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## Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Background Guide 2019

Written by: Danielle Curtis and Maxwell Lacey, Directors;  
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# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This year's staff are: Directors Danielle Curtis (Conference A) and Maxwell Lacey (Conference B), and Assistant Directors Andrew Marriott (Conference A) and Michael Oyakojo (Conference B). Danielle's primary degree is in Politics and International Relations with a minor in Social Justice from University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. Danielle recently graduated with a Masters in Common Law from UCD. She is now training as a Barrister at the Honourable Society of Kings Inns, Ireland. Andrew has recently graduated from MacEwan University in Edmonton with a BA, double-majoring in Political Science and Anthropology. He has previously volunteered on staff at NMUN Canada. Max studied an undergraduate degree in Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway, University of London and has a professional background in marketing and communications. Michael is a chartered accountant with a background in finance, economics, and public administration, and professional experience in banking and the public sector.

The topics under discussion for the Conference of the Parties are:

1. The Role of Youth in Achieving the Paris Agreement
2. Capacity-Building for Combating Climate Change in Developing Countries
3. Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change

Adopted in 1992, the UNFCCC is at the forefront of international efforts to combat climate change, which constitutes a significant threat to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. The COP serves as the UNFCCC's governing body.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a [Position Paper](#) by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2019 in accordance with the guidelines in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the General Assembly Department, Dieyun Song (Conference A) and Maximilian Jungmann (Conference B), at [usg.ga@nmun.org](mailto:usg.ga@nmun.org).

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

## Conference A

Danielle Curtis, Director  
Andrew Marriott, Assistant Director

## Conference B

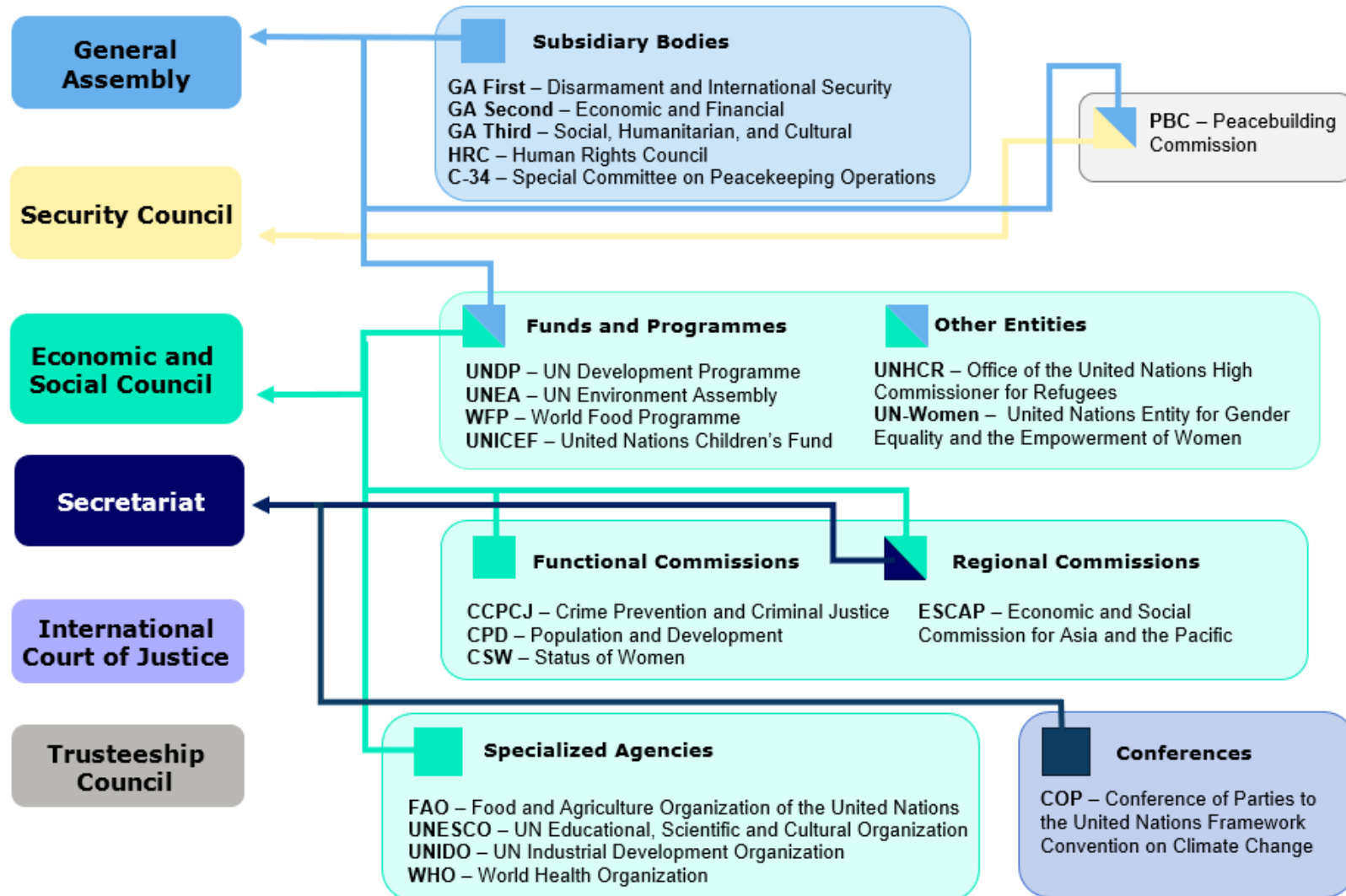
Maxwell Lacey, Director  
Michael Oyakojo, Assistant Director

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## United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



## Committee Overview

### Introduction

The *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC entered into force in 1994 and is the leading international treaty on the environment.<sup>2</sup> 197 parties, including all UN Member States, have ratified the Convention to date.<sup>3</sup> The main objective of the Convention is to guarantee that greenhouse gases (GHGs) are stabilized, which will allow ecosystems to adjust to climate change and ensure that food production remains unthreatened.<sup>4</sup> Today, UNFCCC consists of 28 different bodies.<sup>5</sup> Under Article 7.2 of UNFCCC, Conference of the Parties (COP) acts as the absolute “decision-making body” of the Convention.<sup>6</sup> All States parties to the Convention are represented at COP.<sup>7</sup>

The first COP meeting was held in 1995 in Bonn, Germany.<sup>8</sup> The *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (Kyoto Protocol) was adopted by the third session of COP (COP 3) in 1997 and became effective in February 2005.<sup>9</sup> The protocol created binding emissions reduction targets for developed countries.<sup>10</sup>

The *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* (Sendai Declaration) was adopted in March 2015.<sup>11</sup> The Sendai Declaration’s primary aim is to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks relating to climate change.<sup>12</sup> The *Paris Agreement* was established at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 21).<sup>13</sup> States parties to the Convention have pledged to limit the increase of worldwide average temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius and to not exceed 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.<sup>14</sup> The *Paris Agreement* builds upon UNFCCC to end the distinction between developed and developing countries.<sup>15</sup> Under the Agreement, all States parties must submit inventories of their emissions and document progress made toward achieving their NDCs.<sup>16</sup> Provisions of assistance have been pledged to the most vulnerable countries dealing with the inevitable impacts of climate change through the extension of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.<sup>17</sup>

The 24<sup>th</sup> COP (COP 24) is due to take place from 3-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.<sup>18</sup> COP 24 and 2018 will act as a pivotal year for international climate change diplomacy, as governments move forward in their implementation of the Agreement.<sup>19</sup> In their 2017 annual report, the UNFCCC Secretariat highlighted the need for coherent action under the provisions of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*

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<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*, 2018; UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

<sup>2</sup> Earth Summit, *Background*, 1992.

<sup>3</sup> UN DPI, *Climate Change*.

<sup>4</sup> UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> UNFCCC, *What are Bodies?*, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, p. 10.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>9</sup> COP 3, *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1997.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/69/283)*, 2015.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Earth Summit, *Background*, 1992.

<sup>19</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017, p. 45.

*Development (2030 Agenda), the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Declaration).*<sup>20</sup>

### **Governance, Structure, and Membership**

The work of COP is supported by two bodies within the UNFCCC framework: the Bureau and the Secretariat.<sup>21</sup> The Bureau consists of eleven members, the President, seven Vice-Presidents, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, and the Rapporteur, who are elected at the first meeting of each ordinary session.<sup>22</sup> The Bureau is elected from representatives of States parties nominated by each of the five United Nations regional groups – the African Group, the Asia Pacific group, the Eastern European group, the Latin American and Caribbean group with the Western European and Other Groups, and Small Island Developing States.<sup>23</sup> Members are preliminarily elected for a one year term and cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms.<sup>24</sup> The Secretariat is led by the Executive Secretary.<sup>25</sup> The Executive Secretary is appointed by the Secretary-General of the UN, and the position has been held by Patrician Espinosa since 2016.<sup>26</sup> The Secretariat consists of over 450 staff members who come from over 100 countries with diverse cultural and professional backgrounds.<sup>27</sup> COP Presidency rotates among the five United Nations regional groups.<sup>28</sup> The Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Frank Bainimarama, acted as President for COP 23.<sup>29</sup> The State Secretary in the Ministry of Energy in Poland, Michal Kurtyka, will serve as the President for COP 24.<sup>30</sup>

The Bureau's main responsibility is process management.<sup>31</sup> The Bureau provides advice and assistance on procedural matters arising from COP.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the Bureau provides advice and guidance relating to the continuing work carried out under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the *Paris Agreement*, as well as logistical support of their secretarial sessions.<sup>33</sup> The Bureau also examines credentials of States parties under COP, reviews the list of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking accreditation, and submits a report regarding this to COP.<sup>34</sup> During COP, the Bureau meets on a regular basis and at least once or twice in between sessional periods.<sup>35</sup> The Executive Secretary prepares the agenda for Bureau meetings under the guidance of the Presidency.<sup>36</sup>

The Secretariat mainly provides organizational support and technical expertise in the examination and review of climate change data reported by States parties throughout the implementation process.<sup>37</sup> Furthermore, they manage the registry for nationally determined contributions (NDCs).<sup>38</sup> The registry was established by the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>39</sup> With regard to COP, the Secretariat organizes and supports the running of COP on an annual basis.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 45.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., p. 44.

<sup>22</sup> COP 2, *Adoption of the Rules of Procedure*, 1996.

<sup>23</sup> UNFCCC, *Bureau of the COP Bodies*, 2018.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*, 2018.

<sup>26</sup> UNFCCC, *Executive Secretary*, 2018.

<sup>27</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*, 2018.

<sup>28</sup> UNFCCC, *United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change Handbook*, 2006, p. 25.

<sup>29</sup> UNFCCC, *Members of the COP23, CMP 13, CMA 2.1 Bureau*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>30</sup> UNFCCC, *Michal Kurtyka Biography*, 2018.

<sup>31</sup> UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Handbook*, 2006, p. 25.

<sup>32</sup> UNFCCC, *Bureau of the COP Bodies*, 2018.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*, 2018.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

### *Funding*

The Secretariat receives the majority of its funding from core funds and supplementary funds.<sup>41</sup> The total funding in 2017 amounted to \$98 million.<sup>42</sup> Supplementary funds come from voluntary contributions from a number of donors such as additional governmental grants and corporate donations.<sup>43</sup> States parties provide the core funding, deriving from their “indicative assessed contribution.”<sup>44</sup> In 2017, there was €5.7 million of outstanding contributions from States parties.<sup>45</sup> COP approves the Core and International Transaction Log (ITL) budget for the following year, which is comprised of the costs of implementing the treaties.<sup>46</sup> The ITL budget relates to general operating costs of UNFCCC, such as staff cost, travel expenses, experts and expert groups.<sup>47</sup>

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) was established at COP 16.<sup>48</sup> SCF’s role is to assist COP in exercising its financial mechanism function.<sup>49</sup> Involved in this is utilizing the SCF Forum to improve clarity and coordination of finance for climate change; justification of the financial mechanisms and mobilizing financial resources.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, SCF measures, reports, and verifies support to be provided to developing country States parties.<sup>51</sup>

The SCF Forum was established in 2014 to facilitate ongoing communication between UN bodies and organizations working in the realm of climate change finance.<sup>52</sup> SCF reports on the Forum in its annual report to the COP.<sup>53</sup> For the first time, in 2015, SCF produced recommendations arising from the Forum, providing that there should be greater enhanced coherence and coordination of forest finance.<sup>54</sup> The 2018 Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea on 5 July 2018.<sup>55</sup> The Forum focused on enhancing collaboration between stakeholders in global and national climate finance architecture, as well as the interaction between the two.<sup>56</sup> On 29 October 2018, the SCF will discuss and finalize the workplan of SCF ahead of COP 24 as well as other crucial matters such as a synopsis of climate finance flows and the biennial assessment.<sup>57</sup>

### ***Mandate, Functions and Powers***

Under Article 7.4 and Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure, COP meets on an annual basis unless States parties call an extraordinary meeting.<sup>58</sup> COP’s main function is to review the implementation of the Convention to date and any related legal instruments, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>59</sup> The role of the COP is to review States parties’ commitments to the Convention’s objectives and analyze new scientific findings.<sup>60</sup> Moreover, COP examines the overall implementation of climate change policies.<sup>61</sup> COP acts as a forum to encourage the exchange of information, as well as

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<sup>41</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017, p. 48.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>48</sup> UNFCCC, *Standing Committee on Finance*, 2018.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> UNFCCC, *Review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance*, 2017.

<sup>52</sup> UNFCCC, *Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance*, 2018.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, 2018.

<sup>54</sup> UNFCCC, *Review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance*, 2017.

<sup>55</sup> UNFCCC, *Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance*, 2018.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, 2018.

<sup>57</sup> UNFCCC, *Background paper on the report of the Standing Committee on Finance to the Conference of the Parties, (SCF/2018/19/6)*, 2018.

<sup>58</sup> UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Handbook*, 2006, p. 27.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 29.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 29.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 27.

coordination on measures adopted by the States parties to address climate change.<sup>62</sup> Upon this, COP advises States parties and climate change bodies on the necessary steps for implementation of the Convention and coordinates with SCF to mobilize financial resources.<sup>63</sup> COP also assess all national communications and inventories submitted by States parties.<sup>64</sup> Under rule 9, the agenda for each session is drafted by the Secretariat in agreement with the President.<sup>65</sup> In 2018, COP will convene a facilitative dialogue between States parties.<sup>66</sup> The aim of the dialogue is to allow States parties to measure progress toward the *Paris Agreement's* long-term goals.<sup>67</sup> The assessment process, named the “Talanoa Dialogue,” was launched in January 2018 as a facilitative dialogue for States parties to evaluate their progress toward combating climate change.<sup>68</sup>

The *Paris Agreement* builds upon UNFCCC to minimize distinctions in emission goals between developed and developing countries, with dedicated assistance provided for the most vulnerable countries under an extension of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.<sup>69</sup> The inclusion of loss and damage in the agreement directly intersects with the work under the *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* and highlights the need for stakeholders to address the issue of loss and damage in a more focused manner.<sup>70</sup>

### **Recent Sessions and Current Priorities**

COP 22 saw States parties adopt a timeline of two years to implement the rules and procedures under the Agreement.<sup>71</sup> Developed countries also launched a roadmap to 2020 on reaching the agreed goal of \$100 billion per annum in climate change finance for developing countries.<sup>72</sup> The first Gender Action Plan (GAP) was adopted at COP 23, recognizing the critical role that women play in responding to climate change both at a local and national level.<sup>73</sup> GAP will focus on areas such as gender balance, women’s participation and leadership within the climate change process.<sup>74</sup> The first agreement on agriculture and climate, the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture was also adopted and aims to address emissions, food security and vulnerability within the agricultural sector.<sup>75</sup> The agreement requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), under the guidance of States parties and observers, to address issues related to agriculture through workshops and expert meetings.<sup>76</sup> The decision will assist countries in reducing emissions in agriculture, address food insecurity, and encourages resilience building against the future effects of climate change.<sup>77</sup> This directly correlates the work of COP with work under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on zero hunger, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 15 on life on land.<sup>78</sup> COP 23 also saw the establishment of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.<sup>79</sup> The platform ensures that local communities and indigenous peoples’

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<sup>62</sup> Ibid., p. 27.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., p. 29.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. 29.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 29.

<sup>66</sup> UNFCCC, *2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform*, 2018.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017, p. 14.

<sup>69</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015.

<sup>70</sup> UNFCCC, *2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform*, 2018.

<sup>71</sup> COP 22, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-second session, held in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016*, 2017.

<sup>72</sup> UNFCCC, *Roadmap to US\$100 Billion*, 2015.

<sup>73</sup> COP 23, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-third session, held in Bonn from 6 – 18 November 2017*, 2018, p. 15.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid., p. 19.

<sup>78</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>79</sup> COP 23, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-third session, held in Bonn from 6 – 18 November 2017*, 2018, p. 11.



valuable perspectives on climate change can now be shared with States parties.<sup>80</sup> The platform will be a multi-stakeholder workshop which is co-designed and moderated by SBSTA and representatives of local and indigenous communities.<sup>81</sup> At COP 24, under the guidance of SBSTA, States parties will review recommendations from the initial consultation regarding implementation.<sup>82</sup> The first edition of the *Youth Solutions Report* was also released at COP 23, which highlights the significant role youth can play in achieving a sustainable future.<sup>83</sup> The second edition of the report was launched in 2018 and highlights the continued work of youth in the area of climate change, illustrating projects such as Youth Climate Leaders which seeks to empower youth from an early age to not only combat climate but also educate them on the cross-cutting effects of climate change.<sup>84</sup>

Within the context of the *Paris Agreement*, the 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum of May 2018 concentrated on how to enhance capacities for the implementation of NDCs.<sup>85</sup> The Durban Forum considered the recent *Annual Technical Progress Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building* for 2017 which highlights the needs for parties to the Agreement to explore existing avenues and platforms for capacity-building, while encouraging focus on areas such as the integration of gender and the development of partnerships at a national and sub-national level.<sup>86</sup> Forum attendees considered strategies for developing gender-responsive and human-rights based NDCs which reflected the expertise of indigenous peoples.<sup>87</sup> Moving toward COP 24, the Talanoa Dialogue will see States parties and climate stakeholders engage in a year-long process of discussions and submissions on NDCs.<sup>88</sup> As requested by COP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 Celsius degrees above pre-industrial levels.<sup>89</sup> This report was finalized and approved at the IPCC meeting on 1 October 2018.<sup>90</sup>

## Conclusion

2018 and COP 24 will act as a critical moment with regard to the future of combating climate change.<sup>91</sup> As climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development, and it is imperative that plans of action to address climate change are cross-cutting in nature.<sup>92</sup> The UNFCCC Secretariat has reiterated the importance of aligning plans of action on climate change with the SDGs and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.<sup>93</sup> It is clear from the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum that there is much more to do towards ensuring NDCs are cross-cutting in nature.<sup>94</sup> Decisions of COP 23 also illustrate that combating climate change cannot be achieved without considering issues of gender inequality and food and economic insecurities affecting the most vulnerable communities.<sup>95</sup> Sustainable funding is also critical for the work entrusted to the UNFCCC Secretariat to continue.<sup>96</sup> Between COP 21 to 23, parties to UNFCCC committed to a more transparent and accountable process through the implementation of NDCs, as well as the empowerment of women in society through the adoption of the first Gender Action Plan and a pledge to protect those who are most vulnerable and at risk

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>82</sup> UNFCCC, *The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform becomes Operational at COP 23*, 2018.

<sup>83</sup> UN SDSN, *Youth Solutions Report*, 2017.

<sup>84</sup> UN SDSN, *Youth Solutions Report*, 2018, p. 41.

<sup>85</sup> UNFCCC, *7th Durban Forum on Capacity-building*, 2018.

<sup>86</sup> UNFCCC, *Annual Technical Progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building*, 2017, p. 30.

<sup>87</sup> UNFCCC, *7th Durban Forum on capacity-building*, 2018.

<sup>88</sup> UNFCCC, *2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform*, 2018.

<sup>89</sup> IPCC, *Save the Date: IPCC Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius*, 2018.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017 p. 17.

<sup>92</sup> UNFCCC, *7th Durban Forum on Capacity-building*, 2018.

<sup>93</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017, p. 15.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change 2017 Annual Report*, 2017.

of the effects of climate change.<sup>97</sup> Adaptation to climate change is a process which will require strong and continual commitment from Member States.<sup>98</sup>

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Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Third session. (1997). *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

*The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997 and came into force in February 2005. Its aim was to finance adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are States parties to the protocol. The first commitment period for the protocol began in 2008 and ended in 2012. Like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the protocol is designed to assist countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The protocol extends the parties commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One key matter is that the protocol is based on the principle of differentiated responsibilities, acknowledging that individual countries have different capabilities in combating climate change. To this end, delegates should pay regard to the Adaptation fund, which was established under the protocol.*

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Twenty-first session. (2015). *Paris Agreement*. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

*The Paris Agreement, which came into force in 2015, is a significant historic agreement to combat climate change. The agreement captures all essential elements to drive action forward and covers all areas such as mitigation, transparency system to take stock, adaptation, a focus on loss and damage, as well as support. The agreement also strengthens support to developing nations. This document is key for delegates as COP 24 will see the international community put together the pieces, directions and guidelines in order to make the framework operate in practice.*

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. (1992). *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved 11 July 2018 from:

[http://unfccc.int/key\\_documents/the\\_convention/items/2853.php](http://unfccc.int/key_documents/the_convention/items/2853.php)

*UNFCCC Secretariat was established in 1992 when countries adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The above document will assist delegates in understanding how UNFCCC functions. The Conventions covers key items such as the principles and objectives behind UNFCCC. Delegates should pay particular attention to the sections of the Convention dedicated to discussing the Conference of the Parties in particular Article 7, which states that COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. Article 8 focuses on the Secretariat and Article 11 focuses on the Financial Mechanisms of the UNFCCC.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2006). *Framework Convention on Climate Change Handbook*. Retrieved 20 August 2018 from:

<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/handbook.pdf>

*The handbook will assist delegates navigate the complex architecture of UNFCCC and COP. Chapter 1, in particular, covers the Objectives and the Principles of the Convention. The Handbook also provides a detailed analysis of the bodies under UNFCCC. Delegates should pay particular reference to the sections in Chapter 2, which discuss the role of COP, rules and procedures that COP adheres to. Chapter 3 also provides*

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<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

*delegates with an overview of States parties and observers under the Convention. This Handbook will be an excellent overview for delegates of the work UNFCCC.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2017). *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/resource/annualreport/>  
*In April 2018, UNFCCC launched its first annual report which lays out the key achievements of the body for 2017. The report will act as a key document for delegates in their research, as it highlights the most significant work of the UNFCCC Secretariat and its partners in 2017. Besides looking to the work of the body in 2017, the report also takes a look at 2018 and beyond. In particular, page 44 of the report provides delegates with visuals of the climate change policy landscape and how it has developed since the establishment of UNFCCC in 1992.*

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## I. The Role of Youth in Achieving the Paris Agreement

### Introduction

Climate change has been a central issue at the United Nations (UN) for more than three decades.<sup>99</sup> The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) adopted the *Paris Agreement* (2015) at its 21<sup>st</sup> session as a “landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.”<sup>100</sup> Under the *Paris Agreement*, States parties commit to limit the increase in average global temperature to a maximum of 2° Celsius and strengthen global responses to the risks, dangers, and threats of climate change.<sup>101</sup> The Nature Conservancy, an international environmental organization, predicted that climate change and global warming pose major threats to life on Earth and that their combined human, social, and economic costs are unprecedented in nature.<sup>102</sup> Rising global temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and the melting of glacier ices have dramatically transformed the ecosystems and natural habitats of wildlife.<sup>103</sup>

Youth play a significant role in achieving the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>104</sup> As of 2015, young people, defined as those between 15 and 24 years old, constituted 1.2 billion people or 17% of the global population.<sup>105</sup> The UN acknowledges the critical role of young people as agents for social change, technological innovation, and economic transformation.<sup>106</sup> Young people are important stakeholders in the UN system and are involved in advocacy, mitigation actions, national adaptation and other related activities.<sup>107</sup> Young people will be disproportionately affected by climate change and its future consequences.<sup>108</sup> This is especially true in developing countries, where young people represent an even larger proportion of the population.<sup>109</sup> Climate change accelerates depletion of natural resources, leading to exacerbated competition for jobs among young people in developing countries, who are often dependent on natural resources and climate-sensitive jobs such as farming and animal production.<sup>110</sup>

Since 1998, young people have actively participated in the climate change negotiation process, and continue to engage with the processes, programs, and initiatives related to combating climate change throughout the UN system.<sup>111</sup> Youth NGO (YOUNGO), the youth constituency of the UNFCCC process, provides a global platform for young people to network, debate, and organize themselves within UN climate negotiations.<sup>112</sup> Young people create public awareness, educate, train, mobilize and engage stakeholders to take positive action on climate change through such bodies as the International Youth Climate Movement (a global network of youth organizations) and the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).<sup>113</sup> Speaking at COP 15, Ahmed Djoghla, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity asserted that young people are the citizens and leaders of tomorrow and their involvements are germane to shaping the future.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> UNFCCC, *Handbook*, 2006, p. 16.

<sup>100</sup> UNFCCC, *What is the Paris Agreement?*

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>102</sup> Nature Conservancy, *The Climate Challenge Unites Us*.

<sup>103</sup> Nature Conservancy, *Can Wildlife Keep Up?*

<sup>104</sup> Action for Climate Empowerment Youth Forum, *Purpose of the Youth Forum*.

<sup>105</sup> UN DESA, *Youth Population Trends and Sustainable Development*, 2015, p. 1.

<sup>106</sup> UN DESA, *Youth Participation*, 2013, p. 1.

<sup>107</sup> UNPY, *Fact Sheet: Youth and Climate Change*, 2010, p. 1.

<sup>108</sup> UNICEF, *Unless we act now: The Impact of Climate Change on Children*, 2015, pp.11-12.

<sup>109</sup> UNICEF & International Institute for Strategic Studies, *Climate Change, Violence and Young People*, 2015, p. 4.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>111</sup> UNFCCC, *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*, 2010, p. 1; UNFCCC, *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*, 2010, p. 17.

<sup>112</sup> International Youth Climate Movement, *Youth Climate*.

<sup>113</sup> International Youth Climate Movement, *Youth Climate*; Action for Climate Empowerment Youth Forum, *About the ACE Youth Forum*.

<sup>114</sup> UNFCCC, *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*, 2010, pp. 19-20.

## ***International and Regional Framework***

The *United Nations Conference on the Human Environment* (1972) laid the foundation for the development of multilateral frameworks on the protection of the environment.<sup>115</sup> In 1987, the Brundtland Commission report, *Our Common Future*, expanded on the role of stakeholders, including young people, to achieve sustainable development for present and future generations.<sup>116</sup> This led to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and the adoption of the UNFCCC in 1992.<sup>117</sup> The UNFCCC is an international framework designed to collectively combat climate change and other environmental concerns.<sup>118</sup> Article 2 of the UNFCCC aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations to a stable level that will not impact the climate system, while article 6 focuses on the promotion of training, education, and public awareness on the topic of climate change.<sup>119</sup> Educating and training young people on sustainable environmental practices have great multiplier effects on their productive capabilities as they transfer the knowledge and skills to positive impacts on their local communities.<sup>120</sup>

At COP 3 in 1997, the *Kyoto Protocol* was ratified with legally binding emissions reduction targets for States parties.<sup>121</sup> In 2002, the *Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development* and the *Johannesburg Plan on Implementation* were adopted to provide guidelines for Member States on poverty eradication, improving people's quality of life, clean water, good health, cleaner energy, natural resource conservation and the creation of a more sustainable world for future generation.<sup>122</sup> Section 3 enumerates on how education and public awareness, particularly among young people, play an important role in changing global unsustainable consumption and production patterns for environmentally-friendly practices.<sup>123</sup>

The *Colombo Declaration on Youth* (2014) calls for an increased role for youth in the formulation of policies, the evaluation and implementation of development-related programmes, as well as climate change negotiations.<sup>124</sup> It was the first time Member States sat alongside young people and youth representatives for climate change negotiations and it marked the first major document ratified by the UN that was produced primarily by young people.<sup>125</sup> The 2015 *Paris Agreement* marked the culmination of the works of previous conventions to provide a new direction to combat climate change across the globe.<sup>126</sup> The *Paris Agreement* places an emphasis on voluntary contributions and reporting from Member States on actions and efforts to mitigate global warming.<sup>127</sup> Prepared through a collaborative, bottom-up approach, the agreement created a global goal on climate change adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building.<sup>128</sup> Young people provided valuable inputs into the *Paris Agreement* negotiation process.<sup>129</sup> They participated in the debates, thematic sessions and led high-level initiatives on climate change at climate action conferences.<sup>130</sup> Having been an integral part of the global climate change

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<sup>115</sup> UN Environment, *Declaration on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972, p. 4.

<sup>116</sup> UN WCED, *Our Common Future*, 1987, p. 24.

<sup>117</sup> UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992,.

<sup>120</sup> Climate Analysis, *UNFCCC Article 6: Education, Training and Public Awareness*, 2013.

<sup>121</sup> UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

<sup>122</sup> UN General Assembly, *World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/57/L.83)*, 2002, pp. 1-3.

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8

<sup>124</sup> World Conference on Youth, *Colombo Declaration on Youth: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2014, pp. 4-25.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 4-25.

<sup>126</sup> UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

<sup>127</sup> Climate Focus, *The Paris Agreement*, 2015, pp. 1-6.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 1-6.

<sup>129</sup> UN JFI, *Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>130</sup> UN JFI, *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*, 2010, pp. 17-19.



movement, young people influenced the actions and decisions of global leaders in the build-up to the *Paris Agreement* in 2015.<sup>131</sup> The *Paris Agreement* connects with the overarching objectives of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action.<sup>132</sup>

### ***Role of the International System***

As the primary governance body for the UNFCCC and its successors, the COP holds responsibility for the planning and implementation of intergovernmental negotiations to advance the objectives of its climate change frameworks.<sup>133</sup> The COP's annual conference is the flagship UN conference on climate change and is essential for the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>134</sup> International partnerships among relevant stakeholders, including young people, are imperative in combating climate change as well as achieving the 17 SDGs.<sup>135</sup> Young people are agents of positive change and can possess unique perspectives on important global issues.<sup>136</sup> They engage in planning, policy development, advocacy, mitigation actions, outreach and negotiations with other stakeholders on global issues.<sup>137</sup>

The UN system works with young people and youth-centered organizations globally on climate change, primarily through the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change (JFI).<sup>138</sup> Since 2008, the JFI has been synchronizing the activities of 16 intergovernmental and youth organizations, providing policy coherence and effective representation on climate change.<sup>139</sup> Elsewhere, YOUNGO is the recognized youth constituent within the UNFCCC framework.<sup>140</sup> It hosts the Intergenerational Inquiry on Climate Change as part of the annual Young and Future Generations Day, held at each COP.<sup>141</sup> The JFI coordinates YOUNGO network engagements in high-level briefings with decision makers, trainings, workshops, and climate change conferences.<sup>142</sup> YOUNGO endorses initiatives, makes submissions, attends workshops and addresses the plenary during COP.<sup>143</sup> Also, International Youth Climate Movement, a global network of youth organizations, has been involved in UNFCCC debates, negotiations, climate change advocacy and youth representation since 2005.<sup>144</sup> The Doha Work Programme also promotes effective engagement on education for young people and other stakeholders to appropriately combat climate change.<sup>145</sup>

Moreover, young people have also engaged in the thematic sessions for the execution of the works of the *United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development* (UNCSD).<sup>146</sup> Since 2007, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) has organized roundtables for constructive dialogues on the green economy between government representatives, young people, and civil society.<sup>147</sup> In addition, young people have championed strategic climate change initiatives at programmes and conferences organized by the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) and the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* (UNCCD).<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> Global Citizen, *These Youth Climate Activists are Making the Paris Agreement a Reality in New York City*, 2016.

<sup>132</sup> UNDP, *COP23 – Plan, Access and Deliver*.

<sup>133</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*.

<sup>134</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate Change Conferences*.

<sup>135</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, (A/RES/70/1), 2015, p. 26.

<sup>136</sup> UN DESA, *Youth Participation*, 2013, p. 1.

<sup>137</sup> UNPY, *Fact Sheet: Youth and Climate Change*, 2010, pp. 1-2.

<sup>138</sup> UNFCCC, *Partnerships*.

<sup>139</sup> FAO, *Youth and United Nations Global Alliance*.

<sup>140</sup> Youth Policy, *Youth Climate*.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>142</sup> UNPY, *Fact Sheet: Youth and Climate Change*, 2010, p. 2.

<sup>143</sup> International Youth Climate Movement, *YOUNGO*.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>145</sup> Youth Policy, *Article 6 on Education and the Doha Work Programme. A Double Win for Young People*.

<sup>146</sup> UNFCCC, *Youth Participation in the UNFCCC Negotiation Process*, 2010, p. 17.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 17-18.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 19.

In a related manner, the Climate Change Initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides education, training, and public awareness outreach programs designed for young people to aid understanding in mitigating and combating climate change.<sup>149</sup> UNESCO's Global Action Programme on Education and Sustainable Development educates a wide variety of audiences, including young people, on skills, knowledge, and techniques to empower them on sustainability.<sup>150</sup> The engagement of young people has been commended for enhancing constructive, technical, and policy inputs, and for providing intergenerational equity-based values to the negotiation process.<sup>151</sup>

### ***Education, Training, and Public Awareness on Climate Change***

The important role of climate change education has been consistently recognized by the UNFCCC during recent annual COP conferences.<sup>152</sup> At the 2015 Paris Conference of Youth (COY), education was highlighted as a priority among young people in order to combat climate change.<sup>153</sup> Education deepens the knowledge of young people on sustainable practices which help mitigate climate change impacts.<sup>154</sup> Climate change education has raised awareness among young people and informed behavioral changes to mitigate and adapt to global changes.<sup>155</sup> Education also gives authority to young people in initiating calls to action on climate change.<sup>156</sup> Furthermore, training on disaster and risk reduction practices help mitigate and deepen climate change adaptation strategies, especially for young people, in small islands and communities at greater risk from the effects of climate change.<sup>157</sup>

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education, for instance, have implemented skills-based learning and educational programs designed to foster climate responses among young people in Nigeria.<sup>158</sup> The program marks an example of how international and national actors may collaborate in implementing localized solutions to engaging young people with climate change.<sup>159</sup> Also, in South-West Nigeria, more than one thousand young people were trained on vocational skills acquisition to create green jobs while combating climate change through the Empower Community of People Aspiring-Greatness project in 2012.<sup>160</sup>

Furthermore, through the United Nations Alliance of Climate Change, the UNFCCC Secretariat collaborates with other UN agencies like UNESCO, UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and UN Environment, to promote climate change education, public awareness, and training for young people.<sup>161</sup> UNESCO and COP are at the forefront of providing education and training to societies - including young people - for adequate preparation and adaptation to global climate change realities.<sup>162</sup> UNESCO's Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD) provides technical and vocational training to young people to develop skills and competencies to adapt to changing climatic conditions.<sup>163</sup> In September 2010, the Government of the Maldives partnered with UNESCO to develop customized climate change education, training, and action plans to enhance the

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<sup>149</sup> UNESCO, *Addressing Climate Change*.

<sup>150</sup> UNESCO, *Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development*.

<sup>151</sup> UNPY, *Fact Sheet: Youth and Climate Change*, 2010, p. 2.

<sup>152</sup> UNESCO, *UNESCO at COP23: Climate Change Education*.

<sup>153</sup> COY, *Manifesto!*, 2015, p. 8.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>155</sup> UNESCO, *UNESCO at COP23: Climate Change Education*.

<sup>156</sup> COY, *Manifesto!*, 2015, p. 9.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>158</sup> UN JFI, *Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World*, 2013, p. 44.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 47.

<sup>161</sup> UNFCCC, *United Nations Alliance of Climate Change: Education, Training and Public Awareness*.

<sup>162</sup> UNESCO, *UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change*, 2016, pp. 1-2.

<sup>163</sup> UNESCO, *Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development*, 2010, p. 12.

suitability of livelihood for people living on the islands.<sup>164</sup> Similarly, UNESCO's CCESD supported the Vietnamese Education and Training Ministry in the development of its climate change action plan for public use.<sup>165</sup>

Outside of formal UN processes, young people are an integral part of the global climate change movement and the process of building public awareness around it.<sup>166</sup> In 2015, for example, young people lobbied world leaders to take decisive actions in the build-up to the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>167</sup> Ahead of Earth Day in 2016, young people campaigned in New York City to hold world leaders to account on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.<sup>168</sup>

### **Youth for Climate Action: Best Practices**

Article 6 of the *Paris Agreement* acknowledges the importance of adaptation and mitigation efforts in combating climate change.<sup>169</sup> While mitigation goals focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation goals aim to strengthen resilience, limit vulnerabilities and improve adaptive capabilities to climate change.<sup>170</sup> Across the globe, young people have demonstrated innovative practices to adapt, mitigate, and cope with the realities of global climate change, with a multitude of projects existing at both the international, regional, and national levels.<sup>171</sup> In Ethiopia, for example, 50,000 school children engaged in the Millennium Tree Planting Campaign for Ethiopia's forest reclamation to combat climate change.<sup>172</sup> This led to a drastic reduction in forest loss coverage from 40% to less than 2% currently.<sup>173</sup> Also, the Innovative Climate Change and Environmental Education (CCEE) program trained 2,812 teachers on climate change and sustainable practices in seven regions in Ethiopia, with the program also developing into Somalia.<sup>174</sup>

Similarly, tree planting and child-to-child rainforest preservation education were implemented in Central Guyana to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.<sup>175</sup> The rainforests act as wind break while helping to absorb carbon emissions and purify air for humanity.<sup>176</sup> Young people also championed the community-based El Mouddaa Adaptation Initiative in Morocco to foster sustainable water, land management and farming practices.<sup>177</sup> In 2012, this project won the United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for community-based adaptation strategy to climate change.<sup>178</sup>

Six British high school students undertook an investigative journalism project in The Gambia to raise awareness of human-induced climate change in 2011.<sup>179</sup> The project was successful as it helped raise awareness on climate change and the adoption of sustainable practices.<sup>180</sup> Moreover, the United Kingdom Youth Climate Coalition lobbied the British government and politicians for laws and policies for the creation of green jobs, incentives to make green industries expand and provide training and education for young people to acquire relevant skills for such jobs.<sup>181</sup> Climate change education, training, public

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<sup>164</sup> Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>165</sup> Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>166</sup> Global Citizen, *These Youth Climate Activists are Making the Paris Agreement a Reality in New York City*, 2016.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

<sup>168</sup> Ibid.

<sup>169</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, pp. 4-5.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid., pp. 4-5.

<sup>171</sup> UN JFI, *Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World*, 2013, p. 10.

<sup>172</sup> UNFCCC, *Building Cross-Cutting Skills and Effective Youth Participation: Tree Planting – Ethiopia*.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid.

<sup>175</sup> UNFCCC, *Rainforest Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction – Guyana*.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> UNFCCC, *El Mouddaa Adaptation Initiative – Morocco*.

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

<sup>179</sup> UN JFI, *Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from Around the World*, 2013, p. 27.

<sup>180</sup> Ibid., p. 27.

<sup>181</sup> Ibid., p. 62.

awareness, and tree planting have proved to be effective adaptation and mitigation practices to fight climate change.<sup>182</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Climate change is real and combating it requires a holistic approach, concerted effort, and global collaboration among all stakeholders.<sup>183</sup> Active engagement of young people on climate change is important as, in their position as both stakeholders and future leaders, they must be empowered to champion a new climate change regime.<sup>184</sup> Climate change education has shown to be a vital strategy in engaging young people and influencing them to adopt sustainable practices.<sup>185</sup> Young people are positive change agents, and with the right support system, education, and training, they can contribute immensely to the achievement of the *Paris Agreement* and the SDGs.<sup>186</sup>

### **Further Research**

While further researching the topic, delegates should consider the following questions: How can countries integrate young people into the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*? What effective strategies can COP adopt for climate change education to reach rural youths in less developed and developing countries? How can the UNFCCC increase youth participation in developing countries in the implementation of the *Paris Agreement*? What are the best possible ways to communicate climate change to young people across the globe? How can young people be encouraged to champion climate change issues in their communities?

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<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

*The Paris Agreement is the most recent global framework of the UN climate change regime. It sets the direction and strategy on how countries can combat climate change and global warming. Its long-term goal is to limit global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and restrict its increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The agreement also expects countries to determine, plan, and report progress made toward mitigating climate change and global warming.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *About the Secretariat* [Website]. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/about-the-secretariat>

*This website provides information on the history and operations of the UNFCCC. The Secretariat supports stakeholders in the negotiation process and provides feedback on agreed action plans for implementation. It also assists in the analysis of climate change information and give technical opinion on climate change issues. Moreover, the Secretariat annually organizes and coordinates the COP.*

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<https://unfccc.int/topics/education-and-outreach/good-practices/youth-engagement/building-cross-cutting-skills-and-effective-youth-participation-tree-planting-ethiopia>

*In Ethiopia, tree planting was instrumental in the restoration of forest cover that was lost to climate change. Tree planting is both an adaptation and mitigation strategy for climate*

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<sup>182</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p.10.

<sup>183</sup> UNPY, *Fact Sheet: Youth and Climate Change*, 2010, p. 3.

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.

<sup>186</sup> UN DESA, *Youth Participation*, 2013, p. 1.

*change. Also, climate change education was incorporated as part of the schools' curricula. These measures yielded positive results and they were adopted in Somalia.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *Rainforest Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction* [Website]. Retrieved 13 August 2018: <https://unfccc.int/page/youth-climate-action-good-practices>

*This website outlines the mitigation and adaptation strategies adopted by Central Guyana to combat climate change. Rainforest conservation helps mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and improves the health, hygiene and food nutrition of local communities. It also helps to promote environmental awareness, climate change education, and sustainable resource management. Delegates can find useful examples of national and international stakeholder partnerships within this case study.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2006). *UNFCCC Handbook*. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/handbook.pdf>

*This document gives an overview of the structure of the UNFCCC and COP. It provides the backbone for action plans and strategies to combat global climate change. The provisions are embedded in sustainable development practices. It will also provide guidance and direction for stakeholders in negotiation process and implementation of actions plans.*

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*This newsletter highlights the importance of climate change education to combat climate change. Education is an integral part of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). It also highlights information on youth engagements in the UNFCCC negotiation process. Young people can be agents of positive change and thus bring innovative ideas to UN programmes and projects.*

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*This resolution outlines the recommendations and action plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. It reiterates the linkages between the economy, the environment, and social development in relation to sustainable development. It also recognizes the importance of good governance and collaborations among countries for sustainable development. The resolution encourages Member States to fulfill their commitments as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

*This document is the foundational framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals and targets are the foundation for the action plans and strategies for sustainable development implementation for the next 15 years. SDG 13 focuses on climate change and how to mitigate its impacts on humanity. The implementation of the 17 SDG goals will technically combat climate change and make the world a better and more prosperous place for future generations.*

United Nations, World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our Common Future (Brundtland Report)*. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

*This report provides the generally accepted definition for sustainable development. It outlines the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economy, the environment, and the society. Sustainable development entails adopting strategies to*

*enhance social and economic growth without jeopardizing future availability and use of resources. The document also highlights some of the challenges, conflicts and coping strategies for sustainable development.*

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*The author provides information on the efforts of civil society actors in the actualization of the Paris Agreement. Stakeholders from across civil society mobilized and garnered global support to put pressure on world leaders for concrete actions on climate change. This source provides examples of how environmental NGOs changed their campaign strategy and the results this yielded. Accordingly, by reading this document, delegates can gain a better understanding of how different NGOs push for strengthened climate action.*

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## II. Capacity-Building for Combating Climate Change in Developing Countries

### **Introduction**

While climate change and its associated effects are understood as a global threat, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (1992) (UNFCCC) has consistently recognized the differentiated needs of developing countries and the unique challenges they face in achieving the goals set by successive climate change frameworks.<sup>187</sup> Challenges within developing countries include generally more fragile ecosystems, relatively weaker economies, and underdeveloped infrastructure; these not only place them at a greater risk of damage from the effects of climate change but also create unequal barriers to achieving the objectives of the climate change agenda.<sup>188</sup> This inequality is compounded by the fact that, generally, those developing countries at most risk of climate-based effects are ones that have contributed the least to climate change.<sup>189</sup> COP has recognized that in order for climate objectives to be consistently met, developing countries must be empowered to enhance their capacities in implementing adaptation strategies.<sup>190</sup>

As defined by the UNFCCC, capacity-building is a process that strengthens the abilities of institutions, systems, and individuals to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.<sup>191</sup> COP has defined “mitigation” as efforts designed to reduce emissions into the atmosphere, whereas “adaptation” are actions designed to reduce the negative effects of climate change that have already begun.<sup>192</sup> The COP categorizes capacity-building efforts as individual, institutional, and systemic.<sup>193</sup> Individual capacity-building is focused on increasing the public awareness of climate change through education and outreach.<sup>194</sup> Institutional capacity-building is based around increasing the capacity of organizations to react to and prepare for climate change in the public and private sectors and how these groups cooperate with one another.<sup>195</sup> Systemic capacity-building is the most broad in its objectives, primarily creating ‘enabling environments’ for combating climate change through the removal of legislative barriers, the harmonization of economic and environmental policies, and an increase in transparency.<sup>196</sup> Annex I to the UNFCCC comprises a list of developed countries or those with economies in transition; non-Annex I parties are developing countries.<sup>197</sup> Under the *Paris Agreement* (2015), Annex I parties generally commit to contribute financial, technological, and personnel support to non-Annex I parties in their achievement of climate objectives.<sup>198</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

Although the UNFCCC constituted one of the first multilateral frameworks against climate change, its underlying principles can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) (1971).<sup>199</sup> This early framework included recognition, outlined in Principles 9-11, that developing countries may lack the economic and infrastructural development required to adequately

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<sup>187</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015; UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventh Session, held at Marrakesh from 29 October to 10 November 2001*, 2002.

<sup>188</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventh Session, held at Marrakesh from 29 October to 10 November 2001*, 2002, p. 9.

<sup>189</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2018/5)*, 2018, p. 8.

<sup>190</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, p. 15.

<sup>191</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building: Overview*.

<sup>192</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

<sup>193</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building: Overview*?

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>196</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on Its Seventh Session, Held at Marrakesh from 29 October to 10 November 2001*, 2002, p. 26.

<sup>197</sup> UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

<sup>198</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, pp. 13-16.

<sup>199</sup> UN Environment, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972.

and sustainably protect their environments.<sup>200</sup>This was continued in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future* (1987), which recognized that poverty reduces the capacity of a country to utilize resources sustainably which ultimately contributes to environmental harm.<sup>201</sup>

These early concepts were developed with the adoption of the UNFCCC in 1992, and its emphasis on differentiated requirements between developed (Annex I) and developing (non-Annex I) parties.<sup>202</sup> At the time, it was thought that developing countries required flexibility to continue their economic development without legislative burden and, as such, were given fewer responsibilities to mitigate climate change than their more developed counterparts.<sup>203</sup> The COP, the governing body for the UNFCCC, adopted the *Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC* (Kyoto Protocol) in 1997, which for the first time established binding targets for emissions reductions, although these were again focused on Annex I parties.<sup>204</sup>

This mindset gradually changed, however, moving toward an agreement that all countries should seek to mitigate their environmental impacts and adapt to climate change effects, regardless of their level of development.<sup>205</sup> In order to achieve this, however, mechanisms that enabled developing countries to introduce mitigation and adaptation strategies needed to be strengthened, something which became a primary component of the UN climate agenda.<sup>206</sup> The COP's Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), responsible for outlining strategies for achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, outlined the guiding principles of capacity-building in 2001 with the adoption of the *Marrakech Accords*, which provided 15 definitions on the scope of capacity-building in developing countries.<sup>207</sup> The *Marrakech Accords* also mandated the UNFCCC Secretariat to compile regular comprehensive reviews on capacity-building for the Conference of the Parties, the first of which was presented at COP 10 in 2004.<sup>208</sup> The fourth of these comprehensive reviews will be presented at COP 25, due to be held in December 2019.<sup>209</sup>

The *Cancun Agreements* (2010), adopted at COP 16, included a universal temperature increase limit for the first time while outlining measures to assist developing countries in achieving this.<sup>210</sup> The adoption of the *Paris Agreement* (2015) marked the culmination of a shift toward universal voluntary climate goals regardless of development level.<sup>211</sup> In order to alleviate the additional burdens on developing countries, a greater focus on increasing the capacity of developing countries to ultimately meet these goals was placed at a high priority.<sup>212</sup> Articles 9-11 outline the need for developed countries to financially and technologically contribute to capacity-building initiatives in developing countries.<sup>213</sup> To facilitate this, the *Paris Agreement* requires that all countries submit National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), outlining weaknesses and priority areas in their abilities to combat climate change.<sup>214</sup>

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<sup>200</sup> UN Environment, *Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment*, 1972, p. 4.

<sup>201</sup> UN WCED, *Our Common Future*, 1987, p. 46.

<sup>202</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate Finance*.

<sup>203</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

<sup>204</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>206</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>207</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session, held at Marrakech from 29 October to 10 November 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)*, 2002, pp. 10-11.

<sup>208</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session, held at Marrakech from 29 October to 10 November 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)*, 2002, p. 6; UNFCCC, *Capacity-building: Frameworks*.

<sup>209</sup> UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

<sup>210</sup> *What Happened (and Why): An Assessment of the Cancun Agreements*, Grist, 2010.

<sup>211</sup> UNFCCC, *History of the Convention*.

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>213</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015, pp. 13-16.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Role of the International System**

As the governing body of UNFCCC and its related frameworks, COP maintains primary responsibility for the oversight, planning, and review of the broad objectives of capacity-building in developing countries.<sup>215</sup> As outlined in the *Marrakech Accords*, COP is tasked with regularly monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, *Paris Agreement*, and other climate frameworks.<sup>216</sup> The SBI regularly assesses the work undertaken on capacity-building through comprehensive reviews.<sup>217</sup> These reviews draw on the national communications submitted by individual countries to the UNFCCC Secretariat alongside submissions from fellow UN agencies and project partners.<sup>218</sup>

In 2011, the SBI also established the Durban Forum, an annual event held during each COP to bring together relevant parties to share best practices in regard to capacity-building in developing countries.<sup>219</sup> Following the adoption of the *Paris Agreement*, the SBI were also instrumental in the formation of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB).<sup>220</sup> The PCCB is responsible for addressing the gaps in capacity-building in developing countries, with specific reference to the objectives of the *Paris Agreement* while building on the work of its predecessors.<sup>221</sup> A primary part of the PCCB's mandate is improving coherence and coordination between various capacity-building actors and in streamlining processes that have accumulated through the previous frameworks.<sup>222</sup> A major component of the work undertaken at COP 23, held in Bonn in 2017, was the harmonization of the shared work between the Durban Forum and PCCB.<sup>223</sup> These process of greater co-operation will be assessed at the upcoming COP 24 conference in December 2018.<sup>224</sup> A thematic priority of COP 23, as shown in the adoption of the *Talanoa Dialogue* (2017), was the rapid deployment of actions to ensure parties are on course to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).<sup>225</sup> As such, both the Durban Forum and PCCB focused their 2018 workflow on the topic of assessing capacities for the implementation of NDCs.<sup>226</sup>

While the COP oversees the broad governance of capacity-building, the implementation of these goals falls to partners within the UN system, national governments, and NGOs.<sup>227</sup> The financial mechanisms facilitating the transfer of funds to developing countries, including for capacity-building, are largely managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).<sup>228</sup> Specifically, the GEF administers the specialized Least Developed Countries Fund, designed to support developing countries in the implementation of their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).<sup>229</sup> The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) operates multiple global capacity development projects.<sup>230</sup>

Both the World Bank and the GEF, alongside private development funds, provide funding for national & regional projects on environmental capacity-building, with the administration of these being overseen by

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<sup>215</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session, held at Marrakech from 29 October to 10 November 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)*, 2002, pp. 13-14.

<sup>216</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building: Frameworks*.

<sup>217</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>218</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>219</sup> UNFCCC, *Durban Forum: Background*.

<sup>220</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-second session, held in Marrakech from 7 to 8 November 2016 (FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1)*, 2002, pp. 5-6.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>222</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>223</sup> UNFCCC, *The 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on capacity-building: summary report by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2018/13)*, 2018, p. 4.

<sup>224</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.

<sup>225</sup> COP 23, *Key Achievements from COP23*, 2018.

<sup>226</sup> UNFCCC, *The 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on capacity-building: summary report by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2018/13)a*, 2018, p. 1.

<sup>227</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building Portal*.

<sup>228</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

<sup>229</sup> UNFCCC, *Least Developed Countries (LDC) Fund*.

<sup>230</sup> UN DESA, *Where we work*.

relevant national governments.<sup>231</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) undertakes work in not only providing project support for capacity-building but also in building greater policy coherence through what can be a legislatively confusing assortment of multilateral agreements, including through their African, Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Agreements (ACP-MEA) programme.<sup>232</sup> Both the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) take a lead on providing practical training for individuals in developing countries.<sup>233</sup> UNITAR's Green Development and Climate Change Programme, for example, hosts multiple training projects both in-country and online, designed to more efficiently share institutional best practice.<sup>234</sup> The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) leads the Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) initiative, designed to support systemic points of synergy and co-operation among national governments around climate policy.<sup>235</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) co-operates with UNFCCC in building technical healthcare capacity in developing countries as well as providing guidance on legislation designed to alleviate climate-related health risks.<sup>236</sup> These international actors are provided with localized support through the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres, designed to better harmonize the objectives of the variety of regional initiatives.<sup>237</sup>

Private businesses and academic institutions also contribute to capacity-building in developing countries.<sup>238</sup> The COP, for example, hosts regular forums with climate technology businesses, designed to empower these private organizations in the development of climate technology solutions.<sup>239</sup> Public-private partnerships are also instrumental in the development of climate infrastructure with, for example, the COP frequently facilitating forums with global energy sector leaders designed to incorporate their expertise into capacity-building activities.<sup>240</sup> Academic experts will also contribute to UNFCCC expert bodies, such as the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.<sup>241</sup>

### **Systemic and Institutional Environment for Combating Climate Change**

Developing countries face a number of unique challenges at the institutional and systemic levels that impact their abilities to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC and the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>242</sup> These pillars do not exist in a vacuum but serve as mutually reinforcing factors that can impact one another.<sup>243</sup> Many non-Annex I parties have reported that their governmental infrastructures lack the capacity, equipment, and knowledge to implement legislation, which will in turn affect their ability to meet their NDCs to the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>244</sup>

At the broader systemic, an enabling environment of national regulatory, legislative, and financial structures that reduce roadblocks to climate action is consistently highlighted as a long-term requirement.<sup>245</sup> Structurally, developing countries often lack strong climate change secretariats or 'focal

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<sup>231</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building Portal*.

<sup>232</sup> UN Environment, *Environmental change through capacity-building*, 2017.

<sup>233</sup> UNITAR, *Green Development and Climate Change Programme*; UNESCO, *Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness*, 2016.

<sup>234</sup> UNITAR, *Green Development and Climate Change Programme*; UNIDO, *E-learning services*.

<sup>235</sup> UNDP, *Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD)*.

<sup>236</sup> WHO, *Strengthen health systems*; WHO, *Advocate and raise awareness*.

<sup>237</sup> UNFCCC, *Regional Collaboration Centres*.

<sup>238</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

<sup>239</sup> UNFCCC, *Boosting climate technology innovation through entrepreneurship*, 2018.

<sup>240</sup> Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, *Global Electricity Leaders at COP 22*.

<sup>241</sup> UNFCCC, *Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE)*, UNFCCC, *Least Developed Countries Expert Group*.

<sup>242</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

<sup>243</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>244</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2016/4)*, 2016, p. 5.

<sup>245</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

points' that would allow for cohesive implementation of adaptation and mitigation efforts.<sup>246</sup> Even in those countries that have climate change ministries, they are often understaffed, underequipped, and lack cohesion with other departments, with these issues even more pronounced at the municipal and local governmental level.<sup>247</sup> Partnerships between international actors and national governments can reduce these systemic roadblocks, such as the UNDP's Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) initiative.<sup>248</sup> The CCCD aims to provide country-specific support in creating systemic "synergies" within government in order to strengthen national responses to climate change.<sup>249</sup>

At the legislative level, developing countries are increasingly incorporating climate considerations into their national development strategies, alongside a strengthening of environmental legislation.<sup>250</sup> Kenya, for example, has outlined a legislative plan designed to integrate climate change actions throughout both national and local governments in an effort to provide greater cohesion to its climate adaptation activities.<sup>251</sup> COP has also reported that a lack of legislative transparency and project monitoring places the possibility of future climate finance at risk.<sup>252</sup> The GEF's Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency was established in order to provide support to national governments in building legislative transparency, particularly around those areas related to climate finance.<sup>253</sup> UNDP has also instituted a multi-region program that brings together ministers from a number of developing countries to participate in workshops and training sessions on creating efficiency around the national budgeting needed to combat climate change.<sup>254</sup>

The GEF and other international actors have also sought to provide support in increasing the institutional capacity of national governments.<sup>255</sup> Staff and technical capacity are frequent barriers for developing countries in achieving climate objectives.<sup>256</sup> A shortage of local technical experts has been reported as hindering both the collection of data and the implementation of technology-based adaptation projects.<sup>257</sup> NAPs are essential in allowing countries to assess their vulnerabilities to climate change, including geographical and agricultural analyses.<sup>258</sup> Developing countries face a large burden in undertaking the required data analysis and risk assessment, however, therefore limiting the effectiveness of their NAPs and the actions undertaken as a result of them.<sup>259</sup> These efforts can often be uncoordinated and undertaken outside of a required national research and strategy structure.<sup>260</sup> Sudan, for example, highlighted a limitation in their national technical expertise and the importance of building partnerships between national meteorologists and geographers with international expert organizations.<sup>261</sup>

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<sup>246</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its seventh session, held at Marrakech from 29 October to 10 November 2001 (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1)*, 2002 p. 11.

<sup>247</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 10.

<sup>248</sup> UNDP, *Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD)*.

<sup>249</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>250</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2016/4)*, 2016, pp. 5-6.

<sup>251</sup> Republic of Kenya, *Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030*, 2016, pp. 11-12.

<sup>252</sup> UNFCCC, *Enabling environments and policy frameworks for effective deployment of climate finance*.

<sup>253</sup> GEF, *Capacity-building initiative for transparency*, 2018.

<sup>254</sup> UNDP, *Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change*.

<sup>255</sup> GEF, *Capacity-building initiative for transparency*, 2018.

<sup>256</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 11.

<sup>257</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>258</sup> UNFCCC, *National Adaptation Plans: Technical guidance for the national adaptation plan process*, 2012, p. 11.

<sup>259</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 10.

<sup>260</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 11.

<sup>261</sup> Republic of the Sudan, *National Adaptation Plan*, 2016, p. 32.

There have been a number of initiatives created within the UN system in order to strengthen institutional capacity.<sup>262</sup> The GEF and the GCF provide funding to national governments on projects to improve institutional capacity; in Ethiopia, for example, the GCF has provided funding to strengthen the national climate change ministry's ability to conduct data analysis and to improve coordination between external project partners.<sup>263</sup> UNITAR operates in-country technical workshops to build national knowledge, alongside the library of e-resources available through their Green Development and Climate Change Programme.<sup>264</sup> Alongside this, a number of Annex I parties, as well as regional blocs such as the European Union, regularly contribute financial and personnel support for developing countries in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, as well as providing further e-learning platforms to share institutional best practice.<sup>265</sup>

Government ministries may often face difficulties in even negotiating at international climate meetings due to personnel shortages.<sup>266</sup> In its 2016 National Communication to the UNFCCC, for example, Chile highlighted that their most pressing capacity shortage was the need to expand its negotiating delegation, establish sectoral experts within relevant government ministries, and co-ordinating these efforts to feed up to negotiations at the international level.<sup>267</sup> Organizations such as the European International Institute for Environment and Development have established in-country projects designed to assist negotiators and policy-makers to better influence UNFCCC processes.<sup>268</sup>

Despite the work it undertakes, the international system around capacity-building has also faced criticism.<sup>269</sup> With various frameworks running in parallel with one another, there is an accumulation of processes, projects and objectives that may cause a fragmentation of capacity-building activities, thereby limiting its effectiveness.<sup>270</sup> Despite an understanding that capacity-building is a cross-cutting issue, there can appear to be a lack of coordination and coherence amongst various thematic bodies which may create duplicitous work or fragment financial and human resources.<sup>271</sup> This was recognized by the PCCB, which emphasized the work of streamlining operations across the UN system at the top of its 2016-2020 workplan.<sup>272</sup>

### ***Building Individual Capacity***

Even with systemic and institutional improvements, combating climate change is still dependent on the individuals undertaking those actions.<sup>273</sup> Improving awareness of climate change, as well as educating people on the creation of climate solutions, is important in building developing countries' knowledge bases as well as for gaining public support for climate legislation.<sup>274</sup> Article 12 of the *Paris Agreement* recognizes the need for greater education, public awareness, and access to climate information for those in developing countries.<sup>275</sup> The *Action for Climate Empowerment Guidelines* (2016), developed between UNESCO and the UNFCCC, outline the multiple aspects of this, including formal education, public

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<sup>262</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building Portal*.

<sup>263</sup> Ibid.

<sup>264</sup> UNITAR, *Green Development and Climate Change Programme*; UNFCCC, *Capacity-building Portal*.

<sup>265</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building Portal*; UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2016/4)*, 2016, p. 5.

<sup>266</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 11.

<sup>267</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>268</sup> IIED, *Workshops that build climate negotiators' capacity: European Capacity Building Initiative training and support programme*.

<sup>269</sup> World Resources Institute, *How to strengthen the international architecture for capacity building to support the post-2020 climate regime*, 2015, p. 2.

<sup>270</sup> Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid., p. 15.

<sup>272</sup> UNFCCC, *Workplan – Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)*.

<sup>273</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the big picture*.

<sup>274</sup> Ibid.

<sup>275</sup> Ibid.



awareness, practical training and improving public access to information.<sup>276</sup> These cross-cutting efforts serve to empower local populations and, in turn, enable solutions and expertise to come from local sources instead of a dependency on foreign support.<sup>277</sup>

Developing countries have reported considerable progress in incorporating climate change awareness into national curricula, as well as launching university programmes around the environmental sciences.<sup>278</sup> The effectiveness of these efforts are hampered, however, through the existing barriers to formal education for large percentages of people in developing countries, as well as the relative infrequency of international resources being translated into local languages.<sup>279</sup> Formal education can be complimented, however, with the use of broader public awareness initiatives.<sup>280</sup> The Republic of Albania, for example, has highlighted their success on developing awareness campaigns on topics as diverse as sustainable usage of water and energy, the minimization of heat's negative effects, and the sustainable uses of plastics.<sup>281</sup>

In terms of practical training, UNESCO is one of many international actors offering local training to fishing and rural communities.<sup>282</sup> Through its support of the Sandwatch programme, it offers localized guidance on adapting to the effects of climate change in coastal regions and empowers local actors to formulate sustainable approaches to address them.<sup>283</sup> Alongside similar efforts, the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) enables agricultural workers to share experiences and practical guidance on climate adaptation methods in developing countries.<sup>284</sup> The ALM operates an expansive online portal designed to share global best practice through the collection of data and reports from national governments and academic researchers.<sup>285</sup>

COP has consistently noted, however, that broader access to information is required.<sup>286</sup> The integration of a broader spectrum of viewpoints into climate change adaptation, including greater incorporation of gender viewpoints and indigenous people, is necessary in order to create a long-term solution to climate education.<sup>287</sup> Most recently, the Durban Forum has also highlighted the importance of awareness-building of NDCs at a local level, including teachers unions and local community leaders.<sup>288</sup>

## **Conclusion**

As highlighted by the 2018 Durban Forum, preparing a universal response to climate change requires effective translation of climate plans that are sensitive to the unique circumstances of developing countries.<sup>289</sup> Although the progress made by multilateral climate agreements has been significant, an

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<sup>276</sup> UNESCO, *Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>277</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>278</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2017/3)*, 2017, p. 5.

<sup>279</sup> UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report 2016*, 2016; UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2018/5)*, 2018, pp. 8-9.

<sup>280</sup> UNESCO, *Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>281</sup> Republic of Albania, *Third National Communication of the Republic of Albania on Climate Change*, 2016, pp. 178-183.

<sup>282</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building portal*.

<sup>283</sup> Sandwatch Foundation, *About us*.

<sup>284</sup> UNDP-ALM, *About ALM*.

<sup>285</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>286</sup> UNFCCC, *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (FCCC/SBI/2018/5)*, 2018, pp. 8-9.

<sup>287</sup> UNFCCC, *The 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on capacity-building: summary report by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2018/13)*, p. 7.

<sup>288</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12.

<sup>289</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

unequal international capacity will provide unequal results in reaching the goals of these agreements.<sup>290</sup> Despite a significant increase in systemic coordination, policy coherence, and development projects since then, there continue to be significant capacity gaps in developing countries that remain as barriers in empowering these countries to reach the full potential of their actions in combating climate change.<sup>291</sup> Through its role as the primary governance mechanism of multilateral climate actions, COP serves as a key focal point in the harmonization of local and international actions toward the building of this capacity in developing countries.<sup>292</sup>

### **Further Research**

As delegates prepare for the conference, they should consider the following questions: How can COP strengthen its work on capacity-building in developing countries? How can these activities balance the parallel needs of developed countries offering support while also building self-capacity within local populations? How can the current climate change agenda, with many concurrent agreements and processes, better streamline its work on capacity-building to ensure greater policy coherence and coordination? How will the upcoming session of COP impact discussions on capacity-building?

## **Annotated Bibliography**

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[http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

*As the primary international framework for climate change moving forward, delegates must be familiar with the details and objectives of the Paris Agreement, including how it differs and builds upon its predecessors. Particular attention should be paid to articles 9-11, which outline the broad mechanisms under which developed countries are required to assist less developed countries in their realization of these objectives. These include language on financial assistance, technology transfers and, most importantly, the concept of capacity-building. This is paramount for delegates to understand the foundational legislation upon which all current capacity-building activities are based upon.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2016). *Action for Climate Empowerment: Guidelines for accelerating solutions through education, training and public awareness* [Report]. Retrieved 12 August 2018 from:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/action\\_for\\_climate\\_empowerment\\_guidelines.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/action_for_climate_empowerment_guidelines.pdf)

*A report compiled as a collaboration between UNESCO and the UNFCCC, designed to provide national governments with advice on implementing teaching and public awareness strategies into their activities on climate change. This includes a detailed overview on implementing 'action for climate empowerment' throughout national curricula and media relations. Delegates can find specific detailed examples as to how individual capacity can be increased through educational and awareness campaigns.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *Capacity-building: Frameworks* [Website]. Retrieved 9 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/workstreams/framework-for-capacity-building>

*This page provides a succinct and clear history of the UN frameworks that underpin activities on capacity-building in developing countries. Featuring an overview of the chronology of documents that have led to the current international architecture, as well as a brief explanation of the reporting and reviewing processes around it. Delegates should*

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<sup>290</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventh Session, held at Marrakesh from 29 October to 10 November 2001*, 2002, p. 9.

<sup>291</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/SBI/2018/3)*, pp. 4-5.

<sup>292</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate: Get the Big Picture*.

also examine the comprehensive reviews hosted at this page and their analysis of the history of capacity-building activities.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *Capacity-building portal* [Website]. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <http://unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/activities.html>

*An interactive map that allows users to quickly and efficiently see where current and historical capacity-building projects are being undertaken. This is a very useful database that provides information on a country-by-country basis as to individual projects, their objectives, their timeframes and the responsible body overseeing them. In a subject area that can be complex at times, this allows delegates to see the individual details on 'on-the-ground' projects and how they fit into the wider organization.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (n.d.). *Climate: Get the Big Picture* [Website]. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <http://bigpicture.unfccc.int/>

*This guide, prepared by the UNFCCC, is an excellent resource for understanding the broad 'big picture' of the climate change regime within the United Nations, including the foundational documents, the structure of the various organizations, and the topics of work within it. It is particularly useful as a starting point for delegates new to the topic and for their understanding of where capacity-building fits within the overall mechanism of the UNFCCC and COP. The links to relevant bodies and documents should be utilized for further research.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2002). *Report of the Conference of Parties on its seventh session, held at Marrakech from 29 October to 10 November 2001* (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1). Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop7/13a01.pdf>

*The set of decisions adopted at the seventh session of COP were intended to provide greater operational detail to the Kyoto Protocol. Of most interest will be decision 2/CP.7 and its associated annex, which provide the fundamental definitions of capacity-building that have underlined all work on the topic in the subsequent years. The annex provides fifteen categories of capacity-building efforts in developing countries and continues to outline the methods of implementation for them. Although later documents have expanded on this decision, it is imperative that delegates have a thorough understanding of what is the fundamental document in relation to capacity-building in developing countries.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol* (FCCC/SBI/2018/3) [Report]. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/documents?f%5B0%5D=symbol%3Afccc/sbi/2018/3>

*Adopted at the most recent session of the SBI in 2018, this synthesis report compiles the most recent work of the various bodies for capacity-building working under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. This contains succinct reports on recent activities, priorities, and objectives of the bodies working directly with capacity-building efforts, including those related to climate financing. Most importantly, this allows delegates to understand the myriad bodies working to build capacity in developing countries, how their objectives intersect, and where they fit within the UN climate regime.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries* (FCCC/SBI/2018/5) [Report]. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/documents?f%5B0%5D=symbol%3Afccc/sbi/2018/5>

*The most recent synthesis report for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under the requirements of the Marrakech Accords, this document compiles the National Communications, biennial reports and National Adaptation Plans to provide a contemporary review on the status of capacity-building in developing countries. This report includes content on emerging trends in the sector, continuing issues for developing countries alongside areas of progress. This is useful for delegates in order to understand*

*the most recent analysis of the state of capacity-building projects, particularly in the lead up to COP 24.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *The 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on capacity-building: summary report by the secretariat (FCCC/SBI/2018/13)*. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/documents?f%5B0%5D=symbol%3Afcc/sbi/2018/13>

*This report synthesizes the various discussions and interventions of the most recent Durban Forum on capacity-building, held in May 2018, and will be presented at the upcoming COP in December 2018. It contains summaries of the key messages of the Forum, whose annual focus at this session was supporting developing countries NDCs. This is beneficial in understanding both how the Forum operates and the most current trends and thoughts coming from one of capacity-building's primary discussion bodies.*

World Resources Institute. (2015). *How to strengthen the international architecture for capacity-building to support the post-2020 climate regime*. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: [http://wriorg.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/How\\_to\\_Strengthen\\_the\\_Institutional\\_Architecture\\_for\\_Capacity\\_Building\\_to\\_Support\\_the\\_Post-2020\\_Climate\\_Regime.pdf](http://wriorg.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/How_to_Strengthen_the_Institutional_Architecture_for_Capacity_Building_to_Support_the_Post-2020_Climate_Regime.pdf)

*This report details both the history of capacity-building initiatives within the international system and how the various bodies and agencies associated with the topic correspond – or don't correspond – with one another. Whilst delegates should be aware that this report comes from outside of the UN system, and as such contains its own biases and conclusions, it is a valuable outside perspective on the weaknesses and 'next steps' for effective capacity-building. In providing a critical voice, this report allows delegates to question areas for future action on the part of the UN and how the international system can better promote and facilitate capacity-building in developing countries.*

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### III. Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change

#### **Introduction**

A changing climate threatens the survival of humanity and provides a significant impediment to reducing inequality and achieving sustainable development for all.<sup>293</sup> Climate change can negatively affect the availability and stability of the food supply, reduce the safety of food and water, and exacerbate extreme poverty levels that limit access to food.<sup>294</sup> Agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contributes to climate change through deforestation, the production of livestock, and the administration of nutrients and fertilizers in the soil.<sup>295</sup> Shifting to sustainable agricultural practices is vital to meet the ecological, societal, and institutional challenges of the future and is a valuable means of climate change mitigation.<sup>296</sup>

Effective and inclusive development and poverty reduction cannot be achieved without sustainable agriculture.<sup>297</sup> 750 million people, including almost two-thirds of those in extreme poverty, earn their livelihoods through agriculture.<sup>298</sup> The linkages between climate change and sustainable development are strong.<sup>299</sup> Supporting small-scale farmers, introducing sustainable agriculture, ending poverty, ensuring human health, and addressing climate change are all aspects of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda).<sup>300</sup> A transition to sustainable agriculture is a global undertaking that requires the mobilization of significant economic and political resources.<sup>301</sup> Climate finance is an essential approach that encompasses the economic resources required for mitigating and adapting to climate change and the financial flows to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that enable them to act.<sup>302</sup> The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) (1992) is directly addressing climate change and sustainable agriculture within its work and the work of its bodies.<sup>303</sup>

#### **International and Regional Framework**

In 1992, UNFCCC was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.<sup>304</sup> Article 2 of the Convention affirms the importance of protecting food production, while Article 4 names agriculture as a crucial sector for action.<sup>305</sup> The Earth Summit also saw several other developments, including the creation of *Agenda 21*, a global plan of action on sustainable development that the United Nations (UN), other multilateral organizations, and individual governments can implement.<sup>306</sup> COP is the supreme governing body of UNFCCC Secretariat and meets annually to review and make decisions about the implementation of the Convention.<sup>307</sup> COP is the most important platform for discussions on climate change adaptation and mitigation within the UN system.<sup>308</sup>

The first major agreement to arise out of the COP was the *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (Kyoto Protocol), adopted in 1997 and covering the period

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<sup>293</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, 2018.

<sup>294</sup> FAO, *The State of the Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 8.

<sup>295</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>296</sup> UN DESA, *TST Issues Briefs*, 2014, pp. 22-23.

<sup>297</sup> UN DESA, *Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>298</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 4.

<sup>299</sup> UN DESA, *Climate Change*, 2018.

<sup>300</sup> UN DESA, *Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>301</sup> UN DESA, *TST Issues Briefs*, 2014, p. 24.

<sup>302</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report*, 2014, p. 120.

<sup>303</sup> UNFCCC, *Issues related to agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>304</sup> UNCED, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

<sup>305</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>306</sup> UN DESA, *Agenda 21*, 2018; UNCED, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

<sup>307</sup> UNFCCC, *Conference of the Parties (COP)*, 2018.

<sup>308</sup> UNFCCC, *About the Secretariat*, 2018.



from 2008-2012.<sup>309</sup> Article 2 of the *Kyoto Protocol* obliges Annex I parties to promote “sustainable forms of agriculture in light of climate change considerations.”<sup>310</sup> Additionally, Article 10 mentions agriculture as a crucial sector to address when mitigating and adapting to climate change, but it contains no further commitments.<sup>311</sup> The Kyoto Protocol was an important first step but it lacks binding targets and universality.<sup>312</sup> In 2011, COP 17 adopted the *Durban Platform for Enhanced Action*, which agreed to establish a legally binding climate change agreement by 2015.<sup>313</sup>

At COP 21 in 2015, the *Paris Agreement* was adopted with a goal to keep “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and an aim to strengthen the capacity of all countries to mitigate climate change.<sup>314</sup> The agreement contains nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that embody each state’s post-2020 efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.<sup>315</sup> An overwhelming majority of intended NDCs, especially those of LDCs, name agriculture as a priority sector.<sup>316</sup> Article 2 explicitly states that efforts to mitigate climate change should not threaten food production.<sup>317</sup>

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda, which continues work on poverty eradication, health, education, and food security, but also sets economic, social, and environmental goals.<sup>318</sup> The 2030 Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 cross-cutting targets.<sup>319</sup> Sustainable agriculture cuts across all SDGs, but there are some that are particularly relevant.<sup>320</sup> SDG 1 aims to eradicate extreme poverty entirely and halve poverty by 2030, but this cannot be achieved without building agricultural resilience and mitigating climate change.<sup>321</sup> SDG 2 calls for more agricultural investments, with targets including doubling the yields and incomes of small-scale producers and establishing sustainable production systems.<sup>322</sup> Climate change is directly addressed in SDG 13, which calls for urgent action, while SDGs 14 and 15 focus on sustainably using and conserving ecosystems.<sup>323</sup>

In March 2015, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Sendai Framework) was introduced as a 15-year voluntary and non-binding agreement to counter the risks of climate change.<sup>324</sup> The Sendai Framework prioritizes risk awareness, capacity for risk governance, investment in risk reduction strategies, and capacity for disaster preparedness.<sup>325</sup> Climate change has contributed to increasingly severe weather disasters and extreme conditions to which agriculture is particularly vulnerable.<sup>326</sup> The 2030 Agenda, the *Paris Agreement*, and the Sendai Framework represent an opportunity to harmonize approaches to climate change, sustainable agricultural development, and disaster risk reduction in a way

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<sup>309</sup> UNFCCC, *What is the Kyoto Protocol?*, 2018.

<sup>310</sup> COP 3, *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1997.

<sup>311</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>312</sup> UNFCCC, *What is the Kyoto Protocol?*, 2018.

<sup>313</sup> UNFCCC, *Essential Background – Durban outcomes*, 2018.

<sup>314</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015.

<sup>315</sup> UNFCCC, *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*, 2018.

<sup>316</sup> FAO, *The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Analysis*, 2016, pp. xiv-xvi.

<sup>317</sup> COP 21, *Paris Agreement*, 2015.

<sup>318</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>319</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>320</sup> FAO, *Strategic work of FAO for sustainable food and agriculture*, 2017, p. 28.

<sup>321</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.

<sup>322</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>323</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>324</sup> UN General Assembly, *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 (A/RES/68/283)*, 2015; UNISDR, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2018.

<sup>325</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>326</sup> FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, 2017, p. 137.

that will enhance efficiency, and enable coordination so that the common aims of these agendas can be fully realized.<sup>327</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

COP serves as the meeting for all States parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and *Paris Agreement* (CMA), with other stakeholders joining as observers.<sup>328</sup> COP, CMP, and CMA, along with their permanent bodies, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), work to address climate change in areas including land-use, land-use change, and forestry.<sup>329</sup> The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme) incentivizes and helps countries develop the capacity to meet forest-related goals in in the UNFCCC.<sup>330</sup>

Several instruments have been designed under the UNFCCC to link commitments to action at the national level, including National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).<sup>331</sup> 51 LDCs have completed NAPAs, allowing them to access funding through the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Fund.<sup>332</sup> COP 16 established the Technology Mechanism, made up of the Technology Executive Committee, and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which supports technology-based mitigation and adaptation strategies in LDCs.<sup>333</sup> The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1992 and has provided tens of billions of dollars in grants and co-financing for thousands of projects.<sup>334</sup> The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was set up in 2010 as part of the UNFCCC's financial mechanism and has pledged worth over \$10 billion to be directed to the NDCs of LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States.<sup>335</sup>

COP 23 adopted the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture*, underscoring the development of plans to ensure food security, reduce GHG emissions, and adapt agriculture to the reality of climate change.<sup>336</sup> It has sought submissions from States parties and observers and aims to encompass means of adaptation; understandings on how to improve soil health and livestock management while conserving resources; and seeks to address the socioeconomic and food security effects of climate change.<sup>337</sup> The SBSTA and the SBI are jointly holding workshops on these topics in conjunction with UNFCCC sessions between 2018 and 2020 and have established a detailed road map that allocates when discussions on specific topics will occur.<sup>338</sup>

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<sup>327</sup> UNFCCC, *Opportunities and options for integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2017, pp. 9-10.

<sup>328</sup> UNFCCC, *Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)*, 2018; UNFCCC, *Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)*, 2018.

<sup>329</sup> UNFCCC, *Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)*, 2018; UNFCCC, *Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus)*, 2018; UNFCCC, *SBSTA work on Agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>330</sup> UN-REDD, *How We Work*, 2018.

<sup>331</sup> UNFCCC, *National Adaptation Plans*, 2018; UNFCCC, *National Adaption Programmes of Action*, 2018; UNFCCC, *Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS)*, 2018.

<sup>332</sup> UNFCCC, *National Adaption Programmes of Action*, 2018.

<sup>333</sup> UNFCCC, *Technology Mechanism*, 2018.

<sup>334</sup> Global Environment Facility, *About Us*, 2018; Global Environment Facility, *Organization*, 2018.

<sup>335</sup> UN GCF, *About the Fund*, 2018.

<sup>336</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 17.

<sup>337</sup> UNFCCC, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-third session, held in Bonn from 6 to 18 November 2017. Addendum. Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session (FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1)*, 2017.

<sup>338</sup> UNFCCC et al., *Koronivia joint work on agriculture. Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs (FCCC/SB/2018/L.1)*, 2018.

The UN General Assembly is the main deliberative and policymaking organ of the UN.<sup>339</sup> General Assembly resolution 72/238 of 2017 stresses the importance of sustainable agricultural development, food security, and nutrition within the 2030 Agenda.<sup>340</sup> It calls for immediate direct action to address hunger among the most vulnerable as well as longer-term action to implement sustainable agriculture and rural development programs.<sup>341</sup> Further, General Assembly resolution 72/215 of 2017 urges the development and spread of sustainable agricultural technologies to developing countries, while recognizing the importance of smallholder farming and gender and youth-focused projects.<sup>342</sup>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has also undertaken a great deal of work on food security and sustainable agriculture.<sup>343</sup> Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that attempts to increase agricultural productivity and ensure the inviolability of the food supply while increasing the capacity of groups to adapt and build resilience to the effects of climate change.<sup>344</sup> CSA assesses the adaptability of existing technologies and proposes adjustments while staying embedded in the local context.<sup>345</sup> These adjustments can include adopting heat and drought resistant crop varieties, improving soil and water management, diversifying production, and promoting non-farm employment.<sup>346</sup>

UNFCCC allows observer organizations, including Specialized Agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate at meetings and sessions within the UNFCCC.<sup>347</sup> While the COP is focused largely on the obligations of States parties, it seeks contributions from all those affected by climate change.<sup>348</sup> Civil society organizations like the Climate and Development Knowledge Network help countries design and implement development strategies in LDCs that take climate change into account.<sup>349</sup> Other NGOs like the One Acre Fund focus on smallholders by delivering tools to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa that allow them to substantially increase crop yields.<sup>350</sup>

### **Key Challenges of Sustainable Agriculture**

The depletion of land, water, and biodiverse resources caused by climate change presents crucial challenges to agricultural productivity and food security.<sup>351</sup> Providing more food with fewer resources, while reducing poverty and preserving the livelihoods of people dependent on agriculture, is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world.<sup>352</sup> Even if a global average temperature increase is limited to 2°C, the potential effects on agriculture in many regions, especially sub-tropical and tropical areas, would be catastrophic.<sup>353</sup> Taking into consideration all current NDCs and mitigation strategies, the average global temperature increase will significantly exceed the 2°C goal.<sup>354</sup>

### **Environmental Challenges**

Agriculture will be negatively affected by climate change, but it also has the capacity to effectively adapt since land resources can act either as a source of emissions or as a carbon sink.<sup>355</sup> Climate change will have different effects on different regions, but the impacts remain almost entirely negative, especially in

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<sup>339</sup> UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2018.

<sup>340</sup> UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/RES/72/238)*, 2017.

<sup>341</sup> Ibid.

<sup>342</sup> Ibid.

<sup>343</sup> FAO, *Sustainable Food and Agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>344</sup> FAO, *Climate-Smart Agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>345</sup> FAO, *Climate Smart Agriculture: Building resilience to climate change*, 2017, p. 24.

<sup>346</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 14.

<sup>347</sup> UNFCCC, *Non-Party Stakeholders: Overview*, 2018.

<sup>348</sup> UNFCCC, *Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action*, 2016.

<sup>349</sup> Climate and Development Knowledge Network, *About*, 2018.

<sup>350</sup> One Acre Fund, *Farmers First*, 2018.

<sup>351</sup> FAO, *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, p. 2.

<sup>352</sup> UN DESA, *Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>353</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 11.

<sup>354</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, 21.

<sup>355</sup> UNFCCC, *Introduction to Land Use*, 2018.

the period after 2030.<sup>356</sup> Agricultural production will be affected by factors including rising and variable temperatures; sea level changes, shifts in precipitation and freshwater availability, more frequent droughts and severe weather events, and the shrinking availability of suitable land for farming.<sup>357</sup> Crop yields have increased in previous decades due to intensive agricultural systems that relied on high input levels to dramatically increase productivity.<sup>358</sup> These systems have had severe consequences, including soil depletion, massive GHG emissions, and increases in water scarcity.<sup>359</sup> Unsustainable management practices, such as the overuse of mineral fertilizers, the burning of forests to create grazing lands, and exhaustion of water resources, deplete the quality, fertility, and productivity of the soil.<sup>360</sup> Intensive food production systems cannot guarantee food security in perpetuity if they compromise the natural resources necessary to grow food.<sup>361</sup> Modern food system transformations in LDCs must take place in the context of climate change and natural-resource scarcities.<sup>362</sup> This is reflected in the intended NDCs submitted as part of the *Paris Agreement*, where most countries cite vulnerabilities in their agricultural sectors and many countries remain economically dependent on agriculture and lack the resources to adapt.<sup>363</sup>

### *Socioeconomic Challenges*

Smallholders and small-scale family-based farmers form a large proportion of the poor and hungry, with extreme poverty and hunger being a predominantly rural phenomenon.<sup>364</sup> These farmers are more vulnerable to climate change's effects than large-scale producers, as they have limited capacity to manage risks.<sup>365</sup> Eradicating hunger and poverty is linked to increasing food production and the earnings of the rural population through sustainable development.<sup>366</sup>

As food systems transform and urbanization takes hold, labor exits agriculture even as productivity increases, as automation takes over.<sup>367</sup> Rural populations are forced to migrate to cities in search of work when their land becomes too difficult and uneconomical to farm.<sup>368</sup> There are 500 million smallholder farmers in the world and in some areas, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, these farmers can produce up to 80% of the region's food supply.<sup>369</sup> Unless economic growth becomes more inclusive by including all segments of the population, the goals of ending poverty and achieving zero hunger by 2030 will not succeed.<sup>370</sup> It is impossible to address poverty, food security, and climate change without including and protecting the hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers.<sup>371</sup> COP has recognized the importance of an inclusive response to climate change by emphasizing the role of women, youth, and indigenous groups in facilitating a transition to a low-emission global economy, particularly in agriculture.<sup>372</sup>

### *Agricultural Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies*

The *Paris Agreement* requires all States parties to mitigate climate change by incentivizing environmentally-friendly activities and disincentivizing harmful activities.<sup>373</sup> Key proposals and areas of

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<sup>356</sup> FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, 2017, p. 137.

<sup>357</sup> World Bank, *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided*, 2012, p. 44.

<sup>358</sup> FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, 2017, pp. 135-36.

<sup>359</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 136.

<sup>360</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 52.

<sup>361</sup> FAO, *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, p. 73.

<sup>362</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 72-73.

<sup>363</sup> FAO, *The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Analysis*, 2016, pp. 19-23.

<sup>364</sup> UN DESA, *Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>365</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 48.

<sup>366</sup> UN DESA, *Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>367</sup> FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, 2017, pp. 14-15.

<sup>368</sup> UN DPI, *Goal 2: Zero Hunger*, 2018.

<sup>369</sup> FAO, *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, p. xi.

<sup>370</sup> *Ibid.*, p. vii.

<sup>371</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. xii.

<sup>372</sup> UNFCCC, *Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, pp. 17-18.

<sup>373</sup> UNFCCC, *Introduction to Mitigation*, 2018.

focus within intended NDCs under the *Paris Agreement* include the introduction of more resilient crop varieties, sustainable land management, improved livestock production methods, and protection and rehabilitation of forests.<sup>374</sup> COP 16 in 2010 established an Adaptation Committee to implement adaptation in a manner consistent with the UNFCCC and to provide information and recommendations to COP.<sup>375</sup> NAPAs and NAPs identify adaptation needs and unlock financial resources, while the Nairobi Work Programme facilitates the spread of information and knowledge necessary for adaptation.<sup>376</sup> UNFCCC publishes an Adaptation Knowledge Portal with relevant tools, resources, and case studies applicable to agriculture.<sup>377</sup>

Climate change mitigation strategies in agriculture involve shifting to practices that release fewer GHG emissions, while adaptation involves building resilience to the effects of climate change.<sup>378</sup> The three main mitigation options within agriculture include preventing or reducing emissions, capturing carbon outputs in expanded carbon pools, and substituting alternatives for biological products that produce high GHG emissions.<sup>379</sup> The agricultural sector has significant climate change mitigation potential using natural processes that extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, using forests and rehabilitated land as large-scale carbon sinks which sequester carbon in biomass and soil.<sup>380</sup> Methods that increase productivity without increasing land-use include sustainable intensification, which relies on carefully selected inputs like high-yield crops and improved fertilizer combinations, combined with resource-conserving practices like no-till farming and mixed cropping.<sup>381</sup> This strategy draws on natural processes like pollination and pest-control, while external inputs as used as sparingly as possible to maximize efficiency.<sup>382</sup> Agroecology is a similar approach that uses natural ecological processes in agriculture, provides access to diverse traditional crop varieties instead of relying on monocultures, and creates synergies between the natural environment and human farming.<sup>383</sup>

Information and communications technology (ICTs) can implement mitigation and adaptation strategies.<sup>384</sup> ICTs in Latin America have enabled collaborations between private and public organizations to collect, analyze, and disseminate information to farmers about trends in seasonal climate conditions and what resources are required.<sup>385</sup> A similar collaboration in Uganda allows farmers access to advisories, market information, weather data, and guidance on harvesting techniques and disaster coping mechanisms.<sup>386</sup> The discussions within the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture* within COP and its subsidiary bodies will allow adaptation and mitigation strategies to be assessed and distributed in coming years.<sup>387</sup>

### ***Building Capacity from Smallholders to the State***

Since 2012, COP has maintained a capacity-building web portal to collect and spread relevant knowledge specific to countries and regions.<sup>388</sup> The capacity of States parties to the *Paris Agreement* to enact

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<sup>374</sup> UNFCCC, *Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update (FCCC/CP/2016/2)*, p. 70.

<sup>375</sup> UNFCCC, *Adaptation Committee*, 2018.

<sup>376</sup> UNFCCC, *What do adaptation to climate change and climate resilience mean?*, 2018.

<sup>377</sup> UNFCCC, *Adaptation Knowledge Portal*, 2018.

<sup>378</sup> FAO, *The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges*, 2017, p. 41.

<sup>379</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report*, 2014, p. 119.

<sup>380</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 41.

<sup>381</sup> FAO, *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, p. 51.

<sup>382</sup> FAO, *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, p. 74; FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 50.

<sup>383</sup> FAO, *2016 - The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 51.

<sup>384</sup> UNFCCC, *Information and Communications Technology Solutions*, 2018.

<sup>385</sup> UNFCCC, *ICTs for Small-Scale Farmers: A Game Changing Approach to Climate Smart Agriculture in Latin America*, 2018.

<sup>386</sup> UNFCCC, *Enabling Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change*, 2018.

<sup>387</sup> UNFCCC, *Issues related to agriculture*, 2018.

<sup>388</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building portal*, 2018.

adaptation and mitigation measures varies enormously, with many states lacking financial resources.<sup>389</sup> The *Paris Agreement* requests that developed countries increase support for capacity-building measures in LDCs and provide financing.<sup>390</sup> Climate funds like the GEF and GCF are crucial sources of funding and are mentioned in many NDCs, but are imperfect mechanisms.<sup>391</sup> Countries face six major challenges to access climate finance: low awareness that funding is available; difficulty in meeting the standards of the funds; low capacity to monitor progress; limited information and expertise; lack of legal and regulatory frameworks; and a lack of clear priorities.<sup>392</sup>

At their sessions in December 2018, COP and CMA are expected to adopt a decision about the institutional arrangements for capacity-building under the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>393</sup> Submitted NDCs under the *Paris Agreement* related to sustainable agriculture include identified needs for sufficient financial resources, access to adaptation technology, increased institutional and human capacities, further scientific research, and education and awareness campaigns.<sup>394</sup> The *Paris Agreement* established the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB), which reports to COP to address inadequacies in capacity-building and to focus on enhancing the abilities of LDCs by providing analysis and recommendations.<sup>395</sup> From 2017-19, the PCCB is focusing on ensuring the readiness of countries to implement NDCs under the *Paris Agreement*.<sup>396</sup>

FAO has outlined several key principles for sustainable development in agriculture, including the efficient use and conservation of resources, the protection of rural economies, enhancing the resilience of people and ecosystems, and responsible governance.<sup>397</sup> Inclusive rural transformation will facilitate these aims, but requires supportive policies and investment, development of agroindustry and infrastructure to connect rural areas with urban markets, and a territorial focus, where networks of small towns, cities, and rural areas are considered together in any rural development strategy.<sup>398</sup>

## Conclusion

Climate change is projected to have increasingly negative impacts on agriculture.<sup>399</sup> Progress toward sustainable agriculture is slow and increased investment is necessary to catalyze development, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and enhance agricultural productivity.<sup>400</sup> The UNFCCC Secretariat has advocated for the integration of responses to sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, considering the centrality of these topics to the UNFCCC and the global agenda in the post-2015 period.<sup>401</sup> Governments, NGOs, and individuals must work together to craft policies that properly address the deficiencies in current approaches and ensure that agriculture becomes sustainable.<sup>402</sup>

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<sup>389</sup> UNFCCC, *Introduction to Climate Finance*, 2018.

<sup>390</sup> UNFCCC, *Building Capacity in the UNFCCC Process*, 2018.

<sup>391</sup> FAO, 2016 - *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2016, p. 112.

<sup>392</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 114.

<sup>393</sup> UNFCCC, *Capacity-building in the negotiations*, 2018.

<sup>394</sup> UNFCCC, *Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update (FCCC/CP/2016/2)*, p. 72.

<sup>395</sup> UNFCCC, *Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB)*, 2018.

<sup>396</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>397</sup> FAO, *Strategic work of FAO for sustainable food and agriculture*, 2017, p. 8.

<sup>398</sup> FAO, 2017 - *The State of Food and Agriculture*, 2017, pp. 116-119.

<sup>399</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report*, 2014, p. 53.

<sup>400</sup> UN General Assembly, *Agriculture development, food security, and nutrition: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/303)*, 2017, p. 3.

<sup>401</sup> UNFCCC, *Opportunities and options for integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, 2017, p.9.

<sup>402</sup> UNFCCC, *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017*, 2018, p. 45.

## Further Research

How can the linkages between sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change be formalized in actions taken by the COP? How can emission reductions in agriculture and sectors related to agriculture be incentivized? Are large-scale carbon sequestration strategies using agriculture practical? How should States parties seek to tackle the current deficit in climate finance as reported in the *2017 UN Climate Change Annual Report*? Are there any other topics that should be included in the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture* as it continues discussions within the SBSTA and SBI? Can approaches like CSA and agroecology be utilized on a scale large enough to preserve the food supply? How can risk be shifted away from smallholders that lack resources and is there enough focus on smallholders within the COP?

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[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

*The Paris Agreement builds upon the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol in an ambitious effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change and forms the core of the current international response to climate change. Its central aim is to keep any global average temperature increase to well below 2°C and requires binding commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, from all States parties to the agreement. The Agreement makes specific mention of food security and production. It is imperative that delegates familiarize themselves with the agreement and understand its potential, the context in which it was created, and its limitations, especially regarding changing agricultural practices.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2017). *2017 - The State of Food and Agriculture* [Report]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7658e.pdf>

*This is the most recent edition of the FAO's annual report on the state of the world's agriculture. It describes how climate change compounds the already existing challenges facing agriculture that include explosive population growth, dietary changes, urban migration, and land degradation. It focuses particularly on how fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a focus on improving the agricultural productivity and sustainability of rural areas. This source, particularly chapter five, will allow delegates to understand the totality of global agricultural issues and will provide valuable insights into what solutions have been attempted and where action is needed. Delegates should also examine prior annual reports, particularly the 2016 edition, which has a thematic focus on climate change, agriculture, and food security.*

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2017). *The Future of Food and Agriculture: Trends and challenges* [Report]. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6583e.pdf>

*This FAO report provides a comprehensive listing of major trends and challenges facing the planet in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and focuses on how they relate to food and agriculture. It does not provide solutions to the challenges rather it is designed to provide insight on how significant the changes will be and drives home the importance of taking decisive action as quickly as possible. Delegates will find this source useful in establishing a general understanding of the major factors that will shape agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.*

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2014). *TST Issues Briefs* [Report]. Retrieved 14 September 2018 from:

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1554TST\\_compendium\\_issues\\_briefs\\_rev1610.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1554TST_compendium_issues_briefs_rev1610.pdf)

*This collection of briefs was prepared by the United Nations Technical Support Team in advance of the creation of the SDGs and includes a chapter on sustainable agriculture. It contains valuable background information, a description of the major challenges facing*

*agriculture, an overview of proposals to address these challenges, and a look toward the future. Delegates will find the succinct nature and numerous proposals useful as they gain a broader understanding of how to address the topic of sustainable agriculture and climate change.*

United Nations, Green Climate Fund. (2018). *About the fund* [Website]. Retrieved 10 August 2018 from: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/who-we-are/about-the-fund>

*This website provides an overview of the Green Climate Fund and its growth since its creation in 2010. Climate finance is an intrinsic part of mitigation and adaptation efforts and effective, accessible, and substantial funding for efforts in developing countries is a precondition for substantive global action. The Green Climate Fund is especially relevant given its centrality to the Paris Agreement. Delegates will find it useful to understand how money is raised, administered, and distributed in the fight against climate change.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2017). *Opportunities and options for integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* [Report]. Retrieved 3 August 2017 from: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/techpaper\\_adaptation.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/techpaper_adaptation.pdf)

*This UNFCCC technical paper explores opportunities for integrating adaptation within several pressing global issues, including sustainable development, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Since climate change affects sustainable development, increases the risk of weather-based disasters, and harms agricultural productivity, these three topics can be considered as a whole. It provides an overview of why this integration is beneficial, potential avenues of integration, and describes challenges posed by integration. Delegates will find this source useful as they consider potential responses to sustainable agriculture and climate change that may encompass other areas of work.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *SBSTA Work on Agriculture* [Website]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture/sbsta-work-on-agriculture>

*This website provides a comprehensive explanation of the historical work the COP and the subsidiary organs of the UNFCCC have undertaken on this topic, starting with decision 2/CP.17 that requested the SBSTA to consider issues relating to agriculture. It provides a chronology up to the present day and includes numerous links to decisions taken and illustrates how the subsidiary organs interact with the COP itself. Delegates should pay attention to the evolution of discussions on this topic, how the subsidiary bodies interact with the COP, and determine whether there is an appropriate focus accorded to agriculture or if more needs to be undertaken.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice & Subsidiary Body for Implementation. (2018). *Koronivia joint work on agriculture. Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs (FCCC/SB/2018/L.1)* [Draft Conclusions]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/FCCC/SB/2018/L.1>

*The SBSTA and the SBI, in accordance with decision 4/CP.23 that established the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, jointly addressed issues relating to agriculture and climate change at the forty-eighth sessions of these subsidiary bodies at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in May 2018. This document briefly details the discussions held and provides a valuable insight into where high-level discussions related to agriculture and climate change are focusing and what topics are considered most pressing. Delegates will find the road map particularly useful, as it lays out when future discussions on particular topics within the UNFCCC's subsidiary bodies will take place, affecting the future actions and decisions of the COP.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2018). *UN Climate Change Annual Report 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 8 August 2018 from: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNClimateChange\\_annualreport2017\\_final.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNClimateChange_annualreport2017_final.pdf)



*This annual report from the UNFCCC highlights the progress made in mitigating and adapting to climate change in 2017. It highlights the most recent COP 23 sessions and briefly touches on what is being done in areas as diverse as technology support, climate finance, transparency, and land management. It also includes an outlook of UNFCCC's work in 2018. Delegates will find this a good introductory resource for understanding the contemporary actions of the COP and the UNFCCC and the global response to climate change.*

United Nations, General Assembly. Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 8 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets that balance the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to create a plan of action that attempts to eliminate the deleterious conditions that persist in some areas of the planet. Several of the goals directly address climate change and agriculture and this resolution explicitly acknowledges the UNFCCC is the primary international forum for negotiating a global response to climate change. Delegates should examine how the goals intersect with each other and other international actions being taken and always keep in mind the overarching goals when crafting responses to the topic at hand.*

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