

Rough Guide

April 2011



The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development



The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD is an international organisation representing over 600 subnational governments, namely federated states and regional governments, at the global level. The network promotes understanding, collaboration and partnerships in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition of subnational government's important contribution towards sustainable development. A member of the Organisation des Régions Unies/Forum Global d'Associations de Régions (ORU/FOGAR), nrg4SD is the voice of ORU/FOGAR in the field of sustainable development.

www.nrg4sd.org

nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org



nrg4SD members interested in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change matters may also find the following nrg4SD products useful:

- Subnational governments at the forefront of climate action – Advocacy Paper
- Regions: Conscientious and influential partners in climate action - European Advocacy Paper
- Overview on the main outcomes of UNFCCC COP 16/CMP 6 Cancun
- Quick Guide to the Cancun Agreements
- A Tale of 3 Success Stories – A commentary at the closing of Cancun
- On the Road to Durban – Overview on developments towards UNFCCC COP17/CMP7
- Quick guide to key dossiers towards Durban
- Glossary of UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol

This is part of the nrg4SD Rough Guide series.

The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the detailed opinion of each member of nrg4SD.

© Copyright nrg4SD – Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development Programme, April 2011. All rights reserved



Rough Guide to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol

I.	Introduction	3
II.	The origins of the UNFCCC – From Rio 1992 to Rio +20	3
III.	UNFCCC – What and Why?	5
IV.	Who takes part in UNFCCC? – Parties, Observers and Civil Society	6
V.	How does the Conference of the Parties work?	8
VI.	The Kyoto Protocol	9
VII.	The Kyoto Protocol Bodies	10
VIII.	The Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms	11
IX.	Registry and Reporting Systems under the Kyoto Protocol	12
X.	Timeline of COPs/CMPs since the Rio Earth Summit	14
XI.	Sources for More Information	16



I. Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol support cooperative action by States recognised by the United Nations (UN) to combat climate change and its impacts on humanity and ecosystems.

Both international agreements constitute two clear examples of how modern multilateralism in the field of the environment can contribute to a sustainable world and to realising the vision of peace, security and human dignity on which the UN is founded.

This nrg4SD Rough Guide presents in a quick and reader-friendly manner some basic information on the main bodies, instruments and working methods of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

nrg4SD members may be interested in completing this background information with the nrg4SD Glossary on UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol concepts and acronyms. nrg4SD also produces overviews and quick guides on the international climate change negotiation process.



II. The origins of the UNFCCC – From Rio 1992 to Rio +20

The **UNFCCC** is one of the three international treaties born at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio, Brazil, known as the '**Rio Earth summit**'. The other two treaties are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). These have been known ever since as the Rio Conventions.

The three Rio Conventions are related as climate change affects biodiversity and desertification. Because of this relation and in order to explore common activities to confront problems related to climate change, biodiversity and desertification, a **Joint Liaison Group (JLG)** was created in August 2011. The JLG is an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination that comprises officers of the Conventions' scientific subsidiary bodies, the Executive Secretaries, and members of the secretariats.

At its fifth meeting in Bonn, Germany (January 2004), the JLG identified three issues as priorities for joint collaboration, namely: adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer.

In line with the guidance provided by the bodies of the Rio Conventions, the JLG is developing a number of [cooperative activities](#). Options for enhanced cooperation have already been identified by the three convention secretariats, as outlined in [a joint paper](#), and include:

- Promotion of complementarity among the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD, the national action programmes (NAPs) of the UNCCD, and the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) for least developed countries of the UNFCCC.
- Collaboration among national focal points.
- Collaboration among the scientific subsidiary bodies to the conventions, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the CBD, the Committee for Science and Technology (CST) to the UNCCD, and the SBSTA to the UNFCCC.
- Development of joint work programmes or plans, of joint workshops (at the international level) and of joint capacity-building activities (including training, and local, national and regional workshops to promote synergy in implementation).
- Case studies on interlinkages.
- Facilitation of exchange of information and experience, including improving inter-accessibility of available web-based data.
- Cooperation in communication, education and public awareness programmes.
- Cooperation in the development of advice, methodologies and tools with representatives of UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD Secretariats.

The so-called [Rio +20](#) Conference – the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) which will take place in Brazil on 4-6 June 2012 – will mark the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) (WSSD) in Johannesburg 1992. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. It is expected that the Conference will result in a focused political document.

The objective of the Rio +20 Conference is to secure renewed political commitments for sustainable development, assess the current program, identify gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and address new and emerging challenges.

The Conference will focus on two themes including: 1) [a green economy](#) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and 2) [the institutional framework](#) for sustainable development.



III. UNFCCC – What and Why

The UNFCCC is an **international environmental treaty** produced at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. It was opened for signature on May 9, 1992, after an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee produced the text of the Framework Convention as a report following its meeting in New York from 30 April to 9 May 1992. It entered into force on 21 March 1994.

Under the convention, governments:

- Gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices.
- Launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including developing financial and technological support to developing countries.
- Cooperate in preparation for mitigation measures and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

The Convention itself sets no mandatory limits on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for individual countries and contains no enforcement mechanisms. In that sense, the Convention is considered legally non-binding. Instead, the Convention provides for updates (called "protocols") that would set mandatory emission limits. The principal update is the Kyoto Protocol, which has become much better known than the UNFCCC itself.

According to article 2 of the **final text of the Convention**, the ‘**objective** of the treaty is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner’.

An UNFCCC **Secretariat**, staffed by international civil servants, is responsible for ‘servicing’ the Convention and ensuring its smooth operation. The Secretariat makes arrangements for meetings, compiles and prepares reports, and coordinates with other relevant international bodies. The Climate Change Secretariat, which is based in Bonn, Germany, is institutionally linked to the United Nations (UN).

Heading the Secretariat, is an **Executive Secretary**. Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, a Maltese diplomat, set up the secretariat in 1991 and headed it until his retirement early in 2002, holding the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Then came the Dutch, Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, who passed on in October 2005. Mr. Yvo de Boer – born in Vienna, Austria, and son of a Dutch diplomat - took up the post from September 2006 to July 2010, when he left the United Nations. The current Executive Secretary, Costa Rican diplomat Mrs. Christiana Figueres, was appointed in May 2010.



IV. Who takes part in UNFCCC? – Parties, Observers and Civil Society

The Convention enjoys near universal membership. As of April 2011, there are **195 Parties** (194 States and 1 regional economic integration organisation) to UNFCCC. The **Parties** to this Convention acknowledge that changes in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. As human activities have been substantially increasing GHG (especially in developed countries) Parties recognised an international approach to tackle climate change. Section VI explains the different types of Parties according to their respective differing commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the Convention to assess progress in dealing with climate change. The word 'conference' is not used here in the sense of 'meeting' but rather of 'association,' which explains the seemingly redundant expression 'fourth session of the Conference of the Parties.'

What other structures for COP?

President - The official of a member government is elected by the Parties to preside over the COP. The President is often a senior official or minister from the state or region hosting the meeting. The President may not participate in the negotiations as a representative of the member government during the term of presidency.

Subsidiary bodies - A subsidiary body is a committee that assists the COP. They include:

Permanent

- The Subsidiary Board of Implementation (SBI) makes recommendations on policy and implementation issues to the COP and, if requested, to other bodies.
- The Subsidiary Board of Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) serves as a link between information and assessments provided by expert sources (such as the IPCC) and the COP, which focuses on setting policy.

Temporary

- **AWG-LCA** – Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action
- **AWG-KP** – Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Several categories of **observer** organisations also attend sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. These include representatives of UN secretariat units and bodies, such as UNDP, UNEP and UNCTAD, as well as its specialized agencies and related organizations, such as the Global Environment Facility, GEF; World Meteorological Organisation, WMO and UNEP Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, IPCC. nrg4SD is accredited an accredited observer towards UNFCCC.

Accredited organisations, such as nrg4SD can nominate delegates to participate in negotiations with Parties and eventually take the floor at different configurations. This is also the case for the organisation of official side events. This is all managed via the portal **SEORS** (Side Events and Exhibits Online Registration System).

Observer organisations include Intergovernmental Organisations, **IGOs** - such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD or the International Energy Agency, IEA - and Non-Governmental Organisations, **NGOs**.

Civil society engages with the climate change process through representative non-governmental observer organisations.

Major Groups – these are the sectors of society recognised in Agenda 21 - since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 - as having a substantive contribution to make to the achievements of a sustainable future. Groups identified in Agenda 21 include: Business and industry; Children and Youth; Farmers; Indigenous People; Local Authorities (**nrg4SD is a member of this Major Group**); NGOs; Scientific and Technological Community; Women; and Workers and Trade Unions.

UNFCCC Constituencies – Based on the Agenda 21 nine Major Groups, there are nine acknowledged constituencies in the climate change process that allow for the participation of civil society in the UNFCCC process. These are: Business and industry NGOs (BINGO), Environmental NGOs (ENGO), Indigenous peoples organisations (IPO), Local government and municipal authorities (LGMA), Research and independent NGOs (RINGO), Trade union NGOs (TUNGO), Farmers NGOs (Farmers), Women and gender NGOs (Women and Gender), and youth NGOs (YOUNGO). **nrg4SD is part of the LGMA constituency.**

Following from years of tireless advocacy work from the LGMA constituency members, including nrg4SD, the **Cancun Agreements** adopted at COP16/CMP6 in **December 2010** in Cancun, Mexico, the **recognition of subnational governments and local authorities as ‘government stakeholders’** in climate action **for the first time in an official UNFCCC text**. This breakthrough highlights the added value of subnational governments and local authorities in tackling climate change. nrg4SD has produced papers detailing the outcomes of COP16/CMP6 for subnational governments which are available **online**. Click **here** for more information on nrg4SD activities at COP16, Cancun.



V. How does the Conference of the Parties work?

The COP currently meets once a year for two weeks (around end November-mid December) to review the Convention's progress. The first week of the COP is known as the technical week, with negotiations and technical sessions of Subsidiary Bodies and Working Groups. A ministerial segment in the second week – the so-called 'political week' concludes the Conference.

The COP features different sessions in different configurations such as general assembly, ministerial round tables, regional negotiation sessions segment and side events. Several nrg4SD subnational governments participate in COP sessions within their respective national delegations. In the past nrg4SD has participated in high level sessions and organised side events.

Throughout the year, there are also pre-sessional COPs with meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies (which usually take place in Bonn, Germany, in June) and additional preparation meetings and technical workshops (often within the first quarter of the year and couple of weeks before the main COP session of the year).

Functioning of COP during negotiations

Bureau - A body responsible for directing the work of the COP. Its 10 members are delegates elected by each of five regional groups. The Bureau includes the COP President, six Vice Presidents, the Chairs of SBI and SBSTA, and a rapporteur. Each of the Convention's subsidiary bodies also has a Bureau.

Committee of the Whole - Often created by a COP to aid in negotiating text. It consists of the same membership as the COP. When the Committee has finished its work, it turns the text over to the COP, which finalises and then adopts the text during a plenary session.

Friends of the Chair - Delegates called upon by the Chair (who takes into account the need for political balance among various interests) to assist in carrying out specific tasks.

Informal contact group - A group of delegates instructed by the President or a Chair to meet in private to discuss a specific matter in an effort to consolidate different.

Plenary – This is a formal meeting of the entire COP or one of its subsidiary bodies. Formal decisions or conclusions may only be taken during plenary sessions.



VI. The Kyoto Protocol

The **Kyoto Protocol** is an international agreement to UNFCCC. It was adopted at COP3 held in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997 (with 84 signatures) and entered into force in February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP7 in Marrakesh in 2001, and are called the 'Marrakesh Accords.'

Today the Protocol counts with **193 Parties** (192 States and 1 regional economic integration organisation) to the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC. The total percentage of Annex I Parties emissions is 63.7%.

Recognising that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of '**common but differentiated responsibilities.**'

The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialised countries (Annex 1 countries) and the EU for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012. The benchmark 1990 emission levels accepted by the COP were the values of "global warming potential" calculated for the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change Second Assessment Report. These figures are used for converting the various GHG emissions into comparable CO₂ equivalents when computing overall sources and sinks.

The major distinction between the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialised countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so and is therefore a **legally binding agreement.**

Parties to UNFCCC are classified according to their respective differing commitments under the Kyoto Protocol

Annex I countries – industrialised countries and economies in transition - Annex I countries which have ratified the Protocol have committed to reduce their emission levels of GHG to targets that are mainly set below their 1990 levels. They may do this by allocating reduced annual allowances to the major operators within their borders. These operators can only exceed their allocations if they buy emission allowances, or offset their excesses through a mechanism that is agreed by all the parties to UNFCCC. They include the 24 original OECD members, the European Union, and 14 countries with economies in transition. Croatia, Liechtenstein, Monaco, and Slovenia joined Annex 1 at COP-3 in 1997 in Kyoto Japan and the Czech Republic and Slovakia replaced Czechoslovakia.

Annex II countries – developed countries which pay for costs of developing countries - Annex II countries are a sub-group of the Annex I countries. They comprise the OECD members, excluding those that were economies in transition in 1992. Annex II Parties include the 24 original OECD members plus the European Union.

Developing countries - Developing countries are not required to reduce emission levels unless developed countries supply enough funding and technology. Setting no immediate restrictions under UNFCCC serves three purposes:

- it avoids restrictions on their development, because emissions are strongly linked to industrial capacity;
- they can sell emissions credits to nations whose operators have difficulty meeting their emissions targets, and
- they get money and technologies for low-carbon investments from Annex II countries.

Developing countries may volunteer to become Annex I countries when they are sufficiently developed.

The 49 Parties classified as **Least Developed Countries** (LDCs) by the United Nations are given special consideration under the Convention on account of their limited capacity to respond to climate change and adapt to its adverse effects. Parties are urged to take full account of the special situation of LDCs when considering funding and technology-transfer activities.

This information is taken from the original definition by the UNFCCC Parties to the Convention. Some environmentalists consider that this distinction between different types of Parties and their commitments does not reflect the global efforts that are required today to reduce GHG emissions in a sufficient manner.



VII. Kyoto Protocol Bodies

The Conference of the Parties (COP) serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. This is referred to as the **Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)**. The first CMP took place alongside COP3 in Kyoto, Japan in 1997, where the Protocol was adopted.

The first meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol was held in Montreal, Canada in December 2005, in conjunction with the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11).

The CMP meets annually during the same period as the COP. Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to the Protocol are able to participate in the CMP as observers, but without the right to take decisions.

The Parties to the Kyoto Protocol also formally adopted the so-called 'Marrakesh Accords', which set the framework for implementation of the Protocol.

The **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice** (SBSTA) and the **Subsidiary Body for Implementation** (SBI) established under the Convention also serve the CMP.

The **Bureau** of the COP also serves the CMP. However, any member of the COP Bureau representing a non-Party to the Kyoto Protocol has to be replaced by a member representing a Kyoto Protocol Party.

Constituted Bodies under the Kyoto Protocol

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board - supervises the CDM under the Kyoto Protocol and prepares decisions for the CMP. It undertakes a variety of tasks relating to the day-to-day operation of the CDM, including the accreditation of operational entities.

Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee - under the authority and guidance of the CMP, inter alia, supervises the verification of emission reduction units (ERUs) generated by JI projects following the verification procedure under the JISC.

Compliance Committee - made up of two branches: a Facilitative Branch and an Enforcement Branch.



VIII. Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms

Under the Treaty, countries must meet their targets primarily through national measures. However, the Kyoto Protocol offers them an additional means of meeting their targets by way of **three market-based mechanisms**:

- The **Emissions trading** - known as *the carbon market* it is envisaged as the key tool to reduce GHG emissions at global level. According to the UNFCCC Secretariat it was worth 30 billion USD in 2006 and keeps growing.
- The **Clean development mechanism, CDM** – it is a project-based mechanism that feeds the carbon market and involves investment in sustainable development projects that reduce emissions in developing countries.
- The **Joint implementation, JI** – it is a project-based mechanism that feeds the carbon market and helps stimulate green investment by encouraging industrialised countries to carry out joint implementation projects with other developed countries.

The Kyoto Protocol, like the Convention, is also designed to assist countries in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. It facilitates the development and deployment of techniques that can help increase resilience to the impacts of climate

change. The **Adaptation Fund** was established to finance adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Fund is financed mainly with a share of proceeds from CDM project activities.

The Kyoto Protocol is generally seen as an important first step towards a truly global emission reduction regime that will stabilise GHG emissions, and provides the essential architecture for any future international agreement on climate change.

By the end of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012, a new international framework needs to have been negotiated and ratified - or the Kyoto Protocol extended – in order to deliver the stringent emission reductions the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has clearly indicated are needed.



IX. Registry and Reporting Systems under the Kyoto Protocol

Emission targets for industrialised country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are expressed as levels of allowed emissions, or “assigned amounts”, over the 2008-2012 commitment period. Such assigned amounts are denominated in tonnes (of CO₂ equivalent emissions) known informally as “**Kyoto units**”.

The ability of Parties to add to their holdings of Kyoto units (e.g. through credits for CDM or Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry, LULUCF) or move units from one country to another (e.g. through emissions trading or JI projects) requires registry systems that can track the location of Kyoto units at all times.

Two types of registry are currently being implemented:

- Governments of the 38 Annex B Parties are implementing **national registries**, accounting units held in the name of the government or in the name of legal entities authorised by the government to hold and trade units.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat, under the authority of the CDM Executive Board, has implemented the **CDM registry** for issuing CDM credits and distributing them to national registries. Accounts in the CDM registry are held only by CDM project participants, as the registry does not accept emissions trading between accounts.

In addition to recording the holdings of Kyoto units, these registries “settle” emissions trades by delivering units from the accounts of sellers to those of buyers, thus forming the backbone infrastructure for the carbon market.

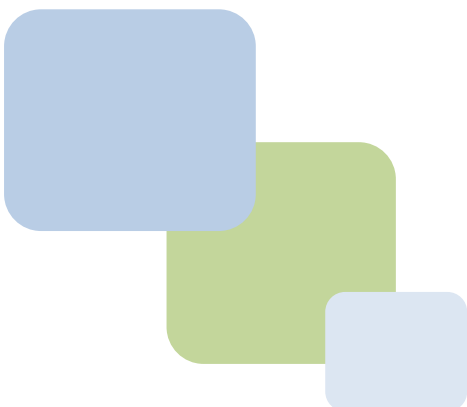
Each registry operates via the [International Transaction Log](#), ITL put in place and administered by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The ITL verifies registry transactions independently, in real time, to ensure they are consistent with rules agreed under the Kyoto Protocol. It can require registries to terminate transactions that infringe the Kyoto rules.

It is acknowledged that the Kyoto Protocol's effectiveness depends on Parties complying with their commitments; and also on the **reliability of the emissions data used to assess compliance**. For this reason, the Kyoto Protocol and Marrakesh Accords, adopted by CMP 1 in Montreal, Canada, in December 2005, include monitoring and compliance procedures to (i) enforce the Protocol's rules, (ii) address any compliance problems, and (iii) avoid any error in calculating emissions data and accounting for transactions under the three Kyoto mechanisms and activities related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF).

The Protocol's monitoring procedures are based on existing reporting and review procedures under the Convention. They also involve additional accounting procedures that are needed to track and record Parties' holdings and transactions of Kyoto Protocol units - assigned amount units (AAUs), certified emission reductions (CERs) and emission reduction units (ERUs) - and removal units (RMUs) generated by LULUCF activities.

Annex I Parties commit themselves to having in place, no later than 2007, national systems for the estimation of GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks; as well as to applying appropriate "adjustments" where agreed methodologies.

They also commit to submitting annual GHG inventories, as well as national communications, at regular intervals, both including supplementary information to demonstrate compliance with the Protocol. Annex I Parties allow independent expert teams to review the inventories, and national communications submitted.





X. Timeline of COPs/CMPs since the Rio Earth Summit

Year	COP	Place	Outcome (hyperlinks)
1992	Earth Summit	Rio de Janeiro Brazil	Rio Earth Summit The three Rio Conventions are born: UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), UNCBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification).
1995	COP 1	Berlin, Germany	Berlin Mandate adopted A proposal under UNFCCC designed to make reductions of greenhouse gas emissions mandatory. Under UNFCCC, developed countries pledged to take measures designed to return their GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. The Berlin Mandate established a process enabling countries to take appropriate action for the period beyond 2000, including a strengthening of developed country commitments, through the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.
1996	COP 2	Geneva, Switzerland	
1997	COP 3	Kyoto, Japan	Kyoto Protocol adopted - 37 countries (Annex 1) commit themselves to a reduction of four GHG emissions and two groups of gases produced by them and all member countries give general commitments. First initial meeting of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP). <i>See section on the Kyoto Protocol for more information.</i>
1998	COP 4	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Buenos Aires Plan of Action – A two year plan of action to reduce the risk of climate change by accelerating the work of UNFCCC and preparing the way for industrialised countries to take further action under the Kyoto Protocol. The Plan of Action boosts work on transferring climate friendly technologies to developing countries and addresses the special needs and concerns of countries affected by global warming and by the economic implications of response measures.
1999	COP 5	Bonn, Germany	
2000	COP 6	The Hague, Netherlands	Talks based on the Plan break down
2001	COP 7	Marrakesh, Morocco	Marrakesh Accords April, IPCC Third Assessment Report - July, COP 6 resumes (Bonn Germany) - July, Bonn Agreements

2002	COP 8	New Delhi, India	Delhi Ministerial Declaration August and September progress since 1992 reviewed at World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10 Summit)
2003	COP 9	Milan, Italy	
2004	COP 10	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted
2005	COP 11/CMP1	Montreal, Canada	CMP – 2005 marked the first year of the Meeting of the Parties (CMP) to the Kyoto Protocol since their initial meeting in Kyoto in 1997. Montreal Action Plan – an agreement decided at the end of the conference to "extend the life of the Kyoto Protocol beyond its 2012 expiration date and negotiate deeper cuts in GHG emissions. To discuss future commitments for industrialised countries under the Kyoto Protocol, the CMP established a working group called the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) .
2006	COP 12/CMP2	Nairobi, Kenya	A five-year plan of work adopted to support climate change adaptation by developing countries. Also agreement on the procedures and modalities for the Adaptation Fund.
2007	COP 13/CMP3	Bali, Indonesia	Bali Action Plan – launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision at its fifteenth session The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) is established.
2008	COP 14/CMP4	Poznan, Poland	
2009	COP 15/CMP5	Copenhagen, Denmark	Copenhagen Accord – A non-legally binding agreement that reiterated the UNFCCC principles and the pledge to adopt binding emission targets. A consensus among leaders that global average temperatures must not be allowed to rise beyond 2°C. The first formal financial commitments by richer nations to help emerging ones adapt to climate change impacts, by means of a fund to reach \$100bn by 2020. Not legally binding.
2010	COP 16/CMP6	Cancun, Mexico	Legally binding Cancun Agreements - Green Climate Fund established to protect developing nations against climate impacts. Crucial outcome for subnational governments and local authorities, who are recognised as 'governmental stakeholders' for the first time ever in an official UNFCCC text. nrg4SD has produced several papers on the Cancun Agreements – available on the website

2011	COP 17	Durban, South Africa	nrg4SD has produced papers on the road to Durban available on the website .
2012	COP 18/CMP15	Seoul, Korea	



XI. Sources for More Information



UNFCCC and Kyoto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Documentation Meetings Kyoto Protocol National Reports Parties and Observers Secretariat
UNFCCC LGMA constituency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC constituency for Local Government and Municipal Authorities <i>UNFCCC LGMA</i> nrg4SD ICLEI – Focal Point for LGMA UCLG
UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Environment Programme <i>UNEP</i> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <i>IPCC</i> Emissions gap report Climate Change Programme News



Global Commitment of North and South Subnational Governments to Sustainable Development

The **Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD** works tirelessly to champion the work of subnational governments on sustainable development, including climate action. International organisation representing over 600 subnational governments* (namely federated states and regional governments) at the global level; nrg4SD promotes understanding, partnerships and projects in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition of the important contribution of subnational governments towards sustainable development. Member of the Organisations des Régions Unies/Forum Global d'Associations de Régions (ORU/FOGAR), nrg4SD is the voice of ORU/FOGAR in the field of sustainable development.



www.nrg4sd.org

**Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development**

20, Bvd. Roi Albert II-Köning Albert II-iaan
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 553 70 69
Fax: +32 (0) 2 553 70 75

Email: nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org

©© nrg4SD – The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development – April 2011. All rights reserved.

The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the detailed opinion of each member of nrg4SD.