

Basis Understanding of UNFCCC

By: Mohammad Reza Salamat

Interregional Advisor on Energy

For Sustainable Development

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Basic Understanding of UNFCCC

Early International Responses to a global problem (Climate Change):

- First World Climate Change Conference, 1979
- Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Scientific evidence on a global environmental problem during 1980s

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Early International Responses ... (Cont.)

- Start of negotiations for a Convention on Climate Change in 1990
- The Convention (UNFCCC) is adopted and opened for signature at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit

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The Climate Change Convention

- The UNFCCC enters into force on 21/03/1994
- Universal membership: 188 Governments became Parties to UNFCCC

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The ultimate objective of the Convention:

“ The stabilization of Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system...”

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Principles of UNFCCC:

Principle 1: Common but differentiated responsibilities

Principle 2: Specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries

Principle 3: Precautionary approach

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Principles of UNFCCC (cont.):

Principle 4: Right to development

Principle 5: A supportive and open international economic system; No arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade

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The Institutions

- Conference of the Parties (COP)
- Subsidiary Bodies (SBs):
 - For scientific and technical advice
 - For implementation
- * Secretariat, based in Bonn

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Commitments:

A. All Parties shall:

- develop National Inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals of all GHGs not controlled by Montreal Protocol
- Cooperate in mitigation and adaptation measures

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B. Annex-I Parties shall:

- Return their anthropogenic emissions of CO₂ to their 1990 levels by 2000
- provide tech transfer and financial resources to DCs to enhance their adaptive capacities