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Climate Change International Framework

Global Climate Change Alliance+ Training Course

Module 4

KEY DATES

1979

The first **World Climate Change Conference** recognized climate change as a serious problem & called on all governments to address it

1990

First Assessment Report of the IPCC (established in 1988 by the UNEP & WMO): confirms the existing scientific evidence for global climate change

The UN General Assembly approved the start of treaty negotiations on the UNFCCC & a deadline was set for the June 1992 Rio "Earth Summit"



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- A global legal instrument (international agreement) on the control and management of **greenhouse gases (GHG)**.
- The UNFCCC was signed by 154 states at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit (1992).
- The convention **entered into force** on March 21st 1994.
- In February 1995, the **Conference of the Parties (COP)** became the Convention's ultimate authority/governing body.



The UN Framework Convention provides an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to address climate change. More specifically, it establishes an objective & principles, commitments for different groups of countries, & a set of institutions all of which work to enable continued talks as well as future action to address global climate change.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Overall goal

“ to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of mankind. ”

Further objectives

“ to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. ”



1st Principle: Common but differentiated responsibilities

Developing countries are both more vulnerable to the predicted adverse effects of climate change and significantly less able to respond to them. Given this, the Convention responds in three ways:

1. The majority of the responsibility for battling climate change, as well as the majority of the bill, is put on industrialized countries.
2. Poorer nations have a right to economic development.
3. “Full consideration” of the specific needs & circumstances of developing countries in any actions taken by the COP.

2nd Principle: Precautionary

The Convention’s precautionary principle implies that “activities that threaten serious or irreversible damage can be restricted or even prohibited before there is absolute certainty about their effects”.

Indeed, under Article 3, the Convention calls for “precautionary measures” to combat climate change even if there is a lack of “full scientific certainty”⁷ regarding a cause & effect relationship

3rd Principle: Cost-effectiveness

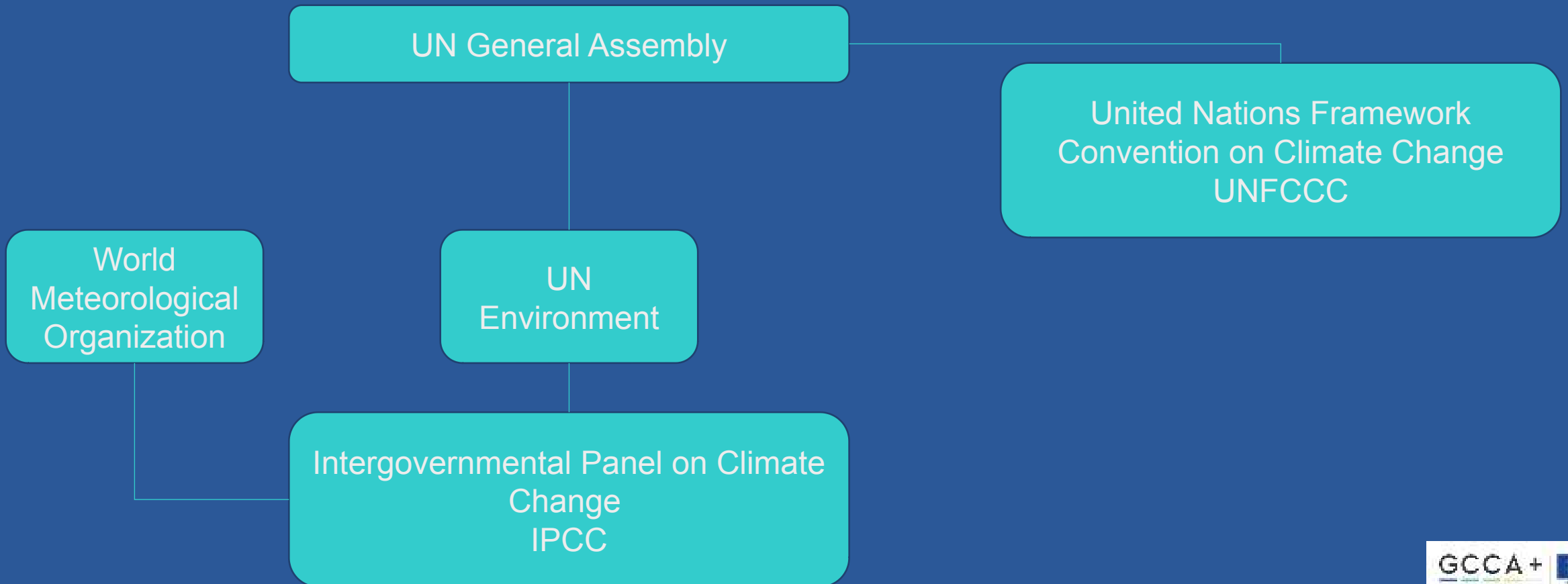
In response to the concern, among industrialized countries, that the economic costs of mitigating climate change should be minimized, the Convention calls for all policies & measures that deal with climate change to be cost-effective

4th Principle: Sustainable development

In response to the justified concerns of poorer developed countries regarding the significant expense of implementing UNFCCC objectives; the Convention, under Article 4, recognizes that “[T]he parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development”

UNFCCC

Institutional Framework



UNFCCC Parties

- Parties...
 - Are expected to “take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects” (Article 3).
 - Have “common but differentiated responsibilities” based on their national circumstances.
 - Gather and share information on GHG emissions, national policies and best practices.
 - Launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries.
 - Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the highest decision-making authority of the Convention.

National UNFCCC focal points

- Responsible for the Government's interaction and communication with UNFCCC.
- Usually a specific ministry / department.
- Usually interacting with a wide range of other organizations / stakeholders at the national level.

National CDM or JI organizations (DNA)

- Specific organization (authority) that is responsible for approving CDM and JI activities at the national level.
- Often, but not always, the same as the National Focal Point.

Groups of Countries & their differentiated commitments –

Annex I countries

- Annex I is composed of industrialized countries (OECD members in 1992)
- In addition, 14 Economies in Transition (EIT) have been added to the list.
- Total: 43 parties, including the EU

Which commitments?

- Annex I parties are subject to a specific commitment to adopt climate change policies & measures with the *non-legally* binding aim to return their GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

Groups of Countries & their differentiated commitments –

Annex II countries

- Only the OECD members of Annex I – not the EITs – are listed in Annex II of the Convention.
- 24 members, including the EU

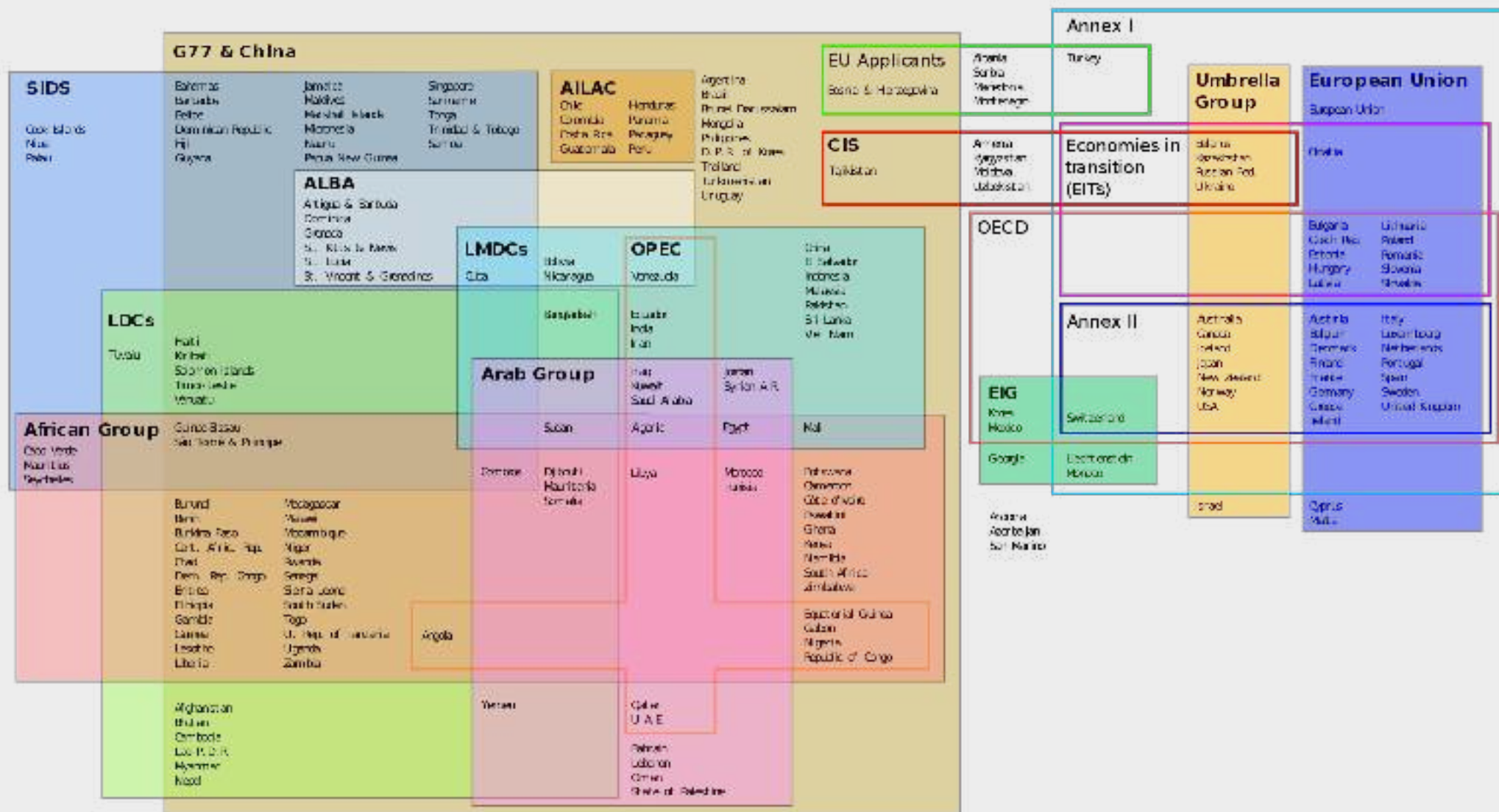
Which commitments?

- Annex II Parties are required to provide financial resources to enable developing countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.
- In addition, Annex II countries must “take all practicable steps” to promote the development & transfer of environmentally friendly technologies to both EITs & developing countries.

Groups of Countries & their differentiated commitments –

Non-Annex countries

- All other countries are “non-Annex I countries”.
- 145 countries in 2018.
- Within this group there is a subgroup of 47 countries known as Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Non-Annex I countries may volunteer to become Annex I countries when they change their income classification level.



Commitments of all parties to the Convention

All parties – meaning all that have ratified the treaty – are subject to a set of general commitments:

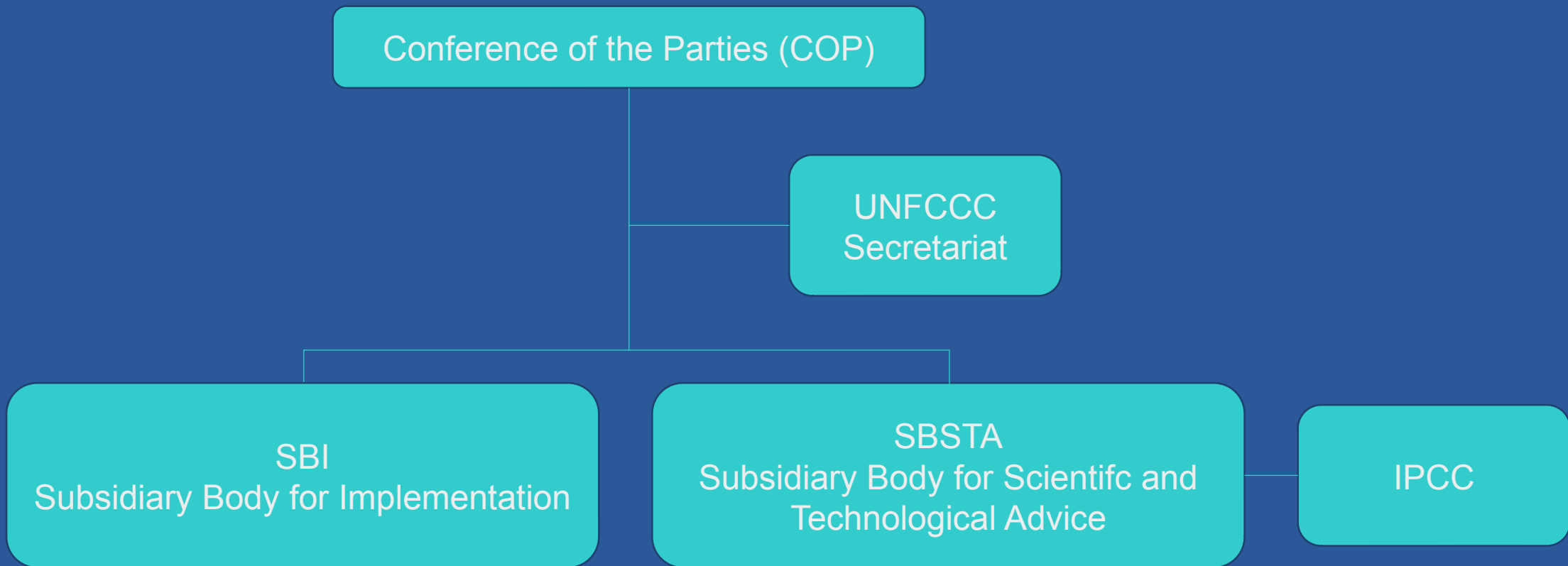
- Prepare & regularly update national climate change mitigation & adaptation programs.
- All Parties must participate in climate research, systematic observation & information exchange, as well as promote education, training & public awareness relating to climate change.
- Lastly, all parties must compile an inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions, and submit reports – known as “national communications” – on the action(s) they are taking to implement the Convention.

Framework Convention Institutions/Mechanisms

1. Conference of the Parties (COP)
2. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).
3. Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).
4. Convention Secretariat
5. Global Environment Facility (GEF)
6. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

UNFCCC

Organisation of the Convention



Framework Convention Institutions/Mechanisms

1. COP:

- Serves as the supreme decision-making body of the Convention.
- Is composed of all Parties to the Convention who have ratified the treaty as well as non-voting observers as are deemed appropriate.
- Meets yearly to review Convention implementation & to adopt amendments, protocols etc.

2. SBSTA:

- Is responsible for providing advice to the COP on scientific, technological & methodological issues.
- Helps individual countries prepare their national communications accurately & on time.

Framework Convention Institutions/Mechanisms

3. SBI:

- Helps with the assessment & review of the Convention's implementation.
- Analyses the national communications submitted by the Parties.

4. Secretariat:

- Prepares background documents.
- Organizes negotiating sessions.
- Compiles emissions data.

Framework Convention Institutions/Mechanisms

5. GEF:

- Is the Convention's financial mechanism, which channels funds from Annex II countries, as well as other (private) sources, to developing countries on a grant basis.

6. IPCC:

- Submits regular comprehensive assessments on the state of climate change science every 5 years.
- Prepare shorter Special Reports & Technical Papers in response to COP requests.
- Plays an important role in the development of common guidelines for Parties to compile their inventories of GHG.

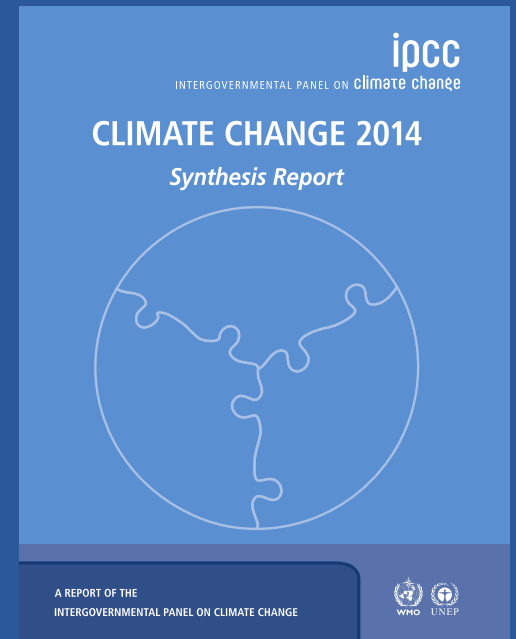
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- The IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change
- The objective of the IPCC is to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies.
- Through the IPCC, thousands of experts from around the world *synthesize* the most recent developments in climate science, adaptation, vulnerability, and mitigation every five to seven years.
- The IPCC has issued comprehensive assessments since 1990, notably the 2013/2014 AR n°5, plus methodology reports, technical papers.
- Special reports assess specific impacts of climate change (latest one in 2018: impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty).



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) finalized in 2014:
 - 831 lead authors, >30% from developing countries or EIT, open lists for reviewers
- Three working groups:
 - WG I to assess the science of climate change
 - WG II to assess impacts, adaptation and vulnerability
 - WG III to assess mitigation of climate change



Kyoto Protocol Bringing UNFCCC into action

The Kyoto Protocol

- An addition to UNFCCC that requires developed countries to limit their GHG emissions in 2012, as compared to their emissions in 1990.
- Provides detailed methods and mechanisms for how the emission reductions can be achieved, measured and verified.
- All members in UNFCCC have not agreed to sign the Kyoto Protocol!

A long process of ratification

- Adopted in 1997, but required the ratification of more than 55 countries representing more than 55% of GHG emissions.
- Entered into force on February 16th, 2005 after ratification of the Russian Federation (now 163 countries covering 61.6% of global emissions have ratified the protocol).

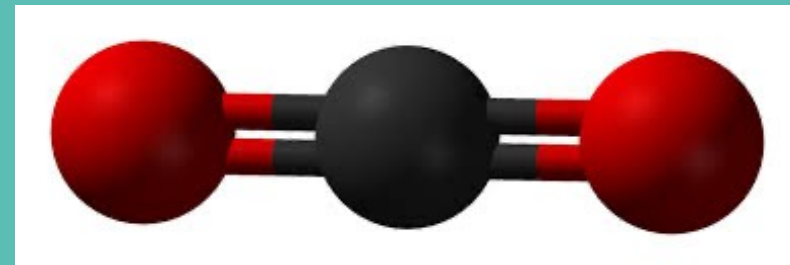
Kyoto Protocol

A market-based instrument

Kyoto Protocol characteristics

- Commits Annex 1 countries to reduce GHG emissions by 18% by 2020 compared to 1990.
- Actual commitment period: 2013 - 2020.
- Individual goals for each country.

7 greenhouse gases: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, PFCs, HFCs, SF₆, NF₃



Current context of existing mechanisms to support implementation of climate change (1)



UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL



Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Joint Implementation (JI)

International Emissions Trading (IET)



MECHANISM UNDER COP UMBRELLA-AFTER PARIS AGREEMENT



ART. 6 ?

Current context of existing mechanisms to support implementation of climate change (2)



VOLUNTARY OFFSET SCHEME outside the KP



There are currently several cap-and-trade compliance schemes that operate or are planned to operate independently of the Kyoto Protocol. All of these also incorporate an offset component to their program

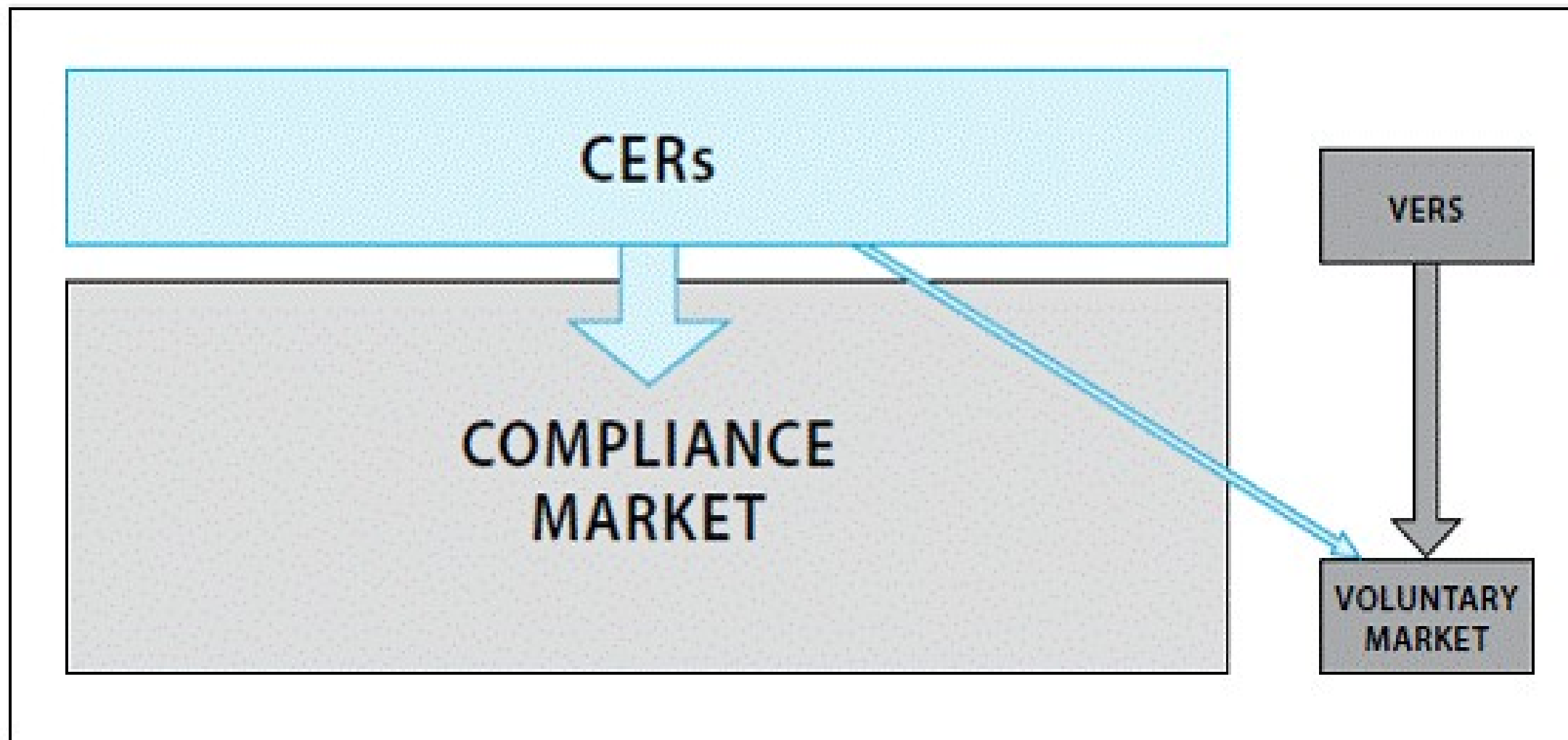


VOLUNTARY OFFSET MARKET



The voluntary carbon markets function outside of the compliance market. They enable businesses, governments, NGOs, and individuals to offset their emissions by purchasing offsets that were created either through the CDM or in the voluntary market .

CHART 1: *Carbon Offsets in the Compliance and in the Voluntary Market*



Kyoto Protocol

Kyoto Protocol

Energy supply (24 to 48% of total GHG)

- Fuel combustion (energy production, manufacturing, transport, etc.)
- Fugitive emissions (oil and natural gas, solid fuels, etc.)

Waste management (primarily CH₄)

- Solid waste disposal on land, incineration, wastewater handling etc.

Industrial processes (5 to 36% of total GHG)

- Production (metal production, mineral products, chemical industry etc.)
- Consumption (halocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride, solvents etc.)

Land use (0,3 to 9% of total GHG)

- Agriculture (enteric fermentation, manure management, rice cultivation, agricultural soils, prescribed burning of savannas, field burning of agricultural residues, etc.)
- Forestry.

The Paris Agreement

An historic Agreement



- A new chapter in international climate governance and action
- A win for multilateralism
- A strong signal to policy makers, investors and businesses
- Great example of EU unity and leadership

Ambitious & global

Well below 2°C + Efforts to stay below 1.5°C

Pathway to low-emission future

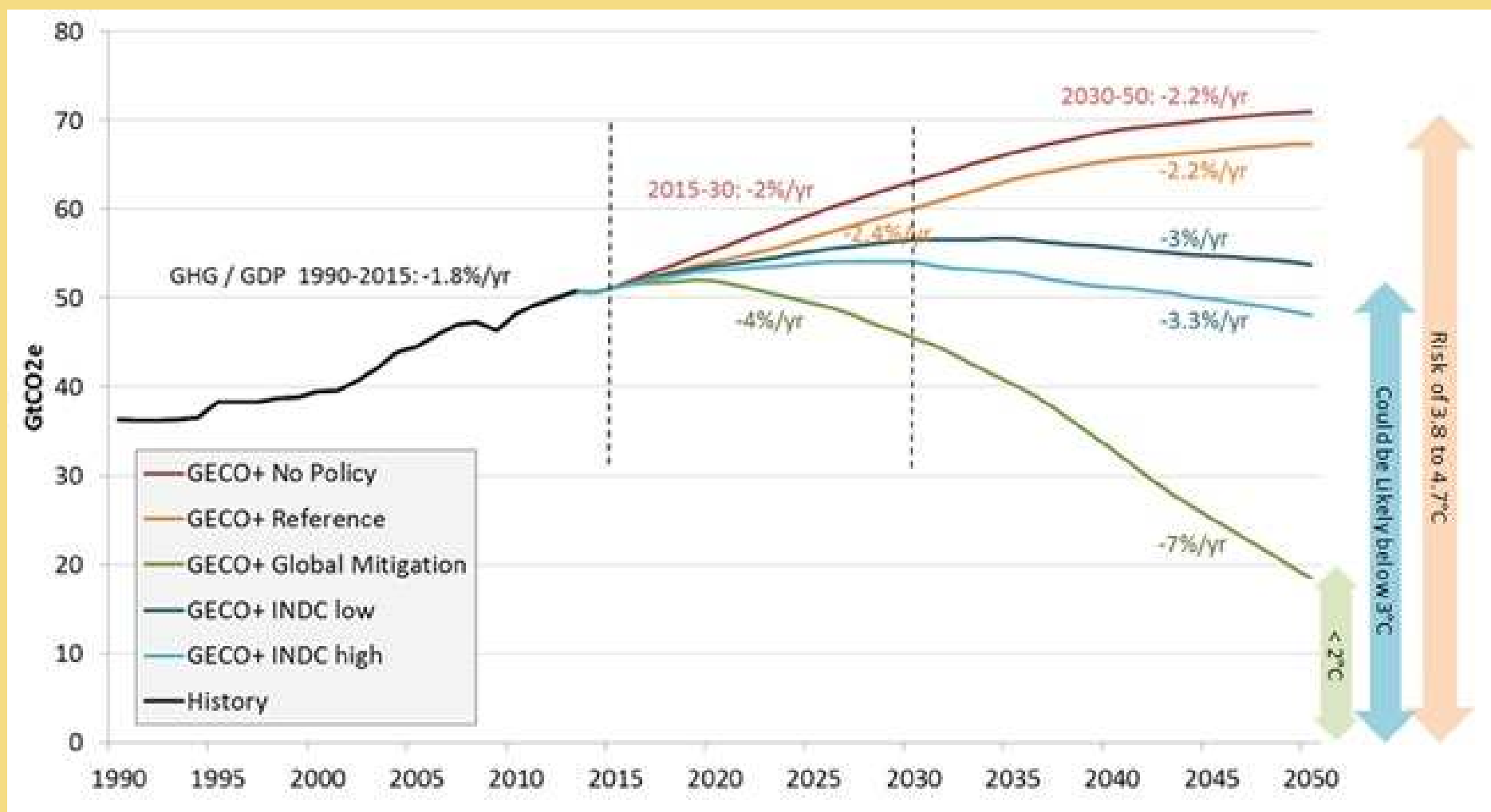
- Global peaking as soon as possible
- Rapid reductions
- Balance between emissions and sinks after 2050 - based on science
- Parties to formulate long-term (2050) low emissions strategies by 2020



Global pathway means international transport is included

“Fair pathways”

Impact of INDCs on global emissions



Emissions reductions Commitments

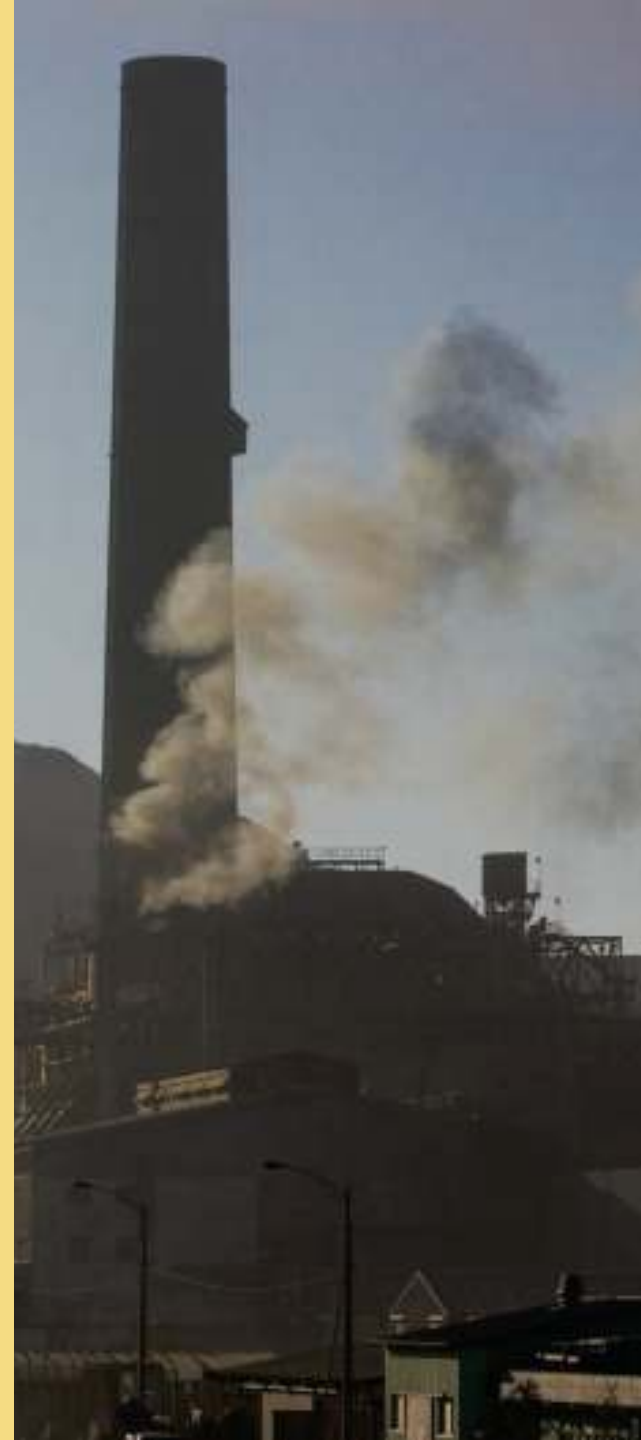
Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain contributions

All Parties shall pursue domestic measures to achieve reductions

Binding contributions

Developing countries encouraged to move over time to economy-wide targets

LDCs and SIDS can communicate policies and measures



Key issues and players

Negotiations

Emissions reductions

Adaptation, Loss and Damage

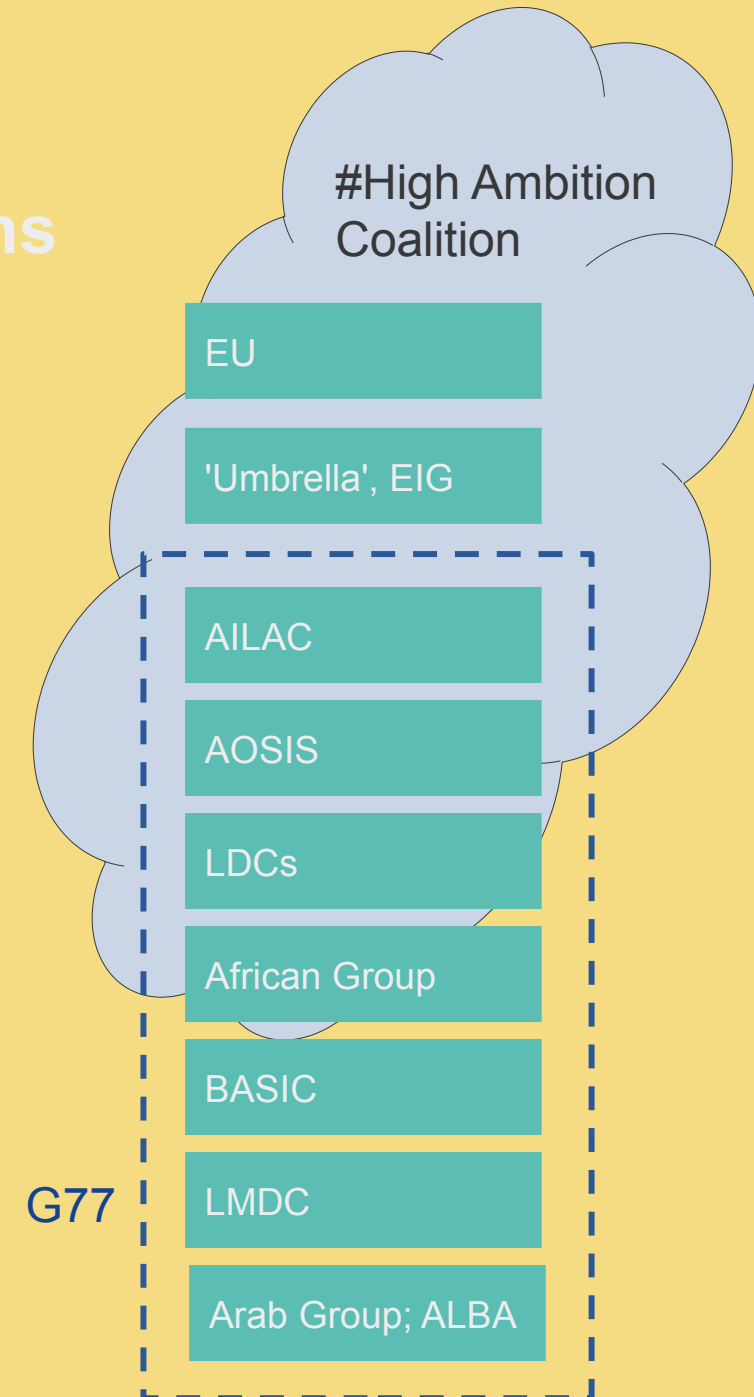
Finance, technology and capacity building

Differentiation between countries

Transparency, accountability and dynamism

Legal form and force of the Agreement

Technical work under the two subsidiary bodies



Global Stocktake Commitments

2018

- Facilitative dialogue on emissions reductions
- New science on 1.5°C
- New or updated contributions by **2020**

2023

- First global stocktake
- To consider progress on global goals for low-emission and climate-resilient development – and financing

2028+

- Stocktake every 5 years
- After 2030, all to communicate new emissions reductions contributions every 5 years
- Progression on previous efforts

Global Stocktake



Implications for 2020

- Targets for 2020 : Align with the principles and objectives of the Paris Agreement!
- A majority of national contributions are increased
- Global GHG emissions have begun to decline
- Long-term national strategies for 2050 are ready (and countries in need have received sufficient support to develop them)
- There are clear signs that climate solidarity is taking shape
- NDCs and climate plans have already begun to be applied

Finance



- **Finance flows to be made consistent with low emissions, climate resilience**
- **Developed countries to continue to lead in finance mobilisation**
- **\$100bn/year goal extended to 2025**
- Developed countries urged to provide a roadmap until 2020, enhance adaptation
- **Recognition, prominence, permanence through separate article – but exclusion of liability / compensation claims**

ADAPTATION

Global goal on adaptation

Commitments to cooperate, act, and communicate – raising domestic profile

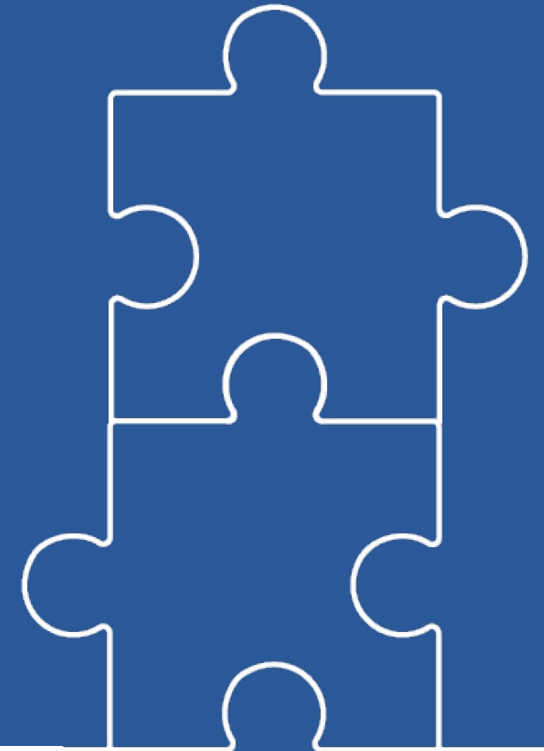
Continuous and enhanced international support

Encouragement to cooperate in different areas

- Early warning systems
- Emergency preparedness
- Risk insurances
- Slow onset events
- Anchoring of Warsaw Mechanism

Technology

**Capacity-
building**



Pre-2020 action

Integral part of the Paris package

- 2016 Facilitative dialogue on all commitments
- Applicable to all Parties, but focus on 'developed'

Voluntary efforts beyond current commitments

- Explore innovative catalysers for action beyond decision-making
- Two facilitative processes for 2016-20, covering mitigation and adaptation
- High level event at each COP; two 'high level champions'
- Summary for policy-makers



Transparency and accountability

Commitments



Fit-for-purpose framework with necessary obligations

- Regular (biannual) inventories
- Expert review for all
- Facilitative multilateral dialogue
- Agreed methodologies and common metrics

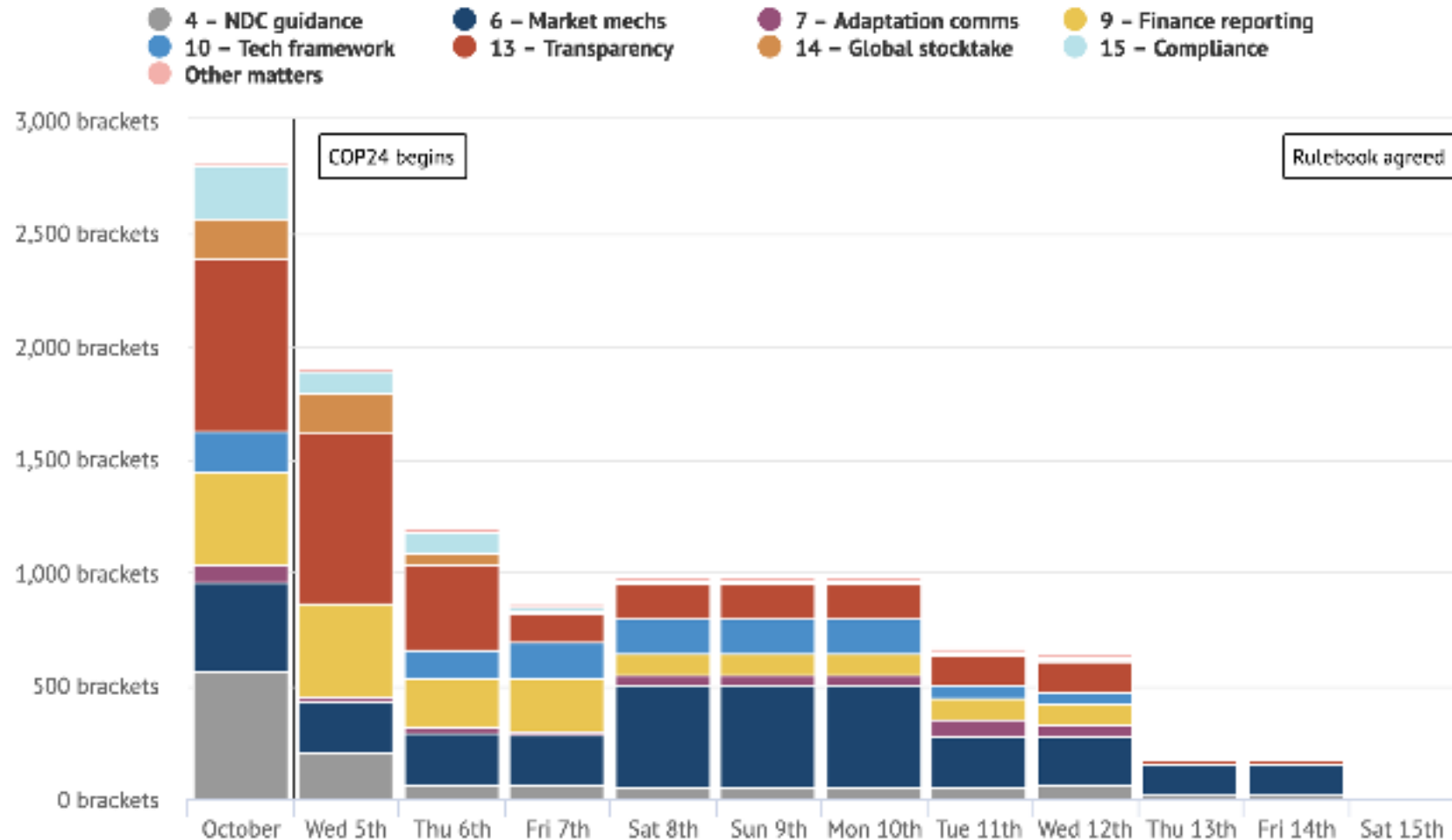


Nuanced approach to differentiation

- Building on existing bifurcated arrangement, but much more nuanced
- Flexibilities in light of capacities

Transparency and accountability

COP24: Progress on the Paris Agreement "rulebook" text



COP24 · KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS · POLSKA · CHINA · KORPOREACJA

The EU international cooperation and development policy

Primary Objective: poverty eradication, in the context of sustainable development

Support to vulnerable countries (esp. Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS));

Set of funding instruments (Development Cooperation Instrument, European Development Fund);

Set of funding modalities (grants, sector budget support, joint programming, etc.)

Integration of environment and climate change is crucial for sustainable development and poverty eradication



Being global

European Union: Worldwide the biggest engagement for climate

- €180 billion, 20% of the 2014-2020 EU cooperation budget should be spent on climate change-related actions
- € 14 billion over the years 2014-2020 for climate spending in developing countries with at least €2.5 billion for blending, leveraging at least €50 billion of climate investment

-

European Union GCCA + initiative

- Supports Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least developed Countries LDCs)
- Helps increasing resilience to climate change
- Supports implementing international commitments (Paris Climate Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai framework for DRR, SAMOA Pathway)
- **The GCCA + is a cutting-edge programme based on:**
 - Policy dialogue
 - Technical and financial support
 - Communication and Knowledge management



Key services provided by the GCCA+

- **Financial and Technical support to LDC and SIDS** to design, implement and monitor climate change adaptation projects;
- **If during the course of a project** (whatever the phase) technical assistance is to be claimed via and **in agreement with the European Union Delegation (EUDs)** responsible for this project.
- **Ad-hoc support** as EUDs have a broader view and better knowledge of the situation in one country/region.
- **Knowledge management of climate change information** at various levels





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