

"The United Nations and COPs: Past, Present, and Future"

**USG/UISG Commission for Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
JPIC Roma**

A Journey Through Climate Change Conferences



Introduction

- Overview of the United Nations and COPs
- Brief overview of the United Nations and its role in addressing global challenges.



UN Formation & Background

- Historical context leading to the establishment of the UN...
- Aftermath of World War II and the need for a global organization to prevent future conflicts.





The United Nations was born in the aftermath of World War II, when the world yearned for an organization that could promote global cooperation and peace.

Established in 1945, the UN's mission includes maintaining international peace and security, fostering cooperation among nations, promoting human rights, and addressing global challenges.

It has since become a cornerstone of diplomacy, supported by various bodies such as the General Assembly and the Security Council.

UN Formation & Background (Cont'd)

- Purpose and goals of the United Nations...
- The United Nations was founded on the principles of maintaining international peace and security, fostering cooperation among nations, promoting human rights, and addressing global challenges. It has become a cornerstone of diplomacy and a platform for multilateralism.

The key objectives of the UN

- Maintaining peace,
- Promoting human rights, and
- Addressing global challenges like climate change.

UN Formation & Background (Cont'd)

- Key agencies and bodies within the UN
- Significant UN bodies,
 - the General Assembly,
 - Security Council, and
 - UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).



Climate Change & the UN

Turning our attention to climate change, it's a global issue that transcends borders, impacting ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods worldwide. The United Nations recognized the urgency of addressing climate change.

Climate change as a global issue.

- Climate change and its impacts on the planet, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise.

The UN's commitment to mitigate climate change.



- The UN's involvement in climate change can be traced back to its recognition of climate change as a pressing global issue.
- The UN has been actively working to mitigate its effects, promote adaptation measures, and encourage international cooperation.



The need for international cooperation.

- The interconnected nature of climate change and the importance of collective action among nations.
- Climate change is a complex issue that demands international collaboration. The interconnected nature of climate problems means that no single nation can tackle it alone.
- Collective action and cooperation are essential.



TYPES OF COPs

Explanation of COPs (Conference of the Parties).

- These conferences play a pivotal role in global climate governance. They are gatherings where countries come together to negotiate and make decisions on climate policies.

Different types of COPs and their functions.

- There are different types of COPs, each serving specific functions.
- They include annual COP meetings,
- Special sessions, and
- Subsidiary bodies, each contributing to the global climate agenda in unique ways.

Annual COP Meetings:

- During these meetings, parties review the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol (or any other relevant legal instrument that may have been adopted).
- They also negotiate and make decisions on issues related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
- The meetings provide a platform for countries to share their experiences, showcase initiatives, and discuss challenges in addressing climate change. Key decisions are often made during these meetings, shaping the global response to climate change.

Special Sessions:

In addition to the regular annual COP meetings, special sessions may be convened to address specific issues or to respond to urgent developments.

They can be instrumental in addressing emerging issues, resolving disputes, or advancing specific elements of the climate agenda.

Subsidiary Bodies:

- The COP has established subsidiary bodies to support its work and facilitate negotiations on specific issues.
- The two main subsidiary bodies are the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).
- The SBI deals with administrative and implementation matters, while the SBSTA provides scientific and technical advice.
- These bodies play a crucial role in advancing the work of the COP by conducting in-depth assessments, providing recommendations, and facilitating negotiations on specific issues.



The background of the slide is a photograph of the Statue of Liberty in the foreground, with the New York City skyline, including the Freedom Tower, visible in the background across the water. The sky is a mix of blue and light purple, suggesting dawn or dusk.

History of COPs

Evolution of COPs from COP1 to the present (brief overview).

- Our journey through COP history begins with COP1, which took place in Berlin in 1995. Since then, these conferences have played a critical role in shaping international climate policy.

COP1: Berlin, 1995

- COP1, held in Berlin in 1995, marked the birth of the Conference of the Parties. During this conference, the major outcome was the adoption of the Berlin Mandate.
- The Berlin Mandate set the stage for the Kyoto Protocol by launching negotiations for legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries.
- This was a crucial step in the global commitment to addressing climate change.

• COP2: Geneva, 1996

- COP2, which took place in Geneva in 1996, continued the discussions initiated in COP1.
- The major outcome of COP2 was the launch of the negotiation process for the Kyoto Protocol. This process included important elements such as defining targets and mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

COP3: Kyoto, Japan 1997

- This legally binding international treaty committed developed nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Kyoto Protocol introduced mechanisms such as emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), aiming to tackle global emissions collectively."
- The Kyoto Protocol set binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases.

• COP4: Buenos Aires, 1998

- The fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1998.
- The main outcome of COP4 was the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which set out the steps for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

What followed between 1998 and 2006 were nine conferences of little consequence, as the parties “finalised” the details of the Kyoto protocol in the run-up to 2008, resulting in a loss of nine years in a race against time.

COP5: Bonn, 1999

- The fifth Conference of the Parties (COP5) was held in Bonn, Germany in 1999.
- **COP6: The Hague, 2000**
- The sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) was held in The Hague, Netherlands in 2000. COP6, held in The Hague, Netherlands in November 2000, ended without agreement and was suspended,
- The Hague conference collapsed due to the US wanting carbon sinks as part of the agreement (as well as other provisions like nuclear energy, etc.), which received enormous criticism.

COP7: Marrakesh, 2001

- The seventh Conference of the Parties (COP7) was held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2001.
- **COP8: New Delhi, 2002**
- The eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) was held in New Delhi, India in 2002.

COP9: Milan, 2003

- The ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) was held in Milan, Italy in 2003.

- **COP10: Buenos Aires, 2004**

- The tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2004.

COP11: Montreal, 2005

- The eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11) was held in Montreal, Canada in 2005.

• COP12: Nairobi, 2006

- The twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP12) was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006.

COP13: Bali, 2007

- The thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP13) was held in Bali, Indonesia in 2007.
- The main outcome of COP13 was the adoption of the Bali Action Plan, which set out the steps for the negotiation of a new international agreement on climate change.

• COP14: Poznan, 2008

- The fourteenth Conference of the Parties (COP14) was held in Poznan, Poland in 2008.
- Significant steps were taken to replace the failed protocol, without actually activating a new treaty. In light of increased evidence global warming was a matter of fact, the Bali Action Plan set down a two-year roadmap towards a binding agreement to be reached at COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

COP15: Copenhagen, 2009

- The fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009.
- The summit, as expected, was described as a failure and a disaster by many governments and environmental organizations.

• COP16: Cancun, 2010

- The sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16) was held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.
- The creation of the Green Climate Fund, through which an amount of one hundred billion dollars is established each year starting in 2020, and thirty billion dollars for the period 2010.-2012, in order to help countries with fewer resources to cover the costs involved in the fight against Climate Change.

COP17: Durban, 2011

- The seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP17) was held in Durban, South Africa in 2011.
- The summit concluded with a roadmap for a global treaty, as demanded by the European Union, that would commit the big polluters, those who did not sign the Kyoto Protocol, such as China, the United States, India, Brazil and South Africa to comply with said agreement. treaty.

• COP18: Doha, 2012

- The eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP18) was held in Doha, Qatar in 2012.
- The main outcome of COP18 was the adoption of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which set out the steps for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

COP19: Warsaw, 2013

- The nineteenth Conference of the Parties (COP19) was held in Warsaw, Poland in 2013.
- The main outcome of COP19 was the adoption of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.
- The initial objective in Poland was to reach an agreement so that by 2015 emissions of polluting gases could be reduced. However, this agreement was opposed by several countries

• COP20: Lima, 2014

- The twentieth Conference of the Parties (COP20) was held in Lima, Peru in 2014.
- The main outcome of COP20 was the adoption of the Lima Call for Climate Action, which set out the steps for the negotiation of a new international agreement on climate change.
- United States and China announced a joint commitment to reduce GHG emissions for the first time in history, essential so that the global temperature does not exceed 2°C (later corrected to 1.5°C, on the recommendation of scientists from the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

COP21: Paris, 2015

- The Paris Agreement contemplates the limitation of world temperature to 2°C (subsequently corrected to 1.5°C), by reducing GHG emissions, caused by fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal, which cause the greenhouse effect and consequently climate change, such as rising sea levels, floods, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, forest fires and other catastrophic phenomena, capable of endangering many species that inhabit the Earth, including Homo sapiens.
- The twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP21) was held in Paris, France in 2015.
- The main outcome of COP21 was the adoption of the Paris Agreement.
- The Paris Agreement is an ambitious global agreement to combat Climate Change
- It was adopted by 197 countries

COP22: Marrakesh, 2016

- The twenty-second COP was held in Marrakech in 2016 and focused on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.
- The main outcome of COP22 was the adoption of the Marrakech Action Proclamation, which set out the rules and procedures for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

COP23: Bonn, Germany, 2017

- The twenty-third COP was held in Bonn in 2017 and focused on the negotiations of the Kyoto Protocol.
- The main outcome of COP23 was the adoption of the Bonn-Fiji Commitment, which set out the principles for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

• COP24: Katowice, 2018

- The twenty-fourth COP was held in Katowice in 2018 and focused on the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol.
- The main outcome of COP24 was the adoption of the Katowice Climate Package, which set out the targets and timetables for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

COP25: Madrid, Spain, 2019

- COP25, hosted in Madrid, Spain, in 2019, was marked by important developments.
- One of the major outcomes was the agreement on the 'Chile-Madrid Time for Action,' which reaffirmed countries' commitments to the Paris Agreement.
- Discussions on market mechanisms and the establishment of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage also took place.
- COP25 stressed the need for increased ambition to tackle the climate crisis.

COP26: Glasgow, UK, 2021

- COP26, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, in 2021, was a pivotal conference.
- The major outcome was the Glasgow Climate Pact. This landmark agreement saw countries pledge to accelerate their efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. COP26 also addressed issues related to finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.
- It marked a significant step in international climate action.

COP27: Achieving Climate Justice and Ambition



- It was held in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh from 6 to 20 November, 2020.
- The conference was attended by over 35,000 participants, including more than 100 Heads of State and Government.
- At COP27, a major milestone was achieved with the agreement to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund. This fund is essential for developing countries to rescue and rebuild the physical and social infrastructure devastated by extreme weather.
- The conference also reaffirmed the 1.5C temperature goal, and the commitment to phase down the use of coal.

- In addition, COP27 saw discussions on the need to boost low-emissions energy, phase down all fossil fuels, and reform the World Bank and other publicly funded finance institutions to provide more assistance to the developing world.
- The conference also reaffirmed the commitment to double the proportion of climate finance for adaptation.

COP28



- The summit is being held in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 30 November until 12 December 2023.
- At COP28, governments will discuss topics such as fast-tracking the move to clean energy sources, delivering money for climate action from richer to poorer countries, and working on a new deal for developing nations.
- More than 200 governments are invited, and environmental charities, community groups, think tanks, businesses and faith groups will also take part.

COP28: Expectations

- COP28 is our focal point today. It holds significant promise in the ongoing fight against climate change. As we look ahead, we anticipate this conference to be a crucial turning point.
- The agenda for COP28 includes important topics such as emissions reduction targets, climate finance, and adaptation measures. We expect to see strengthened commitments and international cooperation.
- Our hope is that COP28 will lead us towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.




Key topics on the agenda for COP28.

- Implementation of Paris Agreement
- Mitigation of Emissions,
- Climate Finance,
- Adaptation.

- COP28 must be a turning point for the world to rally to meet the climate challenge and deliver for people and nature.
- To limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we must reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and shift away from fossil fuels towards clean energy.
- COP28 must acknowledge the central role of fossil fuels in the climate crisis and work towards a phase-out agreement.
- Additionally, there should be a significant increase in financial support from developed nations to the Global South for transitioning to renewable energy.

- The COP28 climate summit needs a strong global leader who prioritizes the well-being of humanity over personal or corporate interests.
- The Loss and Damage Fund, established at COP27, also needs substantial funding to aid the poorest countries affected by climate change.
- The COP presidency must prioritize the interests of people, especially those suffering the most from climate change, rather than favoring national or corporate interests.

A close-up photograph of several wooden puzzle pieces on a light-colored surface. The pieces are scattered, with some showing the interlocking edges. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a sense of depth and texture. The image is partially obscured by a white, torn-paper-like border that separates it from the text area on the right.

This Conference can represent a change of direction, showing that everything done since 1992 was in fact serious and worth the effort, or else it will be a great disappointment and jeopardize whatever good has been achieved thus far.

- Pope Francis

Significance of COPs

THE IMPORTANCE OF COPS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.

- COPs provide a platform for international cooperation and the development of climate policy.
- COPs are vital because they provide a platform for international cooperation in addressing climate change. They significantly influence national climate action plans and global climate targets. The Paris Agreement, from COP21, exemplifies their enduring significance.

Role of COPs in shaping global climate policy.

- COP outcomes influence national climate action plans and global climate targets.
- These conferences significantly influence national climate action plans and global climate targets. Among them, the Paris Agreement from COP21 stands out as a landmark achievement.



The significance of the Paris Agreement (COP21).

- The historic Paris Agreement, its goals, commitments, and significance in global climate efforts.
- The Paris Agreement's commitments to limiting global warming and promoting climate resilience are examples of COPs' enduring significance.

Challenges & Obstacles

Current challenges and obstacles in the fight against climate change.

- Issues such as political reluctance,
- Economic interests, and
- Technological barriers that hinder progress in mitigating climate change.

UN's Role Beyond COPs

UN's ongoing efforts to combat climate change.

- Initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN's role in fostering climate action at the global, national, and local levels.

Showcasing initiatives, partnerships, and campaigns.

- These initiatives and campaigns are integral to the UN's broader mission of promoting sustainable development and addressing climate change.



Q&A and Discussion



Questions and the floor open for discussion.

Q&A session or share the
thoughts and insights on the
presentation's content.



Conclusion



Recap of the importance of international cooperation through the UN and COPs.

- Discuss the key takeaways from the presentation, emphasizing the essential role of collective action in addressing climate change.

.... the world we are
living in is collapsing,
nearing the breaking
point.

-Pope Francis



“I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful.....

We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes.....

Everything is connected and No one is saved alone”.

- Pope Francis





Resources

- <https://sgkplanet.com/en/brief-history-of-the-cops-un-framework-convention-on-climate-change/>
- https://www.activesustainability.com/climate-change/achievements-of-the-conference-of-the-parties/?_ad=02021864894
- <https://www.lifegate.com/history-climate-change-conferences>





Thank You