosphere and their relative effectiveness in absorbing outgoing infrared radiation.)
<u>HCFC</u>	Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (GHG.)
<u>HFC</u>	Hydrofluorocarbon (GHG.)
<u>HWP</u>	Harvested Wood Products (According to the IPCC, these include wood and paper products under LULUCF.)
<u>IAEA</u>	International Atomic Energy Agency (Set up as the world's 'Atoms for Peace' organisation in 1957 under the UN. The IAEA works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.)
<u>ICAO</u>	International Civil Aviation Organisation (Article 2.2 of the Kyoto Protocol requires industrialised countries to pursue the limitation or reduction of GHG emissions from international civil aviation through ICAO.)
<u>ICCP</u>	International Climate Change Partnership (A global coalition of companies and trade associations committed to constructive and responsible participation in the UNFCCC process.)
<u>ICJ</u>	International Court of Justice (Stationed in The Hague, the ICJ is the primary judicial organ of the UN. Its main functions are to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by international organs, agencies, and the UNGA.)
<u>ICLEI</u>	International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (An association of nearly 1200 local government members who are committed to sustainable development, from 70 countries.)
<u>ICSU</u>	International Council for Science (Mobilises knowledge and resources of the international scientific community to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.)
<u>IEA</u>	International Energy Agency (Created by OECD Member Countries committing themselves to take effective measures to meet any oil supply emergency and, over the long term, to reduce dependence on oil. Implements an international program of energy cooperation among 24 member countries.)
<u>IGBP</u>	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (A research programme that studies the

phenomenon of Global Change, through the interactions between biological, chemical and physical processes and their interactions with human systems.)

<u>IGO</u>	Intergovernmental Organisation (An agency set up by two or more states to carry out projects and plans in common interest. A list of IGOs can be found here .)
<u>IHDP</u>	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (Works toward understanding and addressing the effects of individuals and societies on global environmental change, and how such global changes, in turn, affect humans.)
<u>IMF</u>	International Monetary Fund (An organisation of 187 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty.)
<u>IMO</u>	International Maritime Organisation (A specialised agency of the UN, with 169 Member States. Article 2.2 of the KP requires industrialised countries to pursue the limitation or reduction of GHG emissions from international shipping through IMO.)
<u>INC</u>	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (A committee created to draft the Convention. The INC met in five sessions between February 1991 and May 1992. After the text of the Convention was adopted in 1992, the INC met six further times to prepare for COP1. It completed its work in February 1995.)
<u>IOC</u>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (Works to promote international cooperation in researching and protecting the ocean. A sub-organ of UNESCO.)
<u>IPCC</u>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Established in 1988 by UNEP and the WMO. The IPCC is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change.)
<u>IPO</u>	Indigenous Peoples Organisations (Observer constituency.)
<u>ISSC</u>	International Social Science Council (Aims to advance the social sciences in all parts of the world.)
<u>IUCN</u>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Founded in 1948, it is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network, with more than 1000 government and NGO member organisations. The IUCN has almost 11000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.)
<u>JI</u>	Joint Implementation (One of three mechanisms for implementation of the KP. AIPs can receive 'emissions reduction units' to help them meet their KP obligations, by helping to finance projects that reduce net GHG emissions in another developed country; usually an EIT. Parties must meet specific eligibility requirements to participate in JI.)
<u>JISC</u>	Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (Processes the authorisation of ERUs for countries participating in JI projects, but fail to meet the eligibility requirements necessary to issue their own ERUs.)
<u>JLG</u>	Joint Liaison Group (Group of representatives of UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD Secretariats set up to explore common activities to confront problems related to climate change, biodiversity and desertification.)
<u>JUSSCANNZ</u>	Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand (Negotiating group.)
<u>JWG</u>	Joint Working Group [between SBSTA and IPCC] (Established at the request of the SBSTA in 1995, the JWG between the IPCC and the negotiating bodies fulfils the role of facilitating direct communication between the scientific and political committees. On the side of the IPCC, the JWG consists of the chairperson of the IPCC and a number of members of the IPCC Bureau . On the side of the UNFCCC, the delegation includes the director of the UNFCCC secretariat and several of their staff members – as well as members of the SBSTA. See page 17 here for more information.)
<u>KP</u>	Kyoto Protocol (Provides for binding emission reductions for Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC. The KP was signed at COP3, and ratified in 2005.)
<u>LDCs</u>	Least Developed Countries
<u>LDCF</u>	Least Developed Countries Fund (Assists LDCs in carrying out the preparation and implementation of their NAPAs. Operated by the GEF.)
<u>LEG</u>	LDC Expert Group (A panel of 12 experts providing advice to LDCs on the preparation and implementation of NAPAs by LDCs.)
<u>LGMA</u>	Local Government and Municipal Authorities (Observer constituency. Consists of local, non-governmental organisations.)

LUCF	Land Use Change and Forestry
<u>LULUCF</u>	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (A GHG inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of GHGs resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities.)
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement (Agreement between states which may take the form of 'soft-law', setting out non-legally binding principles which parties will respect when considering actions which affect a particular environmental issue, or 'hard-law' which specifies legally-binding actions to be taken to work toward an environmental objective.)
<u>MDBs</u>	Multilateral Development Banks (Institutions that provide financial support and professional advice for economic and social development activities in developing countries. The MDBs include the four RDBs and the World Bank Group. Each bank has its own independent legal and operational status – but with a similar mandate and a considerable number of joint owners, they maintain a high level of cooperation.)
<u>MDGs</u>	Millennium Development Goals (Eight goals adopted by world leaders in 2000 and set to be achieved by 2015, which provide concrete, numerical benchmarks for tackling extreme poverty. Included are goals and targets on income poverty, hunger, maternal and child mortality, disease, inadequate shelter, gender inequality and environmental degradation. See here for another UN MDG website. Official data regarding MDG progress indicators can be found here .)
MOP	Meeting of the Parties (An annual conference for the Parties to a protocol, such as the KP.)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding [between the COP and the GEF] (Agreement outlining roles and responsibilities of the UNFCCC COP and the GEF in working together. It requires annual reports to be made available by the GEF to the COP. Under the MOU, the COP is to decide on policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria. See here , relevant from pages 52-61.)
<u>MRV</u>	Measurable, Reportable, Verifiable (The guidelines by which countries should produce information about their emissions and the actions they are taking to curb them, under the UNFCCC and KP. See here for a presentation outlining how MRVs might look in a post-2012 agreement and more information.)
<u>MSP</u>	Medium-Sized Project (A GEF project category, which provides grants of less than \$1 million.)
<u>N₂O</u>	Nitrous oxide (GHG.)
<u>NAIP</u>	Non-Annex I Parties
<u>NAPA</u>	National Adaptation Programme of Action (Documents prepared by LDCs identifying urgent and immediate needs for adapting to climate change. The NAPAs are then presented to the international donor community for support.)
<u>NCCSAP / NCAP</u>	Netherlands Climate Change Studies Assistance Programme / Netherlands Climate Assistance Programme (In January 2005, the 'NCCSAP' changed its name to the 'NCAP' - the word 'studies' in the title had misled people to believe that the programme is was some kind of academic research exercise. Rather, the NCAP provides external technical and financial assistance to help developing countries in the preparation, formulation, implementation and evaluation of their national climate policies – necessary in meeting their UNFCCC obligations of producing National Communications and an action plan for the implementation of the Convention.)
<u>NCSA</u>	National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (Funded by the GEF. The programme helps countries review global environment issues – particularly with regard to issues covered by the Rio conventions – and determine what capacity development is needed to strengthen management. It also aids the preparation of national plans of capacity development actions.)
<u>NCSP</u>	National Communications Support Programme (Funded by the GEF, the NCSP assists Non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC in preparing their national communications .)
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs attend UN conferences to represent the interests of civil society. For a full list of the NGOs admitted to COP16, see here .)
<u>NIR</u>	National inventory report (Parties to the Convention must submit national reports on their implementation of the Convention to the COP. The required contents of national communications and the timetable for their submission are different for Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. This is in accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities".)

NIE	National Implementing Entities (National legal entities in charge of the overall management of the projects and programs financed by the AF within a state; they bear all financial, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities. NIEs are nominated by Parties that are recognised by the AFB as meeting the AFB's fiduciary standards.)
<u>NMVOOC</u>	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compound
N.N.	Not Named
<u>NOAA</u>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Conducts climate monitoring under the United States Department of Commerce.)
<u>NOx</u>	Nitrogen oxides (GHG.)
ODA	Official Development Assistance (A statistic compiled by the DAC and the OECD to measure aid. A thorough explanation of what ODA entails can be found on Wikipedia .)
<u>OECD</u>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (An organisation for the governments of countries committed to democracy and the market economy. It allows governments to compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and coordinate domestic and international policies.)
<u>OP</u>	Operational Program (There are 15 OPs through which the GEF provides grants. Eleven of these reflect the GEF's original focal areas: four in the biodiversity focal area, four in climate change, and three more in international waters.)
<u>OPEC</u>	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Strives to 'coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilisation of oil markets'. Under the UNFCCC, OPEC Member Countries commonly share an economic vulnerability to the effects of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.)
PAMs	Policies And Measures (Official term under the UNFCCC and KP for domestic policies to reduce or limit GHG emissions. Some possible PAMs are listed in the KP and could offer opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation.)
<u>PDF</u>	Project Preparation and Development Facility [of the GEF] (Provides funding for project preparation in one of three categories, in accordance with the project's scale and nature. Funding ranges from up to \$25,000 for 'Block A' grants, to \$1 million for 'Block C' grants.)
<u>PFC</u>	Perfluorocarbon (GHG.)
<u>POP</u>	Persistent Organic Pollutant
QA	Quality Assurance
QC	Quality Control
QELROs	Quantified Emission Limitation Reduction Objectives (Legally binding targets and timetables under the KP for the limitation or reduction of GHG emissions by developed countries.)
QERO	Quantified Emissions Reduction Obligation
<u>REDD</u>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.)
<u>REDD+</u>	(Goes beyond 'REDD', to include the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks.)
RDB	Regional Development Bank (Four RDBs, along with the World Bank Group, make up the MDBs: the African Development Bank , the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development , the Asian Development Bank , and the Inter-American Development Bank Group . RDBs' membership is not limited to member countries from the region).
RINGO	Research Oriented and Independent Non Governmental Organisations (Observer constituency.)
RMU	Removal Unit (A KP unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO ₂ equivalent. RMUs are generated AIPs by LULUCF activities that absorb CO ₂ .)
<u>SAR</u>	Second Assessment Report [of the IPCC, 1995]
SB	Subsidiary Body (A committee that assists the COP. SBs may be established as needed.)
<u>SBI</u>	Subsidiary Body for Implementation (One of two permanent SBs created by the Convention. Makes recommendations on policy and implementation issues to the COP and, if requested, to other bodies.)
<u>SBSTA</u>	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (One of two permanent SBs created by

	the Convention. Serves as a link between information and assessments provided by expert sources (such as the IPCC) and the COP, which focuses on setting policy.)
<u>SBSTTA</u>	Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice [of the CBD] (Tasked with providing expert advice to the CBD COPs; producing assessments of the status of biological diversity, and of the types of measures taken under the Convention – and responding to questions from the COP.)
<u>SCCF</u>	Special Climate Change Fund (The SCCF was established in 2001 to finance projects relating to adaptation, and should complement other funding mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention. The GEF operates this fund.)
<u>SD-PAMs</u>	Sustainable Development Policies and Measures (An approach to stimulating action on climate change mitigation in developing countries. Instead of setting explicit climate targets, the approach deliberately sets out to start from development objectives, tapping into the primary concern and motivation for developing countries. See here for a case study.)
<u>SDR</u>	Special Drawing Rights (The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. Its value is based on a basket of four key international currencies. The SDR is neither a currency, nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.)
<u>SF₆</u>	Sulphur hexafluoride (GHG.)
<u>SGP</u>	Small Grants Programme [of the GEF] (Funded by the GEF and implemented by the UNDP. The SGP offers grants of up to \$50,000 to eligible projects that relate to climate change abatement and adaptation , conservation of biodiversity , protection of international waters , reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation .)
<u>SIDS</u>	Small Island Developing States (A negotiating group that comprises countries defined by the UN as small island and low-lying coastal developing countries.)
<u>SO_x</u>	Sulphur oxides (GHG.)
<u>STRM</u>	Short-term response measures [GEF programme category] (Programmes where the stated goal is to reduce, in the short-term, the maximum quantity of greenhouse gases by the end of project implementation. Cost-effectiveness is estimated in dollars/ton of CO ₂ equivalent, and this is utilised as an eligibility requirement.)
<u>TAR</u>	Third Assessment Report [of the IPCC, 2001]
<u>TEAP</u>	Technology and Economic Assessment Panel [of the Montreal Protocol] (Provides, at the request of Parties, technical information related to the alternative technologies being researched and implemented to virtually eliminate the use of Ozone Depleting Substances.)
<u>TT:CLEAR</u>	Technology Transfer Information Clearing House (A web-based clearinghouse developed by the secretariat of the UNFCCC, with support from Parties and the EGTT. It allows government specialists, IGOs, business and industry and civil society access to information relating to technology transfer. See here for more information about TT:CLEAR's purpose.)
<u>UN</u>	United Nations (An international organisation founded by 51 countries in 1945, after the Second World War. It now has 192 Member States . The UN is committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights, through its numerous bodies and committees.)
<u>UNCBD</u>	Convention on Biological Diversity (Adopted at the Rio Earth Summit 1992 and entered into force in 1994. Its core objectives are 'the conservation of biological diversity', 'the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity', and 'the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources'. The full text of the CBD can be found here .)
<u>UNCCD</u>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Adopted in 1994 following pressures from the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, the UNCCD was entered into force in 1996. The full text of the CCD can be found here .)
<u>UNCED</u>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Official name for the Rio Earth Summit of 1992. It was the third in a series of ten-yearly summits to be held by the United Nations around the issue of the environment, and was the catalyst to numerous conventions, including the UNFCCC.)
<u>UNCTAD</u>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Established in 1964, UNCTAD promotes

the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. It functions as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, undertakes research, policy analysis and data collection, and provides technical assistance tailored to the specific requirements of developing countries.)

<u>UNDP</u>	United Nations Development Programme (The UN's global development network; an organisation which advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build better lives.)
<u>UNEP</u>	United Nations Environment Programme (Works to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.)
<u>UNESCO</u>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Works to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Its two main priorities are Africa and gender equality.)
<u>UNFCCC</u>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A treaty signed between most countries, at the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. Parties to the UNFCCC meet at COPs on an annual basis to review the progress they have made in their commitments to the Convention; significantly, COP3 saw the signing of the KP.)
<u>UNFF</u>	United Nations Forum on Forests (A subsidiary body established by ECOSOC in 2000, with the main objective to promote "... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...".)
<u>UNGA</u>	United Nations General Assembly (Situated in New York, the GA is the main deliberative organ of the UN. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority.)
<u>UNIDO</u>	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (A specialised UN agency that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalisation and environmental sustainability.)
<u>UNITAR</u>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Established in 1965 with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the UN through training and research – developing capacity in the fields of <u>Environment</u> , <u>Peace, Security and Diplomacy</u> , and <u>Governance</u> in response to the needs of UN Member States.)
<u>UN-REDD</u>	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (Launched in September 2008 to assist developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies.)
<u>UNU</u>	United Nations University (A university dedicated to the furtherance of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, by functioning as an international community of scholars, a bridge between the UN and the international academic community, a think-tank for the UN system, and a platform for dialogue and capacity building. Its headquarters are in Tokyo.)
<u>URF</u>	Uniform Reporting Format (The reporting format for AIJ.)
<u>USCSP</u>	U.S. Country Studies Program (Provides financial and technical assistance for climate change studies to developing and transition countries. The program was announced by the President prior to the UNCED. A first round of two-year studies began in October 1993, and a second round followed in October 1994. <u>Fifty-six countries</u> in five continents currently participate in the program.)
<u>WCC</u>	World Climate Conference (A series of international meetings, organised by the WMO, about global climate issues. The first two conferences, held in 1979 and 1990, focused mostly on climate change and climate research and forecasting. The <u>third conference</u> was held in 2009. All have been held in Geneva.)
<u>WCRP</u>	World Climate Research Programme (Facilitates analysis and prediction of Earth system variability and change. Its main objectives are to determine the predictability of climate, and the effect human activities have on it.)

<u>WEOG</u>	Western European and Others Group (One of five unofficial United Nations regional groupings. Includes Western and Central European Member States, as well as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Israel has been granted temporary membership since 2000. Both the United States and Israel work with the group on some issues and act as observers to most of their meetings. WEOG does not function as a caucus group.)
<u>WHO</u>	World Health Organisation (The directing and coordinating authority for health within the UN system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.)
<u>WMO</u>	World Meteorological Organisation (A specialised agency of the UN, and the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.)
<u>WSSD</u>	World Summit on Sustainable Development (Conference held in 2002 in Johannesburg, with the focus of discussing sustainable development by the UN. It was the fourth in a series of ten-yearly summits to be held by the UN around the issue of the environment, including the Earth Summit in Rio, 1992. It is informally referred to as 'Rio +10'.)
<u>WTO</u>	World Trade Organisation (An organisation that intends to supervise and liberalise international trade. It was <u>established</u> in 1995 as a result of the 1986-1994 Uruguay Round of the GATT.)

For further terms and definitions, consult the lists below:

- [UNFCCC Essential Background Glossary](#)
- [EU Climate Change Glossary](#)
- [Pew Center Climate Change Key Terms](#)



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(Some) Further Reading

Some of these were used as sources for this document, but this is not a complete list of references.

General

- [The UNFCCC's website](#)
- [Resource listings from YOUNGO](#)
- ['Picking Up the Pieces' – an article from YOUNGO](#)
- [Climate Action Network](#)
- [Pew Center – comparing the Copenhagen Accord to the LCA Draft and Chair's Texts](#)
- [Climate Change Information Center of Armenia](#)

Finance

- [Covering Copenhagen – brief on finance](#)
- [The World Bank / UNDP – explanation of the Adaptation Fund](#)

Flexibility Mechanisms

- [Global Issues – explanation of Flexibility Mechanisms](#)

Environmental Preservation

- [Ecosystems Climate Alliance](#)

Climate Justice

- [Climate Justice Now](#)
- [Act for Climate Justice – actions for COP16](#)
- [Carbon Trade Watch](#)

REDD+ and LULUCF

- [UNFCCC – LULUCF reporting](#)
- [Free online course \(6 hours\) on REDD+](#)

MRV

- [International Energy Agency and OECD – the future of MRV](#)
- [New Zealand's views on MRV](#)

