

Public Participation in the UNFCCC Regime

Promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention
& Escazú Agreement in international forums

Today's presentation



**RIO PRINCIPLE 10
& REGIONAL
AGREEMENTS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
FORUMS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
@CLIMATE
NEGOTIATIONS**



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
@COP27**

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

- “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level.”
- Sets out three fundamental rights as key pillars of sound environmental governance:
 - Appropriate access to information (1)
 - Public participation (2)
 - Access to justice (3)



Source: *Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2017), Principle 10 and the SDGs, <https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en/infographics/principle-10-and-sdgs> (last access: 5.10.2022).

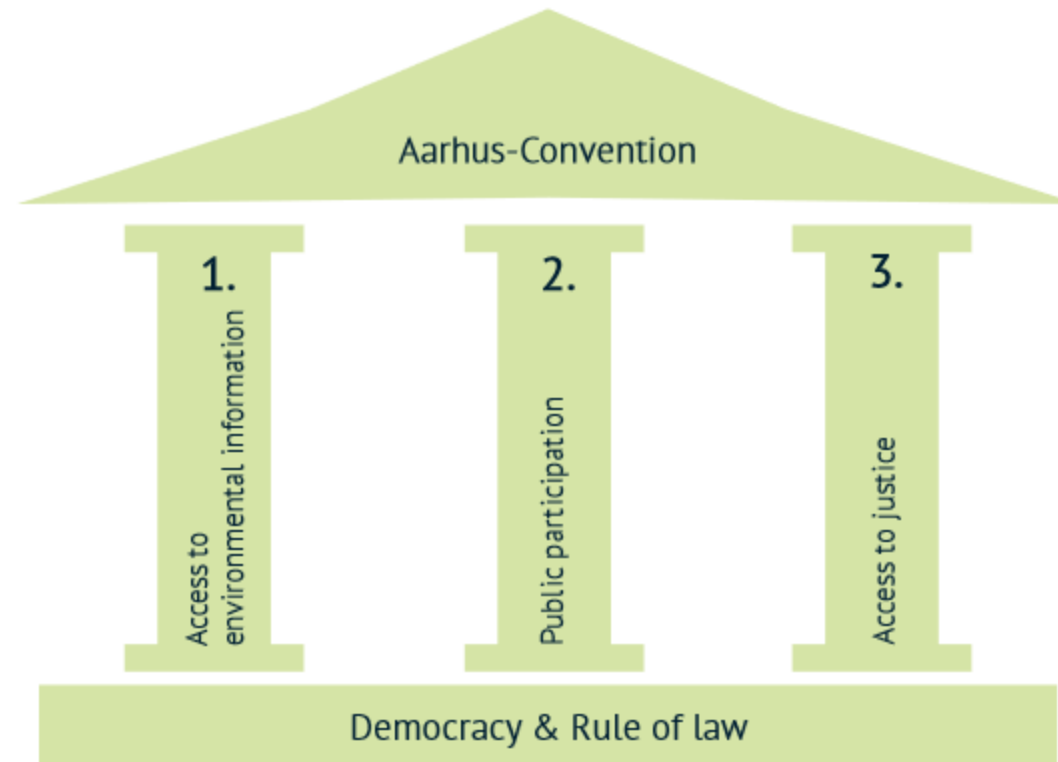


AARHUS CONVENTION
for our environment

Aarhus Convention

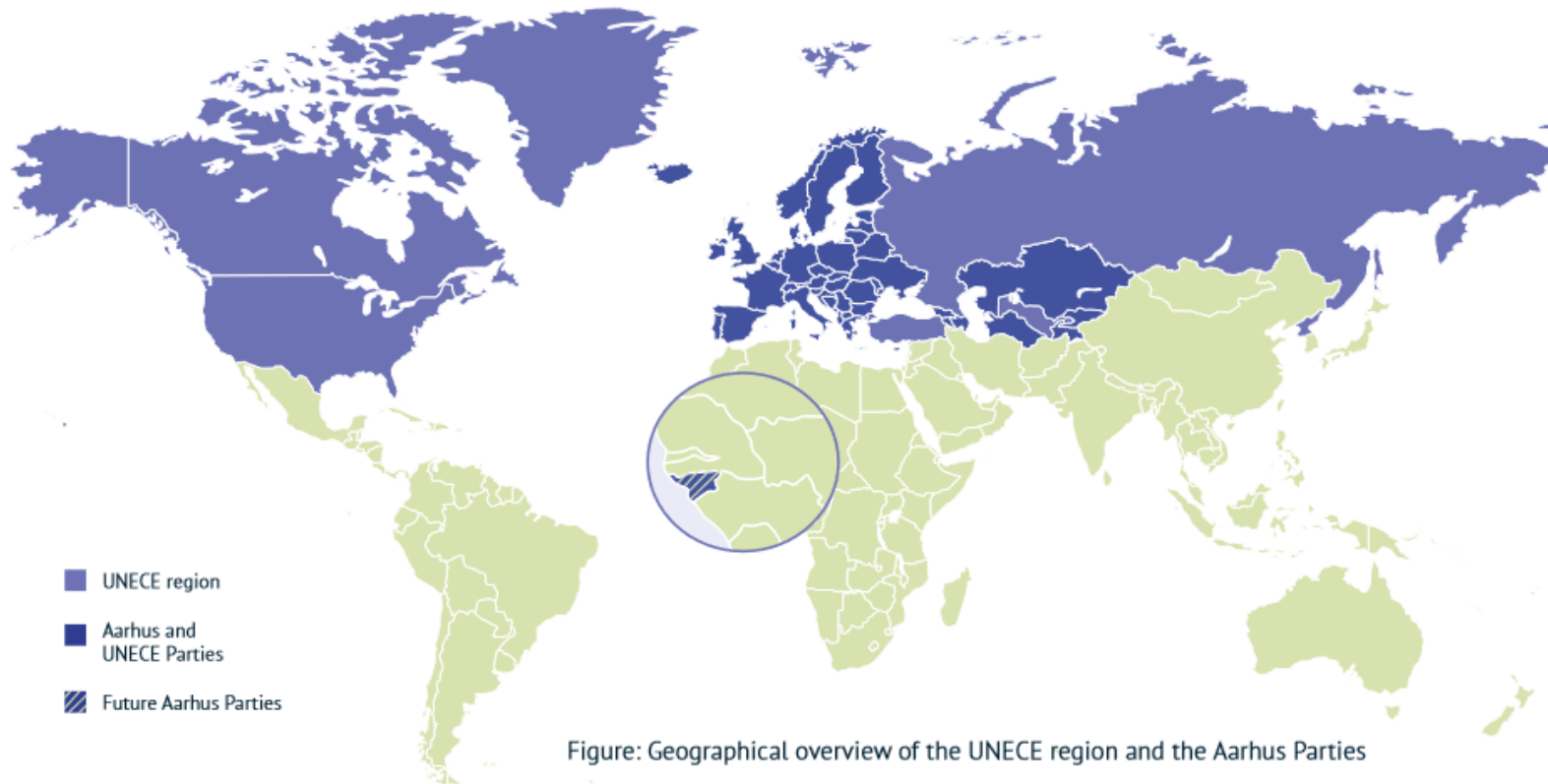
**UNECE Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making &
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**

Aarhus Convention (1998)



Source: *Pauleweit, Donges* (2022), *The European Union and the Aarhus Convention*, https://www.aarhus-konvention.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UFU_Aarhus_Broschuere_1_Infomieren_EN.pdf (last access: 5.10.2022), p. 13.

Aarhus Parties



- Signatories : 39
- Parties : 47
- G20 Parties:
- France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, European Union
- (NOT Canada, Russia, Turkey, USA)

Source: Pauleweit, Donges (2022), The European Union and the Aarhus Convention, [https://www.aarhus-konvention.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UFU Aarhus Broschuere 1_Infomieren_EN.pdf](https://www.aarhus-konvention.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UFU_Aarhus_Broschuere_1_Infomieren_EN.pdf) (last access: 5.10.2022), p. 17.



Escazú Agreement

**Regional Agreement on Access to Information,
Public Participation and Justice in Environmental
Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Escazú Agreement (2018) & Parties



- Signatories: 24
- Parties: 13

- G20 Parties:
- Argentina, Mexico
- (NOT Brazil)

Source: *Wikipedia* (2022), Escazú Agreement, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Escaz%C3%BA_Agreement (last access: 5.10.2022).

Provisions & Obligations under the ECE & ECLAC Regional Conventions on Public Participation

Article 4

General provisions

10. The Parties may promote knowledge of the provisions of the present Agreement in other international forums related to environmental matters, in accordance with the rules of each forum.

Article 7

Public participation in the environmental decision-making process

12. Each Party shall promote, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, public participation in international forums and negotiations on environmental matters or with an environmental impact, in accordance with the procedural rules on participation of each forum. The participation of the public at the national level on matters of international environmental forums shall also be promoted, where appropriate.

Article 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS

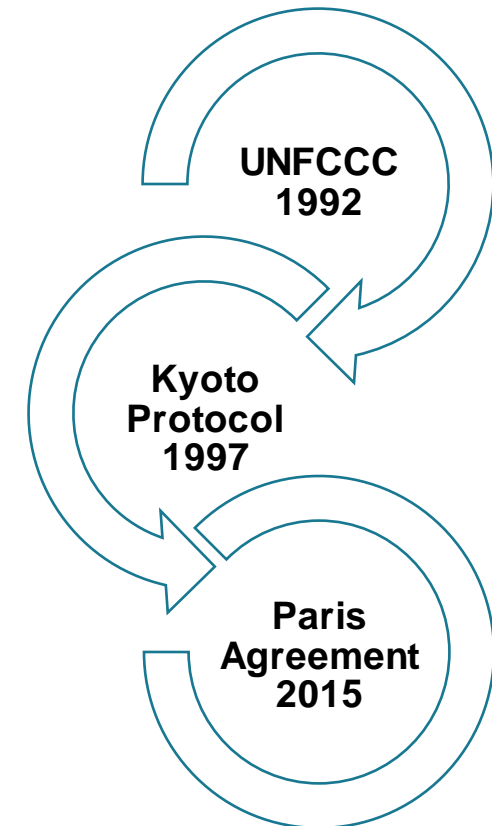
7. Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment.



Public participation @climate negotiations

Public Participation in International Forums (PPIF): The UN Climate Change Regime

- In total, **60 Parties to the UNFCCC** have ratified a regional instrument promoting PPIF
- Effective implementation of these commitments to promote public participation in international environmental forums
- No citizen participation, but **stakeholder participation**



Source: own graph.

| Home | COP 27 | Process and meetings | Topics | Calendar |
|---|----------------|----------------------|---|----------|
| Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) <i>Sra. Cíntya Chaves</i> | Rio de Janeiro | Brazil | Constituency - Environmental | 5 |
| Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) <i>Mr. Angelo Kairos Dela Cruz</i> | Quezon | Philippines | Constituency - Research and independent | + |
| Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility - Law, Economics and Policy e.V. (IKEM) <i>Ms. Kathryn Margaret McKenzie</i> | Berlin | Germany | Constituency - Research and independent | + |

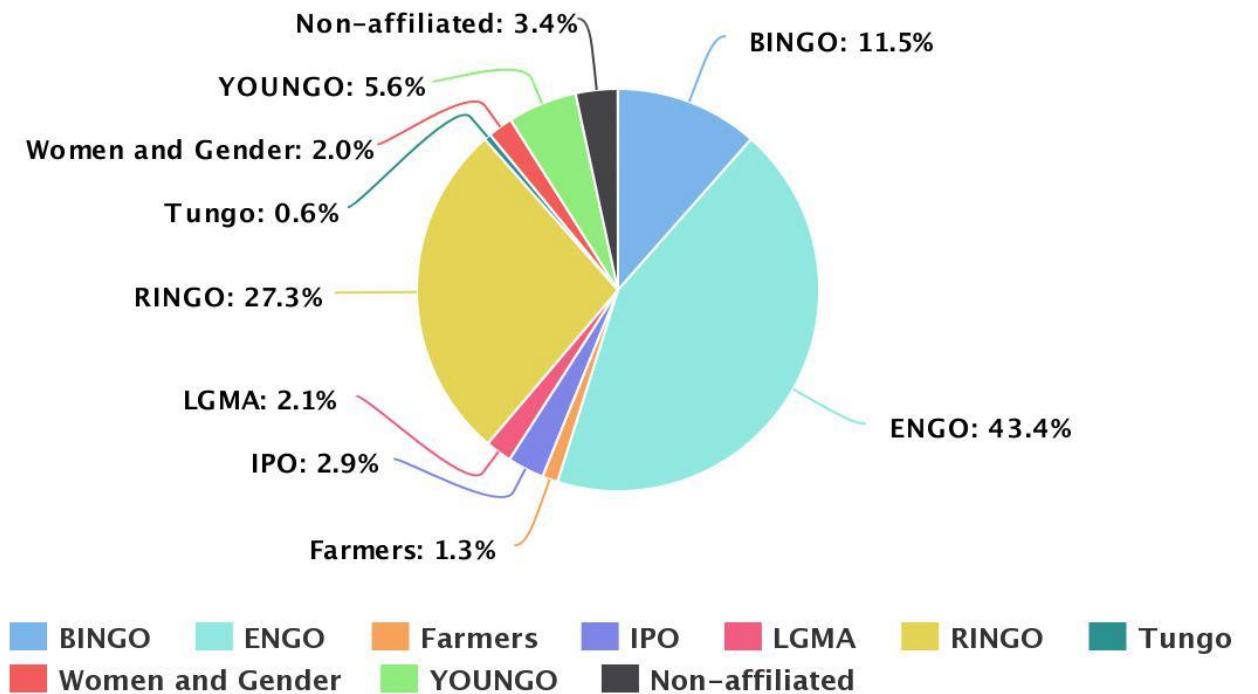
Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022), Excerpt Admitted NGOs, <https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/admitted-ngos/list-of-admitted-ngos> (last access: 10.10.2022).

PPIF: The UN Climate Change Regime

- 9 constituencies:**

| | |
|---|--|
| | Environmental NGOs (ENGO) |
| Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO) | Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO) |
| Farmers | Youth NGOs (YOUNGO) |
| Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) | Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPO) |
| Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO) | Women and Gender |

COP 26/ CMP 16/ CMA 3 breakdown of attendance of NGO representatives by constituency

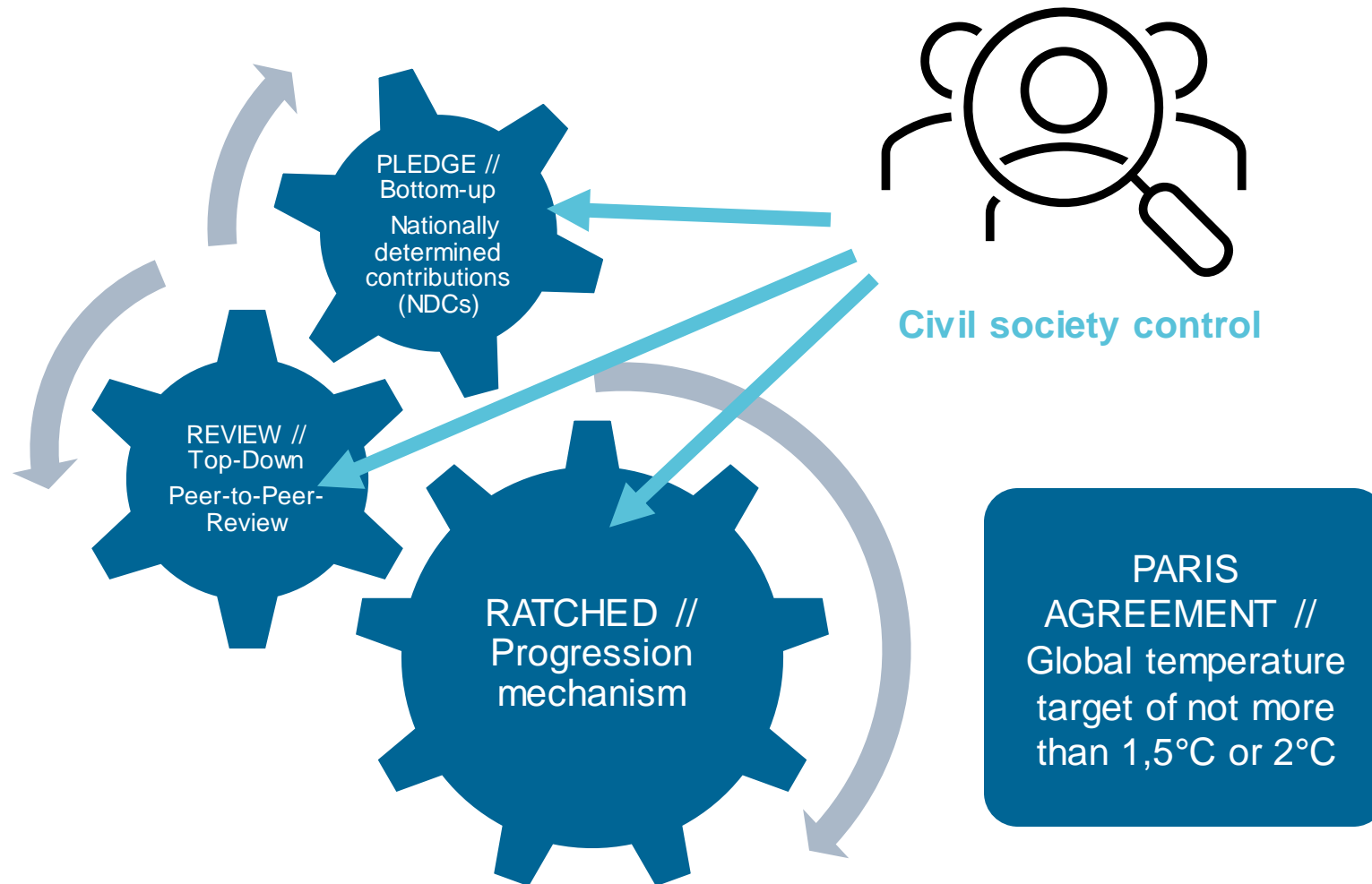


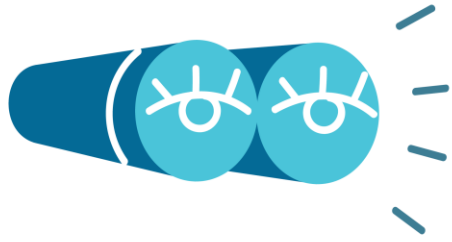
Source: UNFCCC Secretariat (2022), Statistics on participation and in-session engagement, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/statistics> (last access: 7.10.2022).

Highcharts.com



PPIF: The UN Climate Change Regime





The Way Ahead Public Participation @



Civic Space in the Arab Republic of Egypt

- 2013 Egyptian coup d'état
- Democracy Index (2021) by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):
 - **Authoritarian Regime**
 - Ranking 132 of 167
- Civicus Monitor tracking civic space (16.06.2022): **CLOSED**



The screenshot shows the Amnesty International website. At the top left is the Amnesty International logo. To the right are navigation links: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, and COUNTRIES. Below the logo is a black button with a white icon and the word 'RESEARCH'. The main heading reads 'Egypt: "Disconnected from reality": Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy covers up human rights crisis'. Below the heading is the date 'September 21, 2022, Index Number: MDE 12/6014/2022'. Underneath is a sub-heading 'EGYPT CENSORSHIP AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION'. The main text states: 'Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) was launched one year ago by the Egyptian authorities to conceal their abysmal human rights record and deflect criticism. Amnesty International's analysis reveals that the NHRS paints a deeply misleading picture of the human rights situation. The international community must not be deceived and pressure the Egyptian authorities to take meaningful steps to end the cycle of abuse and impunity.' At the bottom, the source is cited as 'Source: Amnesty International (2022), Research Briefing, September 21, 2022, Index Number: MDE 12/6014/2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/6014/2022/en/> (last access: 7.10.2022).'

Civic Space in Egypt

Auszug „Ägypten: Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise (Teilreisewarnung)“ des Auswärtigen Amtes (Stand - 07.10.2022 (Unverändert gültig seit: 05.10.2022))

Innenpolitische Lage

Schwerwiegende **terroristische Anschläge** auf ägyptische Sicherheitskräfte und **zivile Ziele** können nicht ausgeschlossen werden.

Demonstrationen sind seit 2014 seltener geworden, können aber weiterhin vor allem in Kairo und anderen Städten nicht ausgeschlossen werden.

Im Zuge der Terrorismusbekämpfung haben **Sicherheitskräfte und Militär erhebliche Eingriffsbefugnisse**. Vor allem nachts und **bei Demonstrationen ist mit verstärkten Kontrollen** durch Sicherheitskräfte zu rechnen.

Kritische Äußerungen über Ägypten und **politische Kommentare**, auch in den sozialen Medien, können unter anderem als strafbare Beleidigung und Diffamierung Ägyptens oder des Staatspräsidenten bzw. als strafbares „Verbreiten falscher Nachrichten“ angesehen werden und eine **Strafverfolgung** nach sich ziehen. Bei Kontrollen ist eine Durchsuchung nach solchen Kommentaren möglich.

(...)

- **Meiden Sie Demonstrationen und größere Menschenansammlungen weiträumig.**
- Seien Sie sich Ihres **Verhaltens und Ihrer Äußerungen in der Öffentlichkeit und in sozialen Medien** bewusst.

Source: *Auswärtiges Amt* (2022), Ägypten: Reise- und Sicherheitshinweise (Teilreisewarnung), <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/aussenpolitik/laender/aegypten-node/aegyptensicherheit/212622> (last access: 7.10.2022).

Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference



“No climate justice without open civic space”



Looking forward to fruitful discussions!

Do you have questions?

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IKEM

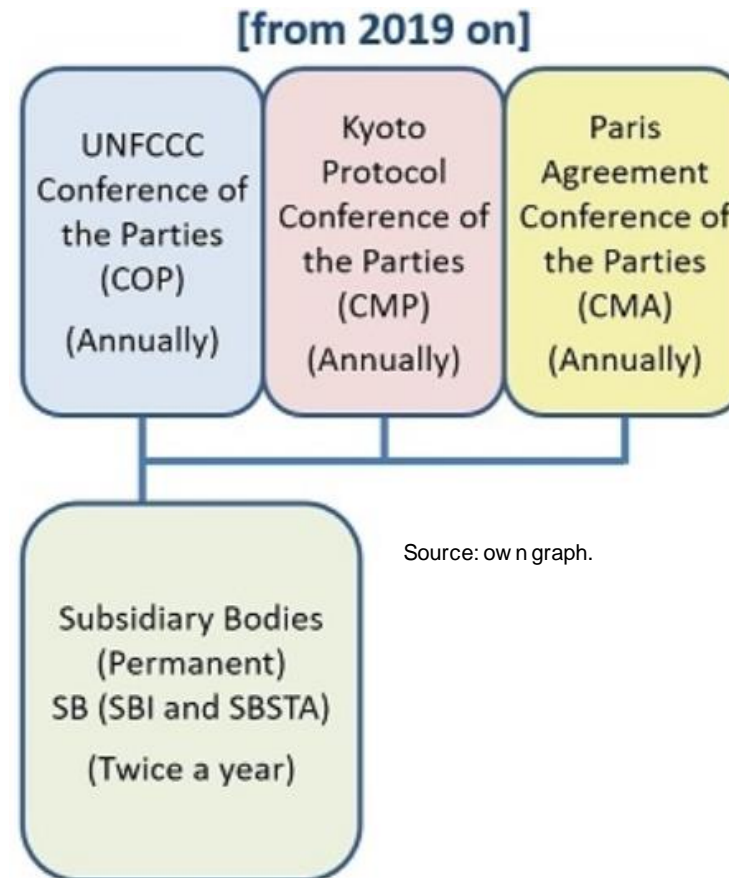
KATHLEEN PAULEWEIT

Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin



Back-up

International climate negotiations



UN Security guidelines related to media actions, distribution of publicity materials, and use of UN emblem at the UNFCCC conferences

Media actions

- Media actions and publicity events in the designated areas (NGO spots) authorized by the Observer Organizations Liaison Officer are permitted.
- No actions inside plenary rooms and conference rooms are allowed.
- Concealing identity with masks is not allowed.
- ➔ • No impersonated objects (i.e. satirical drawings of Heads of States, negotiators, individuals) are allowed.
- Smooth flow of crowd and an appropriate level of sound that is acceptable to other participants should be maintained, in consultation with the Observer Organizations Liaison Officer if necessary.
- ➔ • No activity derisory to the UN, any of their Member States, organizations or any individual or criticism that would go against basic rules of decorum is allowed.
- UN Security reserves the right to revoke previously issued permissions for media actions any time if the security conditions so require.

