

## United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

- It is also called Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit , Rio Summit, Rio Conference, and Earth Summit
- Held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro
- Rio+20 also held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012
- Summit resulted in following documents :
  - Agenda 21
  - Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
  - Forest Principles
- Following **legally binding** agreements were opened for signature in this summit:
  - Convention on Biological Diversity
  - Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - UN Convention to Combat Desertification

## UNFCCC

- United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
- It is an international environment treaty
- Opened for signature in 1992
- Came into force from 1994
- Secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany
- Signatories : 165
- Ratifiers : 197 (196 countries + EU)
- The convention is **legally non-binding**, but makes provisions for meeting called 'protocols' where negotiating countries can set legally binding limits
- **What it does?**
  - It aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system
  - The framework set no binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries and contains no enforcement mechanisms.
  - Instead, the framework outlines how specific international treaties (called "protocols" or "Agreements") may be negotiated to set binding limits on greenhouse gases. **Kyoto Protocol** was negotiated under this framework.
  - One of the first tasks set by the UNFCCC was for signatory nations to establish national greenhouse inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals, which were used to create the 1990 benchmark levels for accession of Annex I countries to the Kyoto Protocol and for the commitment of those countries to GHG reductions. Updated inventories must be regularly submitted by Annex I countries.
- **Annex I, Annex II countries and developing countries**

Parties to UNFCCC are classified as:

- **Annex I countries: industrialized countries and economies in transition**