

Party Groupings

Each Party to the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol is represented at sessions of the Convention bodies by a national delegation consisting of one or more officials empowered to represent and negotiate on behalf of their government.

Based on the tradition of the United Nations, Parties 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 five regional groups, however, are not usually used to present the substantive interests of Parties and several other groupings are more important for climate negotiations.

Developing country Parties generally work through the Group of 77 to establish common negotiating positions. The G-77 was founded in 1964 in the context of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and now functions throughout the UN system. As at May 2014, there are 133 members in the Group. The Party holding the Chair of the G-77 in New York (which rotates every year) often speaks for the G-77 and China as a whole. However, because the G-77 and China is a diverse group with differing interests on climate change issues, individual developing country Parties also intervene in debates, as do groups within the G-77, such as the African Group, the Small Island Developing States and the group of Least Developed Countries.

The **African Group of Negotiators (African Group)** was established at COP1 in Berlin, Germany in 1995 as an alliance of African member states that represents the interests of the region in the international climate change negotiations, with a common and unified voice. The Group comprises 54 Parties. The African Group is active in and supportive to all aspects of the climate change negotiating process, for instance regarding vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The **Arab States** is comprised of 22 member states namely Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG), formed in 2000, comprises Mexico, Liechtenstein, Monaco, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Georgia.

The 28 members of the **European Union** meet in private to agree on common negotiating positions. The Party that holds the EU Presidency - a position that rotates every six months - then speaks for the European Union and its 28 member states. As a regional economic integration organization, the European Union itself can be, and is, a Party to the Convention. However, it does not have a separate vote from its members. Croatia is the latest country to join the European Union in 2013.

The 48 Parties defined as **Least Developed Countries** by the UN regularly work together in the wider UN system. They have become increasingly active in the climate change process, often working together to defend their particular interests, for example with regard to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. Previously there were 49 Parties in the LDCs Group. However, in 2014 Samoa graduated from the LDCs.

The **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** is a coalition of some 40 low-lying islands, most of which are members of the G-77 that are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise. SIDS Parties are united by the threat that climate change poses to their survival and frequently adopt a common

stance in negotiations. They were the first to propose a draft text during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations calling for cuts in carbon dioxide emissions of 20% from 1990 levels by 2005.

The **Umbrella Group** is a coalition of Parties which formed following the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. The Group is made up of Australia, Belarus, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Kazakhstan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States.

Several other groups also work together in the climate change process, including countries from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a group of countries of Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova (CACAM), the Cartagena Dialogue, the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC), the BASIC Group (Brazil, South Africa, China India), the Like Minded Group, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America (ALBA in Spanish).

	Afghanistan		Albania		Algeria
	Andorra		Angola		Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina		Armenia		Australia
	Austria		Azerbaijan		Bahamas
	Bahrain		Bangladesh		Barbados
	Belarus		Belgium		Belize
	Benin		Bhutan		Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
	Bosnia and Herzegovina		Botswana		Brazil
	Brunei Darussalam		Bulgaria		Burkina Faso
	Burundi		Cabo Verde		Cambodia
	Cameroon		Canada		Central African Republic
	Chad		Chile		China
	Colombia		Comoros		Congo
	Cook Islands		Costa Rica		Côte d'Ivoire
	Croatia		Cuba		Cyprus
	Czech Republic		Democratic People's Republic of Korea		Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Denmark		Djibouti		Dominica
	Dominican Republic		Ecuador		Egypt
	El Salvador		Equatorial Guinea		Eritrea
	Estonia		Eswatini		Ethiopia
	European Union		Fiji		Finland
	France		Gabon		Gambia

	Georgia		Germany		Ghana
	Greece		Grenada		Guatemala
	Guinea		Guinea-Bissau		Guyana
	Haiti		Holy See (Observer state)		Honduras
	Hungary		Iceland		India
	Indonesia		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		Iraq
	Ireland		Israel		Italy
	Jamaica		Japan		Jordan
	Kazakhstan		Kenya		Kiribati
	Kuwait		Kyrgyzstan		Lao People's Democratic Republic
	Latvia		Lebanon		Lesotho
	Liberia		Libya		Liechtenstein
	Lithuania		Luxembourg		Madagascar
	Malawi		Malaysia		Maldives
	Mali		Malta		Marshall Islands
	Mauritania		Mauritius		Mexico
	Micronesia (Federated States of)		Monaco		Mongolia
	Montenegro		Morocco		Mozambique
	Myanmar		Namibia		Nauru
	Nepal		Netherlands		New Zealand
	Nicaragua		Niger		Nigeria
	Niue		Norway		Oman
	Pakistan		Palau		Panama
	Papua New Guinea		Paraguay		Peru
	Philippines		Poland		Portugal
	Qatar		Republic of Korea		Republic of Moldova
	Romania		Russian Federation		Rwanda
	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Saint Lucia		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Samoa		San Marino		Sao Tome and Principe
	Saudi Arabia		Senegal		Serbia

	Seychelles		Sierra Leone		Singapore
	Slovakia		Slovenia		Solomon Islands
	Somalia		South Africa		South Sudan
	Spain		Sri Lanka		State of Palestine
	Sudan		Suriname		Sweden
	Switzerland		Syrian Arab Republic		Tajikistan
	Thailand		The Republic of North Macedonia		Timor-Leste
	Togo		Tonga		Trinidad and Tobago
	Tunisia		Turkey		Turkmenistan
	Tuvalu		Uganda		Ukraine
	United Arab Emirates		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		United Republic of Tanzania
	United States of America		Uruguay		Uzbekistan
	Vanuatu		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		Viet Nam
	Yemen		Zambia		Zimbabwe