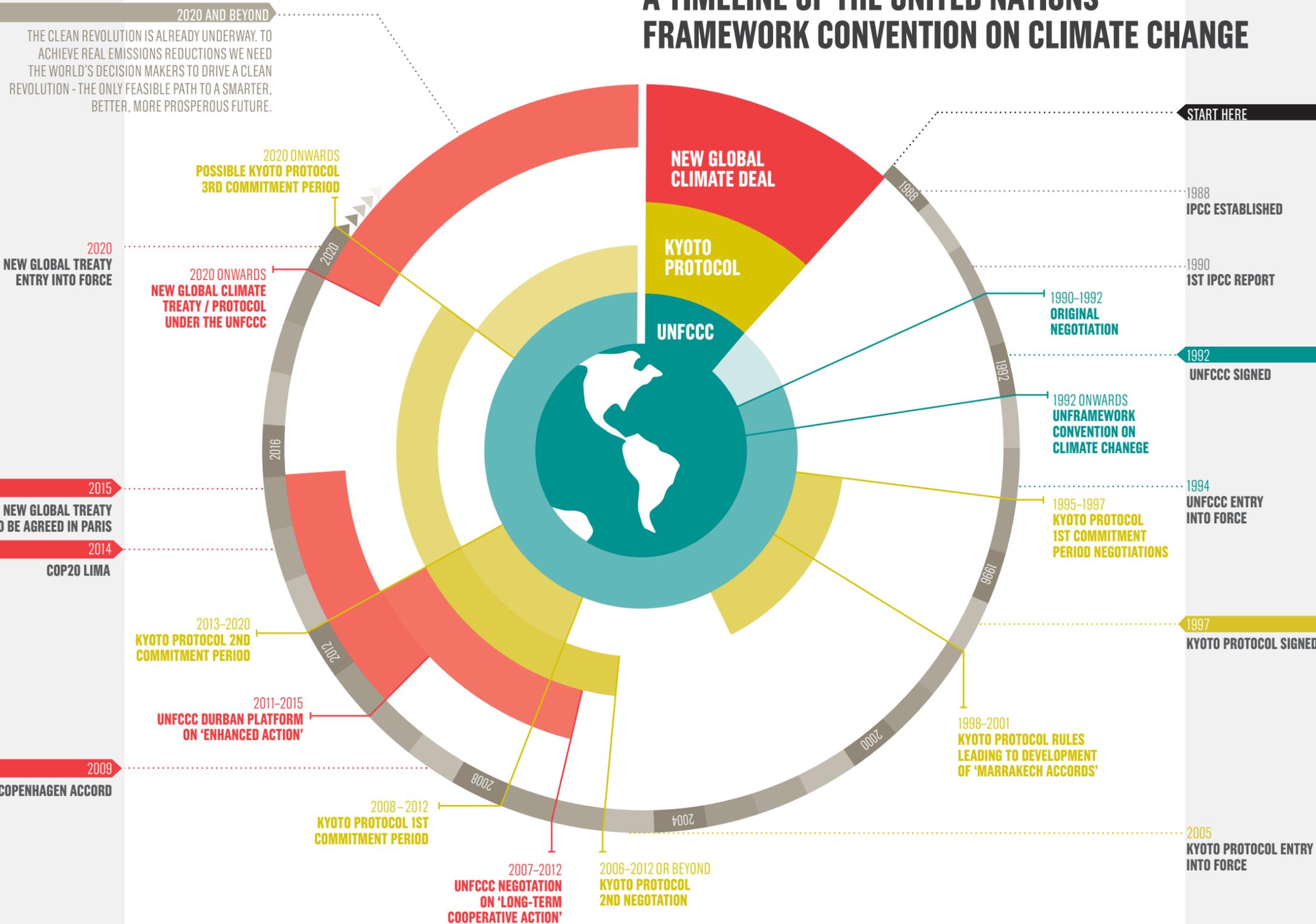


UNDERSTANDING THE UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS

A TIMELINE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



THE 'FRAMEWORK' FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION, UNFCCC

UNFCCC SIGNED - 1992

The original UN climate treaty. Established the basic framework and principles for international climate change action. Developed countries committed to take the lead with developing countries agreeing to take action with financial and technological support as they developed. No legally emission targets agreed for any countries.

NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND COMMITMENT PERIODS OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

KYOTO PROTOCOL SIGNED - 1997

Requires industrialized countries to make a collective binding emission cut of 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Introduced innovative new instruments, including the Clean Development Mechanism. US never ratified. First commitment period (2008-12) covered 50% of 1990 global emissions. Second commitment period coverage down to ~15% as Canada, Japan, Russia and New Zealand join US in opting-out and developing country emissions grow.

NEGOTIATING PROCESSES UNDER THE UNFCCC FOR A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE DEAL TO COMPLEMENT OR REPLACE THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

COPENHAGEN ACCORD - 2009

Lima must build on the momentum generated by key climate events of 2014 e.g. Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit in September and China-US announcement in November about limiting emissions. In particular, it must reach agreement on: the elements of a draft negotiating text for new global climate deal; the form and structure of countries' targets and measures for the new deal; and how to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period. Without these, reaching an ambitious deal at COP21 in Paris next December will be put at risk.

NEW GLOBAL TREATY TO BE AGREED - 2015

Process to agree new treaty covering all countries was established at COP17 Durban in 2011. Governments have to disclose their targets and measures in March, and then conclude negotiations in Paris in December 2015, with treaty in force from 2020. The goal is a global climate agreement covering all countries that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that will keep the expected rise in Earth's mean surface temperature below 2°C in order to avoid the worst climate change impacts.

THE CLIMATE GROUP

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