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# Introduction to the UNFCCC

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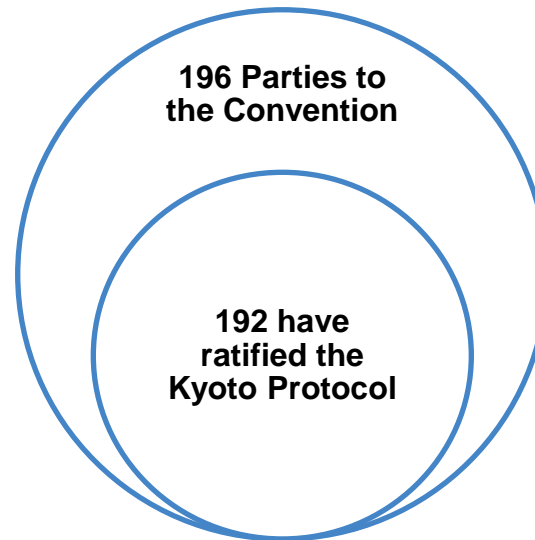
### **In its latest assessment report the IPCC reaffirms that:**

- **Human influence on the climate system is clear**, and recent anthropogenic emissions of green-house gases are the highest in history. Recent climate changes have had widespread impacts on human and natural systems
- Continued emission of GHGs will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems

IPCC, 2014. <<http://ipcc.ch>>

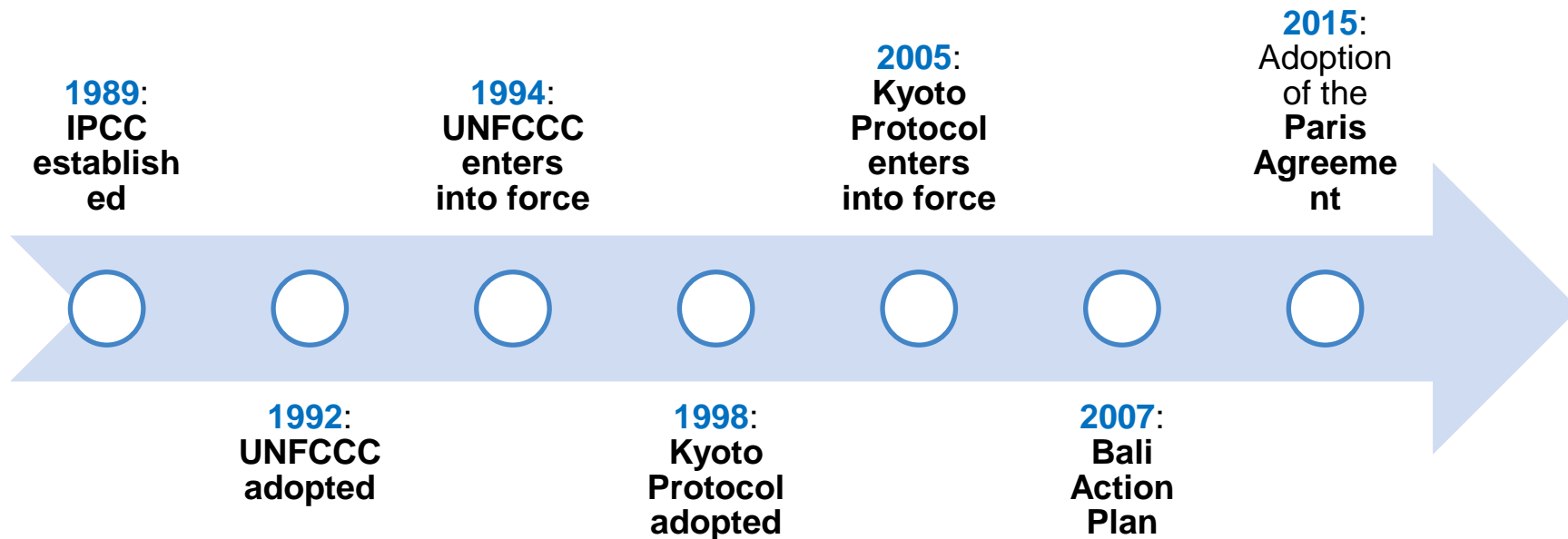


- In 1992, countries joined an international treaty, the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, to cooperatively consider what they could do **to limit average global temperature increases** and the resulting climate change, and to **cope with whatever impacts** were, by then, inevitable



## Quick timeline of the UNFCCC

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Complete timeline is available at <<http://unfccc.int/timeline>>



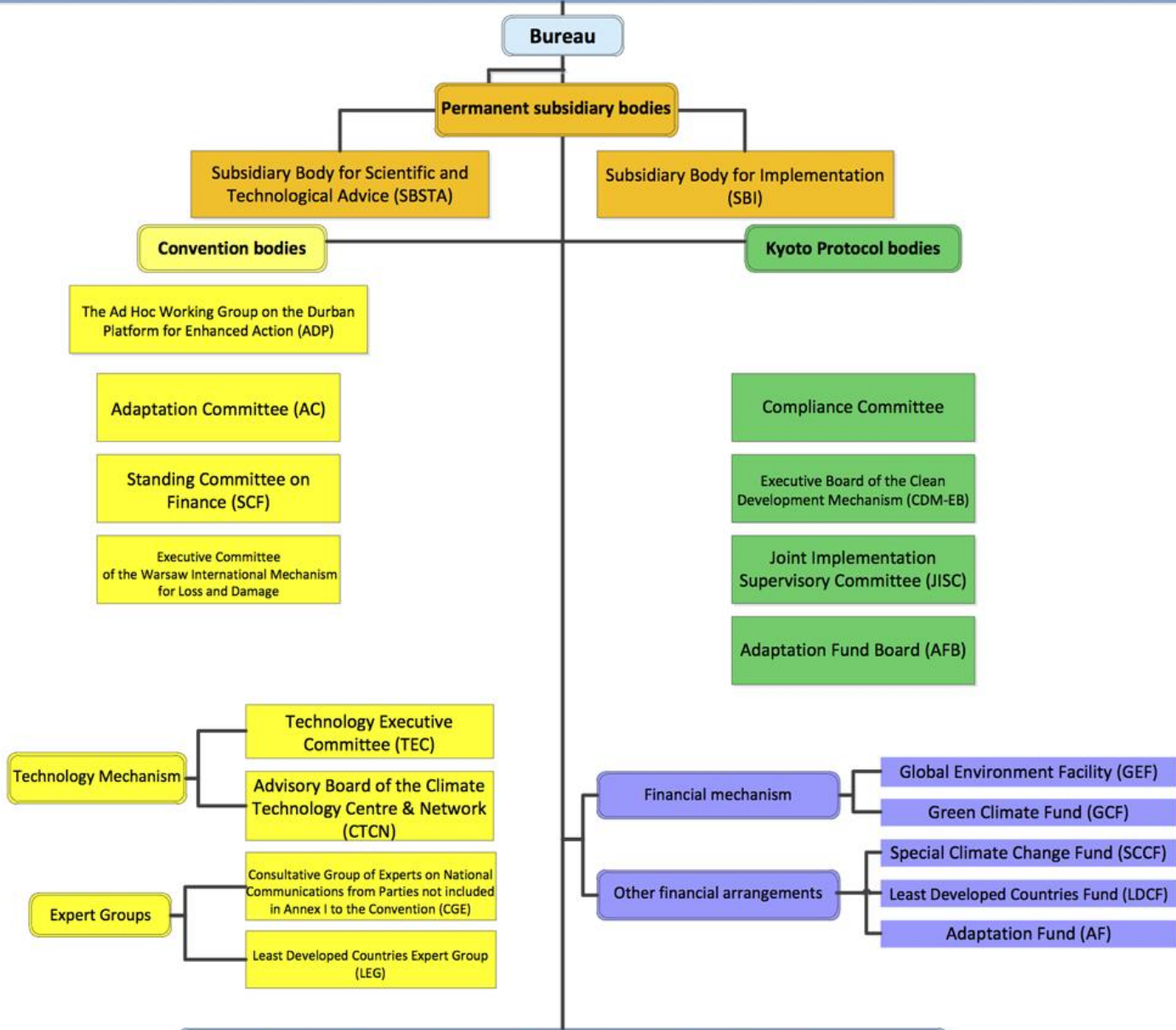
### **In order to achieve the objectives of the Convention, governments under the UNFCCC**

- Gather and share information on GHG emissions, national policies and best practices
- Launch national strategies and measures for reducing GHGs and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change
- Develop support (finance, technology, capacity-building) for developing countries
- Cooperate in preparation for taking mitigation and adaptation measures



# UNFCCC bodies

Conference of the Parties (COP) / Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat



**Mitigation is essential to meet the UNFCCC's objective of stabilizing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. Among others, the Convention:**

- Requires all Parties, taking into account their responsibilities and capabilities, to formulate and implement programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change
- Also requires all Parties to develop and periodically update national inventories of GHG emissions and removals
- Commits all Parties to promote, and cooperate in, the development, application and diffusion of climate friendly technologies





### **Kyoto Protocol:**

- Developed countries to achieve an average emission reduction of 5% compared to 1990 levels over 2008–2012 (the first commitment period)
- In 2012, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted for a second commitment period, starting in 2013 and lasting until 2020 (second commitment period)

### **Paris Agreement**

- Reducing GHG emissions fast enough to achieve a temperature goal of below 2 degrees Celsius, with efforts to even further to 1.5 degrees



- **Mitigation policies by developed countries:** focused mostly on the sectors with the highest emissions, such as energy and transport
- **Market mechanisms** (GHG emissions trading schemes)
  - a) Joint implementation (JI)
  - b) International emissions trading (IET)
  - c) Clean development mechanism (CDM)
- **National appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs):** by developing countries
- **Intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs):** quantified economy-wide emission targets for 2020



## Adaptation to climate change

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- Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities (IPCC, 2007)
- Adaptation is vital to respond to current and future climate risks and vulnerabilities

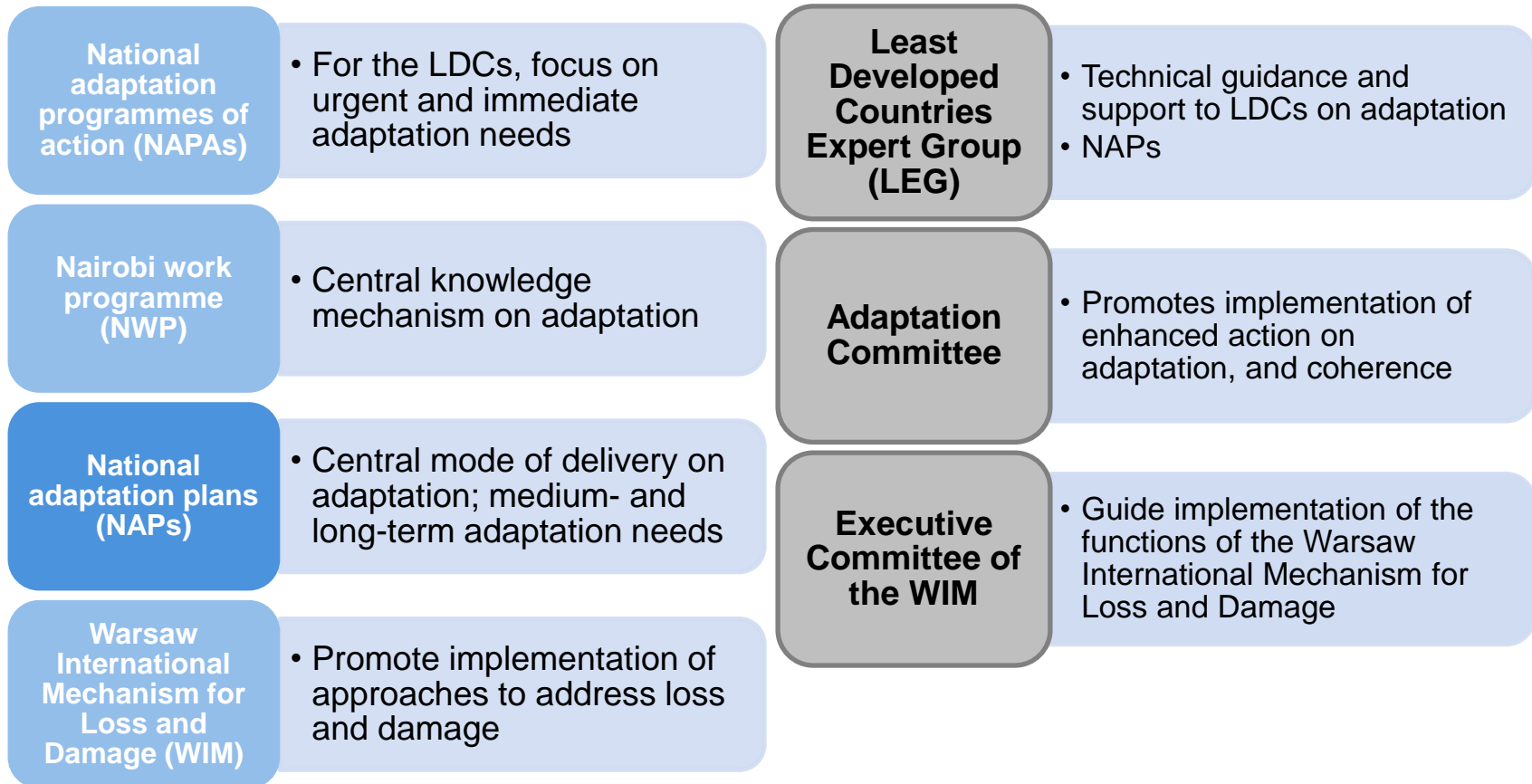
### SPM 2.4 Climate change beyond 2100, irreversibility and abrupt changes

Many aspects of climate change and associated impacts will continue for centuries, even if anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are stopped. The risks of abrupt or irreversible changes increase as the magnitude of the warming increases. {2.4}



## Adaptation – programmes and bodies

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- Financial support is provided to developing countries to address mitigation and adaptation
- To facilitate the provision of climate finance, the Convention established a financial mechanism to provide funds to developing country Parties
- The Standing Committee on Finance assists the COP in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism of the Convention



- **Financial mechanisms**
  - a) Green Climate Fund
  - b) Global Environment Facility
- **Specific funds**
  - a) Adaptation Fund
  - b) Least Developed Countries Fund
  - c) Special Climate Change Fund
- The Convention also invites funding from other sources: bilateral, multilateral, local, private sector, etc.



- **Development and transfer of technologies:**
  - a) That reduce emissions of GHGs
  - b) Adaptation technologies
- **Technology mechanism**
  - a) Climate Technology Centre and Network: an implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism; supports countries to enhance the implementation of climate technology projects and programmes
  - b) Technology Executive Committee: policy arm; addresses policy issues related to climate technology development and transfer



- To enhance the ability of individuals, organizations and institutions in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition to identify, plan and implement ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- At three levels
  - a) Human
  - b) Institutional
  - c) Systemic





### Article 2

This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:

- To limit temperatures well below 2 °C, and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development



### Preamble para # 16

- *Agreeing* to uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, **cities** and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples



### **Under its decision on enhanced action prior to 2020, the COP**

- Welcomes the efforts of all non-Party stakeholders to address and respond to climate change, including those of civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities
- Invites the non-Party stakeholders to scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions and/or to build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and demonstrate these efforts via the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform (<http://climateaction.unfccc.int>)



## Promoting action

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- In addition to negotiations under its different bodies, the UNFCCC brings together different actors and stakeholders on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Means include:
  - a) Engagement of governments and other different actors and stakeholders to showcase action during the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, as well as through activities of various bodies and programmes
  - b) Momentum for Change
  - c) Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA)
  - d) Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NACZA)



## Follow the UNFCCC

- UNFCCC website: <http://unfccc.int>
- UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres on Twitter: [@CFigueres](https://twitter.com/CFigueres)
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