



# **ROLE OF CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS**

**CASE STUDY/INSIGHT**

# ROLE OF CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS

The Conference of Parties, known as COP, is the decision-making body responsible for reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and any other legal aspects that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. It brings together the 197 nations and territories – called Parties – that have signed on to the Framework Convention. The COP has met annually since 1995.

A key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by signatory countries. Based on this information, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by countries and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. Each Party to the Convention is represented at sessions by a national delegation consisting of one or more officials empowered to represent and negotiate on behalf of their government. Each COP provides details on the implementation of the decisions and negotiates, new commitments with the individuals or shared objectives. The final decisions are taken by consensus.

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise. The first COP meeting was held in Berlin, Germany in March, 1995. The COP meets in Bonn, the headquarters of UNFCCC, unless a signatory country offers to host the session. Based on the tradition of the United Nations, signatory countries are organized into five regional groups, mainly for the purposes of electing the Bureau, namely: African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and the Caribbean States, and the Western European and Other States (the "Other States" include Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America, but not Japan, which is in the Asian Group). The COP Presidency rotates among the five recognized UN groups and the venue of the COP will also shift among these groups

# ROLE OF CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) IN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AGREEMENTS

After the Paris Agreement at COP21, work for the global climate change began to draw up the rulebook for the implementation of Paris Agreement. This work produced a set of texts which guides all technical aspects of implementing the Paris Agreement. Only one rule was not adopted at COP24, in the absence of political consensus. It was that on flexibility mechanisms and cooperation between countries for the implementation of their emissions reductions (i.e., Article 6 of the Paris Agreement). Certain countries refused to take into account the environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement in emissions quota accounting. Consensus was again not achieved at COP25 in Madrid, where certain Parties were particularly obstructive.

The 26th session of the COP (COP 26) to the UNFCCC was originally scheduled to take place from 9-19 November 2020, in Glasgow, UK. However, due to COVID 19 global pandemic, the COP Bureau decided that it would take place from 1-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK. It is expected that the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement would reach a consensus during COP26.

