



Information to support ASEAN agriculture sector negotiators



With a focus on the
Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture
under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**



Implemented by:



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Disclaimer

This document represents the authors' personal opinions. It has been prepared in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) and specifically for the ASEAN Negotiators Group on Agriculture (ANGA). It is intended for the internal use of the ANGA to prepare for and engage in UNFCCC negotiations on issues related to agriculture based on further analysis of national and regional priorities.

The Climate Smart Land Use in ASEAN (CSLU) project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in close cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Asia Pacific Office supports ASEAN-CRN and ANGA to further strengthen coordination and capacities related to the climate change negotiations.

1. Outputs and objectives

The paper complements and builds on the meetings of agriculture experts and negotiators from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) in April and May 2019, organised by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the ASEAN Secretariat jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The aim of these capacity building workshops was to enhance the negotiation skills of ASEAN negotiators, especially on elements expected to be included in the consideration of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) workshop report on topic 2(a) (Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work), and to facilitate preparation of the ASEAN negotiators for workshops on topics 2(b) (Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience) and 2(c) (Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management) to be held at the fiftieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice/Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBSTA/SBI 50: 17-27 June 2019).

This short guidance paper provides information for negotiators that support further capacity building and the enhancement of the negotiation skills of relevant ASEAN stakeholders for the KJWA process, including an overview of:

- key actors and institutions/bodies—their roles and relationship;
- types of meetings and documents;
- a typical day at the SBI sessions;
- important terminology and acronyms.

2. Background on the KJWA and the ASEAN Negotiators Group on Agriculture

The Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in November 2017 requested the SBSTA and the SBI to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, by working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into

consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.¹

The decision identifies the following elements to start the work:

- (a) Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work
- (b) Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience
- (c) Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management
- (d) Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems
- (e) Improved livestock management systems
- (f) Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector.

At the climate conference held in Katowice (December 2018), the SBSTA and the SBI continued their joint work initiated at SB 48 on addressing issues related to agriculture,² including the first in-session workshop outlined in the Koronivia road map³ on topic 2(a).⁴

The ASEAN Member States (AMSs) prepared a joint regional submission on KJWA topic 2(a). The submission was the first official activity by the newly established ASEAN Negotiators Group on Agriculture (ANGA) and built on the previous experience of the ASEAN-CRN's pioneering submissions to SBSTA 44. The preparation of the submission revealed a need to further enhance understanding of specific elements of the KJWA process and the potential benefits of engaging in this process for the AMSs, in particular, how to ensure that agriculture sector stakeholders can be actively engaged in the KJWA process while also using existing national and regional channels for engagement with the UNFCCC.

¹ Decision 4/CP.23, paragraph 1.

² FCCC/SBI/2018/22, paragraph 38, and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/8, paragraph 20.

³ Contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2018/9, annex I, and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, annex I.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paragraph 61 and FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 39.

Table 1: Timeline for the remaining activities under the KJWA (2019 onwards)

SBSTA/SBI session	Activity
SBSTA/SBI 50 June 2019	<p>Workshops on topics 2(b) (Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience) and 2(c) (Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management)</p> <p>Consideration of the workshop report on topic 2(a) (Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work)</p>
Intersessional activities	<p>Submissions on topic 2(d) (Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems) <u>by 30 September 2019</u></p>
SBSTA/SBI 51 November 2019	<p>Workshop on topic 2(d) (Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems)</p> <p>Consideration of the workshop reports on topics 2(b) (Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience) and 2(c) (Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management)</p>
Intersessional activities	<p>Submissions on topics 2(e) (Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others) and 2(f) (Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector) <u>by 20 April 2020</u></p> <p>Intersessional workshop on the following topics:</p> <p>(a) Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security</p> <p>(b) Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances.</p>
SBSTA/SBI 52 June 2020	<p>Workshops on topics 2(e) (Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others) and 2(f)</p>

SBSTA/SBI session	Activity
	<p>(Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector)</p> <p>Consideration of the workshop report on topic 2(d) (Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems)</p> <p>Consideration of the intersessional workshop report on the topics:</p> <p>(a) Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security</p> <p>(b) Strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances.</p>
Intersessional activities	<p>Submissions on future topics not listed in decision 4/CP.23 and views on the progress of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture in order to report to the Conference of the Parties as per decision 4/CP.23, paragraph 4, <u>by 28 September 2020</u></p>
SBSTA/SBI 53 November 2020	<p>Consideration of the workshop reports on topics 2(e) (Improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others) and 2(f) (Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector).</p> <p>Report to the Conference of the Parties on the progress and outcomes of the work, including on potential future topics</p>

In Table 1 (above), three types of activities are referred to:

- submission: a written input from a Party or group of Parties submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat via the Submission Portal (<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>)
- workshop: a meeting organised for the purpose of exchanging views/information (for more information see Chapter 4 below)
- consideration of the workshop report: meeting of a contact group (for definition see Chapter 4 below) for the purpose of evaluating the content of the workshop report and reaching a consensus among the Parties.

3. Individual actors in the UNFCCC process

Individual actors in the UNFCCC process include Parties and groups of Parties, observer states and observer organisations. The UNFCCC secretariat supports the process but remains neutral with respect to the substance of negotiations. A definition of 'state' is crucial for understanding any international process that involves governments.

STATE

A state consists of the institutions of government and exerts its sovereignty over a specified territory. According to international law, a state is typically defined as being based on the 1933 Montevideo Convention. According to Article 1 of the Convention, the state as a person of international law should possess the following qualifications: (i) a permanent population; (ii) a defined territory; (iii) government; and (iv) capacity to enter into relations with the other states.

PARTY

A state that has ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Climate Convention becomes a Party to the Convention. Currently, there are 197 Parties (196 states and one regional economic integration organisation) to the Convention. A state becomes a Party to the Kyoto Protocol or Paris Agreement using a similar procedure, which is detailed in these treaties.

The UNFCCC structure includes supreme bodies (the COP, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)), and subsidiary bodies that offer Parties (to the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement respectively) an area to exchange views, gather scientific and technical input and take decisions consistent with the mandates of these bodies. The UNFCCC process is a Party-driven process, guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness.

PARTY DELEGATION

The number and choice of members of a Party delegation and their areas of expertise is a sovereign decision taken by that Party although one member of the delegation must be registered as the head of delegation. The Party delegation may consist of

government officials and non-government representatives (e.g. members of law firms, academia or NGOs) serving as technical experts. The experts may or may not be allowed to negotiate on behalf of the Party, as decided by the government.

GROUP OF PARTIES

Parties may form a group to benefit from negotiating as part of a larger group. Members of a group agree on a common position on issues that are important to all of them. The largest group of Parties to the Convention is the G77 & China, with 134 members which are mainly developing countries (www.g77.org). Parties that have joined the G77&China may belong to other smaller and more or less formal groups, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), the League of Arab States (LAS), the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) and the newly created group ANGA. Some groups involve Parties associated with the G77&China and other Parties, e.g. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS).

Developed country Parties have also formed several negotiation groups, including the European Union (EU), the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) and the Umbrella Group (several non-EU developed countries).

OBSERVER STATE

An 'observer state' to a treaty (Kyoto Protocol or Paris Agreement) under the UNFCCC is a state that is a Party to the Convention but not a Party to that particular treaty. Observer states do not participate in decision-making processes under the treaty. For example, as the US is a Party to the Climate Convention but not to the Kyoto Protocol, it may only participate in the CMP as an observer state.

OBSERVER ORGANISATION

Observer organisations are further categorised into three types: the United Nations System and its Specialised Agencies, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Observer organisations do not participate in

decision-making processes under the Convention although they may be invited to present their views, thus indirectly influencing these processes.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND ITS SPECIALISED AGENCIES

The United Nations System consists of the United Nations and the six principal organs of the United Nations –the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the UN Secretariat –and specialised agencies and affiliated organisations. Relevant examples include the FAO, the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (IGOs)

An intergovernmental organisation or international governmental organisation (IGO) is an organisation composed primarily of sovereign states (referred to as member states) or of other intergovernmental organisations, for example the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC).

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

Currently, there are over 2,200 NGOs admitted as observers. The NGOs represent a broad spectrum of interests and include representatives from business and industry, environmental groups, farming and agriculture, indigenous populations, local governments and municipal authorities, research and academic institutions, labour unions, women and gender groups and youth groups. NGOs play a vital role in the UNFCCC process as they bring a diversity of views, perspectives and expertise to the negotiations.

THE UNFCCC SECRETARIAT

The UNFCCC process is supported by the UNFCCC secretariat. The role of the secretariat is to ensure that all meetings run smoothly from a logistical point of view and to provide technical expertise and support to all Parties and Convention bodies (e.g. it makes arrangements for meetings, compiles and prepares reports and coordinates with other relevant international bodies). The secretariat does not participate in negotiations and remains neutral in all its activities.

The secretariat works exclusively under the mandate contained in the Convention and further mandates issued by the COP, the CMP, the CMA or bodies established under the Convention and fully observes the Party-driven nature of the UNFCCC.

4. The bodies under the Convention and their relationships

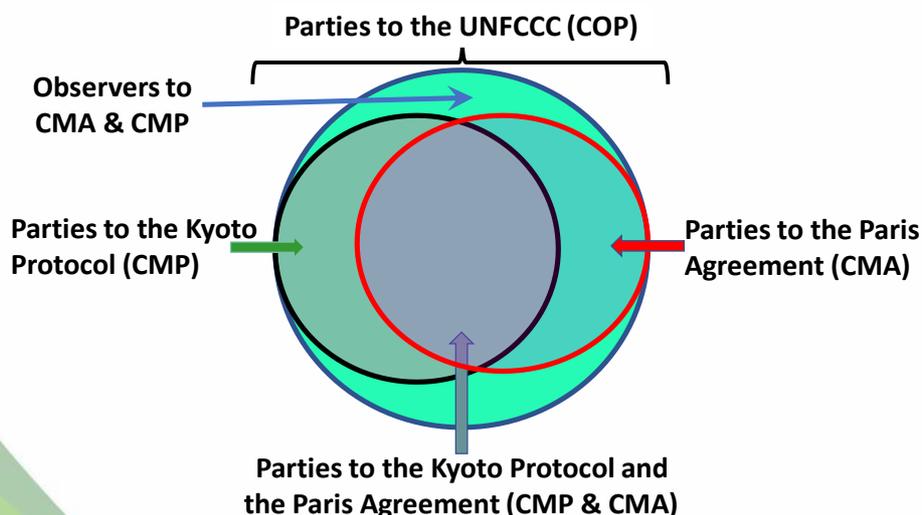
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the Convention. All states that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they consider all matters related to the Convention.

The COP also serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. All states that are Parties to the Paris Agreement are represented at the CMA, while states that are not Parties to it may participate as observers.

The COP further serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. All states that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are represented at the CMP, while states that are not Parties to it may participate as observers.

Figure 1: Relationship between the COP, the CMP and the CMA



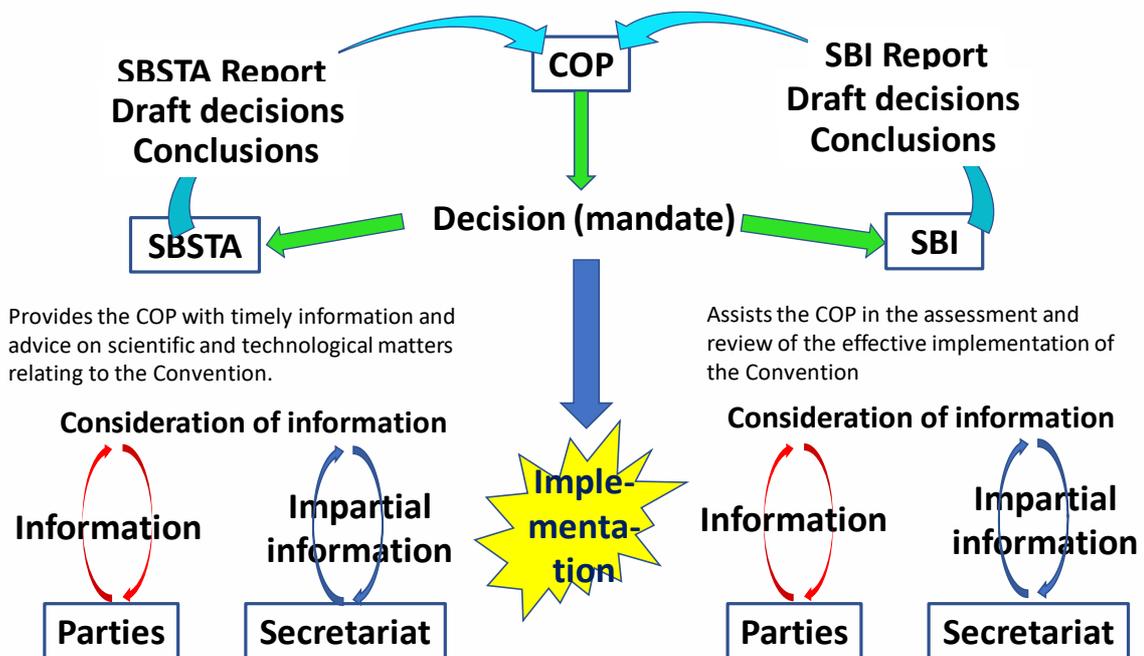
SBSTA

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) supports the work of the COP, the CMP and the CMA by providing timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters as they relate to the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

SBI

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) supports the work of the COP, the CMP and the CMA in ensuring Parties are making progress on implementing their commitments under these bodies.

Figure 2: Functional relationship between the COP and the SBSTA and the SBI



The permanent subsidiary bodies (the SBSTA and the SBI) support the COP, the CMP and the CMA according to their mandates, as defined in the Convention. The permanent subsidiary bodies meet in parallel twice a year: once in May or June and in conjunction with the annual COP sessions (November or December). The SBI and SBSTA may work jointly on cross-cutting issues. For instance, the COP recently mandated both bodies to work together on issues relating to agriculture.

5. Types of meetings

Negotiations under the UNFCCC are organised in the form of meetings. Each negotiating session consists of a series of meetings. For each day of the session, a daily programme provides information on meetings of all types planned for that day.

PLENARY

Plenary meetings of the COP, the CMP and the CMA have the exclusive power to adopt decisions and approve other documents resulting from the work of the subsidiary bodies. These meetings are open to all, including observer organisations and media representatives, but only the Parties participate in consensus decision-making with respect to draft documents being considered by the plenary. As consensus usually means a lack of objections, it is important for all Parties to be present at and well prepared for the plenary sessions.

CONTACT GROUP

Contact groups are established by the COP, the CMP and the CMA or subsidiary bodies to conduct negotiations on specific agenda items, with the aim of achieving an agreed outcome.

Two co-chairs are invited to facilitate their work and report back on their outcomes to the closing plenary of the respective body. The outcomes consist of draft conclusions (or information that Parties could not agree on a text). The conclusions may contain draft decisions as an annex for consideration by the COP/CMP/CMA.

Contact groups are open to all Parties, but not always to observers. Observer organisations are normally allowed to attend the first and final contact group meetings.

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Informal consultations are convened by the president or chair of a subsidiary body or contact group, with the approval of the body in question. The presiding officer normally invites a delegate to undertake consultations on a particular issue and report back to him or her on the outcome of these consultations, which may take the form of bilateral consultations, open-ended meetings or a combination of both.

INFORMAL-INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

Informal-informal consultations have been used to troubleshoot a specific problematic issue or advance negotiations on contentious issues, e.g. to draft a specific section of a text or resolve a specific problem. These informal-informals are established with the agreement of the group or under the co-chairs' own responsibility.

The increasingly extended practice of informal-informal consultations is due to the fact that the great number of agenda items planned for consideration during a negotiating session results in competition for time slots and clashes among the contact groups or informal consultations. Consequently, the only practicable way to conduct the bodies' work is to extend the use of informal-informals which are more flexible with respect to avoiding possible time clashes.

WORKSHOP

A workshop is a meeting organised by the secretariat based on a specific mandate contained in the COP decision or report of the relevant subsidiary body under the Convention. The mandate defines at least the scope, participants and timing of the workshop.

A workshop is a less formal sort of meeting for exchanging views and improving understanding of elements considered difficult or important for achieving progress in climate negotiations. Workshops may also serve as a form of training/capacity building to inform participants or improve their understanding of new elements agreed in the climate process. There is usually no expectation of an agreed output although, depending on the mandate, the secretariat may prepare a workshop report for information purposes or for consideration by the relevant body.

A workshop is not intended to serve as a platform for negotiations. In fact, workshops (organised by the secretariat) and informal consultations (convened, for example, by the chair of a subsidiary body) are held in a parallel manner if taking place during the same negotiating session.

6. Typical day at the UNFCCC climate conference

A typical day at the UNFCCC climate conference consists of several formal and/or informal delegation meetings, scheduled negotiating sessions and possibly side events.

MORNING DELEGATION MEETINGS

A well-organised UNFCCC negotiator begins her/his day with a very informal exchange of views during breakfast time and while travelling to the conference venue. Once there, it is important to also meet with other negotiators who present views that are controversial from one's own stand point. An informal atmosphere may be conducive to deeper insights and a better understanding of each other's concerns and national interests.

A typical day in UNFCCC negotiations begins at 8 o'clock with a preparatory meeting of regional groupings that are part of the G77&China grouping (e.g. ASEAN negotiators). During the meeting, negotiators coordinate their positions for the negotiating sessions to be held during the coming day and agree on their strategy for the G77&China coordination meeting.

At 9 o'clock, the entire G77&China grouping comes together for its coordination meeting, which is an important forum for alerting negotiators to issues that are cross-cutting and of common interest and for further coordinating positions among all the groupings belonging to the G77&China. An important part of the G77&China coordination meeting is the preparation of draft text proposals. Any Party with a particular interest in ensuring that their priorities are included in the draft text should actively participate in the work to draft it. The G77&China coordination meeting also provides a chance to coordinate coverage of the session events scheduled for the day (e.g. side events). Regional grouping meetings and the G77&China coordination meeting are closed (only negotiators from Parties belonging to these groupings may attend).

CONTACT GROUP AND INFORMAL NEGOTIATION GROUP MEETINGS – SCHEDULED NEGOTIATING SESSIONS

Usually there are two scheduled negotiating sessions: morning (from 10:00 to 13:00) and afternoon (from 15:00 to 18:00). These sessions are usually open to observers.

The afternoon sessions may occasionally continue late into the evening or even the early morning although this practice, which was frequent in the past, is now strongly discouraged by the chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI.

BREAK BETWEEN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS

The break between the morning and afternoon sessions lasts from 13:00 to 15:00. Although it is the time set aside for lunch, a UNFCCC negotiator should utilise it for further informal contacts with other negotiators.

The lunch break may also be used for further coordination meetings within the regional groupings and the G77&China grouping. It is important to participate in all coordination meetings as crucial decisions on strategy for negotiations are agreed at them.

EVENING MEETINGS AND SIDE EVENTS

The time after 18:00 is usually free from any negotiation group meetings although regional and G77&China coordination meetings may be scheduled for any time after the morning and afternoon negotiating sessions. A UNFCCC negotiator should utilise this time for further informal contacts with other negotiators. These contacts could materialise, for example, during side events hosted by Parties, NGOs, IGOs and businesses.

GENERAL

Negotiators should be prepared to adapt to any last-minute changes in the negotiation schedule, and specific arrangements for efficient communication among the delegates should be established before the session (e-mail, telephone, etc.). Although a daily programme document is circulated each day by the secretariat in printed and electronic form, the demands of the negotiation process might necessitate changes to the announced meetings schedule. Negotiators are therefore encouraged to use the real-time information on all meetings displayed on the live meetings schedule on CCTV.

7. Types of documents under the UNFCCC

The UNFCCC employs several types of documents. Each document is marked with a code and number. Each code starts with 'FCCC' and is followed by the code for the relevant body and the year the document was issued: – /CP/2019/ – for the COP; –

/KP/CMP/2019/ – for the CMP; – /PA/CMA/2019/ – for the CMA; – /SBI/2016/ – for the SBI; and /SBSTA/2019/ – for the SBSTA. A list of documents relevant to climate negotiations under the UNFCCC is shown below.

Table 2: A list of document types relevant to climate negotiations under the UNFCCC

Document name	Document code	Document description
Conference room papers (CRPs)	/CRP	A category of in-session documents containing new proposals or outcomes of in-session work. CRPs are for use only during the session concerned. Distribution in hard copy is limited to those likely to be immediately interested in the work of the body concerned (although these documents are usually available on the secretariat website).
Decision	/CP	A formal agreement that leads to binding actions. It becomes part of the agreed body of decisions that direct the work of the COP.
Information notes	/INF	Workshop reports by the secretariat, synthesis of submissions prepared by the secretariat or the list of participants for a session.
Limited distribution documents (L. docs)	/L	In-session documents that contain draft reports and texts for adoption by the COP or its subsidiary bodies.
Miscellaneous documents (Misc. docs)	/MISC	Documents issued on plain paper with no UN masthead. They generally contain views or comments published as received from a delegation without formal editing such as compilations of submissions from Parties and/or observers.
Non-paper	none	An in-session document issued informally to facilitate negotiations. A non-paper does not have an official document symbol. It may have an identifying number or carry the name of its author.
Technical paper	/TP	Technical papers prepared by the secretariat.

Codes shown in the table above may end with:

- /Add. ... for addendum (usually the second part of a report)
- /Corr. for documents that contain corrections (which may only apply to one of the language versions)
- /Rev. ... for documents that are the revised text of a previous version

8. Important terminology (relevant to the KJWA)

Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU): Land plays an important role in global cycles of greenhouse gases (GHGs – the major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O)). Land use activities can result in emissions of such greenhouse gases to the atmosphere or removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The UNFCCC acknowledges that land use can contribute significantly to mitigation of climate change, including through the promotion of sustainable management of forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. The Convention also indicates that land use will need to take measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, which is particularly important for ensuring that food production is not threatened.

Annex I Parties: The industrialised countries listed in this annex to the Convention. They include the 24 original OECD members, the European Union and 14 countries with economies in transition.

Annex II Parties: The countries listed in Annex II to the Convention which have a special obligation to provide financial resources and facilitate technology transfer to developing countries. Annex II Parties include the 24 original OECD members plus the European Union.

Anthropogenic greenhouse emissions: Greenhouse-gas emissions resulting from human activities.

Capacity building: In the context of climate change, the process of developing the technical skills and institutional capability of developing countries and economies in

transition to enable them to effectively address the causes and results of climate change.

Greenhouse gases (GHGs): The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Less prevalent – but very powerful – greenhouse gases are hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): Established by the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Programme, the IPCC surveys worldwide scientific and technical literature and publishes assessment reports that are widely recognised as the most credible existing sources of information on climate change.

Land Use, Land Use Changes and Forestry (LULUCF): Land use and their changes (forest, agriculture, natural areas, etc.) have a significant influence on carbon storage (sink) and methane (CH₄) releases and therefore on climate change. They contribute to the anthropogenic emissions taken into account by the Kyoto Protocol. The problem of land and forest use goes hand in hand with the concerns of two other conventions: biodiversity and desertification.

Mitigation: In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, expanding forests and other 'sinks' to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The main **mitigation options within AFOLU** involve one or more of three strategies: reduction/prevention of emissions to the atmosphere by conserving existing carbon pools in soils or vegetation that would otherwise be lost or by reducing emissions of CH₄ and N₂O; sequestration – enhancing the uptake of carbon in terrestrial reservoirs and thereby removing CO₂ from the atmosphere; and reducing CO₂ emissions by substituting biological products for fossil fuels or energy-intensive products.

Monitoring: Continuous or periodic assessment of emissions and removals of GHG or other GHG-related data.

Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV): The Bali Action Plan adopted at COP 13 in 2007 introduced the principle of MRV for both developed and developing country Parties in the context of enhancing action at the international and national level

to mitigate climate change. This principle was further elaborated through a number of subsequent COP decisions, resulting in a comprehensive MRV framework under the Convention.

For developing country Parties, the MRV framework involves submitting national communications every four years and biennial update reports (BURs) every two years, undergoing international consultation and analysis (ICA), setting up domestic MRV of domestically supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and undertaking MRV of REDD-plus activities for the purpose of obtaining and receiving results-based incentives.

Nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMA): This refers to a set of policies and actions that countries undertake as part of a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The term recognises that different countries may take different nationally appropriate action on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It also emphasises financial assistance from developed countries to developing countries to reduce emissions.

National adaptation plan (NAP): The process enables Parties to formulate and implement NAPs as a means of identifying medium-term and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.

National adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs): Documents prepared by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) identifying urgent and immediate needs for adapting to climate change. The NAPAs are then presented to the international donor community for support.

Nationally determined contributions (NDCs): NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain the successive NDCs that it intends to achieve. Parties must pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

Non-Annex I Parties: This term refers to countries that have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and are not included in Annex I of the Convention.

REDD-plus: 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.

Rules of procedure: The parliamentary rules that govern the procedures of the COP, covering such matters as decision-making and participation. The COP has not yet formally adopted rules of procedure, but all except one (on voting) are currently being applied.

Sink: Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.

Square brackets: Typographical symbols [–] placed around text under negotiation to indicate that the language enclosed is being discussed but has not yet been agreed upon.

Technology transfer: A broad set of processes covering the flows of know-how, experience and equipment for mitigating and adapting to climate change among different stakeholders

Vulnerability: The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability depends on the character, magnitude and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity.

9. Acronyms relevant to the UNFCCC process

The table below shows acronyms related to Party groupings, that is, alliances of countries usually belonging to the same geographic region, which meet privately to discuss issues and act jointly under the Convention.

Acronym	Description
AGN	African Group of Negotiators made up of African members of the United Nations
AILAC	Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Peru
ALBA	The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America: Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela
ANGA	ASEAN Negotiators Group on Agriculture
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States: 44 island and low-lying coastal countries
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BASIC	Brazil, South Africa, India and China
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CACAM Group	Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova
CARICOM	Caribbean Community: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
CD	Cartagena Dialogue: informal alliance of about 40 countries
No acronym	Coalition for Rainforest Nations: made up of 40+ countries with the three largest tropical forest areas – Amazonia, Congo Basin and New Guinea
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum: made up of 20 nations which describe themselves as ‘highly vulnerable to a warming planet’
EIG	The Environmental Integrity Group: Mexico, Liechtenstein, Monaco, South Korea and Switzerland
G77	The Group of 77 countries (initially) and China (currently totalling 134 countries)
GRULAC	Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

Acronym	Description
LAS	League of Arab States: Arab nations in northern and north-eastern Africa and south-western Asia
LDCs	Countries designated by the United Nations as least developed
LMDCs	Like-Minded Developing Countries: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela
MLDCs	Mountainous Landlocked Developing Countries: Armenia, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
Umbrellagroup	Informal alliance of non-European Union developed nations: Australia, Canada, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Ukraine and the United States

Other acronyms relevant to this report are shown in the table below.

Acronym	Description
AC	Adaptation Committee
AF	Adaptation Fund
APA	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement
CBDR	Common but differentiated responsibilities
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KJWA	Koronivia joint work on agriculture
LDCs	Least Developed Countries

Acronym	Description
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MRV	Measuring, reporting, verification
NAP	National adaptation plan
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SB	Subsidiary body session
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.