



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

How does this interactive guide work?

The 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (referred to as the UNFCCC or the Convention) provides the foundation for multilateral action to combat climate change and its impacts on humanity and ecosystems. The 1997 [Kyoto Protocol](#) and the 2015 [Paris Agreement](#) were negotiated under the UNFCCC and build on the Convention.

The objective of the UNFCCC is to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”. In pursuit of this objective, the UNFCCC establishes a framework with broad principles, general obligations, basic institutional arrangements, and an intergovernmental process for agreeing to specific actions over time, including through collective decisions by the Conference of the Parties, and as well as other international legal instruments with more specific obligations – such as the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.

This interactive guide offers a starting point aiming to help new readers get an understanding of the United Nations climate change regime, the international negotiating process and the continuous global efforts to combat climate change. The guide provides short summaries of many of the key topics of the UN climate change process, along with visual aids and hyperlinks that guide the reader to the extensive information available on the UNFCCC website.