

The UNFCCC Process

An International Response to Climate Change

**ECREEE Climate Change Mitigation Programme Inception and Strategy Meeting
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Introduction

The need to reduce emissions lies at the very heart of the response to climate change

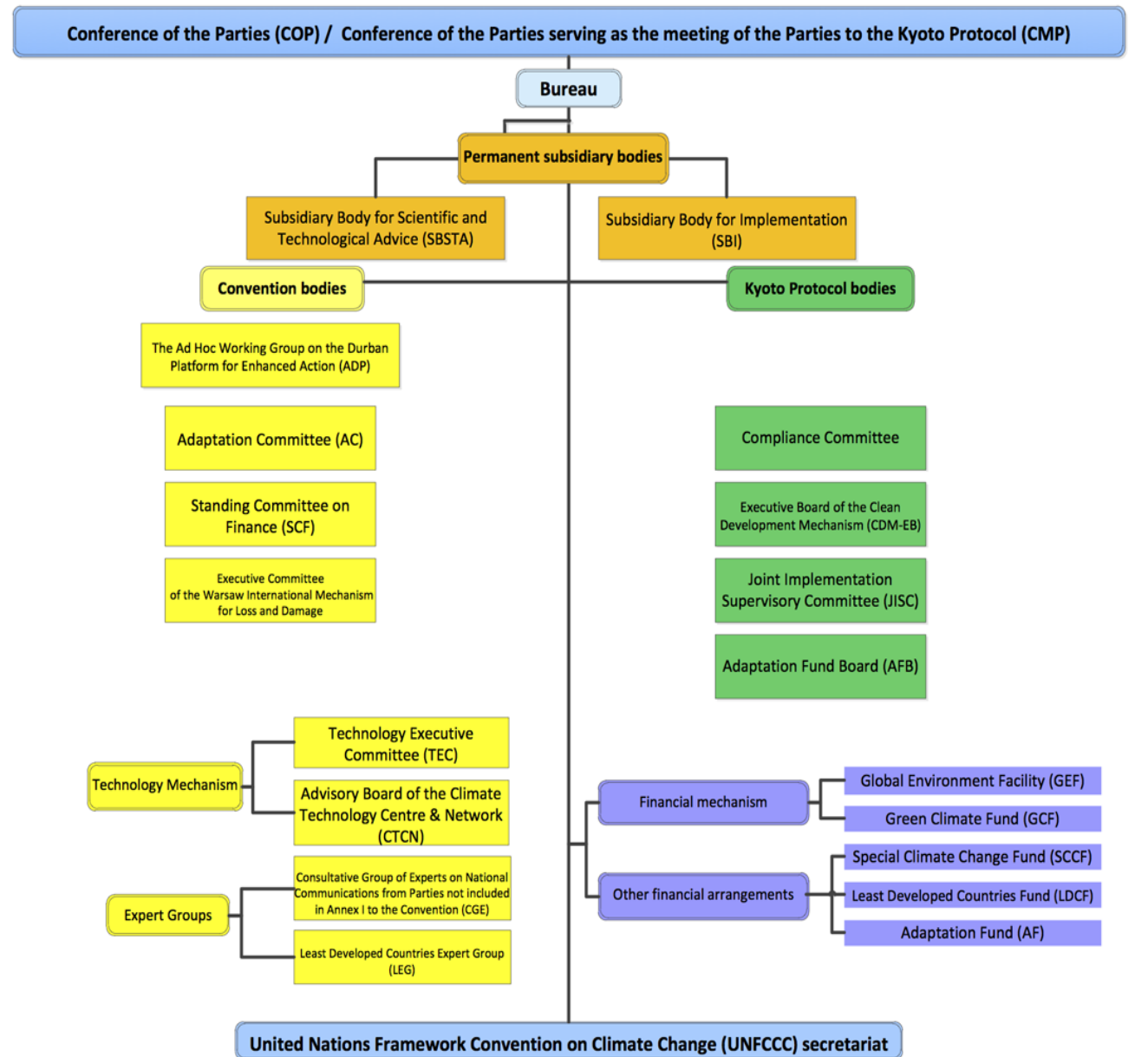
Core Texts

- ▶ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - ❑ Ultimate objective is to prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system
- ▶ The Kyoto Protocol
 - ❑ It commits industrialized countries to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions based on the principles of the Convention.

Currently, there are 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 192 to its Kyoto Protocol.

Overview

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Finance, Technology, Capacity Building
- Economic Instruments
- Transparency of Action and Support
- Periodic Review



UNDERSTANDING THE UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS

A TIMELINE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

2020 AND BEYOND
THE CLEAN REVOLUTION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. TO ACHIEVE REAL EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS WE NEED THE WORLD'S DECISION MAKERS TO DRIVE A CLEAN REVOLUTION - THE ONLY FEASIBLE PATH TO A SMARTER, BETTER, MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE.

**2020 ONWARDS
POSSIBLE KYOTO PROTOCOL
3RD COMMITMENT PERIOD**

**2020
NEW GLOBAL TREATY
ENTRY INTO FORCE**

**2020 ONWARDS
NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE
TREATY / PROTOCOL
UNDER THE UNFCCC**

**2013-2017 OR 2020
KYOTO PROTOCOL 2ND
COMMITMENT PERIOD**

**2011-2015
UNFCCC DURBAN PLATFORM
ON 'ENHANCED ACTION'**

**2009
COPENHAGEN ACCORD**

**2008-2012
KYOTO PROTOCOL 1ST
COMMITMENT PERIOD**

**2007-2012
UNFCCC NEGOTIATION
ON 'LONG-TERM
COOPERATIVE ACTION'**

**2006-2012 OR BEYOND
KYOTO PROTOCOL
2ND NEGOTIATION**

**NEW GLOBAL
CLIMATE DEAL**

**KYOTO
PROTOCOL**

UNFCCC

START HERE

**1988
IPCC ESTABLISHED**

**1990
1ST IPCC REPORT**

**1990-1992
ORIGINAL
NEGOTIATION**

**1992
UNFCCC SIGNED**

**1992 ONWARDS
UNFRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**1994
UNFCCC ENTRY
INTO FORCE**

**1995-1997
KYOTO PROTOCOL
1ST COMMITMENT
PERIOD NEGOTIATIONS**

**1997
KYOTO PROTOCOL SIGNED**

**1998-2001
KYOTO PROTOCOL RULES
LEADING TO DEVELOPMENT
OF 'MARRAKECH ACCORDS'**

**2005
KYOTO PROTOCOL ENTRY
INTO FORCE**

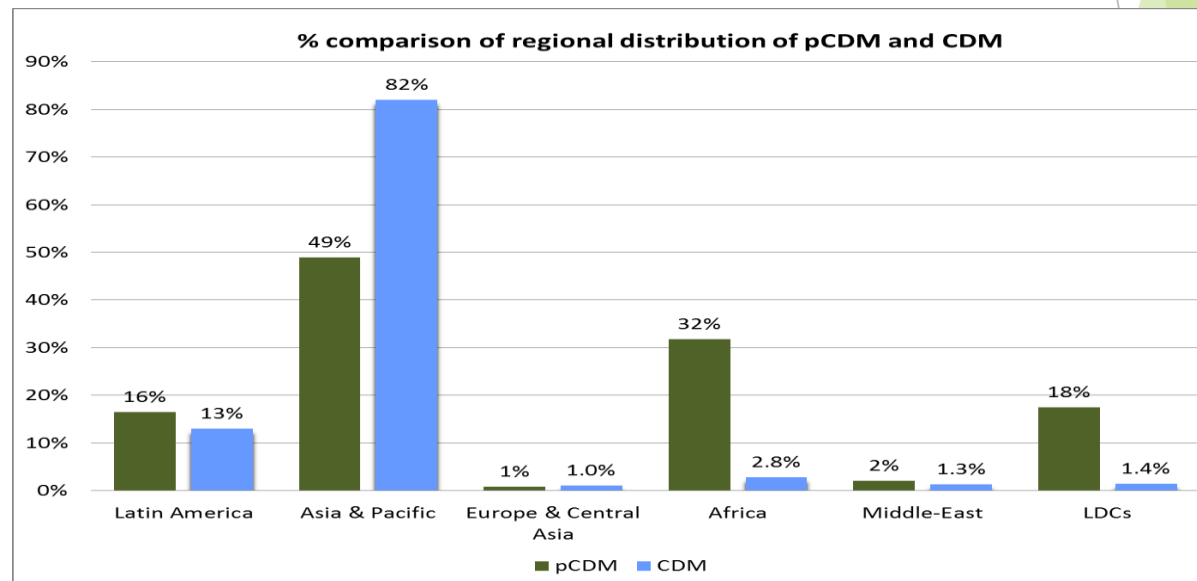
Source: The Climate Group

Mitigation

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

- ▶ Established under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol.
- ▶ A requirement of ‘additionality’.
- ▶ Dual Objectives:
 - ❑ to help developed countries fulfill their commitments to reduce emissions, and
 - ❑ to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development.
- ▶ 2 Regional Collaboration Centres in Africa - Togo and Uganda.



Source: UNEP DTU Partnership

Mitigation

Clean Development Mechanism

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

- ▶ Voluntary actions taken by developing countries to reduce GHG emissions to levels below those of “business as usual”
- ▶ Offer a unique opportunity to support development objectives while contributing to emission reduction.
- ▶ Could be unilateral (domestically supported) or supported (internationally supported).
- ▶ Requires a robust MRV system with parameters for measuring progress of implementation and impacts.
- ▶ A web based NAMA Registry has been set up by the UNFCCC
 - ❑ Matching and recognition functions.

Relationship between CDM and NAMAs

	CDM	NAMA
Definition	One of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. It provides locational flexibility of emissions reduction, hence allowing emissions reduction undertaken in a developing country to offset emissions in a developed country, typically through a trading agreement.	Voluntary activities for GHG emissions mitigation in developing countries that are led by local governments and are not subject to mitigation commitments under the UNFCCC.
Objective	Assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development, and also assist developed countries comply with their mitigation commitments under the Kyoto protocol.	In the context of sustainable development, achieve deviation from business as usual emissions
Actions	Projects and programmes of activities	Policies, programmes and projects
Initiator	Private sector or public sector	Typically public sector
Investment driver	Normal returns from the market that the project activity addresses, with the addition of returns from Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). CERs are issued by the CDM Executive Board based on project verification reports. CERs can be traded on carbon markets.	The sustainable development priorities of the host country, with possible added benefits from including emissions reduction in policy planning. The NAMA may attract international financial participation and it may include the generation of business opportunities for the private sector, who will invest for profit motives.
Requirement	Reductions in emissions must be in addition to any that would occur in the absence of the certified project activity. CDM also assists developing countries in achieving sustainable development.	A NAMA, framed in the context of sustainable development, aims at achieving a reduction in emissions relative to BAU, by 2020.
Financing	Upfront financing, generally from the private sector. Certificates are issued ex post facto, based on regular verification reports. CERs can be sold on a carbon market.	Domestic resources and/or international support (e.g., through bilateral/multilateral agreements, development banks) for the preparation and implementation of NAMAs.
Rulebook	Marrakesh Accords and subsequent body of CDM Executive Board decisions.	Limited guidance currently being developed under the Convention.

Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)

LEDS are country-led strategic planning frameworks to promote climate-resilient economic growth while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the long term.

LEDS in the UNFCCC Negotiations



COP15
COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen Accord (2009): “A low emission development strategy is **indispensable** for sustainable development”



COP16
CANCUN MEXICO 2010

Cancun Agreement (2010): “Decides that **developed countries should develop low carbon strategies or plans...**” “**Encourages developing countries to develop low carbon development strategies or plans** in the context of sustainable development...”



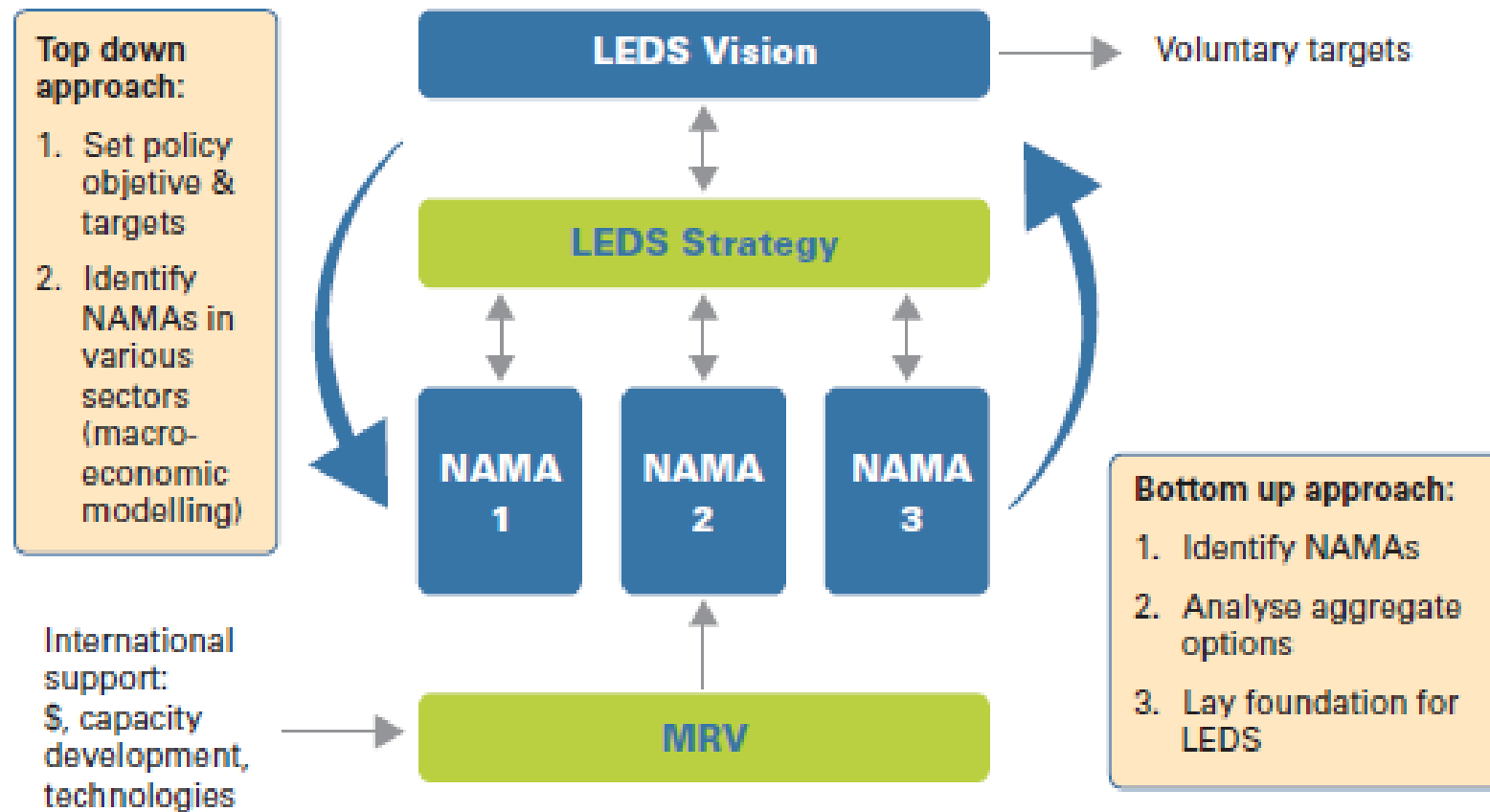
COP17/CMPT
DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA

Durban Platform (2011): “Invites developed country Parties to submit information related to progress towards the formulation of their low-emission development strategies...” “**Encourages developing country Parties to develop low-emission development strategies**, recognizing the need for **financial and technical support** by developed country Parties...”



Doha Outcome (2012): Reaffirms prior statements; “Requests technical workshops and material to **build capacity in the preparation, submission and implementation** of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, as well as in the formulation of **low emission development strategies...**”

Relationship between LEDS and NAMAs



Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

Voluntary commitments by countries to address domestic GHG emission reductions also considering adaptation components.

- ▶ Presentation format needs to promote clarity, transparency and understanding
 - ❑ quantifiable information on the reference point, time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches
- ▶ Statement on how contribution is fair and ambitious in light of national circumstances
- ▶ 16 Submissions as at 30th June 2015:
 - ❑ 43 parties; 3 African countries - Gabon, Morocco, Ethiopia.
 - ❑ Most establish national mitigation goals in comparison to 1990 GHG levels, some have with another past year (e.g. 2005), or a business-as-usual scenario.
- Synthesis report on the aggregate effect of the submitted INDCs to be prepared by November 1st, 2015.

The UNFCCC and Gender

Lima Work Programme on Gender

- ▶ Invites Parties to advance gender balance, promote gender sensitivity in developing and implementing climate policy and achieve gender-responsive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention;
- ▶ Decides that additional efforts need to be made by Parties to improve the participation of women in their delegations and in all of the bodies established under the Convention;
- ▶ To establish a two-year work programme for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy, developed for the purpose of guiding the effective participation of women in the bodies established under the Convention.

Road to Paris: Africa's Preparatory Process & Expectations

- ▶ National governments and regional bodies are taking steps to address climate change challenges:
 - ❑ Development of appropriate policies and programmes.
 - ❑ Conducting Africa specific research.
 - ❑ Embracing innovative technologies including home-grown ones.
- ▶ Africa is very active in the COPs and has developed a coordinating structure to formulate and deliver its common position and key messages:
 - ❑ Heads of State Level (Conference of African Heads of States on Climate Change - CAHOSCC).
 - ❑ Ministerial Level (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment - AMCEN).
 - ❑ Technical Experts Level (African Group of Negotiators - AGN).
- ▶ Africa's expectations include; emissions reduction targets to limit global warming to 1.5°C based on science; synergy with post-2015 development agenda; significantly increased climate flows and technology transfer.

Key Messages

- ▶ Climate change remains a complex issue
 - ❑ Ongoing discussions and continuous engagement is required at all levels.
 - ❑ Several strategies, instruments and tools are being developed and keep evolving.
 - ❑ Important to build on on-going efforts while tackling new decisions.
- ▶ Strong coordination and facilitation body vital
 - ❑ Solutions come from all disciplines and fields of research and development.
 - ❑ Myriad of stakeholders involved
 - ❑ Dynamic institutional frameworks need to be established and maintained.
- ▶ Strong political backing and country ownership of response measures essential.

Thank You

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