

## History of COP

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 198 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.



Every year, countries that have joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meet to measure progress and negotiate multilateral responses to climate change. Today there are 198 Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC is a multilateral treaty adopted in 1992 – shortly after the first assessment report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1990 – to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system."

Since entering into force in 1994, the UNFCCC has provided the basis for international climate negotiations, including landmark agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015).

The first Conference of the Parties (COP) was held in Berlin, Germany, in 1995. The 28th COP was held at the end of 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It included the first Global Stocktake, where States assessed the progress made towards the goals set in the Paris Agreement and charted a course of action.

The host country of the COP normally rotates among the five United Nations regional groups (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Western European and Others), with regional group members determining which country from their region will make an offer to host the conference.

COPs have created global milestones for the climate movement, setting standards and advancing action, including on reducing carbon emissions, accelerating a global energy transition, and helping countries adapt and build resilience to compounding climate issues. COPs are crucial in bringing governments together while also mobilizing the private sector, civil society, industry and individuals to tackle the climate crisis.

A key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. Based on this information, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by Parties and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The COP meets every year unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the seat of the secretariat, unless a Party offers to host the session. Just as the COP Presidency rotates among the five recognized UN regions - that is, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and Others – there is a tendency for the venue of the COP to also shift among these groups.

### ***Kyoto Protocol***

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11 December 1997. Owing to a complex ratification process, it entered into force on 16 February 2005. Currently, there are 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

In short, the Kyoto Protocol operationalizes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. The Convention itself only asks those countries to adopt policies and measures on mitigation and to report periodically.



The Kyoto Protocol is based on the principles and provisions of the Convention and follows its annex-based structure. It only binds developed countries and places a heavier burden on them under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities”, because it recognizes that they are largely responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere.

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and ratified the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement linked to the Convention, in 2000. Azerbaijan, A Party of Framework Convention on Climate Change and non-Annex-1 country, made commitments, such as developing, implementing and publishing national and regional programs to reduce possible impacts of global climate change. In addition, one of the commitments made by Azerbaijan under the Convention is to raise awareness about the possible impacts of climate change and train scientific-technical personnel in this field.

### ***Doha Amendment***

In Doha, Qatar, on 8 December 2012, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted for a second commitment period, starting in 2013 and lasting until 2020.



As of 28 October 2020, 147 Parties deposited their instrument of acceptance, therefore the threshold of 144 instruments of acceptance for entry into force of the Doha Amendment was achieved. The amendment entered into force on 31 December 2020.

The amendment includes:

New commitments for Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol who agreed to take on commitments in a second commitment period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020;

A revised list of GHG to be reported on by Parties in the second commitment period; and Amendments to several articles of the Kyoto Protocol specifically referenced issues pertaining to the first commitment period and which needed to be updated for the second commitment period.

On 21 December 2012, the amendment was circulated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as Depositary, to all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Protocol.

During the first commitment period, 37 industrialized countries and economies in transition and the European Community committed to reduce GHG emissions to an average of five percent against 1990 levels. During the second commitment period, Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight years from 2013 to 2020; however, the composition of Parties in the second commitment period is different from the first.

Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was ratified by the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan on April 14, 2015.

### ***Green Climate Fund (GCF)***

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



Since February 2018, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Azerbaijan has started accomplishing the project "Preparation for Cooperation with the Green Climate Fund in Azerbaijan" in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. The project aims to prepare Azerbaijan for cooperation with the Green Climate Fund and to enhance knowledge and skills in the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures in Azerbaijan.

### ***The Paris Agreement***

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”



However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

That’s because the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that crossing the 1.5°C threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030.

The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process because, for the first time, a binding agreement brings all nations together to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

Paris Agreement was signed in April 2016 and ratified by Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 28, 2016. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the Convention Secretary in October 2015 and contributed to the global climate change initiatives by setting the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030, as compared to 1990, the base year.

### ***Glasgow Climate Pact***

The Glasgow Climate Pact is an agreement reached at the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) held from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, UK. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items, including strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both. Nations reaffirmed their duty to fulfill the pledge of providing 100 billion dollars annually from developed to developing countries. And they collectively agreed to work to reduce the gap between existing emission reduction plans and what is required to reduce emissions, so that the rise in the global average temperature can be limited to 1.5 degrees. For the first time, nations are called upon to phase down unabated coal power and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.



As part of the package of decisions, nations also completed the Paris Agreement's rulebook as it relates to market mechanisms and non-market approaches and the transparent reporting of climate actions and support provided or received, including for loss and damage.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the largest and most important international annual climate summit where the world comes together to agree on ways to address the climate crisis.

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) will be convened in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 22 November 2024. The decision was made at the plenary session of COP28 on December 11, 2023.