

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Rio Summit on Sustainable
development - June 1992

Fundamental principles and
strategy for action

Parties

- Acknowledge changes in Earth's climate and adverse effects that are common concern
- Are concerned that
 - human activities have substantially increase atmospheric concentrations,
 - these increases will enhance natural GH effect
 - this will result in additional warming
 - May adversely affect natural ecosystems and mankind

- note that:
 - Largest share of historical and current emissions of GH gases originated in developed countries
 - Per capita emissions in developing countries still low
 - Per capita emissions in developing countries will grow to meet social and development needs

- Aware of role and importance in terrestrial and marine ecosystems of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases
- Note many uncertainties in predictions of climate change (timing, magnitude and regional patterns)

- Acknowledge that global nature of climate change calls for widest possible cooperation by ALL countries and their participation in effective and appropriate response in accordance with their responsibilities and capabilities

- Recall that states have
 - sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies
 - Responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdictions

- Reaffirm the principle of sovereignty of states in international cooperation

- Recognize that
 - states should enact effective environment legislation
 - Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect environmental and developmental context to which they apply
 - Standards applied by one country may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social costs

- Conscious of valuable work conducted by many states on climate change and of the important contributions of WMO, UNEP to the exchange of results of scientific research
- Recognize that the steps to understand and address climate change will be environmentally, socially and economically most effective if they are based on relevant scientific research

- Recognize that the various actions to address climate change can be justified economically and can help solving other environmental problems
- Recognize the need for developed countries to take immediate action in a flexible manner on a basis of clear priorities toward comprehensive response strategies

- Recognize further that
 - low-lying and other small island countries semi arid areas or liable areas to flood drought desertification and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change
 - Special difficulties of developing countries whose economies are particularly dependent on fossil fuel production use and exportation as a consequence of actions taken on limiting greenhouse gas emissions

- Affirm that responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with view to avoiding impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and eradication of poverty

- Recognize that
 - all countries, particularly developing countries, need access to resources required to achieve sustainable, social and economic development
 - Their energy consumption will need to grow taking into account the possibilities of achieving energy efficiency and controlling greenhouse gas emissions including through the application of new technologies on terms which make such an application economically and socially beneficial

Are determined to protect the
climate system for present and
future generations