



COP22 Marrakech – Glossary of Key Terms

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1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC is an international treaty that was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. The main goal of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference on climate and ecosystems. It is the main instrument for multilateral action to combat and limit impacts of climate change. Recently, the UNFCCC addresses adaptation to the impacts and provides guidance regarding that matter.

- http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php
- <http://bigpicture.unfccc.int/>

2. Conference of the Parties (COP)

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. The COP is held annually. At a COP the implementation of the UNFCCC is reviewed and decisions about the implementation of measures are made. All states are Parties and they submit national communications and emission inventories that are reviewed by the COP. Based on this information, the progress in achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is measured and discussed.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6383.php>

3. Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)

The CMA meets annually during the COP. Represented in this body are all states that are Parties to the Paris Agreement and other states can participate as observers. The main function of the CMA is to oversee implementation of the Paris Agreement and to make decision to promote the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/9968.php>

4. Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)

Similar to the CMA, the CMP holds annual meetings at the COP but in this case states are representing Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and other states that are not Parties are observers. Together they oversee implementation and make decision regarding the Kyoto Protocol.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6397.php>

5. Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)

The APA is a result of the Paris Agreement and the intention is to prepare its implementation. The main mandate of the APA is to prepare draft decisions through the COP to the CMA. It does so by developing guidance and modalities about the NDCs, the transparency framework, the global stocktake and operation of relevant mechanisms for implementation, such as financial mechanisms.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/apa/body/9399.php>

6. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

As one of the two Convention's subsidiary bodies, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) fulfills a support function to the COP and CMP by providing information on relevant scientific and technological issues. THE SBSTA connects scientific information and technological solutions and promotes technology transfer of environmentally-sound technologies from developed to developing countries.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6399.php>

7. Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)

The second permanent subsidiary body of the UNFCCC is the SBI and its role is to assess and review implementations of actions that aim to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol. By doing so, it supports the work of COP and the CMP. A minor role of the SBI is to handle budgetary and administrative matters.

<http://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6406.php>

8. (Non-)Annex I Parties

Parties of the Annex I Parties are industrialized countries (OECD members), countries with emerging economies (Russia, Baltic countries, Central and Eastern Europe). There are in total 43 Parties listed by the UNFCCC as Annex I. Parties of the Non-Annex I are mainly developing, low-income countries. In total, UNFCCC has a total of 197 Parties.

- http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/annex_i/items/2774.php
- http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/non_annex_i/items/2833.php

9. Biennial reports (BRs)

Annex I Parties have the responsibility to report in NCs and BRs about the emission mitigation achievements and provide financial, technology and capacity-building support to non-Annex I Parties. The BRs can be delivered as a part of the NCs in the annex or as a separate document.

http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/items/7534.php

10. Biennial Update Reports (BURs)

Non-Annex I Parties have to submit BURs. Key elements of the BURs are preparation of national circumstances and institutional arrangements, a national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation actions including their effects. BURs inform Parties about constraints, gaps and needs for support as well as received support. BURs have to be submitted every two year and the first submission was due in December 2014.

- http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_parties/biennial_update_reports/items/9186.php
- http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/reporting_on_climate_change/items/8722.php

11. National communications (NCs)

NCs are prepared by all UNFCCC Parties and communicated to the COP through the secretariat. The NCs include a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions, an overview of implemented actions to achieve targets by the Convention as well as any other information about achievements or material that supports calculation of global emission trends.

- http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/guidelines_and_user_manual/items/2607.php
- http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/7742.php
- http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php

12. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA)

The NAPA are a process for Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) to identify priority activities regarding their urgency to adapt to climate change. The actions are accompanied by short profiles that can assist to develop project proposals. A submitted NAPA allows the LDC to be eligible to receive funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund.

http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/national_adaptation_programmes_of_action/items/7572.php

13. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

The NAPs function as a process to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to develop programmes towards these needs. The objectives of the NAPs are by building resilience to reduce the vulnerability to impacts caused by climate change and to facilitate an integrated approach of climate change adaptation. The elements of NAPs are to identify and address gaps, preparation of plans and consultations, development of implementation strategies and reporting, monitoring and review of activities.

http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/national_adaptation_plans/items/6057.php

14. Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997, commits industrialized countries to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions and sets binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries as well as the European Union. The Kyoto Protocol prompts countries to achieve their commitments, promote climate-friendly investments to the national economies and establish a carbon market. It went into force in 2005 and 192 Parties are taking part in the Kyoto Protocol. The first commitment period to reduce emissions compared to 1990 levels was from 2008 to 2012 and the second commitment period is from 2013 to 2020.

http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/6034.php

15. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

NDCs are required to be submitted by all Parties, according to the Paris Agreement. NDCs describe domestic mitigation and adaptation measures to contribute toward the targets of the Paris Agreement. Parties submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in preparation for COP21 and with the ratification of the Paris Agreement, these will be considered NDCs.

http://unfccc.int/focus/ndc_registry/items/9433.php

16. Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, the main outcome of COP21, brings together all nations to undertake actions to combat climate change and its effects. The aim is to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. 175 states (174 countries and the European Union) signed it at the 2016 Opening for Signature of the Paris Agreement in New York. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to develop NDCs, reporting on their emission and implementation actions. As of October 2016, 92 of 197 Parties had ratified the Paris Agreement. It requires ratification of 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions to become effective. The ratification by the European Union set the Paris Agreement into force on 4 November 2016.

- http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php
- http://unfccc.int/files/home/application/pdf/paris_agreement.pdf

17. NDC Cycle

The NDC Cycle consists of the communication of successive NDCs that have to be submitted every 5 years. The submission will be due 9 to 12 months before the COP during that year and based on them a synthesis report will be produced. A Feedback Mechanism exists through the Facilitative dialogue and Global Stocktake.

http://unfccc.int/files/focus/application/pdf/ndc_cycle_webinar2.pdf

18. Facilitative Dialogue

The Facilitative Dialogue that is going to take place in 2018 is a process to review the first NDCs and shape how future global stocktakes can be shaped. It intends to assess the progress on the implementation of technology, finance and capacity-building support to developing country Parties and the mitigation efforts by all Parties (according to Decision 1/CP.19, paragraphs 3 and 4).

http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/items/9985.php

19. Global Stocktake

The Global Stocktake is intended to take place every 5 years in order to measure and review the global progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Based on the result, Parties can adjust their mitigation actions and increase ambition levels.

- https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_oct_2015/application/pdf/art.10_sog_23102015.pdf
- <http://www.wri.org/blog/2016/05/insider-4-key-questions-design-global-stocktake>

20. 1.5/2 degree Celsius scenarios (1.5DS/2DS)

The Paris Agreement sets the target for global average temperature rise to well below 2 degree Celsius and promotes efforts to achieve 1.5 degree Celsius. The reasons for

setting the targets to 1.5/2 degree Celsius are that this extent of warming minimizes the vulnerability of countries to the impacts. Anything above that increases climate impacts immensely. The 1.5/2 degree Celsius scenarios (1.5DS/2DS) show how the emissions have to develop to fulfill these targets and by what extent the current trend of greenhouse gas emissions has to be transformed.

21. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Established by UNEP and WMO in 1988 in order to determine the current knowledge about climate change. The IPCC is the main international body assessing climate change and produces regular reports on this topic. The research by IPCC incorporates work from hundreds of scientists and reflects global consensus.

https://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/docs/factsheets/FS_what_ipcc.pdf

22. IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories

A basic literature about greenhouse gas emission estimations is the report by the IPCC. The last guidelines were is the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories as an update of the Revised 1996 Guidelines. The purpose is to support countries and other users in preparing greenhouse gas inventory estimates for economy-wide and sector-specific emissions and it does so with a step-by-step guide.

<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gl/invs1.html>

23. IPCC Special Report on 1.5DS

The IPCC was invited by the COP21 to work on a special report about the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The report is going to show the related global greenhouse gas emission pathways and the findings can be used for a roadmap to decarbonize transport. The report is due to be released in 2018.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15>

24. UNEP Emission Gap Report

The UNEP Emissions Gap Report is an annual report that analyzes efforts and models scenarios on future emission development. In the 2015 edition 119 INDCs were assessed and the findings show that a full implementation of all INDCs would still lead to an emission gap of 12 GtCO₂e by 2030 and to a temperature increase of 3 degree Celsius by 2100. But this assessment does not assume further actions against climate change beyond the current INDCs by countries.

<http://www.unep.org/emissionsgapreport2015/>

The 2016 report on emission trends emphasizes the message of the 2015 report. Stronger actions than agreed on and deep emission reductions are required. The report shows significance of sectors to global greenhouse gas emissions.

http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/Emissions_Gap_Report_2016.pdf

25. UNEP 2016 Adaptation Gap Report

The 2016 Adaptation Gap Report by UNEP analyzes the gap between costs for adaptation to climate change and the amount of money available with a focus on developing countries. The conclusion is that the cost of adapting to climate change could be as high as 500 billion USD per year by the year 2050. It is far higher than previous estimates and a stronger balance between mitigation and adaptation funding is necessary.

<http://web.unep.org/adaptationgapreport/2016>

26. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

The NAMAs are an outcome of COP18 Doha and their intention is to capture actions for a reduction of emissions. They are supported by technology, financing and capacity-building. NAMAs can be communicated on the national or individual level. While the former covers actions to reduce emissions from a business-as-usual emission trend, the later can be sectoral policies which is in preparation or implementation.

- <http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/items/7172.php>
- <http://www.transport-namadatabase.org/>
- <http://www.nama-database.org/>