

Unit 6(1)

Kyoto protocol: -

It is an international treaty among industrialised nations setting limits for emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The greenhouse effect is the warming effect of sun on greenhouse gases that act to trap this heat in atmosphere. When more of these gases are emitted they result in global warming. The purpose of Kyoto protocol is to stabilise emission of these gases by human activities so that they further do not harm the atmosphere. The initial treaty was signed in Kyoto, Japan 1997 and it outlined emission targets. The countries that participated had to make policies to reduce emissions and formulate measures to increase absorption of greenhouse gases. The agreement expired in 2012 and was further extended till 2020. Almost all UN member states and most of European Union have signed the treaty. It was an agreement under UNFCCC which is United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Details of UNFCCC: -

This is a multilateral environmental agreement drafted on May 9, 1992 and was signed at the Earth Summit on Rio de Janeiro from 3-14 June, 1992. Its main objective is to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and thus preventing climate change. It has 197 parties as of December 2015. The article 3(1) of the convention states that parties should act to protect the climate by sharing responsibilities and developed countries should take the lead. Under article 4 all parties are committed to adapt climate change and its impact as well as suggest measures for mitigation.

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