Understanding the Underlying Processes of UNFCCC

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Outline

• Context

• What is the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement?

• What are (Climate Change) COPs?

• A typical COP

• How does the UNFCCC secretariat provide support to COPs?
What is the UNFCCC?

- **UNFCCC secretariat** = the UN entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change
- **UNFCCC** = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Signed in **1992** to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would **prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference** with the climate system
- Principles of **equity** and in accordance with countries’ **common but differentiated responsibilities** and respective capabilities
Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

• In 1997, the **Kyoto Protocol** was signed to set specific **legally-binding emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties**.

• With the change of circumstances in the 21\(^{st}\) century, Parties came together to produce an **instrument in line with the new context**: the **Paris Agreement**.
The Paris Agreement

- **New paradigm** of multilateral agreements
- **Bottom-up approach:** Parties decide on their own commitments, communicated through their **Nationally Determined Contributions**
- **5-year cycle** of increasingly ambitious climate action
- Keep the global average temperature rise as close as possible to **1.5°C**
Conference of the Parties (COP)

• Since the Convention’s entry into force, **Parties have met annually in sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COPs)** to monitor its implementation and continue talks on how best to tackle climate change.
• The many **decisions** taken by the COP at its annual sessions address the different components of climate action.
Conference of the Parties (COP)

- Negotiations
- Mandated and special events
- Mobilizing action: NPS events and Presidency initiatives
A typical COP

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Before COP</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
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<td>Pre-sessional meetings</td>
<td>Negotiations</td>
<td>Negotiations</td>
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<td>Opening COP, CMP, CMA, SBs</td>
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<td>Closing SBs</td>
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<td>Leaders summit</td>
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<td>Minister engagement</td>
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<td>High-level segment, mandated and other events, exhibits, etc.</td>
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What does the secretariat do? (I)

- Early years: focus on **facilitating the intergovernmental climate change negotiations**
- Today: **supporting a complex architecture of bodies** that serve to advance the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

The UNFCCC secretariat...:

- Provides **technical expertise** and assists in:
  - Analysis and review of climate change information reported by Parties and the implementation of the Kyoto mechanisms.
- Maintains the registry for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) established under the Paris Agreement
- **Organizes and supports negotiating sessions** each year (COPs)
- Organizes annual sessions of the subsidiary bodies (SBs) and **large number of meetings and workshops** throughout the year
What happens in a year?

**UNFCCC Core**

- COP28
  - Technical and political
  - Technical level

**UNFCCC mandated**

- Other meetings
  - EU foreign ministers
  - UN XOF
  - UNFCCC
  - Ocean summit
  - UNFCCC mandated
  - Berlin energy
  - UNDCC
  - UNFCCC
  - Forest summit
  - CCXG
  - C2ES
  - IRENA
  - UNFCCC
  - NOCCA
  - IETA
  - ITF
  - ECOSOC Youth
  - G20/T20
  - IUCN109
  - G20/T20
  - Sendai
  - G20/T20
  - Sendai
  - WEF
  - G20/T20
  - Sendai
  - GC EE
  - Fashion Charter
  - Marrakech HS
  - MENACW
  - Global building
  - LACCW
  - Sport FW
  - APAN adapt.

**Process support**

- Process support
  - Brz-Jpn meeting on Further actions Actions
  - Copenhagen ministerial
  - Petersberg dialogue

**Major policy meetings**

- Major policy meetings
  - G7 ministers
  - WB Spring
  - G7
  - Finance summit
  - MoCA
  - SG’s Climate Summit
  - Pre-COP
  - SDG summit
  - Pre-COP
  - SDG summit
  - WB Fall

**Political level**

- Political level
What does the secretariat do? (II)

- In recent years, the secretariat also supports the **Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action:**
  - Signal that successful **climate action** requires strong support from a wide range of actors, including regions, cities, business, investors and all parts of civil society
  - Large number of events during climate change conferences demonstrating how **non-Party stakeholders** work with governments and the UN system to implement the PA
- The secretariat also co-organizes **regional Climate Weeks:** drive forward PA implementation at regional level and build new climate action partnerships
- Variety of **communication products**, including the website and social media
The UNFCCC process, including under the Paris Agreement, allows *states and non-state actors* to come together to stop the *climate crisis* and ensure a *low-emissions*, inclusive and sustainable development for all.

- COP 27 in Egypt focused on moving into *implementation mode*.
- COP 28 in the UAE will be the first time since the Paris Agreement to *take stock of collective progress* towards its goals and *course-correct*.
Thank you