

# ClimGloss



**A Glossary of Climate  
Change Terms**

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The ClimGloss has been developed from a variety of sources. Primarily it has been sourced from the UNFCCC website:  
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## NOTES

**Assigned amount unit (AAU)** A Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Each Annex I Party issues AAUs up to the level of its assigned amount, established pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, of the Kyoto Protocol. Assigned amount units may be exchanged through emissions trading.

**Abatement** Refers to reducing the degree or intensity of greenhouse-gas emissions.

**Accession** An act whereby a State becomes a Party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other States; has the same legal effect as ratification.

**Activities implemented jointly (AIJ)** Activities carried out under the Convention to mitigate climate change through partnerships between an investor from a developed country and a counterpart in a host country under a pilot phase that ended in the year 2000. The purpose was to involve private-sector money in the transfer of technology and know-how. See also Joint Implementation

**Adaptation** Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harms or exploits beneficial opportunities.

**Adaptation Fund** The Adaptation Fund was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Fund is to be financed with a share of proceeds from clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities and receive funds from other sources.

**Additionality** The Kyoto Protocol articles on Joint Implementation (Art. 6) and the Clean Development Mechanism (Art. 12) state that emissions reduction units (ERUs and CERs) will be awarded to project-based activities provided that the projects achieve emissions reductions that are 'additional to those that otherwise would occur.'

**Ad hoc Group on Article 13 (AG13)** A subsidiary body (committee) created by COP-1 to explore how to help governments overcome difficulties experienced in meeting their commitments under the Climate Change Convention (1995-1998).

**Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM)** A subsidiary body created by COP-1 to conduct the talks that led to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol; the AGBM concluded its work on 30 November 1997.

**Afforestation** Planting of new forests on lands that historically have not contained forests.

**Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** An ad hoc coalition of low-lying and island countries. These nations are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and share common positions on climate change. The 43 members and observers are American Samoa, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Grenada, Guam, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, Netherlands Antilles, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, US Virgin Islands, and Vanuatu.

**Amendment** A modification by the COP to the text of the Convention. If consensus cannot be reached, an amendment must win three-quarters of the votes of all Parties present and casting ballots.

**Annex A:** A list in the Kyoto Protocol of the six greenhouse gases and the sources of emissions covered under the Kyoto Protocol.

**Annex I Parties** The industrialized countries listed in this annex to the Convention which were committed return their greenhouse-gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 as per Article 4.2 (a) and (b). They have also accepted emissions targets for the period 2008-12 as per Article 3 and Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol. 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, and the Czech Republic and Slovakia replaced Czechoslovakia.)

**Annex II Parties** The countries listed in Annex II to the Convention which have a special obligation to provide financial resources and facilitate technology transfer to developing countries. Annex II Parties include the 24 original OECD members plus the European Union.

**UNFCCC** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**UNIDO** United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

**Uniform report format** A standard format through which Parties submit information on activities implemented jointly under the Convention.

**Voluntary commitments** A draft article considered during the negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol that would have permitted developing countries to voluntarily adhere to legally binding emissions targets. The proposed language was dropped in the final phase of the negotiations. The issue remains important for some delegations and may be discussed at upcoming sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

**Vulnerability** The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.

**WCC** World Climate Conference.

**WEOG** Western European and Others Group (United Nations regional group).

**WHO** World Health Organization.

**WMO** World Meteorological Organization.

**WSSD** World Summit on Sustainable Development.

**WTO** World Trade Organization.

**Third Assessment Report (TAR)** The third extensive review of global scientific research on climate change, published by the IPCC in 2001. Among other things, the report stated that "The Earth's climate system has demonstrably changed on both global and regional scales since the pre-industrial era, with some of these changes attributable to human activities. There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities." The TAR also focused on the regional effects of climate change.

**Track- two JI** One of two approaches for verifying emission reductions or removals under joint implementation, whereby each JI project is subject to verification procedures established under the supervision of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee. Track two procedures require that each project be reviewed by an accredited independent entity.

**Trust funds** Funds earmarked for specific programmes within the UN system.

**TT:CLEAR** Technology Transfer Information Clearing House.

**Umbrella group** A loose coalition of non-European Union developed countries formed following the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. Although there is no formal membership list, the group usually includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States.

**UN** United Nations.

**UNCCD** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

**UNCED** United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

**UNCTAD** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**UNDP** United Nations Development Programme.

**UNECE** United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

**UNEP** United Nations Environment Programme.

**Anthropogenic greenhouse emissions** Greenhouse-gas emissions resulting from human activities.

**Article 4.1** An article of the Convention stipulating general commitments assumed by all Parties, developing or developed.

**Article 4.2** An article of the Convention stating the specific commitments of developed-country (Annex I) Parties only -- notably that they would take measures aimed to return greenhouse-gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

**Article 6 Supervisory Committee** A committee providing international oversight of "track-two" joint implementation projects. Joint implementation projects are carried out by sponsoring and recipient developed countries under Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol -- with the recipient likely to be a country with an "economy in transition". Track-two is used if one or both of the countries does not meet requirements for the standard ("track one") joint implementation programme.

**Auctioning** One approach by which emissions allowances could be distributed by governments to entities covered by emissions obligations or wishing to participate in emissions trading by means of auctioning the sale of permits.

**Berlin Mandate** Adopted at COP-1, the mandate that launched negotiations leading to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol.

**Biomass fuels or biofuels** A fuel produced from dry organic matter or combustible oils produced by plants. These fuels are considered renewable as long as the vegetation producing them is maintained or replanted, such as firewood, alcohol fermented from sugar, and combustible oils extracted from soy beans. Their use in place of fossil fuels cuts greenhouse gas emissions because the plants that are the fuel sources capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Bonn agreements** Informal term for a political deal reached at COP-6 in Bonn, Germany, in 2001, by which governments agreed on the most politically controversial issues under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The Bonn agreements paved the way for the Marrakech Accords later in the same year.

**Bonn fund** A special UNFCCC fund for contributions from the Government of Germany to cover costs of UNFCCC events held in Bonn.

**Brazilian proposal** A proposal by the delegation of Brazil made in May 1997 as part of the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol. It included a formula to set differentiated emission reduction targets for Parties based to the cumulative impact of Parties' historic emissions on the global average surface temperature.

**Bunker fuels** A term used to refer to fuels consumed for international marine and air transport.

**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.

**CACAM** Negotiating coalition of countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Albania, and the Republic of Moldova.

**Capacity building** In the context of climate change, the process of developing the technical skills and institutional capability in developing countries and economies in transition to enable them to address effectively the causes and results of climate change.

**Carbon capture and storage (CCS):** the process of capturing greenhouse gas pollution from coal or gas power plants and storing it underground instead of releasing it into the atmosphere.

**Carbon market** A popular but misleading term for a trading system through which countries may buy or sell units of greenhouse-gas emissions in an effort to meet their national limits on emissions, either under the Kyoto Protocol or under other agreements, such as that among member states of the European Union. The term comes from the fact that carbon dioxide is the predominant greenhouse gas and other gases are measured in units called "carbon-dioxide equivalents."

**Carbon sequestration** The process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and depositing it in a reservoir.

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity.

**CC:TRAIN** Training methodology for assessing vulnerability to climate change.

**"Spill-over effects"** Reverberations in developing countries caused by actions taken by developed countries to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. For example, emissions reductions in developed countries could lower demand for oil and thus international oil prices, leading to more use of oil and greater emissions in developing nations, partially off-setting the original cuts. Current estimates are that full-scale implementation of the Kyoto Protocol may cause 5 to 20 per cent of emissions reductions in industrialized countries to "leak" into developing countries.

**Subsidiary body** A committee that assists the Conference of the Parties. Two permanent subsidiary bodies are created by the Convention: the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). COP-1 also established two temporary bodies: the Ad hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate, which concluded its work on 30 November 1997, and the Ad hoc group on Article 13. Additional subsidiary bodies may be established as needed.

**Square brackets** Typographical symbols [ -- ] placed around text under negotiation to indicate that the language enclosed is being discussed but has not yet been agreed upon.

**Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)** The SBI makes recommendations on policy and implementation issues to the COP and, if requested, to other bodies.  
**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)** The 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.

**Sustainable development** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Technology transfer** A broad set of processes covering the flows of know-how, experience and equipment for mitigating and adapting to climate change among different stakeholders

**Second Assessment Report (SAR)** An extensive review of worldwide research on climate change compiled by the IPCC and published in 1995. Some 2,000 scientists and experts participated. The report is also known as Climate Change 1995. The SAR concluded that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernible human influence on global climate." It also said "no-regrets options" and other cost-effective strategies exist for combating climate change.

**Secretariat** The office staffed by international civil servants responsible for "servicing" the UNFCCC 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.

**Sequestration:** the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and then storage into trees, the oceans or deep underground.

**SF6** Sulphur hexafluoride.

**Signature** The signing by a head of state or government, a foreign minister, or other designated official indicating a country's agreement with an adopted international text, such as a Convention or Protocol, and signalling the country's intention of becoming a Party to the agreement.

**Sink** Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.

**Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)** The SCCF was established to finance projects relating to adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification. This fund should complement other funding mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the entity that operates the financial mechanism of the Convention, has been entrusted to operate this fund.

**Certified emission reductions (CER)** A Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. CERs are issued for emission reductions from CDM project activities. Two special types of CERs called temporary certified emission reduction (tCERs) and long-term certified emission reductions (lCERs) are issued for emission removals from afforestation and reforestation CDM projects.

**CFC** Chlorofluorocarbon.

**CGE** Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

**CG-11** Central Group 11 (negotiating coalition of Central European Annex I parties).

**CH<sub>4</sub>** Methane.

**Chair** (or Chairman, Chairperson, etc.) National delegates elected by participating governments to lead the deliberations of the Convention's subsidiary bodies. Different chairs may be elected for other informal groups. The Chair is responsible for facilitating progress towards an agreement and serves during the inter-sessional period until the next COP.

**Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** A mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol through which developed countries may finance greenhouse-gas emission reduction or removal projects in developing countries, and receive credits for doing so which they may apply towards meeting mandatory limits on their own emissions.

**Clearing house** A service which facilitates and simplifies transactions among multiple parties.

**Climate Change:** Refers to changes in long-term trends in the average climate, such as changes in average temperatures. In UNFCCC usage, climate change refers to a change in climate that is attributable directly or indirectly to human activity that alters atmospheric composition.

**Climate Variability:** Generally refers to natural changes in weather patterns, such as precipitation patterns, in the weather and climate.

**CMS** Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

**CO2** Carbon dioxide.

**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 finalizes and then adopts the text during a plenary session.

**Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities** A term found in the Convention which generally reflects the different economic and social circumstances between developed and developing countries (and possibly between all countries)

**Compliance Committee** A committee that helps facilitate, promote and enforce on compliance with the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol. It has 20 members with representation spread among various regions, small-island developing states, Annex I and non-Annex I parties, and functions through a plenary, a bureau, a facilitative branch and an enforcement branch.

**Common Reporting Format (CRF)** Standardized format for reporting estimates of greenhouse-gas emissions and removals and other relevant information by Annex I Parties.

**Compliance** Fulfilment by countries/businesses/individuals of emission and reporting commitments under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

**Conference of the Parties (COP)** The supreme body of the Convention. It currently meets once a year to review the Convention's progress. 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."

**Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP)** The Convention's supreme body is the COP, which serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The sessions of the COP and the CMP are held during the same period to reduce costs and improve coordination between the Convention and the Protocol.

**Conference room papers (CRPs)** A category of in-session documents containing new proposals or outcomes of in-session work. CRPs are for use only during the session concerned.

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**Resolution** Directives that guide the work of the COP -- opinions rather than permanent legal acts. Unlike decisions, resolutions do not generally become part of the formal body of legislation enacted by the COP.

**Review of commitments** Regular scrutiny by Convention Parties of the adequacy of the treaty's Article 4.2 (a) and (b) outlining developed country commitments to limit greenhouse-gas emissions. The first review took place at COP-1 and led to a finding that progress was not "adequate" -- and so to negotiations that led to the Kyoto Protocol, which has more stringent commitments for developed countries.

**Rio Conventions** Three environmental conventions, two of which were adopted at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), while the third, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), was adopted in 1994. The issues addressed by the three treaties are related -- in particular, climate change can have adverse effects on desertification and biodiversity -- and through a Joint Liaison Group, the secretariats of the three conventions take steps to coordinate activities to achieve common progress.

**Removal unit (RMU)** A Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent. RMUs are generated in Annex I Parties by LULUCF activities that absorb carbon dioxide.  
**Roster of experts** Experts nominated by Parties to the Climate Change Convention to aid the Secretariat in work related to review of national reports of Annex I Parties, preparation of reports on adaptation technology, the transfer of technology to developing countries, and the development of know-how on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

**Rules of procedure** The parliamentary rules that govern the procedures of the COP, covering such matters as decision-making and participation. The COP has not yet formally adopted rules of procedure, but all except one (on voting) are currently being "applied."

**Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from non-Annex I Parties** A panel established to improve the preparation of national communications from developing countries. National communications are an obligation of Parties to the Climate Change Convention.

**Contact group** An open-ended meeting that may be established by the COP, a subsidiary body or a Committee of the Whole wherein Parties may negotiate before forwarding agreed text to a plenary for formal adoption. Observers generally may attend contact group sessions.

**Countries with Economies in Transition (EIT)** Those Central and East European countries and former republics of the Soviet Union in transition from state-controlled to market economies.

**CSD** United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

**Dangerous climate change:** a level of climate change that will have severe impacts on societies, economies and the natural world.

**Decision** A formal agreement that (unlike a resolution) leads to binding actions. It becomes part of the agreed body of decisions that direct the work of the COP.

**Declaration** A non-binding political statement made by ministers attending a major meeting (e.g. the Geneva Ministerial Declaration of COP-2).

**Deforestation** Conversion of forest to non-forest.

**Designated National Authority (DNA)** An office, ministry, or other official entity appointed by a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to review and give national approval to projects proposed under the Clean Development Mechanism.

**Documents** Documents fall into different categories. Official documents are available to everyone and feature the logos of the United Nations and the Climate Change Convention. They carry a reference number, such as FCCC/CP/1998/1. Pre-session documents are available before a meeting, often in all six UN languages. In-session documents are distributed on-site (see CRPs, L docs, Misc. docs, and non-papers). Informal documents are often distributed outside the meeting room by observers.

**Drafting group** A smaller group established by the President or a Chair of a Convention body to meet separately and in private to prepare draft text -- text which must still be formally approved later in a plenary session. Observers generally may not attend drafting group meetings.

**Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT)** An expert group established at COP7 with the objective of enhancing the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention, by analyzing and identifying ways to facilitate and advance technology transfer activities under the Convention

**Emission reduction unit (ERU)** A Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. ERUs are generated for emission reductions or emission removals from joint implementation project.

**Emissions trading** One of the three Kyoto mechanisms, by which an Annex I Party may transfer Kyoto Protocol units to or acquire units from another Annex I Party. An Annex I Party must meet specific eligibility requirements to participate in emissions trading.

**Entry into force** The point at which an intergovernmental agreement becomes legally binding -- occurring at a pre-stated interval after a pre-stated and required number of ratifications by countries has been achieved. The Climate Change Convention required 50 ratifications to enter into force. It now enters into force for each new Party 90 days after that Party ratifies the Convention.

**Environmental Integrity Group** A coalition or negotiating alliance consisting of Mexico, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland.

**ESCAP** Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

**European Union (EU)** As a regional economic integration organization, the EU is a Party to both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. However, it does not have a separate vote from its member states. Because the EU signed the Convention when it was known as the EEC (European Economic Community), the EU retains this name for all formal Convention-related purposes.

**Recommendation** A formal act of the COP which is weaker than a decision or a resolution, and is not binding on Parties to the Convention.

**RED** (Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries). The original term used in the Report of COP 11 (see UNFCCC/COP/2005/5) paragraphs 76-84.

**REDD-plus:** (Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries). The concept found in Bali Action Plan paragraph 1(b)(iii). There is still debate over the purpose of the semi-colon in this phrase.

**Reforestation** Replanting of forests on lands that have previously contained forests but that have been converted to some other use.

**Regional groups** Alliances of countries, in most cases sharing the same geographic region, which meet privately to discuss issues and nominate bureau members and other officials for activities under the Convention. The five regional groups are Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).

**Registries, registry systems** Electronic databases that will track and record all transactions under the Kyoto Protocol's greenhouse-gas emissions trading system (the "carbon market") and under mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism.

**Research and systematic observation** An obligation of Parties to the Climate Change Convention; they are called upon to promote and cooperate in research and systematic observation of the climate system, and called upon to aid developing countries to do so.

**Reservation** An exception or concern noted for the record by a Party in the course of accepting a decision of the COP. No reservations are allowed to the Convention itself, or to the Protocol.

**Reservoirs** A component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored. Trees are "reservoirs" for carbon dioxide.

**Party** A state (or regional economic integration organization such as the European Union) that agrees to be bound by a treaty and for which the treaty has entered into force.

**PFC** Perfluorocarbon.

**Plenary** A formal meeting of the entire COP or one of its subsidiary bodies. Formal decisions or conclusions may only be taken during plenary sessions.

**Policies and measures (PAMs)** A frequently used phrase -- sometimes abbreviated as PAMs -- referring to the steps taken or to be taken by countries to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Some possible policies and measures are listed in the Protocol and could offer opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation.

**ppm or ppb:** parts per million or parts per billion – measure for the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.

**President** The official of a member government 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.

**Protocol** An international agreement linked to an existing convention, but as a separate and additional agreement which must be signed and ratified by the Parties to the convention concerned. Protocols typically strengthen a convention by adding new, more detailed commitments.

**Quantified Emissions Limitation and Reduction Commitments (QELROs)** Legally binding targets and timetables under the Kyoto Protocol for the limitation or reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by developed countries.

**Ratification** Formal approval, often by a Parliament or other national legislature, of a convention, protocol, or treaty, enabling a country to become a Party. Ratification is a separate process that occurs after a country has signed an agreement. The instrument of ratification must be deposited with a "depository" (in the case of the Climate Change Convention, the UN Secretary-General).

**Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism** A 10-member panel elected at COP-7 which supervises the CDM and has begun operation in advance of the Protocol's entry into force.

**Expert review teams** Groups of experts, nominated by Parties, who review national reports submitted by Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC, and the Kyoto Protocol.

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

**Financial Mechanism** Developed country Parties (Annex II Parties) are required to provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties implement the Convention. To facilitate this, the Convention established a financial mechanism to provide funds to developing country Parties. The Parties to the Convention assigned operation of the financial mechanism to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on an on-going basis, subject to review every four years. The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP.

**Fossil fuel:** fuel of biological (plant and animal) origin and largely comprised of carbon and hydrogen which has been stored in the ground for a long time. Coal, gas and oil are all fossil fuels.

**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.

**Fugitive fuel emissions** Greenhouse-gas emissions as by-products or waste or loss in the process of fuel production, storage, or transport, such as methane given off during oil and gas drilling and refining, or leakage of natural gas from pipelines.

**GATT** General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

**GCOS** Global Climate Observing System. GCOS provides a comprehensive set of observations required for monitoring the climate system.

**Global Temperature Potential (GTP)** An index which indicates temperature change as a result of emissions of a greenhouse gases.

**Global warming potential (GWP)** An index representing the combined effect of the differing times greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere and their relative effectiveness in absorbing outgoing infrared radiation.

**Greenhouse gases (GHGs)** The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Less prevalent --but very powerful -- greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

**Group of 77 (G-77) and China** A large negotiating alliance of developing countries that focuses on numerous international topics, including climate change. The G-77 was founded in 1967 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It seeks to harmonize the negotiating positions of its 131 member states.

**GRULAC** Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

**Global Environment Facility (GEF)** The GEF is an independent financial organization that provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment and promote sustainable livelihoods in local communities. The Parties to the Convention assigned operation of the financial mechanism to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on an on-going basis, subject to review every four years. The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP

**GTOS** Global Terrestrial Observing System.

**GWP** Global warming potential.

**HFC** Hydrofluorocarbons.

**"hot air"** Refers to the concern that some governments will be able to meet their targets for greenhouse-gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol with minimal effort and could then flood the market with emissions credits, reducing the incentive for other countries to cut their own domestic emissions.

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization.

**ICCP** International Climate Change Partnership.

**ICLEI** International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives.

**IEA** International Energy Agency.

**Non-Annex I Parties** Refers to countries that have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are not included in Annex I of the Convention

**Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** Organizations that are not part of a governmental structure. They include environmental groups, research institutions, business groups, and associations of urban and local governments. Many NGOs attend climate talks as observers. To be accredited to attend meetings under the Convention, NGOs must be non-profit.

**Non-paper** An in-session document issued informally to facilitate negotiations. A non-paper does not have an official document symbol. It may have an identifying number or carry the name of its author.

**Non-Party** A state that has not ratified the Convention but attends meetings as an observer.

**"No-regrets options"** Technology for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions whose other benefits (in terms of efficiency or reduced energy costs) are so extensive that the investment is worth it for those reasons alone. For example, combined-cycle gas turbines -- in which the heat from the burning fuel drives steam turbines while the thermal expansion of the exhaust gases drives gas turbines -- may boost the efficiency of electricity generating plants by 70 per cent.

**Observers** Agencies, non-governmental organizations, and Governments not Parties to the Convention which are permitted to attend, but not vote, at meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Observers may include the United Nations and its specialized agencies; other intergovernmental organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency; and accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

**OECD** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

**Offsetting:** where an investment is made in a project in another country or other location that will lead to the prevention or removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The reduction or removal in emissions is then offset against an emission made by the investor. In the case of the CDM, an Annex I Party buys an offset in the form of a certified emission reduction for a Non Annex I Party. **OPEC** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

**Miscellaneous documents** (misc. docs) Documents issued on plain paper with no UN masthead. They generally contain views or comments published as received from a delegation without formal editing.

**Mitigation** In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**Montreal Protocol** The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and international agreement adopted in Montreal in 1987.

**MRV** (Monitoring, review and verification) a phrase found in paragraphs 1(b)(i)&(ii) of the Bali Action Plan. The concept has yet to be defined.

**N<sub>2</sub>O** Nitrous oxide.

**National adaptation programmes of action** (NAPAs) Documents prepared by least developed countries (LDCs) identifying urgent and immediate needs for adapting to climate change. The NAPAs are then presented to the international donor community for support.

**NAMA** (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) a phrase found in paragraphs 1(b)(i)&(ii) of the Bali Action Plan. The concept has yet to be defined.

**National communication** A document submitted in accordance with the Convention (and the Protocol) by which a Party informs other Parties of activities undertaken to address climate change. Most developed countries have now submitted their fourth national communications; most developing countries have completed their first national communication and are in the process of preparing their second.

**National delegation** One or more officials empowered to represent and negotiate on behalf of a government.

**IGO** Intergovernmental organization.

**IMO** International Maritime Organization.

**Implementation Actions** (legislation or regulations, judicial decrees, or other actions) that governments take to translate international accords into domestic law and policy.

**INC** Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the UNFCCC (1990-1995).

**In-depth review** (IDR) A process by which an Annex I Party's implementation of the Convention and/or the Kyoto Protocol is technically assessed by international teams of experts.

**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 views, reach a compromise, and produce an agreed proposal, often in the form of a written text.

**Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee** (INC) A committee created to draft the Convention. The INC met in five sessions between February 1991 and May 1992. After the text of the Convention was adopted in 1992, the INC met six further times to prepare for COP-1. It completed its work in February 1995.

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) Established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Programme, the IPCC surveys world-wide scientific and technical literature and publishes assessment reports that are widely recognized as the most credible existing sources of information on climate change. The IPCC also works on methodologies and responds to specific requests from the Convention's subsidiary bodies. The IPCC is independent of the Convention.

**International Climate Change Partnership** Global coalition of companies and trade associations committed to constructive participation in international policy making on climate change.

**IOC** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

**ISO** International Standards Organization.

**Joint Liaison Group (JLG)** Group of representatives of UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD Secretariats set up to explore common activities to confront problems related to climate change, biodiversity and desertification.

**Joint implementation (JI)** A mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol through which a developed country can receive "emissions reduction units" when it helps to finance projects that reduce net greenhouse-gas emissions in another developed country (in practice, the recipient state is likely to be a country with an "economy in transition"). An Annex I Party must meet specific eligibility requirements to participate in joint implementation.

**JUSSCANZ** An acronym representing non-EU industrialized countries which occasionally meet to discuss various issues related to climate change. The members are Japan, the United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, and New Zealand. Iceland, Mexico, and the Republic of Korea may also attend JUSSCANZ meetings.

**JWG** Joint working group.

**Kyoto Protocol** An international agreement standing on its own, and requiring separate ratification by governments, but linked to the UNFCCC. The Kyoto Protocol, among other things, sets binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by industrialized countries.

**Kyoto mechanisms** Three procedures established under the Kyoto Protocol to increase the flexibility and reduce the costs of making greenhouse-gas emissions cuts; they are the Clean Development Mechanism, Emissions Trading and Joint Implementation.

**Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF)** A greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities.

**L. docs** In-session documents that contain draft reports and texts for adoption by the COP or its subsidiary bodies. Usually such documents are available in all six UN languages.

**Leakage** That portion of cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions by developed countries -- countries trying to meet mandatory limits under the Kyoto Protocol -- that may reappear in other countries not bound by such limits. For example, multinational corporations may shift factories from developed countries to developing countries to escape restrictions on emissions.

**Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** The World's poorest countries. The criteria currently used by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for designation as an LDC include low income, human resource weakness and economic vulnerability. Currently 50 countries have been designated by the UN General Assembly as LDCs.

**Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)** A panel of 12 experts which provides advice to LDCs on the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) -- plans for addressing the urgent and immediate needs of those countries to adapt to climate change.

**Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)** The LDCF is a fund established to support a work programme to assist Least Developed Country Parties to carry out, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The Global Environment Facility, as the entity that operates the financial mechanism of the Convention, has been entrusted to operate this fund

**Marrakech Accords** Agreements reached at COP-7 which set various rules for "operating" the more complex provisions of the Kyoto Protocol. Among other things, the accords include details for establishing a greenhouse-gas emissions trading system; implementing and monitoring the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism; and setting up and operating three funds to support efforts to adapt to climate change.

**Meeting** A formal gathering that occurs during a "session." Each session of the COP, for example, is divided into a number of meetings. A meeting is generally scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Mental brackets:** An expression used in negotiations to indicate that the language being discussed has not yet been agreed upon (but is close to agreement and therefore no actual brackets are placed on the text).