



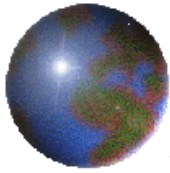
# *COP 17: DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA*

*2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*



# *Overview*

- ✚ Background
- ✚ High-Level Outcomes
- ✚ Canadian Positions
- ✚ Next Steps

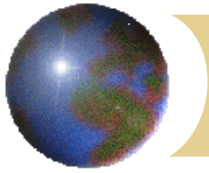


# *1. Background*



## *The timeline*

- ✚ 1992: countries joined an international treaty, the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, to cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable
- ✚ 1995: countries realized that emission reductions provisions in the Convention were inadequate. They launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the **Kyoto Protocol**
- ✚ 2012: what happens from here is one of the key issues governments from the 195 parties to the Convention are currently negotiating



## *The process*

- ⊕ Parties refers to the States that have signed on to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ⊕ The Parties have been meeting annually in **Conferences of the Parties (COP)** to assess progress in dealing with climate change since 1995
- ⊕ COP 17, the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference, met last year



## *UNFCCC*

- ✚ Set an overall framework for global efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change
  
- ✚ Governments are required to:
  - (i) gather and share information on greenhouse gas
  - (ii) launch national strategies to address it
  - (iii) cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change

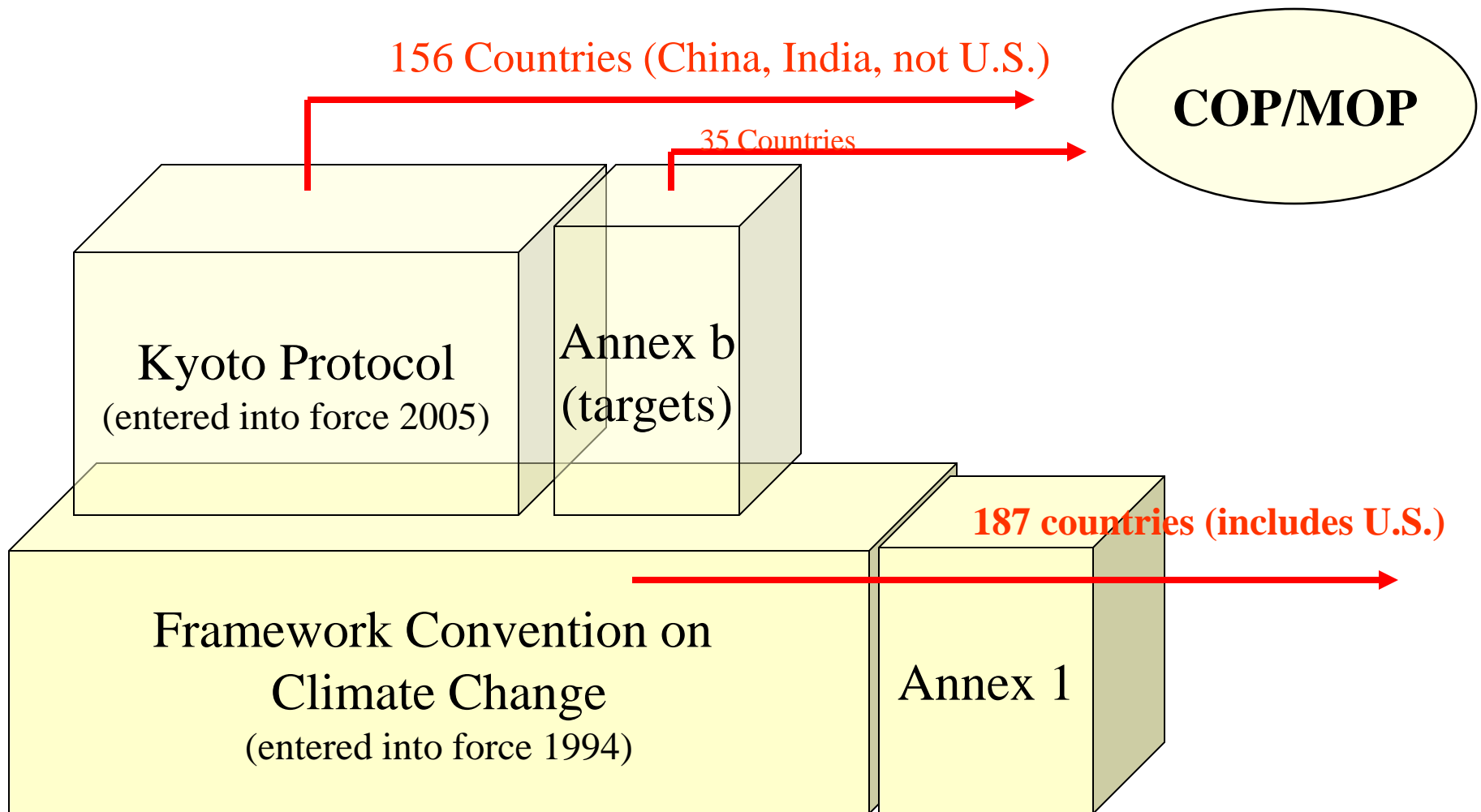


## *The Kyoto Protocol*

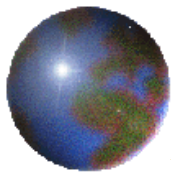
- ✚ Sets binding targets for 37 countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)
- ✚ Reductions amounting to an average of 5% over the five-year period 2008-2012 is expected
- ✚ Kyoto v UNFCCC: UNFCCC **encourages** countries to stabilize GHG, the Protocol **commits** them to do so



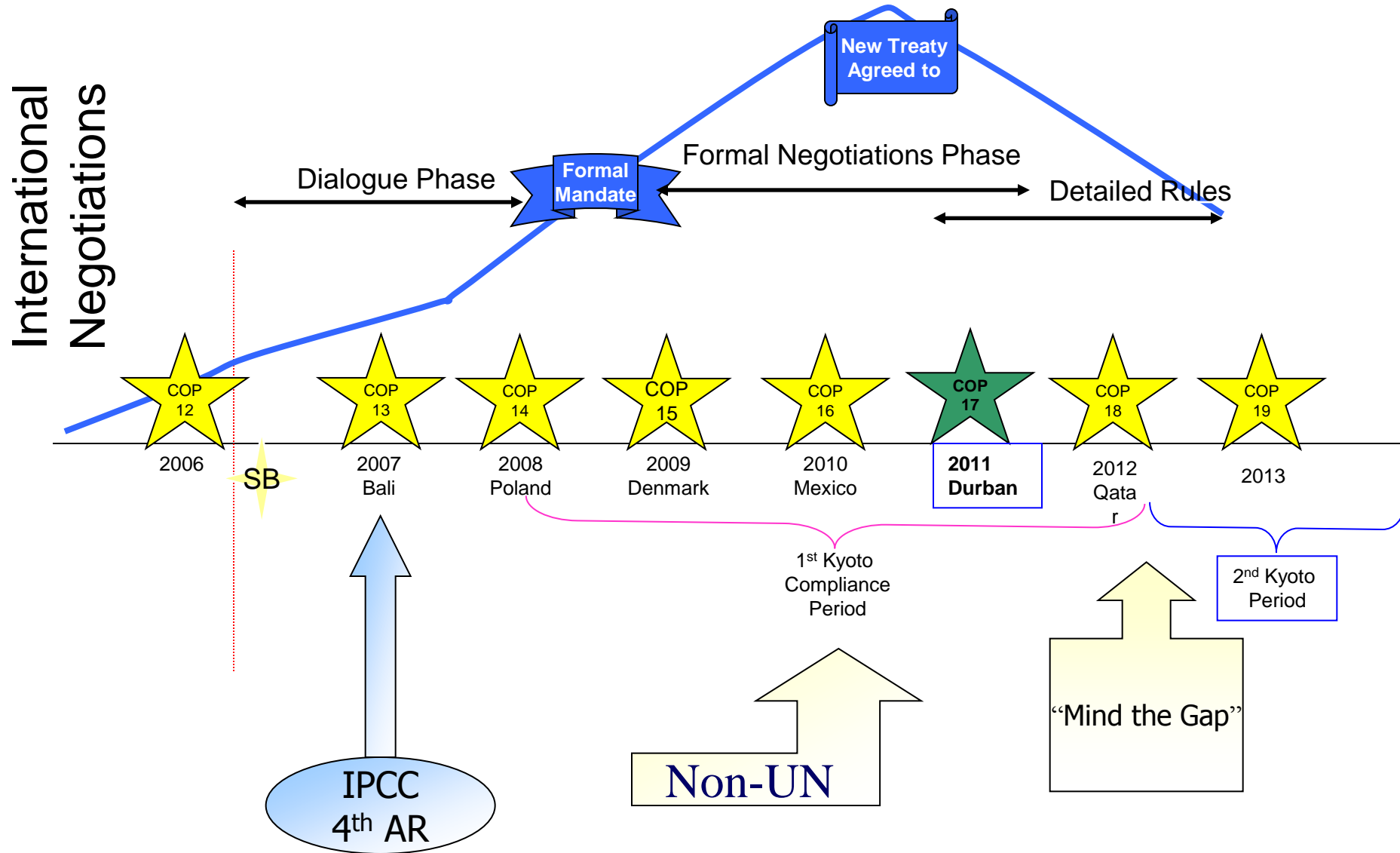
# *Schematic*







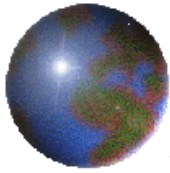
# Post 2012: Toward further commitments





# *The Cancun Agreements*

- ✚ COP 16 was held in Cancún, Mexico in 2010 and agreed a set of significant decisions:
  - (i) to address the **long-term challenge of climate change** collectively and comprehensively over time and to speed up the global response.
  - (ii) key steps forward in capturing plans to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and to help developing nations protect themselves from climate impacts



*Durban*



## *Durban, COP 17*

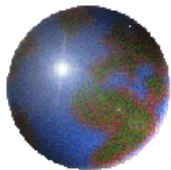
- ✚ COP 17 took place Nov 28-Dec 9 2011 in Durban, South Africa
- ✚ Alberta part of the Canadian delegation – all rights and privileges (Guy St. Jacques, Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change)
- ✚ Alberta visibility at such an international meeting carries significant weight in international circles



## *Alberta at COP 17*

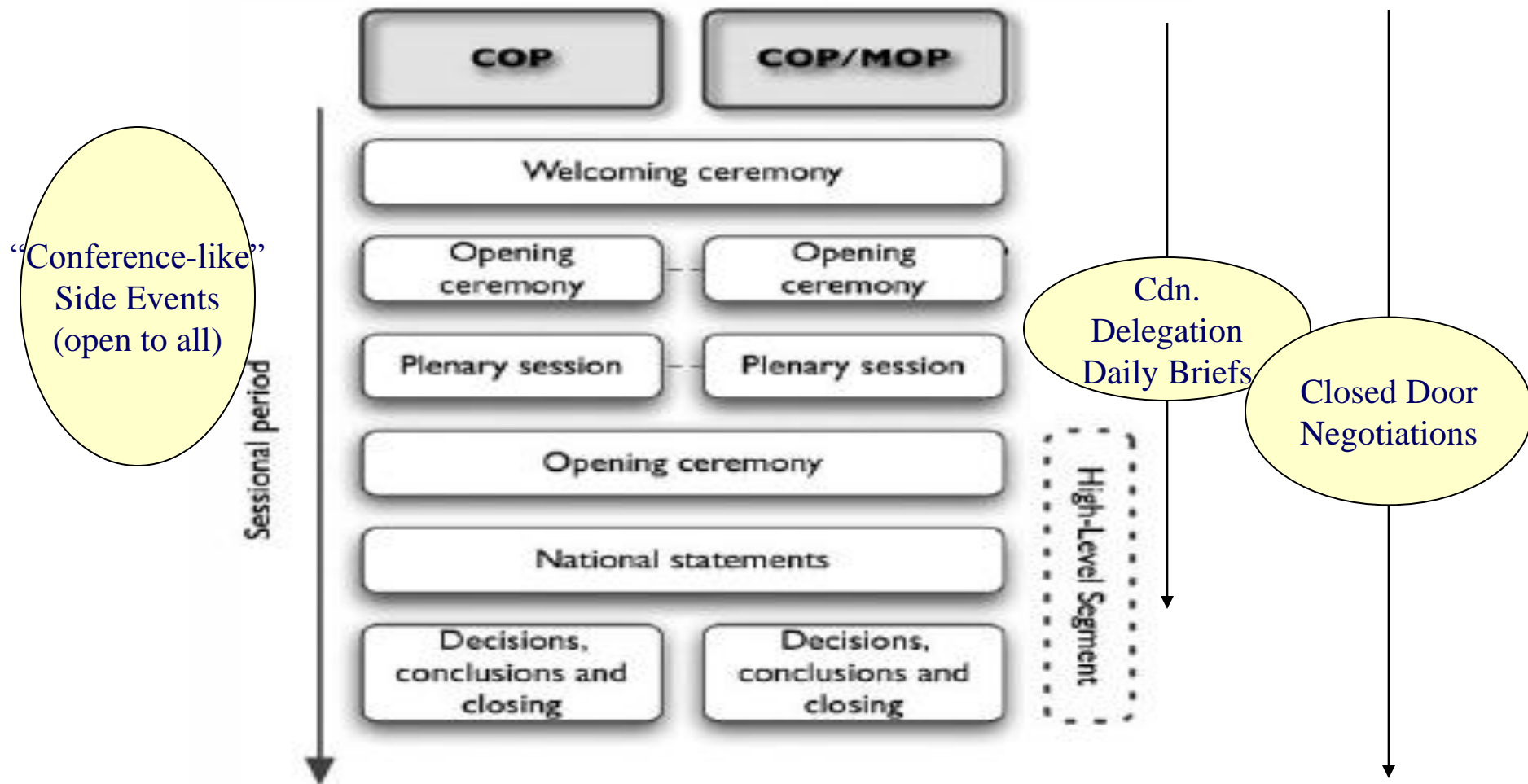
### ✚ Targeted meetings with:

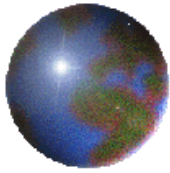
- Delegations from China, UK, Norway, France, Japan, Indonesia, Germany
- Interest groups- ENGOs
- Academia-particularly those with an interest in Canada & environmental issues
- Business leaders in energy-intensive sectors
- Media, opinion-leaders (global media hub)



# COP Process

Figure 3. COP, COP/MOP and Joint Sessions\*





## 2. *High Level Outcomes*



# *Outcomes of COP17*

## ✚ The “Durban Platform”

- (i) to negotiate the long-term future of the regime
- (ii) a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol
- (iii) and an array of decisions designed to implement the Cancun agreements





## *Assessing the Durban Platform*

- ✚ Opinion is divided
- ✚ Overall it holds a great deal of merit
- ✚ Establishing the future direction of the climate regime by initiating a new round of negotiations to be concluded by 2015 and operationalized by 2020.
- ✚ The text that ultimately brings all Parties onto one track and tries to resolve the difficult conflict between equity and environmental integrity



# *Assessing the Durban Platform contd.*

- ✚ The text calls for “the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response”
- ✚ It also recognizes the need to strengthen the multilateral, rules-based regime
- ✚ Importantly, the text notes and expresses concern at the significant emissions gap and reconfirms the long-term global goal of limiting warming to 2 °C
- ✚ The tacit criticism of existing pledges seems to suggest that the voluntary “pledge and review” system is now time-bound



# *The Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol*

- ✿ The agreement in Durban extended the Kyoto Protocol, providing a transition period for the parties
- ✿ The second commitment period under Kyoto is set to begin on January 1, 2013 and end either on December 31, 2017 or December 31, 2020
- ✿ Parties who sign up to the Second Commitment Period are committing to reduce emissions by at least **25%-40%** below 1990 levels by 2020.



# *Climate Finance*

- ❖ Durban grappled with a number of important issues related financial resources, including:
  - (i) launch of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
  - (ii) provision of long term finance
  - (iii) the Standing Committee, and transparency of finance.
- ❖ The launch of the GCF was one the most important outcomes from Durban



## *Transparency and Reporting (MRV)*

- ✿ COP 17 set out to deliver detailed rules to account for, report, and review countries' GHG emissions, actions, and finance
- ✿ Cancun sketched out the main parameters of this system
- ✿ Although COP 17 made the MRV system operational it fell short on several important items that would have ensured the environmental integrity of the regime



# *Adaptation*

- ✚ COP 17 saw renewed momentum on adaptation-related decisions supporting implementation of the Cancun Adaptation Framework:
  - (i) a new Adaptation Committee to coordinate
  - (ii) a process to enable least developed countries to formulate and implement national adaptation plans
  - (iii) a new Work Program on Loss and Damage
  - (iv) renew the existing Nairobi Work Program on various adaptation issues



## *Technology: CCS*

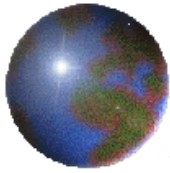
- ✿ Kyoto Protocol Article 2.1 (a)(iv): Recognizes “Carbon dioxide sequestration technologies” as a mitigation technology that promotes sustainable development
- ✿ COP6: Annex I & II Parties cooperate in the development, diffusion and transfer of CCS, encourage their wider use and facilitate the participation of LDCs and other non-Annex I Parties
- ✿ CCS must be rapidly deployed in developing countries
- ✿ Limited funding for CCS to date: <0.001% climate finance to CCS
- ✿ International effort primarily on inclusion of CCS in CDM



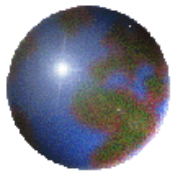
## *Importance of CCS in the CDM*

- ⊕ Legitimizes CCS as a valid technology for developing countries
- ⊕ CCS also requires support from other mechanisms (i.e. NAMAs)
- ⊕ Creates incentives/signal for CCS in developing countries
- ⊕ Stimulates development of national regulations and capacity
- ⊕ Could support low cost CCS opportunities
- ⊕ Part of the solution for power and higher cost industrial applications
- ⊕ Establishes precedent-setting regulatory framework for CCS can be utilized under other international funding mechanisms

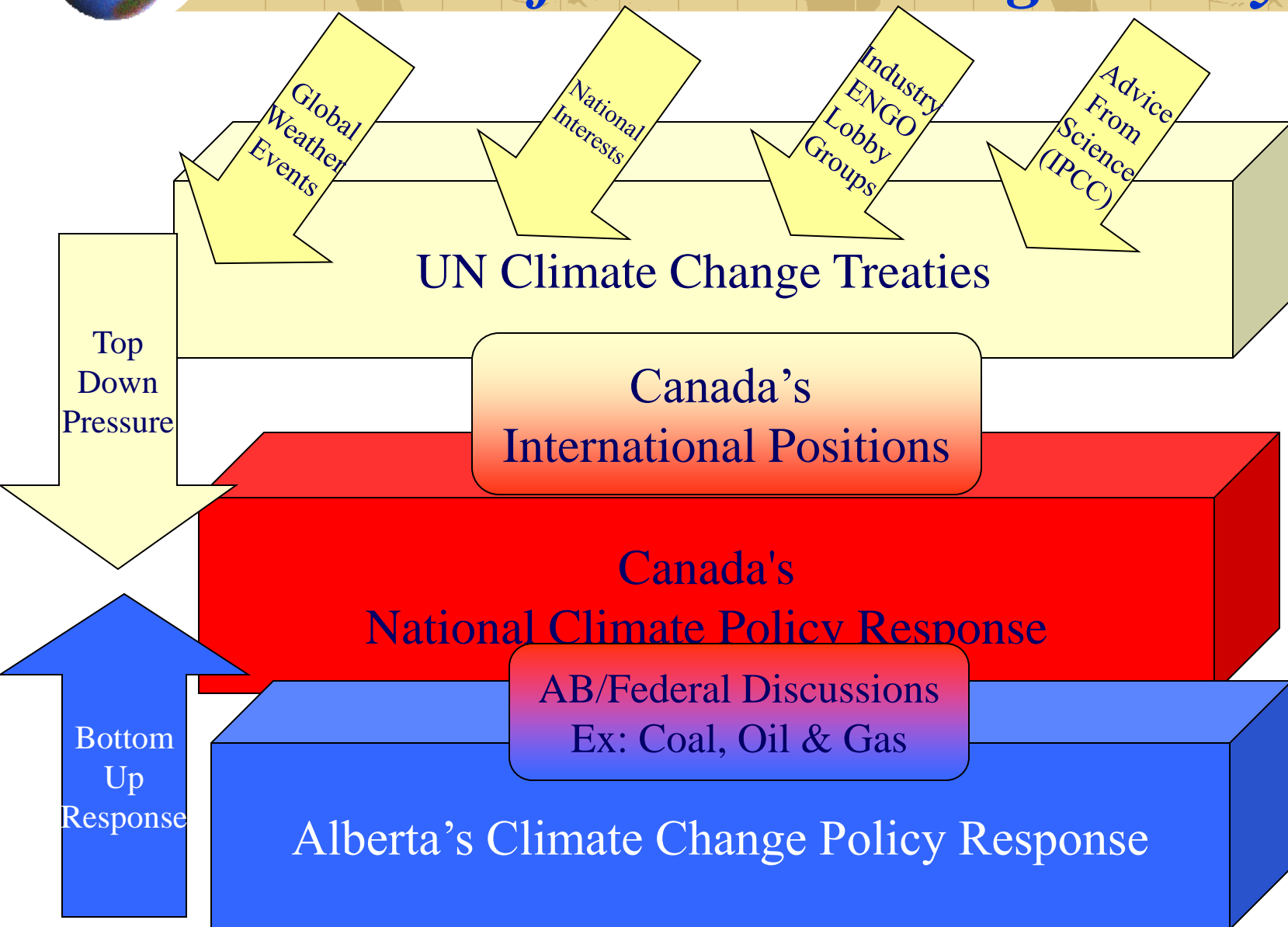




### *3. Canadian Positions*



# *Levels of Climate Change Policy*





## \*\*\**Canada's position*\*\*\*

- ✿ Canada maintained the position set out at Copenhagen:
  - (i) moving away from the Kyoto framework to a long-term comprehensive agreement involving commitments by all major economies
  - (ii) A national target reflecting Canada's diversity and unique circumstances – currently a 17% reduction from 2005 levels by 2020
  - (iii) To reflect a pragmatic balance of economic and environmental interests
  - (iv) Support the development and deployment of clean energy technology



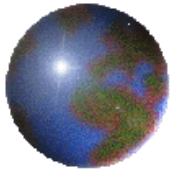
## *Canada's 6 Key Elements of a New Climate Regime*

1. Post 2012 to be **environmentally effective** by pursuing the deep and broad global emission reductions
2. **Broadening participation** through sector-based strategies
3. **Advancing development goals** in a sustainable manner



## *Canada's 6 Key Elements of a New Climate Regime cont.*

4. Building a **strong global market** by grounding the approach in sound economic principles
5. Realizing the **full potential of technology** by better integration of mechanisms and incentives
6. **Tackling adaptation** as an integral part of the new global system



### *3. Alberta's Position*



## *Alberta Principles*

- ✚ The principles guiding Alberta's contribution to the international discussions:
  1. Comprehensive
  2. Energy-Economy-Environment Balance
  3. Equitable
  4. No inter-regional wealth transfer
  5. Technology-focused
  6. Emphasis on reduction at source



## *Alberta Objectives*

- ✚ Work towards an agreement that meets the nation's diverse needs and interests
- ✚ Enhance Alberta's awareness of the range of global national and sub-national efforts to address climate change
- ✚ Share Alberta's climate change learnings and experience on a world stage





# *COP 17 Strategic Policy Priorities*

**Continue with Kyoto – or develop something new?**

\* Alberta View: open to idea that it is time to try something new

**Big emitters: Inclusion of China/India/U.S. in the next treaty**

\* Alberta View: strongly support this – a must

**Advance technology options instead of targets etc**

\* Alberta View: focus more attention on the real impacts of climate change that are happening in Canada now



# *COP 17 Strategic Policy Priorities contd*

**Deep (50%) reduction targets: by 2050 as per the IPCC advice**

\* Alberta View: support, but national circumstances need to be recognized

**Carbon markets – continuation of the Kyoto market mechanisms**

\* Alberta View: carbon markets have a role to play

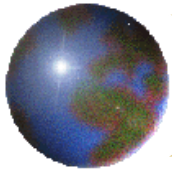
**Technology: much more emphasis needed**

\* Alberta View: strongly support this – a must



# *Criteria for a New Climate Regime beyond 2012: AB Advice*

- ✚ **National Sustainability** – supports National provincial/territorial sustainability efforts and circumstances;
- ✚ **Global Sustainability** – a new climate change framework should make a real difference to global sustainability
- ✚ **Realistic Engagement** – the US and all developed and developing countries with large GHG emissions must be part of the next regime



## *4. Next steps*



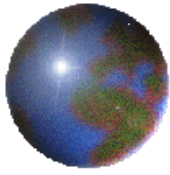
## *Future meetings*

- ✚ MEF in Los Cabos, Mexico
- ✚ G8 Leaders Summit
- ✚ Bonn, Germany intersessional
- ✚ COP18 Doha, Qatar Dec 2012



## *Conclusion*

- ✚ What does this mean for Canada?
- ✚ What does this mean for policymakers?
- ✚ What can Canada do to remain an influential voice in light of Kyoto withdrawal?
- ✚ Has Canada lost legitimacy among the international community?



*Questions?*

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