

Study Material *for* Classroom Students only

# GENERAL STUDIES GENERAL SCIENCE

**CONVENTIONS** 

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### **CONVENTIONS**

### **EARTH SUMMIT**

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, Rio Summit, Rio Conference, and Earth Summit, was a major United Nations conference held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. It was held twenty years after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) took place in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was also held in Rio, and is also commonly called Rio+20 or Rio Earth Summit 2012.

The issues addressed included:

- Systematic scrutiny of patterns of production particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals
- Alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which delegates linked to global climate change
- New reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smoke
- The growing usage and limited supply of water

An important achievement of the summit was an agreement on the Climate Change Convention which in turn led to the Kyoto Protocol. Another agreement was to "not to carry out any activities on the lands

of indigenous peoples that would cause environmental degradation or that would be culturally inappropriate".

The Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the Earth Summit, and made a start towards redefinition of measures that did not inherently encourage destruction of naturalecoregions and so-called uneconomic growth.

The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Moreover, important legally binding agreements (Rio Convention) were opened for signature:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

In order to ensure compliance to the agreements at Rio (particularly the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21), delegates to the Earth Summit established the Commission on Sustainable Development(CSD).

### **RIO DECLARATION**

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, often shortened to Rio Declaration, was a short document produced at the 1992 United Nations "Conference on Environment and Development" (UNCED), informally known as

the Earth Summit, and signed by over 170 countries. The Rio Declaration consisted of 27 principles intended to guide countries in future sustainable development.

#### AGENDA 21

Agenda 21 is a non-binding, voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development. [1] It is a product of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. It is an action agenda for the UN, other multilateralorganizations, and individual governments around the world that can be executed at local, national, and global levels. The "21" in Agenda 21 refers to the 21st Century. It has been affirmed and had a few modifications at subsequent UN conferences.

### **Rio+5**

In 1997, the UN General Assembly held a special session to appraise the status of Agenda 21 (Rio +5). The Assembly recognized progress as "uneven" and identified key trends, including increasing globalization, widening inequalities in income, and continued deterioration of the global environment.

### **Rio+10**

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Earth Summit 2002), affirmed UN commitment to "full implementation" of Agenda 21, alongside achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other international agreements.

### **Rio+20**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio 2012, Rio+20 or Earth Summit 2012 was the third international conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community.

Rio+20 was a 20-year follow-up to the 1992 Earth Summit / United Nations Conference on Environment

and Development (UNCED) held in the same city, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The conference had three objectives:

- Securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development
- 2. Assessing the progress and implementation gaps in meeting previous commitments.
- Addressing new and emerging challenges.

The primary result of the conference was the nonbinding document, "The Future We Want". The text includes language supporting the development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of measurable targets aimed at promoting sustainable development globally. It is thought that the SDGs will pick up where the Millennium Development Goals leave off and address criticism that the original Goals fail to address the role of the environment in development.

### FOREST PRINCIPLES

The Forest Principles is the informal name given to the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (1992), a document produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the Earth Summit. It is a non-legally binding document that makes several recommendations for conservation and sustainable development forestry.

The Montreal Process, also known as the Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests, was started in 1994 as a result of the Forest Principles.

### THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Convention on Biological Diversity, commonly referred to as the Biodiversity Treaty, was one of two

major treaties opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. The treaty defines biodiversity as "the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems." Parties to the Biodiversity Treaty "affirm sovereign rights over the biological resources found within their countries, while accepting responsibility for conserving biological diversity and using biological resources in a sustainable manner." according to an International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessment of the treaty.

The Convention has three main goals:

- 1. conservation of biological diversity
- 2. sustainable use of its components
- 3. fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources

At the 10th Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in in Nagoya, Japan, the Nagoya Protocol was adopted. On 22 December 2010, the UN declared the period from 2011 to 2020 as the UN Decade on Biodiversity.

### CARTAGENA PROTOCOL

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement on biosafety as a supplement to the Convention on Biological Diversity effective since 2003. The Biosafety Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by genetically modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.

The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory.

The Biosafety Protocol makes clear that products from new technologies must be based on the precautionary principle and allow developing nations to balance public health against economic benefits. It will for example let countries ban imports of a genetically modified organisms if they feel there is not enough scientific evidence that the product is safe and requires exporters to label shipments containing genetically altered commodities such as corn or cotton.

### NAGOYA PROTOCOL

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It provides a transparent legal framework for the implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON BIODIVERSITY

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011–20 the **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**. The UN Decade on Biodiversity serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with the goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss.

#### RAMSAR CONVENTION

The Ramsar Convention (formally, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat) is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, [1] recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:

- · work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;
- designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;
- cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.

### **CITES**

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of theInternational Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants.

## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - more commonly abbreviated to just the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention-aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.

It is an intergovernmental treaty, concluded under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. The CMS is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

CMS and its daughter agreements determine policy and provide further guidance on specific issues through their Strategic Plans, Action Plans, resolutions, decisions and guidelines. All maintain on their websites a list of all decisions taken, guidelines issues and Action Plans adopted by the Member States.

### INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes conservation of tropical forest resources and their sustainable management, use and trade.

The organization was established under the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), which was sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

## STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. POPs circulate globally and can cause damage wherever they travel. In implementing the Convention, Governments will take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

### PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (PIC), ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

The Rotterdam Convention is a multilateral environmental agreement designed to promote shared

responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals, in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and disseminating these decisions to Parties.

In other words, the Convention enables the world to monitor and control the trade in certain hazardous chemicals. It is not a recommendation to ban the global trade or use of specific chemicals. It is rather an instrument to provide importing Parties with the power to make informed decisions on which chemicals they want to receive and to exclude those they cannot manage safely.

If trade takes place, requirements for labelling and provision of information on potential health and environmental effects will promote the safe use of these chemicals.

## THE BASEL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF HAZARDOUS WASTES

A global agreement, ratified by several member countries and the European Union for addressing the problems and challenges posed by hazardous waste. The Secretariat, in Geneva, Switzerland, facilitates the implementation of the Convention and related agreements. It also provides assistance and guidelines on legal and technical issues, gathers statistical data, and conducts training on the proper management of hazardous waste. The Secretariat is administered by UNEP.

Key objectives of the Basel Convention

- To minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and hazardousness;
- To dispose of them as close to the source of generation as possible;

To reduce the movement of hazardous wastes.
 The following categories of hazardous waste are covered by the Convention.

Toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious

## KYOTO PROTOCOL TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol and its rulebook:

When they adopted the Convention, governments knew that its commitments would not be sufficient to seriously tackle climate change. At COP 1 (Berlin, March/April 1995), in a decision known as the Berlin Mandate, Parties therefore launched a new round of talks to decide on stronger and more detailed commitments for industrialized countries. After two and a half years of intense negotiations, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP 3 in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997.

The complexity of the negotiations, however, meant that considerable "unfinished business" remained even after the Kyoto Protocol itself was adopted. The Protocol sketched out the basic features of its "mechanisms" and compliance system, for example, but did not explain the all-important rules of how they would operate. Although 84 countries signed the Protocol, indicating that they intended to ratify, but many were reluctant to actually do so and bring the Protocol into force before having a clearer picture of the treaty's rulebook. A new round of negotiations was therefore launched to flesh out the Kyoto Protocol's rulebook, conducted in parallel with negotiations on ongoing issues under the Convention. This round finally culminated at COP 7 with the adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, setting out detailed rules for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. As discussed above, the Marrakesh Accords made considerable progress regarding the implementation of the Convention.

## HELSINKI PROTOCOL ON THE REDUCTION OF SULPHUR EMISSIONS OR THEIR

The Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent was entered into force in 1987.

## SOFIA PROTOCOL CONTROL OF EMISSIONS OF NITROGEN OXIDES

In 1988 the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes was adopted in Sofia (Bulgaria). This Protocol requires as a first step, to freeze emissions of nitrogen oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes. The general reference year is 1987 (with the exception of the United States that chose to relate its emission target to 1978).

# GENEVA PROTOCOL TO CONTROL OF EMISSIONS OF VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS OR THEIR TRANSBOUNDARY FLUXES (VOCS PROTOCOL)

In November 1991, the Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs, i.e. hydrocarbons) or their Transboundary Fluxes, the second major air pollutant responsible for the formation of ground level ozone, was adopted. It has entered into force on 29 September 1997.

## THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is a landmark international agreement designed to protect the stratospheric ozone layer. The treaty was originally signed in 1987 and substantially amended in 1990 and 1992. The Montreal Protocol stipulates that the production and consumption of compounds that deplete ozone in the stratosphere—chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroformare to be phased out by 2000 (2005 for methyl chloroform). Scientific theory and evidence suggest that, once emitted to the atmosphere, these compounds could significantly deplete the stratospheric ozone layer that shields the planet from damaging UV-B radiation. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has prepared a Montreal Protocol Handbook that provides additional detail and explanation of the provisions. (CIESIN's Thematic Guide on Ozone Depletion and Global Environmental Change presents an-in-depth look at causes, human and environmental effects, and policy responses to stratospheric ozone depletion.)

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985), which outlines states' responsibilities for protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of ozone depletion, established the framework under which the Montreal Protocol was negotiated.

### UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA 1982

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was opened for signature on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. This marked the culmination of more than 14 years of work involving participation by more than 150 countries representing all regions of the world. The convention entered into force in accordance with its article 308 on 16 November 1994.

Today, the Convention on the Law of the Sea is the primary international legal document regulating all marine sector activities. It provides detailed provisions governing access to the seas, protection and preservation of the marine environment, the sustainable management of living resources, and the exploitation of non-living resources.

### CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE 1972 (WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION)

The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

### GLOBAL PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES (GPA)

Over 100 governments adopted the GPA. The GPA is aimed at preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, with targets including sewage, persistent organic pollutants, radioactivity, metals, oils, nutrients, sediment mobilisation, litter and habitat destruction. The GPA is designed to be a source of practical guidance to states in taking actions within their respective policies, priorities and resources.

## JAKARTA MANDATE ON MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

In view of their common concern for the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 agreed on a program of action for implementing the convention. The program, called the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, was adopted in 1995.

### MAJOR MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS (MEAS) RATIFIED BY INDIA

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance-1971 India ratified this convention in 1982. Issued covered in this convention were Conservation and wise use of wetlands, primarily as habitat for the water-birds.

Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage-1972 India Ratified this convention on 04.11.1977

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species-1973 India ratified this convention on 20.07.1976

Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals-1979 India ratified this convention on 01.11.1983 Issued covered were Conservation, management and wise use of migratory species of wild animals and their habitats.

Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer-1985 India ratified this convention on 18.03.1991Issues covered were Protection of atmospheric ozone layer above the planetary boundary layer.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Laye-1987 India ratified this convention on 19.06.1992 Issues covered were Protection of atmospheric ozone layer above the planetary boundary layer

Basel Convention on Tran boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal-1989 India ratified this convention on 24.06.1992 Issued covered were Regulation of trans boundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)-1992 India ratified this convention on 01.11.1993 the issues covered were Changes in the earth's climate system due to anthropogenic interference

Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC-1997 India ratified this convention on 26.08.2002 Quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments for Annex I Parties

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992 India ratified this convention on 18.02.1994 Issues covered were Biological diversity and biological resources

Cartagena Protocol on Bio safety to the CBD-2000 India ratified this convention on 11.09.2003 Issues covered were Regulation of trans boundary movement, transit, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)

Uni ted Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 1994 India ratified this convention on 17.12.1996 Issues covered were Combating desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, particularly in Africa

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade-1998 India ratified this convention on 24.05.2005 Issues covered were Promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among the Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals, in order to protect

human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants – 2001 India ratified this convention on 13.01.2006 Issues covered were Protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

Global Tiger Forum of tiger range countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation. India has also actively supported numerous regional and bilateral programmes on biodiversity.

### **Objective Questions**

- 1. Find out the incorrect pairs:
  - (i) Montreal Protocol—Ozone protection
  - (ii) Nagoya Protocol ABS Mechanism
  - (iii) Cartagena Protocol LMOs (Living Modified Organisms)
  - (a) i, only
- (b) ii, iii only
- (c) iii only
- (d) None of the above
- Which of the following CoP meet on climate change is in the correct chronological order? (UPSC-2014)
  - (a) Bali, Copenhagen Cancun, Doha
  - (b) Bali, Cancun, Copenhagen, Doha
  - (c) Cancun, Bali, Copenhagen, Doha
  - (d) Cancun, Bali, Doha, Copenhagen
- 3. Match the conventions/summits in List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using codes given below:

### List-II List-II

- A. Montreal Convention (i) ozone depletion
- B. Rio-Summit
- (ii) Greenhouse gas
- C. Ramsar Convention (iii) Convention of biological diversity
- D. Kyoto Protocol (iv) Wetlands convention

### Code:

(a)

(b)

Α	В	С	D
iii	ii	i	iv
iv	iii	i	ii

- (c) i iii iv ii
- (d) i ii iv iii
- 4. In the event of a rise in sea levels due to global warming, the east coast will be more vulnerable then the west coast. Why?
  - (a) East coast has lower coastal slopes
  - (b) Drainage by non-perennial rivers in the east coast
  - (c) Absence of natural harbours along the east coast
  - (d) All the above
- **5.** Which of the following are NOT related to conventions/agreements on climate change?
  - (i) Nagohya Protocol
  - (ii) Cartagena Protocol
  - (iii) Warsaw Convention
  - (iv) Ramsar Convention
  - (a) i, ii and iii only
- (b) i, ii and iv only
- (c) ii and iii only
- (d) None of the above

**6.** The main gas responsible for ozone depletion is

(Maharastra PCS-2014)

- (a) carbon dioxide
- (b) nitrogen dioxide
- (c) methane
- (d) chlorofluoro carbon
- 7. Which of the following is the correct definition of "Agenda-21"? (UPPSC-2013)
  - (a) It is an action plan of UNO for protecting human rights.

- (b) It is a book of 21 chapters on nuclear disarmament.
- (c) It is an action plan for conservation of global environment in 21st century
- (d) It is agenda for the election of the president in the next meeting of SAARC.
- **8.** Appropriate measures to reduce overall green hous gas emissions are commitments of
  - (a) Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Montreal Protocol
- (c) Environment Act
- (d) Earth Summit.

### **ANSWERS**

1.	(d)	3.	(c)	5.	(b)	7.	(c)
2.	(a)	4.	(a)	6.	(d)	8.	(a)

### HINTS &

- **1.** (d) All are correct and there is no incorrect pair.
- 4. (a) According to the ministry, the sea level is a rising faster and faster due to climate change, and is estimated at about 3.2 mm per year, or almost of 1 cm every 3 years. In the year 2007, the rise was estimated at around 2 mm per year. It is expected that east coast of India will be more vulnerable than the west coast, because of its low lying nature and hence the tendency of coastal flooding will rise if the sea level rises significantly.
- 5. (b) CoP-19 was held at Warsaw on climate change. Ramsar Convention is related to wetlands conservation and Nagoya and Cartagena protocols are related to biodiversity conservation.
- 6. (d) Ozone depleting substance
  - (i) CFC and HCFCs Mostly used in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump systems. Only HCFCs can continue to be used for a limited period of time.
  - (ii) Halons Used historically as fire suppression agents and firefighting, but now only allowed in very limited situations.

((lie)traCarbon tetrachloride chloromethane) —

- Limited solvent use in laboratories and chemical and pharmaceutical industry.
- (iv) 1, 1, 1, -trichloroethane Limited solvent use in laboratories and chemical and pharmaceutical industry.
- (v) Methyl bromide Historically used in fumigation, soil treatment, pest control, quarantine, market gardening. Methyl bromide is no longer registered for use in Ireland.
- (vi) Hydrobromofluorocarbons Historically used in fire suppression systems and fire fighting,
   (vii) Bromochloromethane Llistoncally used in the manufacture of biocides.
- 7. (c) Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, governments, and major groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment.

Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests were adopted by more than 18 Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janerio, Brazil, June 3-14, 1992.