

## Five historical dates of the international negotiations on climate change

### 1988: Creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC was created in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), at the initiative of the G7<sup>1</sup>. IPCC's mission is to provide neutral and independent detailed assessments of scientific, technical and socioeconomic states of knowledge about climate change. It also focuses on climate change causes and analyses potential impacts, as well as strategies to face them. Since 1992, date of the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the IPCC's mandate is to provide the Convention "rigorous and balanced" scientific information.

- **1992: The Earth Summit in Rio (Brazil): creation of the UNFCCC**

At the Rio Summit, the States recognized the existence of climate change, the contribution of human activities to this phenomenon and the responsibility of industrialized countries, considering their historical level of GHG. The UNFCCC was created and came into force on March 21st 1994. Its main objective is to limit anthropogenic GHG emissions and enhance adaptation measures, and in a broader context, to integrate itself within the broader agenda of sustainable development. Under the aegis of the UNFCCC, the Conference of the Parties (COP) have been held every year since 1995.

<sup>1</sup> The 7 most industrialized countries (Canada, Germany, US, France, Britain, Italy and Japan)



- **1997: The Kyoto Protocol, a first binding commitment on climate**

Adopted in 1997 at the third Conference of the Parties (COP3), the Kyoto Protocol represented an outstanding collective progress in the implementation of the UNFCCC's prerogatives. The protocol entered into force in 2005, following its ratification by Russia, and put into practice the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities:

- It only imposes a reduction of GHG emission to industrialized countries;
- The reduction is applied specifically to six anthropogenic (resulting from human activities) greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane;
- Among the 38 developed countries and economies in transition, 37 committed to binding target in order to achieve an overall GHG emissions reduction of 5,2% between 2008 and 2012 (first engagement period) compared to 1990 (the reporting year).

- **2009: the failure of Copenhagen**

The Copenhagen climate Conference (COP15) was supposed to endorse the main elements for the second engagement period of the Kyoto protocol (2012-2020). However, negotiations failed and only a political agreement in the form of a high-level declaration was obtained. The Copenhagen agreement still provides clarification on some aspects of the negotiations, such as long-term GHG emission reduction targets and funding, with a goal set by developed countries of collectively raising US \$ 100 billion annually by 2020 to finance climate projects in developing countries.

- **2015: COP21 in Paris, the first global agreement on climate**

The 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 was historical. The 195 countries signatories of the UNFCCC, along with the European Union, endorsed the Paris Agreement. It is the result of a long process of international negotiations on climate, and the outcome of all the measures already taken and planned in previous meetings and COPs. The objective was to obtain the first universal agreement on climate change, gathering the entire international community, and as such this conference was a success. The Paris agreement concerns the period post-2020 and sets the objective of limiting global warming to far below 2°C by 2100 and making the best efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. It not only focuses on mitigation but also adaptation, finance, transfer of technologies, etc. as well as on the involvement of all actors, citizens included.



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



**PARIS2015**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP21·CMP11