

A smiling man in a green dress shirt and a grey striped tie is holding a large white sign with a green header. The sign contains the text 'NOTICE' in white on the green background, and 'REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT' in black on the white background.

NOTICE

**REDUCE YOUR
CARBON
FOOTPRINT**

ROLE OF UNFCCC IN GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an intergovernmental treaty developed to address the global climate change issue. It enables countries to collectively consider how to mitigate climate change and cope with its impacts. The Convention, which sets out an agreed framework for dealing with the climate change issue, was negotiated from February 1991 to May 1992 and opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992. The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and its headquarters is situated at Bonn, Germany. So far, 197 Parties have joined the Convention.

The Parties to the UNFCCC continue to adopt decisions, review progress and consider further actions through regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The Conference of Parties is the highest-decision making body of the Convention and usually meets annually.

The Convention has established two subsidiary bodies viz., The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) and The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to support and guide the COP. The SBSTA provides information and advice on scientific and technological matters related to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The methodological panel of SBSTA prepares the CDM methodologies for various technologies and revise it periodically. Similarly, the SBI assists in assessment and review of the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The SBSTA and SBI usually meet twice each year, at the same time and venue

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At the 3rd meeting of COP (1997) in Kyoto, Japan, the Parties negotiated and adopted a Protocol known as “Kyoto Protocol”. Though the Kyoto Protocol was first agreed in December 1997, numerous negotiations were carried out between the Parties between 1998 and 2004 to finalize the agreement. The Protocol obliges industrialized countries to reduce the greenhouse gas emission during 2008 to 2020 to below 1990 levels. In order to maintain the international climate protection process after 2020, the Convention adopted Paris Agreement at COP 21. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5 °C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

To mitigate global climate change impacts, the Convention also established a financial mechanism to provide financial resources to the developing country Parties. The financial mechanism also serves the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The financial mechanism is accountable to the COP, which decides on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding.

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The commitment by the developed countries to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 in support of climate action in the developing countries has been the pivot to the climate change agreement since 2009. Parties have made substantial progress in raising their climate finance ambitions in recent years. According to the most recent OECD progress report (2018), climate finance provided and mobilized by developed countries for climate action in developing countries reached USD 78.9 billion in 2018, up from USD 71.2 billion in 2017. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that USD 3.5 trillion in investment would be needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep global warming below 1.5°C.

The re-joining of US in the Paris Agreement and the commitment of Biden's USD 1.7 trillion dollar investment in climate change would be a big push in tackling the impact of global warming

