

# Climate Change Mitigation and Green Growth

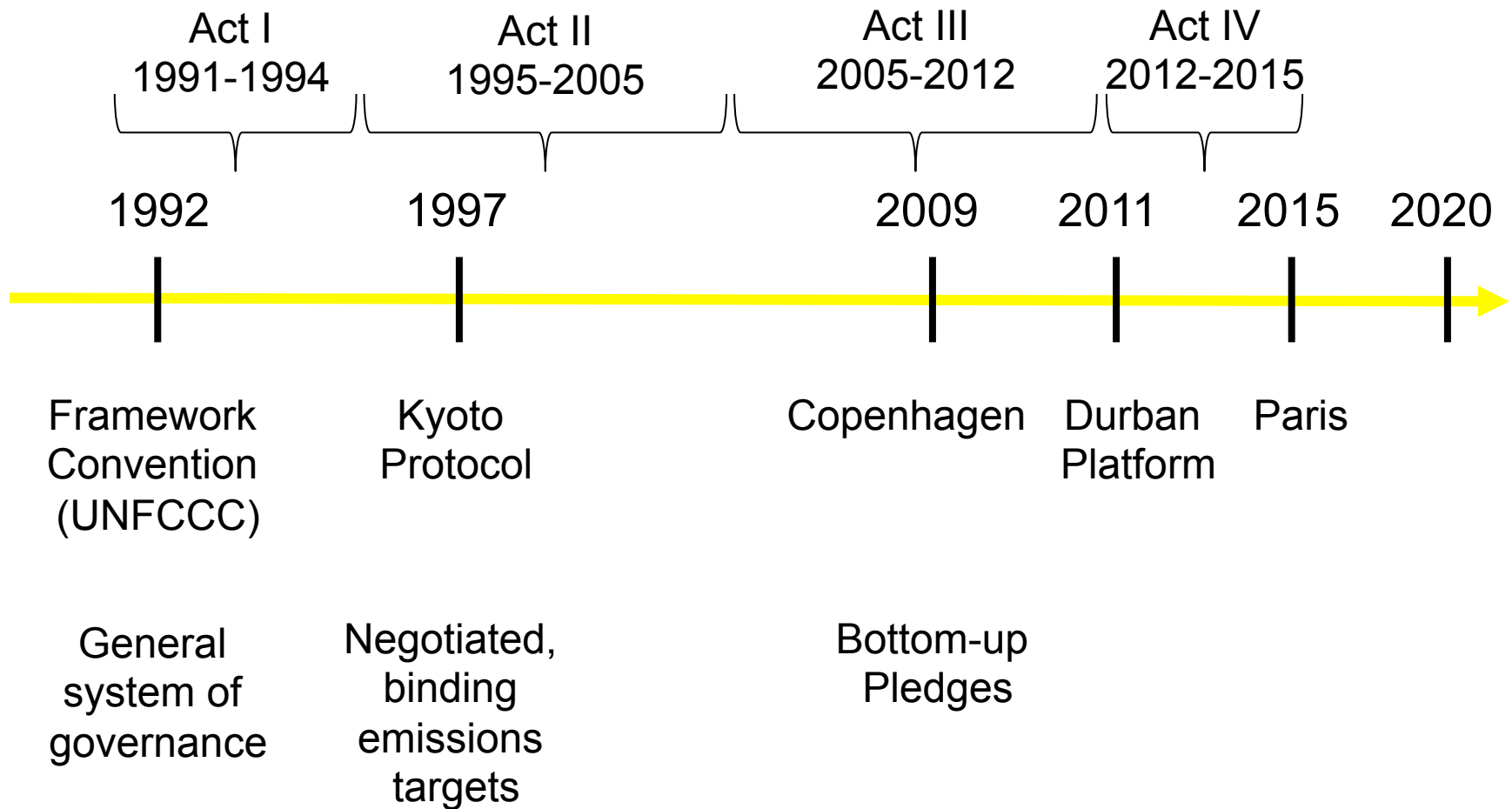


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*Arizona State University*

Unpacking Green Growth Conference  
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8-10 October 2014

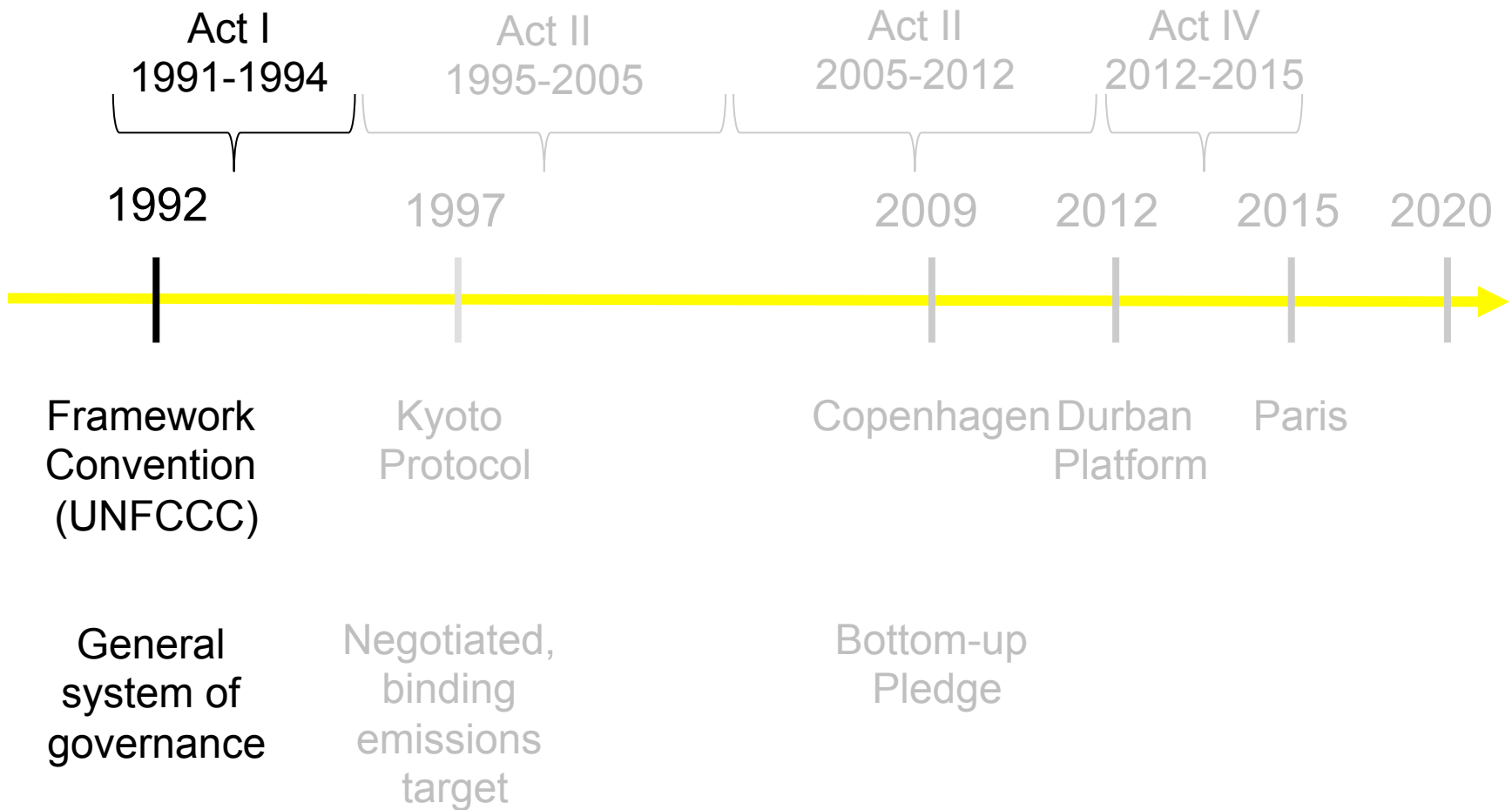


# Development of the UN Climate Regime: A Play in Four Acts





# Development of the UN Climate Regime: Act I





# Act 1

## UNFCCC

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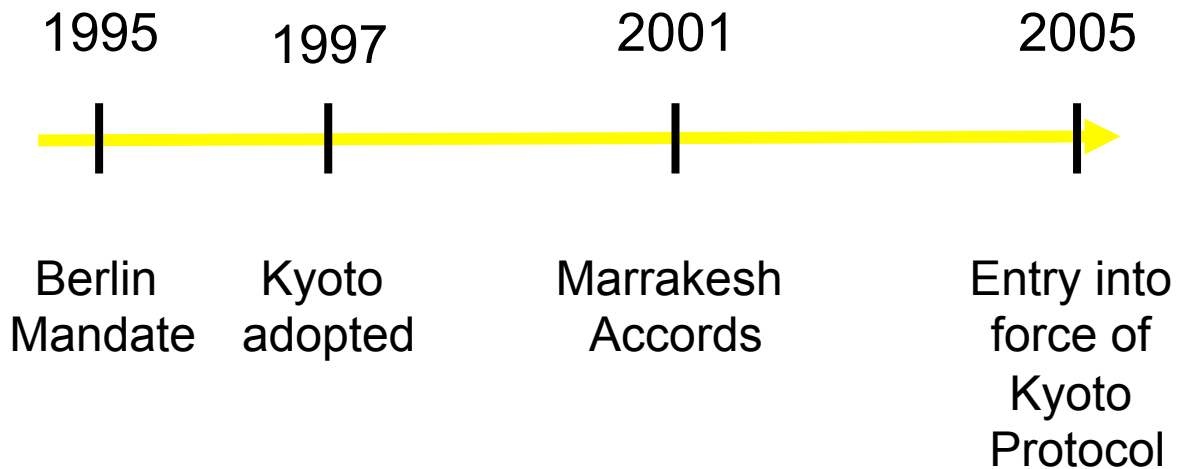
- Establishes basic system of governance
  - Ultimate objective and principles
  - General obligations
  - Institutional arrangements
- Negotiations began in 1991, finished in 1992
- Convention opened for signature at Rio in 1992, entered into force in 1994





# Development of the UN Climate Regime

## Act II





# Act II

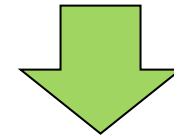
## Kyoto Protocol

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- Key features:
  - Internationally-negotiated and -agreed limits on GHG emissions
    - Market mechanisms for implementation
  - Legally-binding
  - Strong differentiation: targets applicable only to developed countries
- Main axis of negotiation: US-EU

Developed countries  
Top-down  
regulatory approach

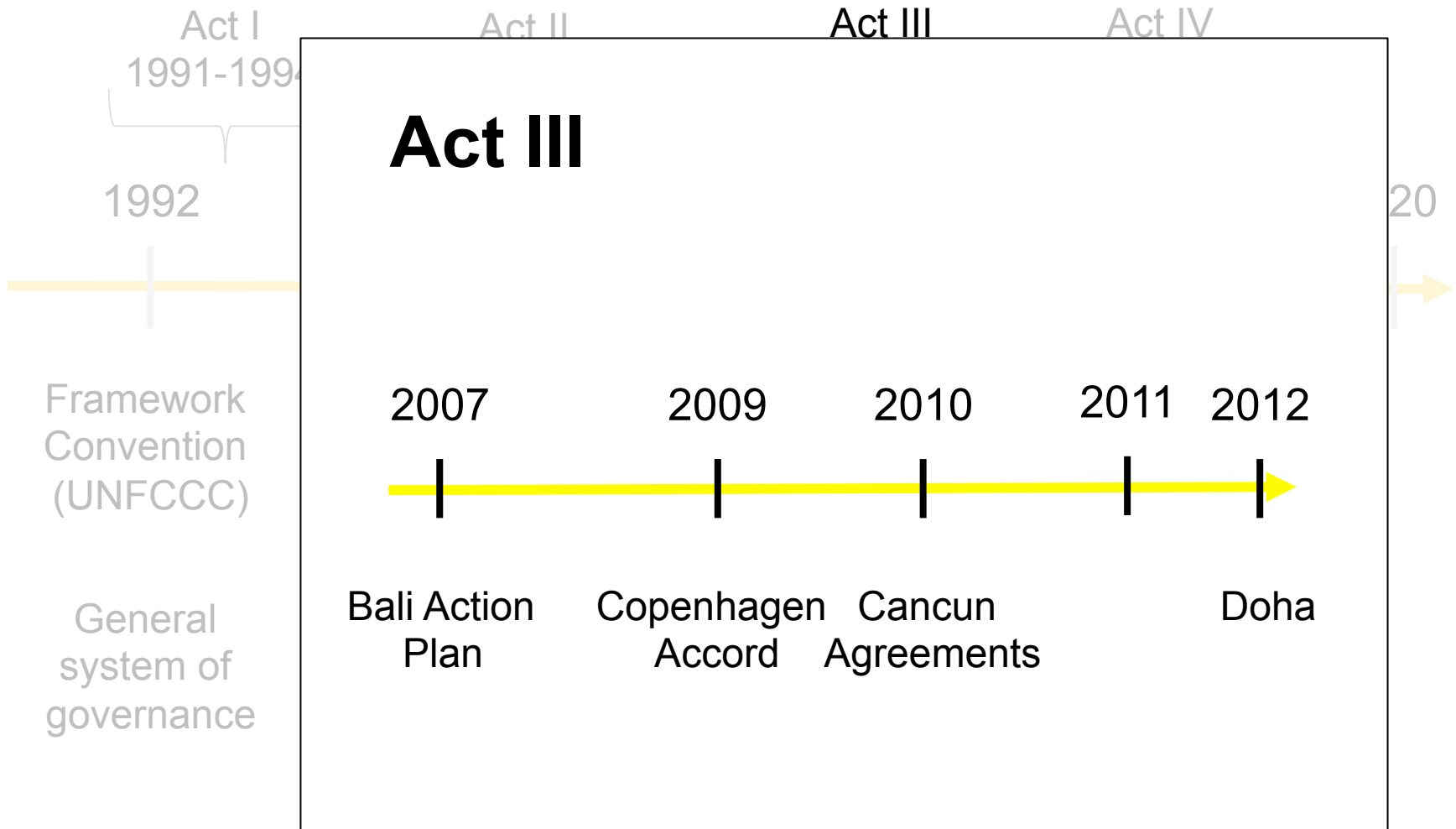
Internationally-negotiated,  
absolute emissions targets



National policies and  
measures



# Development of the UN Climate Regime





# Act III: Copenhagen/Cancun

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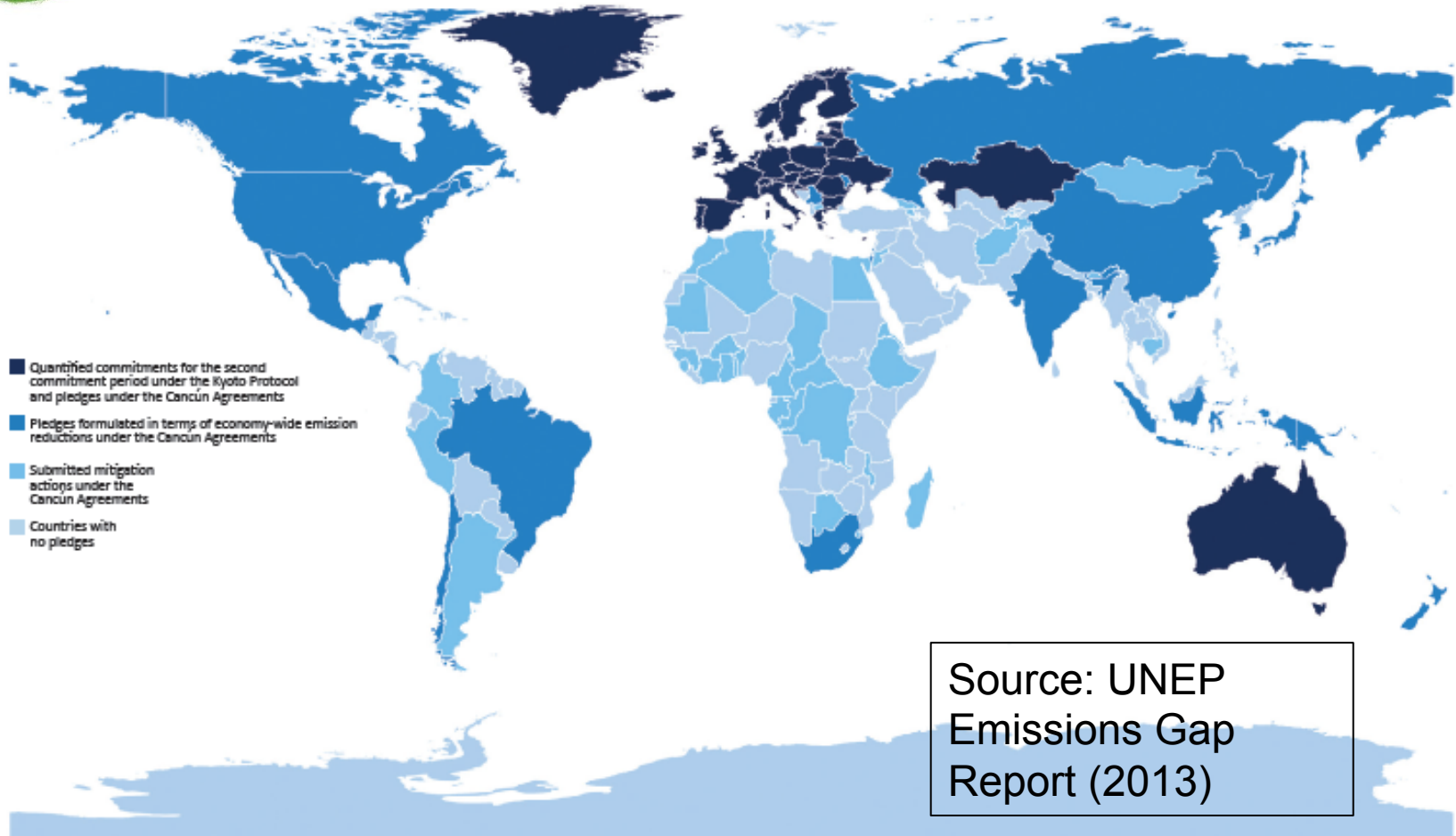
- Bottom-up pledges
- Not legally binding
- All countries involved







# Copenhagen/Cancun Pledges and Kyoto Commitments

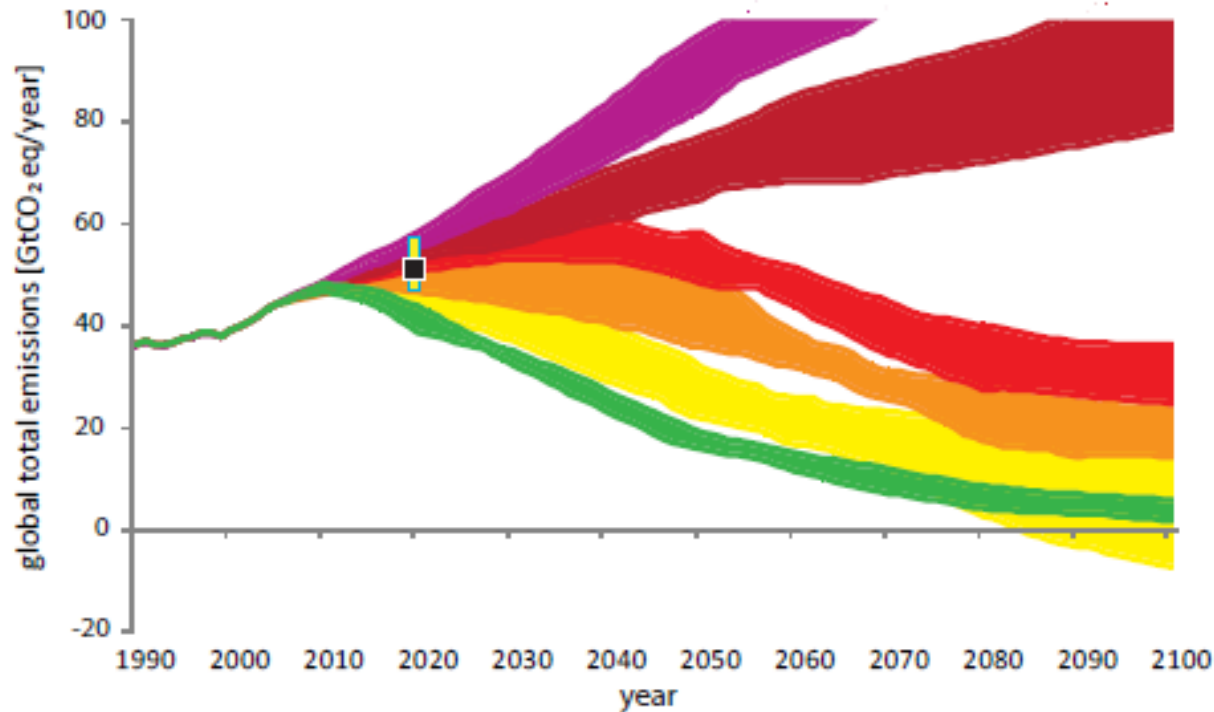




# Emissions Gap

Source: UNEP,  
*The Emissions  
Gap Report*  
(2010)

Likely avoided temperature increase of IAM scenarios.  
Bar superimposed in 2020 shows expected emissions from the pledges.



## Legend:

Emission levels consistent with a likely temperature increase (T) in the 21st century of:

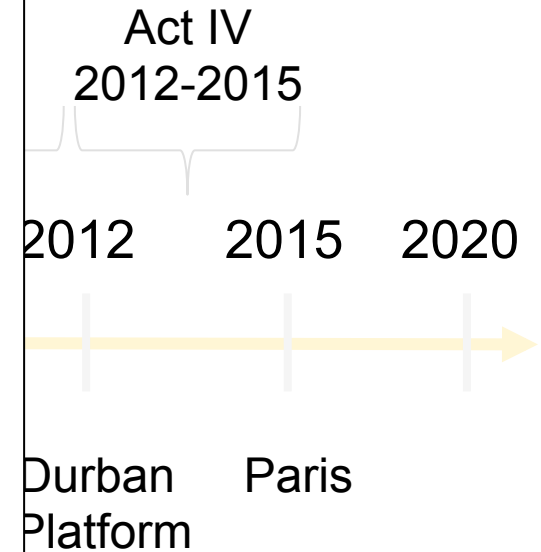
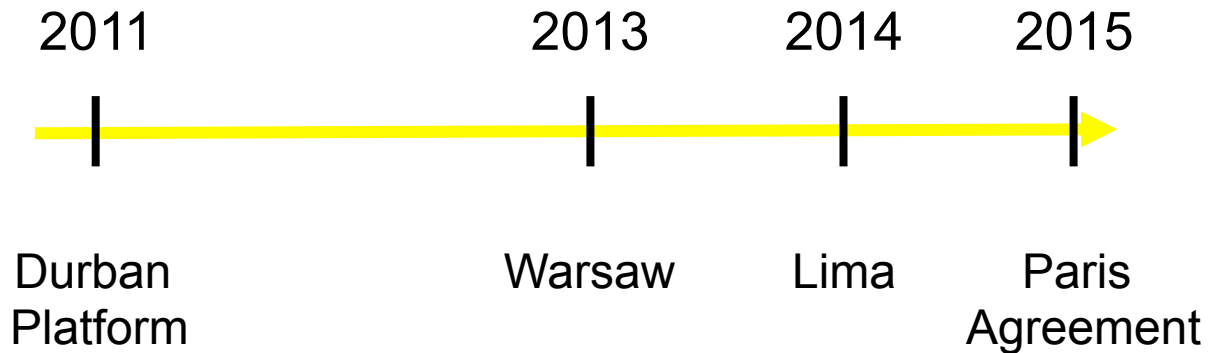
- T > 5°C
  - 4°C < T < 5°C
  - 3°C < T < 4°C
  - 2.5°C < T < 3°C
  - 2°C < T < 2.5°C
  - T < 2°C
- range of pledge cases
- median range of pledge cases

<sup>15</sup>The gaps between the coloured bands come about because this report mainly compiled pathways from low greenhouse gas stabilisation scenario.



# Development of the UN Climate Regime

## Act IV





# Act IV Questions

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## **Kyoto**

- Top-down regulatory approach
- Legally-binding
- Firewall between developed and developing countries

## **Copenhagen/Cancun**

- Bottom-up
- Softer law / political decisions
- Greater symmetry, parallelism



# Durban Platform Negotiations

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- Durban Platform largely an empty shell
- But a few markers
  - “Multilateral, rule-based regime”
  - Legal form: “protocol, another legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force”
    - “Applicable to all”
    - “Under the Convention”



# Hybrid Approach

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		Substance	
		No rules	Rules
Process: Pledging and reviewing	Rules		Kyoto
	No rules	Copenhagen	



# Hybrid Approach

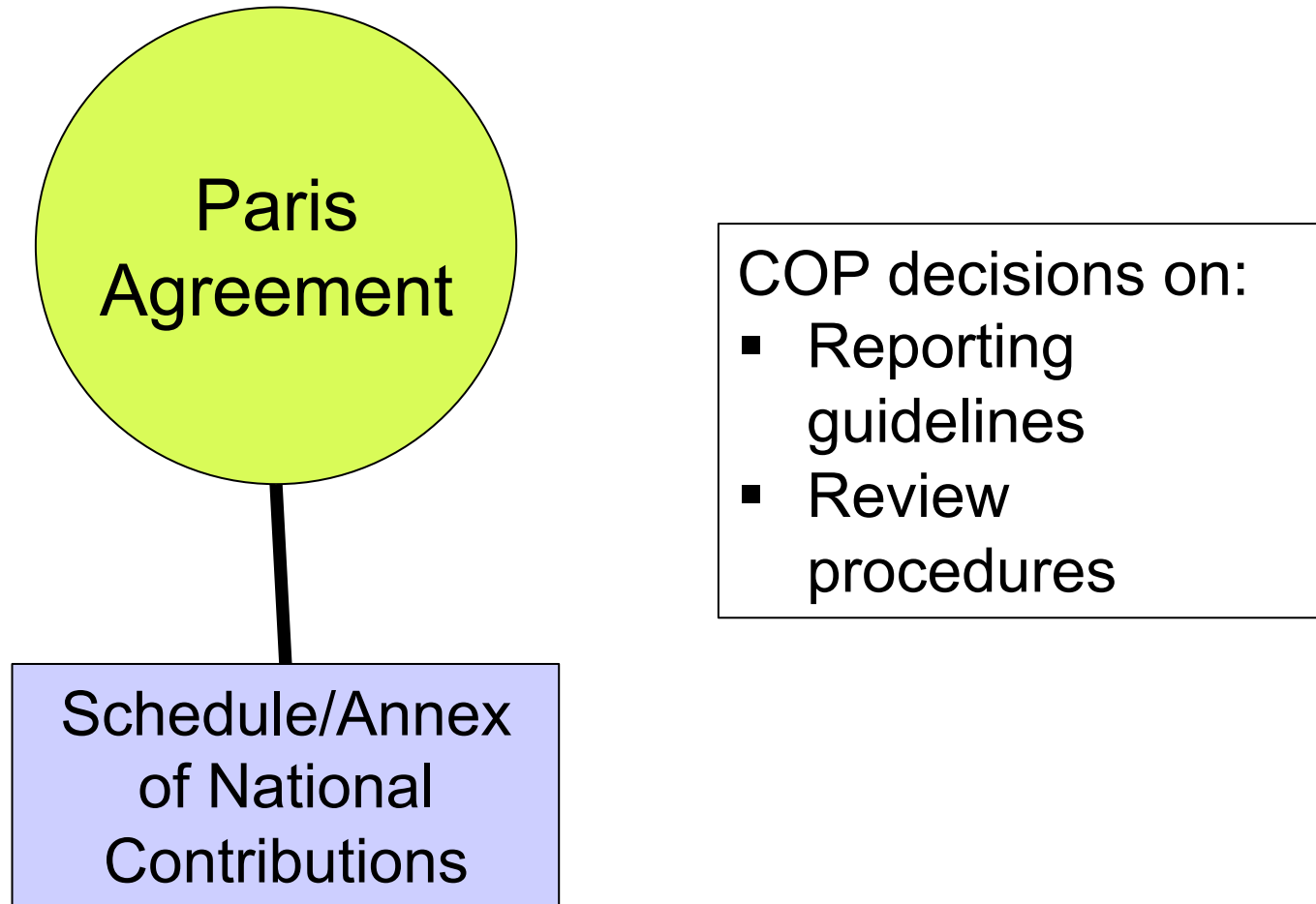
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		Substance	
		No rules	Rules
Process: Pledging and reviewing	Rules	Hybrid ←	Kyoto
	No rules	Copenhagen	



# Illustrative Structure of Paris Outcome

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# Green growth

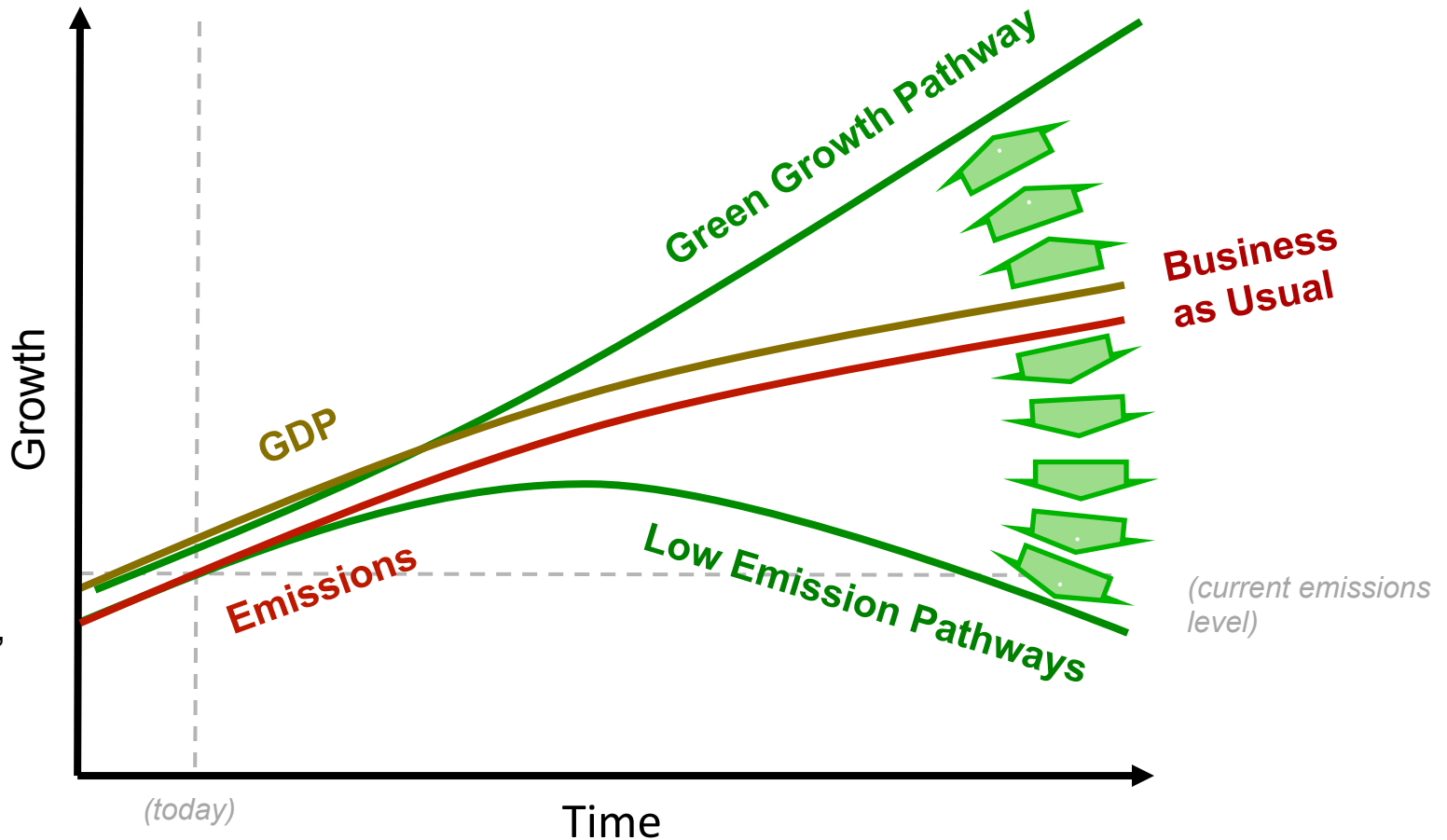
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- Precursors
  - Sustainable development
- Reflected now in concept of low emission/carbon development strategies (LEDS/LCDS)

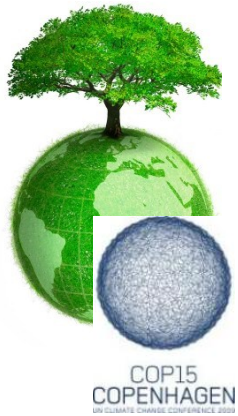


# Goal of a LEDS

Meet economic and social development goals while reducing or slowing GHG emissions



Source:  
John Wells,  
UNFCCC  
Regional  
Workshop  
8/13/13



# LEDS in the UNFCCC Negotiations

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Copenhagen Accord (2009): “A low emission development strategy is **indispensable** for sustainable development”



Cancun Agreement (2010): “Decides that **developed countries should develop low carbon strategies or plans...**” “**Encourages developing countries to develop low carbon development strategies or plans in the context of sustainable development...**”



Durban Platform (2011): “Invites developed country Parties to submit information related to progress towards the formulation of their low-emission development strategies...” “**Encourages developing country Parties to develop low-emission development strategies**, recognizing the need for **financial and technical support** by developed country Parties...”



Doha Outcome (2012): Reaffirms prior statements; “Requests technical workshops and material to **build capacity in the preparation, submission and implementation** of nationally appropriate mitigation actions, as well as in the formulation of **low emission development strategies...**”



# LEDS

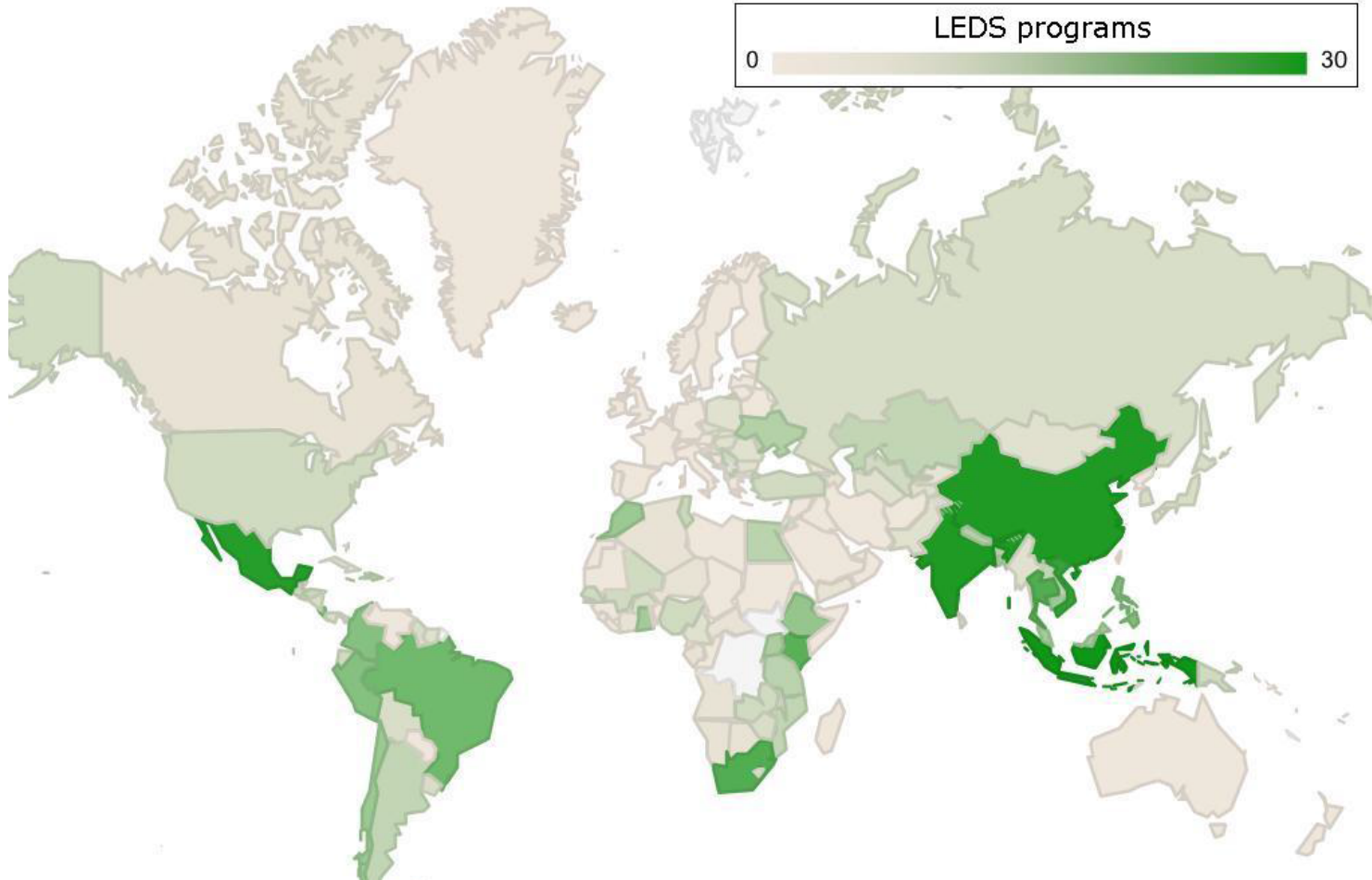
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- 2011:
  - LEDS Global Partnership launched
  - EU published roadmap to a low carbon economy
- 2013
  - Obama, US Climate Action Plan: “A low-carbon clean energy economy can be an engine of growth for decades to come.”



# Growth of LEADS programs

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# Green growth in the Durban Platform negotiations

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- From targets to pathways



# What is the role of the international climate regime?

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- Contractual model:
  - Each side undertakes burdens/ commitments, in exchange for commitments by others
- Prescriptive model:
  - International regime tells states what to do
- Facilitative/catalytic model
  - International law catalyzes, encourages, reinforces action



# Kyoto Model: Law as a contract

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- Based on reciprocity:
  - States willing to do more in exchange for action by others
  - International agreement: burden-sharing







# Why the contractual model isn't working

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- Climate change issue driven by domestic politics
- Most countries not willing to do more, in exchange for agreement others





# Prescriptive model

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- International law imposes obligations
- Source of obligations might be from
  - Morality/justice
  - Custom
  - Legislation





# Prescriptive model

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- Will prescriptive approach work?  
Will it change behavior?

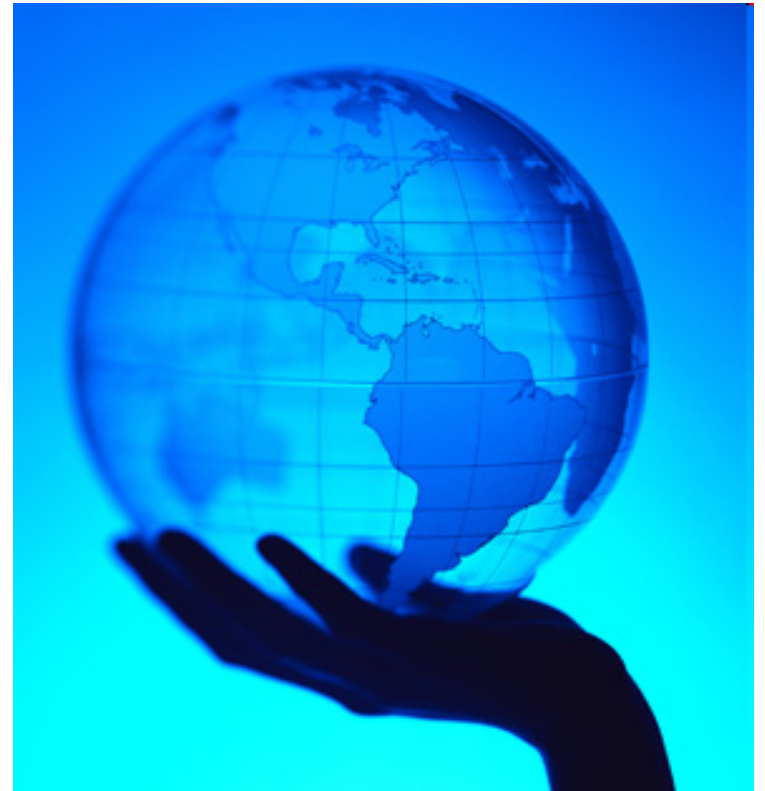




# Facilitative model

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- International regime
  - Raises/focuses attention > catalyzes action
  - Transparency > soft pressure
  - Assistance to enhance capacity





Thank you