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# **International Cooperation on Climate Change**

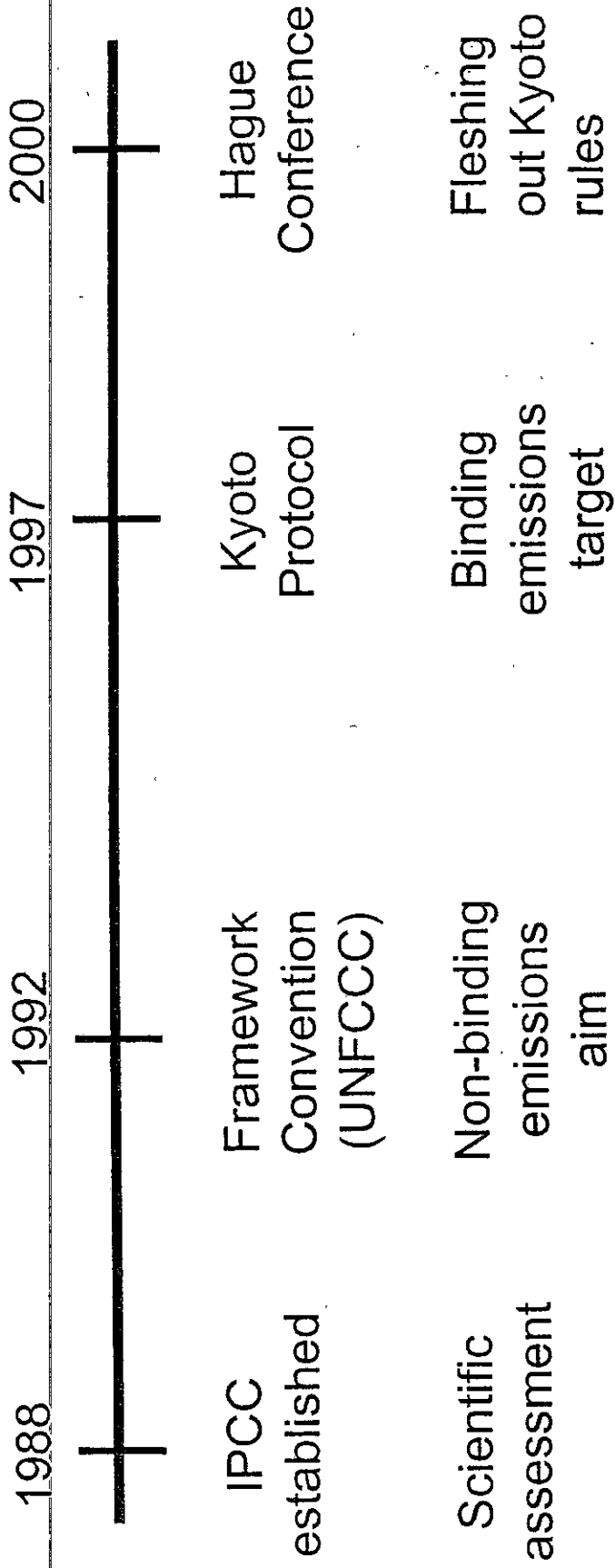
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**Department of State**

**April 2001**

# Development of International Climate Change Regime

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# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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- ◆ Created in 1988 at the urging of the United States, when other countries were already beginning to push for national emission targets
- ◆ Involves over 2000 scientists; 30% American; wide range of views represented
- ◆ Issues major reports every five years; most recent report issued this Spring
- ◆ Widely respected internationally

# UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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- ◆ **Negotiated, signed and ratified in 1992 - U.S. the first industrialized country to ratify**
- ◆ **More than 180 countries are parties**
- ◆ **Still the only global climate change agreement in effect**

# UNFCCC: Basic Elements

- ◆ “Ultimate objective” of stabilizing concentrations of greenhouse gases at non-dangerous levels
- ◆ General commitments for all parties to address climate change, e.g., to report on greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ Non-binding political aim by developed countries to return emissions to 1990 levels by year 2000
- ◆ Some developed country (including US) to provide financial resources (at unspecified level) to developing countries

# Kyoto Protocol: Basic Elements

- ◆ **Legally-binding national emission targets**
  - **absolute: must meet targets, regardless of costs**
- ◆ **Generally comprehensive:**
  - all known greenhouse gases
  - some credit for carbon sinks
- ◆ **Potentially market-oriented architecture**
  - emissions trading

# Kyoto Protocol: Flexible Long-Term Architecture

- ◆ “Where flexibility”
  - International emissions trading
  - Credit for emission reduction projects in developing countries (Clean Development Mechanism)
- ◆ “What” flexibility
  - Parties may choose national measures
  - Potential credit for carbon sinks (forests and farmlands)
  - Basket of six greenhouse gases
- ◆ “When” flexibility
  - Five year commitment period

# Kyoto Protocol: Basket of Gases

Gas	Major Sources	GWP	1999 Emissions (MMTCO <sub>2</sub> )
CO <sub>2</sub>	Fossil fuel combustion	1	5558.1
	Land-use change and Forestry		(-990.4)
CH <sub>4</sub>	Agriculture, landfills, wastewater, mining	21	619.6
N <sub>2</sub> O	Agricultural soils, mobile sources, other industrial processes	310	432.6
PFCs	Substitution of ozone depleting substances, aluminum production, other industrial sources	6500 - 9200	16.8
HFCs	Substitution of ozone depleting substances, other industrial sources	140 - 1300	87.1
SF <sub>6</sub>	Electrical transmission and distribution, magnesium processing	23,900	31.8



# Fleshing Out Kyoto

- ◆ Kyoto only a skeletal agreement
- ◆ .....Most of the detailed rules still need to be resolved
  - What restrictions, if any, on market mechanisms?
  - Degree to which forests and farmlands included?
  - Compliance system?

## COP-6: Hague Conference

- ◆ Target date for completion *should*
- ◆ Nearly achieved deal  
major differences:  
.... But EU got cold feet  
renewed
- ◆ Never closed deal with G-77
- ◆ Talks suspended - will resume in July

*should*  
*July 16 p 17*

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# Kyoto Protocol: Entry into Force

- ◆ **To enter into force, need:**
  - **55 ratifications ....**
    - » Thus far, 33 countries have ratified (only 1 developed country)
  - **....Accounting in total for 55% of total developed country carbon dioxide emissions in 1990**
    - » Could come into force if ratified by most other developed countries, including EU, Japan and Russia