

Participation in Major Multilateral Agreements 2005



Sources: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biodiversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Trade Organization, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	CITES {a} (species trade)	UNFCCC {b} (climate change)	Kyoto Protocol (CO2)	CBD {c} (bio-diversity)	Bio-Safety Protocol	CCD {d} (desert-ification)	Stockholm Convention {e} (POP's)	Aarhus Convention of member-ship (access)	Year of WTO {f} Membership (or status)	Agenda 21 Process			
											Year of Ratification (year in brackets = country is signatory to treaty; "n.p." = country is not a party to treaty)	National Reporting Status in 2002	Number of Municipalities Involved in Local Agenda 21	
												(*n.r." = non-reporting)	1996 2001	
World												1,812	6,416	
Asia (excl. Middle East)												87	461	
Armenia	1993	1993	n.p.	1993	2003	1993	2004	1997	2003	2001	2003	pending	..	..
Azerbaijan	1992	1992	1998	1995	2000	2000	2005	1998	2004	2000	observer	n.r.	..	..
Bangladesh	2000	1998	1981	1994	2001	1994	2004	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	2
Bhutan	n.p.	n.p.	2002	1995	2002	1995	2002	2003	n.p.	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	..
Cambodia	1992	1992	1997	1995	2002	1995	2003	1997	[2001]	n.p.	2004	submitted	..	..
China	[1998]	2001	1981	1993	2002	1993	[2000]	1997	2004	n.p.	2001	submitted	14	25
Georgia	1994	1994	1996	1994	1999	1994	n.p.	1999	[2001]	2000	2000	submitted	..	..
India	1979	1979	1976	1993	2002	1994	2003	1996	[2002]	n.p.	1995	submitted	20	14
Indonesia	n.p.	n.p.	1978	1994	2004	1994	2004	1998	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	6	8
Japan	1979	1979	1980	1993	2002	1993	2003	1998	2002	n.p.	1995	submitted	26	110
Kazakhstan	[2003]	[2003]	2000	1995	[1999]	1994	n.p.	1997	[2001]	2001	observer	submitted	..	..
Korea, Dem People's Rep	1981	1981	n.p.	1994	2005	1994	2003	2003	2002	n.p.	n.p.	n.r.	..	..
Korea, Rep	1990	1990	1993	1993	2002	1994	[2000]	1999	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	9	172
Kyrgyzstan	1994	1994	n.p.	2000	2003	1996	n.p.	1997	[2002]	2001	1998	submitted	..	..
Lao People's Dem Rep	[2000]	[2000]	2004	1995	2003	1996	2004	1996	[2002]	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	..
Malaysia	n.p.	n.p.	1977	1994	2002	1994	2003	1997	[2002]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	9
Mongolia	1974	1974	1996	1993	1999	1993	2003	1996	2004	n.p.	1997	pending	..	22
Myanmar	n.p.	n.p.	1997	1994	2003	1994	[2001]	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	..
Nepal	1991	1991	1975	1994	..	1993	[2001]	1996	[2002]	n.p.	2004	submitted	1	4
Pakistan	n.p.	[2004]	1976	1994	2005	1994	[2001]	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	1
Philippines	1986	1974	1981	1994	2003	1993	[2000]	2000	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	3	28
Singapore	n.p.	n.p.	1986	1997	..	1995	n.p.	1999	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	1
Sri Lanka	1980	1980	1979	1993	2002	1994	2004	1998	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	24
Tajikistan	1999	1999	n.p.	1998	..	1997	2004	1997	[2002]	2001	observer	submitted	..	..
Thailand	1996	1999	1983	1994	2002	2004	n.p.	2001	2005	n.p.	1995	submitted	6	21
Turkmenistan	1997	1997	n.p.	1995	1999	1996	n.p.	1996	n.p.	1999	n.p.	n.r.	..	..
Uzbekistan	1995	1995	1997	1993	1999	1995	n.p.	1995	n.p.	n.p.	observer	submitted	..	..
Viet Nam	1982	1982	1994	1994	2002	1994	2004	1998	2002	n.p.	observer	pending	2	20
Europe												1,576	5,291	
Albania	1991	1991	2003	1994	2005	1994	2005	2000	2004	2001	2000	pending	1	7
Austria	1978	1978	1982	1994	2002	1994	2002	1997	2002	2005	1995	submitted	2	64
Belarus	1973	1973	1995	2000	..	1993	2002	2001	2004	2000	observer	submitted	..	..
Belgium	1983	1983	1983	1996	2002	1996	2004	1997	[2001]	2003	1995	submitted	5	106
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1993	1993	n.p.	2000	..	2002	n.p.	2002	[2001]	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	1
Bulgaria	1970	1970	1991	1995	2002	1996	2000	2001	2004	2003	1996	submitted	..	22
Croatia	1992	1992	2000	1996	[1999]	1996	2002	2000	[2001]	[1998]	2000	submitted	1	20
Czech Rep	1993	1993	1993	1993	2001	1993	2001	2000	2002	2004	1995	submitted	..	42
Denmark	1972	1972	1977	1993	2002	1993	2002	1995	2003	2000	1995	submitted	147	216
Estonia	1991	1991	1992	1994	2002	1994	2004	n.p.	n.p.	2001	1999	submitted	1	29
Finland	1975	1975	1976	1994	2002	1994	2004	1995	2002	2004	1995	submitted	88	303
France	1980	1980	1978	1994	2002	1994	2003	1997	2004	2002	1995	submitted	15	69
Germany	1973	1973	1976	1993	2002	1993	2003	1996	2002	[1998]	1995	submitted	30	2,042
Greece	1997	1985	1992	1994	2002	1994	2004	1997	[2001]	[1998]	1995	submitted	13	39
Hungary	1974	1974	1985	1994	2002	1994	2004	1999	[2001]	2001	1995	submitted	12	9
Iceland	1979	1979	2000	1993	2002	1994	[2001]	1997	2002	[1998]	1995	submitted	..	37
Ireland	1989	1989	2002	1994	2002	1996	2003	1997	[2001]	[1998]	1995	..	22	29
Italy	1978	1978	1979	1994	2002	1994	2004	1997	[2001]	2001	1995	submitted	22	429
Latvia	1992	1992	1997	1995	2002	1995	2004	2002	2004	2002	1999	pending	1	5
Lithuania	1991	1991	2001	1995	2003	1996	2003	2003	[2002]	2002	2001	submitted	..	14
Macedonia, FYR	1994	1994	2000	1998	..	1997	[2000]	2002	2004	1999	2003	pending	..	..
Moldova, Rep	1993	1993	2001	1995	2003	1995	2003	1999	2004	1999	2001	submitted	..	..
Netherlands	1978	1978	1984	1993	2002	1994	2002	1995	2002	2004	1995	pending	143	100
Norway	1972	1972	1976	1993	2002	1993	2001	1996	2002	2003	1995	submitted	415	283
Poland	1977	1977	1989	1994	2002	1996	2003	2001	[2001]	2002	1995	submitted	3	70
Portugal	1978	1978	1980	1993	2002	1993	2004	1996	2004	2003	1995	submitted	10	27
Romania	1974	1974	1994	1994	2001	1994	2003	1998	2004	2000	1995	submitted	2	12
Russian Federation	1973	1973	1992	1994	2004	1995	n.p.	2003	[2002]	n.p.	observer	submitted	5	29
Serbia and Montenegro	2001	2001	2002	2001	..	2002	n.p.	n.p.	[2002]	n.p.	observer	..	..	20
Slovakia	1993	1993	1993	1994	2002	1994	2003	2002	2002	n.p.	1995	submitted	3	30
Slovenia	1992	1992	2000	1995	2002	1996	2002	2001	2004	2004	1995	submitted	1	3
Spain	1977	1977	1986	1993	2002	1993	2002	1996	2004	2004	1995	submitted	29	359
Sweden	1971	1971	1974	1993	2002	1993	2002	1995	2002	[1998]	1995	submitted	307	289
Switzerland	1992	1992	1974	1993	2003	1994	2002	1996	2003	[1998]	1995	pending	2	83
Ukraine	1973	1973	1999	1997	2004	1995	2002	2002	[2001]	1999	observer	submitted	10	9
United Kingdom	1976	1976	1976	1993	2002	1994	2003	1996	2005	2005	1995	submitted	285	425
Middle East & N. Africa												8	98	
Afghanistan	1983	1983	1985	2002	..	2002	n.p.	1995	n.p.	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	..
Algeria	1989	1989	1983	1993	2003	1995	2004	1996	[2001]	n.p.	observer	submitted	..	3
Egypt	1982	1982	1978	1994	2005	1994	2003	1995	2003	n.p.	1995	submitted	1	7
Iran, Islamic Rep	1975	1975	1976	1996	..	1996	2003	1997	[2001]	n.p.	n.p.	submitted	..	2
Iraq	1971	1971	n.p.	n.p.	..	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	observer	pending	..	..
Israel	1991	1991	1979	1996	2004	1995	n.p.	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	3
Jordan	1975	1975	1978	1993	2003	1993	2003	1996	2004	n.p.	2000	submitted	..	4
Kuwait	1996	1996	2002	1994	2005	2002	n.p.	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	1
Lebanon	1972	1972	n.p.	1994	..	1994	n.p.	1996	2003	n.p.	observer	submitted	..	6
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1970	1970	2003	1999	..	2001	n.p.	1996	n.p.	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	2
Morocco	1979	1979	1975	1995	2002	1995	[2000]	1996	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	3	5
Oman	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	1995	2005	1995	2003	1996	2005	n.p.	2000	pending	..	1
Saudi Arabia	n.p.	n.p.	1996	1994	2005	2001	n.p.	1997	[2002]	n.p.	observer	submitted	..	4
Syrian Arab Rep	1969	1969	2003	1996	..	1996	2004	1997	[2002]	n.p.	n.p.	submitted	..	2
Tunisia	1969	1969	1974	1993	2003	1993	2003	1995	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	1	1
Turkey	2003	2003	1996	2004	..	1997	2003	1998	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	3	50
United Arab Emirates	n.p.	n.p.	1990	1995	2005	2000	n.p.	1998	2002	n.p.	1996	n.r.	..	2
Yemen	1987	1987	1997	1996	2004	1996	n.p.	1						

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Covenant	Year of Ratification of Major Multilateral Agreements (year in brackets = country is signatory to treaty; "n.p." = country is not a party to treaty)										WTO (f) Membership (or status)	Agenda 21 Process			
	Covenant on Civil Political Rights	Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	CITES {a} (species trade)	UNFCC {b} (climate change)	Kyoto Protocol (CO2)	CBD {c} (bio- diversity)	Bio- Safety Protocol	CCD {d} (desert- ification)	Stockholm Convention (POP's) {e}	Aarhus Convention of member- (access)		National Reporting Status in 2002 ("n.r." = non- reporting)	Number of Municipalities Involved in Local Agenda 21	1996	2001
Sub-Saharan Africa												35	133		
Angola	1992	1992	n.p.	2000	..	1998	n.p.	1997	n.p.	n.p.	1996	n.r.	..	..
Benin	1992	1992	1984	1994	2002	1994	2005	1996	2004	n.p.	1996	submitted	..	1	
Botswana	2000	n.p.	1977	1994	2003	1995	2002	1996	2002	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	..
Burkina Faso	1999	1999	1989	1993	2005	1993	2003	1996	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	..
Burundi	1990	1990	1988	1997	2001	1997	n.p.	1997	[2002]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	2	
Cameroon	1984	1984	1981	1994	2002	1994	2003	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	1	
Central African Rep	1981	1981	1980	1995	..	1995	[2000]	1996	[2002]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Chad	1995	1995	1989	1994	..	1994	[2000]	1996	2004	n.p.	1996	n.r.	..	..
Congo	1983	1983	1983	1996	..	1996	[2000]	1999	[2001]	n.p.	1997	n.r.	..	..
Congo, Dem Rep	1976	1976	1976	1995	2005	1994	2005	1997	2005	n.p.	1997	submitted	..	2	
Côte d'Ivoire	1992	1992	1994	1994	..	1994	n.p.	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	pending	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	1987	1987	1992	2000	2000	1994	n.p.	1997	n.p.	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	..
Eritrea	2002	2001	1994	1995	..	1996	2005	1996	2005	n.p.	n.p.	pending	..	..
Ethiopia	1993	1993	1989	1994	2005	1994	2003	1997	2003	n.p.	observer	submitted	..	..
Gabon	1983	1983	1989	1998	..	1997	n.p.	1996	[2002]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	1	
Gambia	1979	1978	1977	1994	2001	1994	2004	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1996	submitted	..	..
Ghana	2000	2000	1975	1995	2003	1994	2003	1996	2003	n.p.	1995	submitted	1	3	
Guinea	1978	1978	1981	1993	2000	1993	[2000]	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	[2000]	1992	1990	1995	..	1995	n.p.	1995	[2002]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	..
Kenya	1972	1972	1978	1994	2005	1994	2002	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	4	11	
Lesotho	1992	1992	2003	1995	2000	1995	2001	1995	2002	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Liberia	2004	2004	1981	2002	2002	2000	2002	1998	2002	n.p.	n.p.	n.r.	..	..
Madagascar	1971	1971	1975	1999	2003	1996	2003	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	5	
Malawi	1993	1993	1982	1994	2001	1994	[2000]	1996	[2002]	n.p.	1995	submitted	6	4	
Mali	1974	1974	1994	1994	2002	1995	2002	1995	2003	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	2	
Mauritania	2004	2004	1998	1994	..	1996	n.p.	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	1	
Mozambique	1993	n.p.	1981	1995	2005	1995	2002	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	2	2	
Namibia	1994	1994	1990	1995	2003	1997	2005	1997	n.p.	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	5	
Niger	1986	1986	1975	1995	2004	1995	2004	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1996	pending	..	..
Nigeria	1993	1993	1974	1994	..	1994	2003	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	pending	1	5	
Rwanda	1975	1975	1980	1998	2004	1996	2004	1998	2002	n.p.	1996	n.r.	..	1	
Senegal	1978	1978	1977	1994	2001	1994	2003	1995	2003	n.p.	1995	submitted	1	3	
Sierra Leone	1996	1996	1994	1995	..	1994	n.p.	1997	2003	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Somalia	1990	1990	1985	n.p.	..	n.p.	n.p.	2002	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.r.	..	..
South Africa	1998	[1994]	1975	1997	2002	1995	2003	1997	2002	n.p.	1995	pending	10	20	
Sudan	1986	1986	1982	1993	2004	1995	n.p.	1995	[2001]	n.p.	observer	n.r.	..	1	
Tanzania, United Rep	1976	1976	1979	1996	2002	1996	2003	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	pending	3	13	
Togo	1984	1984	1978	1995	2004	1995	2004	1995	2004	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	2	
Uganda	1995	1987	1991	1993	2002	1993	2001	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	2	5	
Zambia	1984	1984	1980	1993	[1998]	1993	2004	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1995	pending	1	4	
Zimbabwe	1991	1991	1981	1992	..	1994	2005	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	pending	4	39	
North America												26	101		
Canada	1976	1976	1975	1992	2002	1992	[2001]	1995	2001	n.p.	1995	pending	7	14	
United States	1992	[1977]	1974	1992	[1998]	[1993]	n.p.	2000	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	19	87	
C. America & Caribbean												..	26		
Belize	1996	[2000]	1986	1994	2003	1993	2004	1998	[2002]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Costa Rica	1968	1968	1975	1994	2002	1994	[2000]	1998	[2002]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	4	
Cuba	n.p.	n.p.	1990	1994	2002	1994	2002	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	2	
Dominican Rep	1978	1978	1986	1998	2002	1996	n.p.	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	..
El Salvador	1979	1979	1987	1995	1998	1994	2003	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	..
Guatemala	1992	1988	1979	1995	1999	1995	2004	1998	[2002]	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	..
Haiti	1991	n.p.	n.p.	1996	..	1996	[2000]	1996	[2001]	n.p.	1996	submitted	..	..
Honduras	1997	1981	1985	1995	2000	1995	[2000]	1997	[2002]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	6	
Jamaica	1975	1975	1997	1995	1999	1995	[2001]	1997	[2001]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	5	
Mexico	1981	1981	1991	1993	2000	1993	2002	1995	2003	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	2	
Nicaragua	1980	1980	1977	1995	1999	1995	2002	1998	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	5	
Panama	1977	1977	1978	1995	1999	1995	2002	1996	2003	n.p.	1997	pending	..	1	
Trinidad and Tobago	1978	1978	1984	1994	1999	1996	2000	2000	2002	n.p.	1995	n.r.	..	1	
South America												34	93		
Argentina	1986	1986	1981	1994	2001	1994	n.p.	1997	2005	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	1	
Bolivia	1982	1982	1979	1994	1999	1994	2002	1996	2003	n.p.	1995	pending	13	1	
Brazil	1992	1992	1975	1994	2002	1994	2003	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	8	36	
Chile	1972	1972	1975	1994	2002	1994	[2000]	1997	2005	n.p.	1995	submitted	1	15	
Colombia	1969	1969	1981	1995	2001	1994	2003	1999	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	4	6	
Ecuador	1969	1969	1975	1993	2000	1993	2003	1995	2004	n.p.	1996	submitted	3	13	
Guyana	1977	1977	1977	1994	2003	1994	n.p.	1997	n.p.	n.p.	1995	pending	..	1	
Paraguay	1992	1992	1976	1994	1999	1994	2004	1997	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	..
Peru	1978	1978	1975	1993	2002	1993	2004	1995	[2001]	n.p.	1995	submitted	5	17	
Suriname	1976	1976	1980	1996	..	1996	n.p.	2000	[2002]	n.p.	1995	pending	..	..
Uruguay	1970	1970	1975	1994	2001	1993	[2001]	1999	2004	n.p.	1995	pending	..	..
Venezuela	1978	1978	1977	1994	2005	1994	2002	1998	2005	n.p.	1995	submitted	..	3	
Oceania												44	213		
Australia	1980	1975	1976	1992	[1998]	1993	n.p.	2000	2004	n.p.	1995	submitted	40	176	
Fiji	n.p.	n.p.	1997	1993	1998	1993	2001	1998	2001	n.p.	1996	submitted	..	..
New Zealand	1978	1978	1989	1993	2002	1993	2005	2000	2004	n.p.	1995	pending	3	37	
Papua New Guinea	n.p.	n.p.	1975	1993	2002	1993	n.p.	2000	2003	n.p.	1996	n.r.	1	..	
Solomon Islands	n.p.	1982	n.p.	1994	2003	1995	2004	1999	2004	n.p.	1996	n.r.	..	..
Developed												1,681	5,738		
Developing												131	678		

Data in brackets indicate that a treaty is not yet ratified and shown the year in which a country has signed a treaty. Years without brackets show the year of ratification of the agreement. Kyoto Protocol and Agenda 21 reporting status are as of June 2005, all other agreements show the status as of April 2005. a. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. b. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. c. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. d. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. e. Persistent Organic Pollutants. f. The World Trade Organization. g. Excludes overseas territories.

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

The ten treaties described below are a small subset of the hundreds of multilateral agreements drafted in recent decades at the global level. The table indicates the year that a country has either *signed* or *ratified* a particular agreement. By signing a treaty, a state recognizes the authentic text, intends to complete the procedures for becoming legally bound by it, and is committed not to act against the treaty's objectives before ratification. Ratification (or its equivalents of acceptance, approval, or accession) binds the state to observe the treaty. Depending on a country's system of governance, signing the treaty may be simply an executive decision while ratification requires legislative approval. Treaties vary both in international levels of participation and the extent to which they are legally binding. To a large extent, compliance lies with the individual countries and depends on informed self-interest, peer pressure from other countries, and public opinion. Effectiveness of any international convention or treaty is determined not only by the number of country ratifications, but also by the rigor of its implementation, monitoring, and enforcement.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This covenant details the basic civil and political rights of individuals and nations. The rights of nations include: the right to self-determination, and the right to own, trade, and dispose of their property freely, and not be deprived of their means of subsistence. Among the rights of individuals are the right to life; the right to liberty and freedom of movement; the right to equality before the law; the right to presumption of innocence until proven guilty; the right to appeal a conviction; the right to privacy; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; freedom of opinion and expression; and freedom of assembly and association. The covenant permits governments to temporarily suspend some rights in cases of civil emergency only, although other rights cannot be suspended for any reason. It also establishes the UN Human Rights Commission. After nearly three decades of negotiation, the agreement became international law in 1976. For more information, please see <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/undocs.html>.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. This covenant describes the basic economic, social, and cultural rights of individuals and nations, including the rights to self-determination; wages sufficient to support a minimum standard of living; equal pay for equal work; equal opportunity for advancement; form trade unions; strike; paid or otherwise compensated maternity leave; free primary education and accessible education at all levels; and copyright, patent, and trademark protection for intellectual property. In addition, this convention forbids exploitation of children, and requires all nations to cooperate to end world hunger. Nations that ratify the agreement are required to submit annual reports on progress in providing for these rights. The text of this covenant was finalized in 1966, but has not been ratified yet. For more information, please see <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/undocs.html>.

CITES: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, is an international agreement to ensure that the survival of wild animals and plants is not threatened by international trade. It has been in force for almost 30 years; today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats, or dried herbs. CITES is legally binding on countries that have joined the Convention, and provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to make sure that CITES is implemented at the national level. More information is available at <http://www.cites.org>.

UNFCCC: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the centerpiece of global efforts to combat global warming. Adopted in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, its ultimate objective is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-made) interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner." More information is available at <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>.

Technical Notes

Kyoto Protocol: The Kyoto Protocol was established in 1997 by the third session of the Conference of Parties (COP-3) to the UNFCCC. With ratification, developed countries commit themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) by at least 5 percent from 1990 levels in the commitment period of 2008-2012. Compared to emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without emissions-control measures, the Protocol target represents a 30 percent cut. Both developed and developing countries agree to limit emissions and promote adaptation to future climate change impacts, submit information on their national climate change program and inventories, promote technology transfer, cooperate on scientific and public research, and promote public awareness and education. The terms of the Kyoto Protocol necessitated ratification by 55 Parties to the Convention, including Annex I Parties accounting for 55 percent of that group's carbon dioxide emissions in 1990, before it could enter into force. This occurred on February 16th, 2005, with ratification by 152 Parties, totaling an Annex I emission percentage of 61.6 percent. More information is available on-line at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php.

CBD: The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the key agreements adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention establishes three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. The convention is legally binding; countries that join it are obliged to implement its provisions, such as reporting on what has been done to implement the accord and the effectiveness of these activities. The national reports, particularly when seen together, are one of the key tools for tracking progress in meeting the Convention's objectives. More information is available on-line at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/guide.asp>.

Biosafety Protocol: Adopted in January 2000 as a subsidiary agreement to the CBD, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety allows governments to signal whether or not they are willing to accept imports of agricultural commodities that include Living Modified Organisms (LMOs). Living Modified Organisms—often known as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) -- are becoming part of an increasing number of products, including foods and food additives, beverages, drugs, adhesives, and fuels. In addition, the treaty deals with access to and sharing of the benefits from commercial use of genetic material, such as pharmaceutical products. More information is available on-line at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/guide.asp>.

CCD: The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is an international Convention dedicated to addressing the problems of land degradation in the world's drylands, caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. Over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification and an additional one billion people in over one hundred countries are at risk. Since the Convention entered into force in 1996, countries affected by desertification are implementing the Convention by developing and carrying out national, sub-regional, and regional action programs. The Convention states that these programs must adopt a democratic, bottom-up approach emphasizing popular participation and the creation of an enabling environment designed to allow local people to help themselves reverse land degradation. More information is available at <http://www.unccd.int/main.php>.

Stockholm Convention: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs, which remain intact in the environment for long periods of time, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms, and are toxic to humans and wildlife. The Convention was adopted in May 2001. Upon signature of the Convention, the first step toward implementation is the development of national action plans to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment. For more information, please consult the Stockholm Convention website at <http://www.pops.int>.

Aarhus Convention: The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, or Aarhus Convention, was first adopted in June 1998. The Convention is open to the 55 members of the UNECE as well as to non-member states. According to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "Although regional in scope...the Aarhus Convention is global. It is by far the most impressive elaboration of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which stresses the need for citizen's participation in environmental issues and for access to

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information on the environment held by public authorities..." The Convention will include regular reporting requirements and biennial meetings among member states. More information is available on-line at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp>.

Year of World Trade Organization Membership indicates the year in which a country joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO began in 1995, expanding on the international trade rules set forth by its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO's purpose is to help trade flow as freely as possible without any undesirable side effects and to ensure that trade rules and tariffs are transparent and equitable among nations. It also serves as a forum for trade negotiations and dispute settlements. In theory, any state or customs territory having full autonomy in the conduct of its trade policies may join the WTO, after lengthy negotiations concerning market access, tariff rates, and other policies in goods and services. Governments marked as "observers" are expected to start accession negotiations within five years of becoming observers. More information is available on-line at <http://www.wto.org/>.

Agenda 21: Agreed upon in 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) ("Earth Summit") in Rio de Janeiro, Agenda 21 provides a program of action designed to promote sustainable development through the main focus areas of environmental, social, and economic issues. A commitment to the full implementation of Agenda 21 was reaffirmed in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. With the goal of integrating environmental and development concerns to simultaneously provide the "fulfillment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future", this comprehensive plan of action is to be implemented globally, nationally, and locally by the United Nations system, governments, and major groups in every area in which humans impact the environment. Each signatory member of the Agenda is to employ national strategies, plans, policies, and processes to insure the realization of the goals of Agenda 21. The broadest public participation, including all groups and organizations, is encouraged to aid in the attainment of the Agenda objectives. More information is available on-line at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm>.

National Agenda 21 Reporting Status indicates if a country has submitted a report on the status of its implementation of Agenda 21 in relation to the specific themes. Countries with reports "pending" submission are participants in the Agenda 21 process that have not yet submitted reports in 2002. "Non-reporting" countries are not participating in the Agenda 21 process. Country reports focus on social, economic, and environmental issues, including: combating poverty; energy; health; transport; agriculture; atmosphere; biodiversity; forests; freshwater; hazardous, solid, and radioactive wastes; land management; oceans; and toxic chemicals.

Local Agenda 21 Municipalities: The number of municipalities involved in the Local Agenda 21 (LA21) process denotes the number of government authorities that have made a formal commitment to LA21 or are actively undertaking the process. As part of the Agenda 21 process, local governments are called to create their own agenda outlining local priorities. The following criteria were used to identify local authorities undertaking the LA21 process: planning that involves local stakeholders; consultation with community partners; participatory assessment of local needs; participatory target setting through negotiations; and monitoring and reporting procedures. While the data can approximate the number of municipalities involved in LA21s, it does not indicate either (1) the extent of a municipality's involvement or (2) the size of the municipality. Many of the local participants were "self-reported" adherents to LA21 practices, introducing some degree of reporting bias. The survey did not have a clearly defined sample size, so rigorous statistical analysis of the results is not possible.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) conducted two separate surveys of global LA21 participation--in 1996 and in 2001. In 1996, ICLEI conducted two separate surveys--one at the national level and one at the local level. The national/regional survey was designed to collect quantitative data, while the local survey collected qualitative data about the number of LA21s. In 2001, a *Local Agenda 21 Survey of Local Authority Associations/Institutions* was distributed at the regional, national, and international level to collect quantitative data on the extent of LA21 initiatives on a country-by-country basis. It was distributed to 327 associations, including national councils for sustainable development and members of the United Nations

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Development Program Environment and Resource Group. ICLEI also surveyed local councils and authorities to gather in-depth, qualitative information about the LA21 process. Surveys were completed and sent back to ICLEI via e-mail, mail and fax.

FREQUENCY OF UPDATE BY DATA PROVIDERS

Major Multilateral Agreements and **WTO Membership Status** are updated on a continual basis. **Agenda 21 Processes** are updated irregularly, whenever a survey is conducted.

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