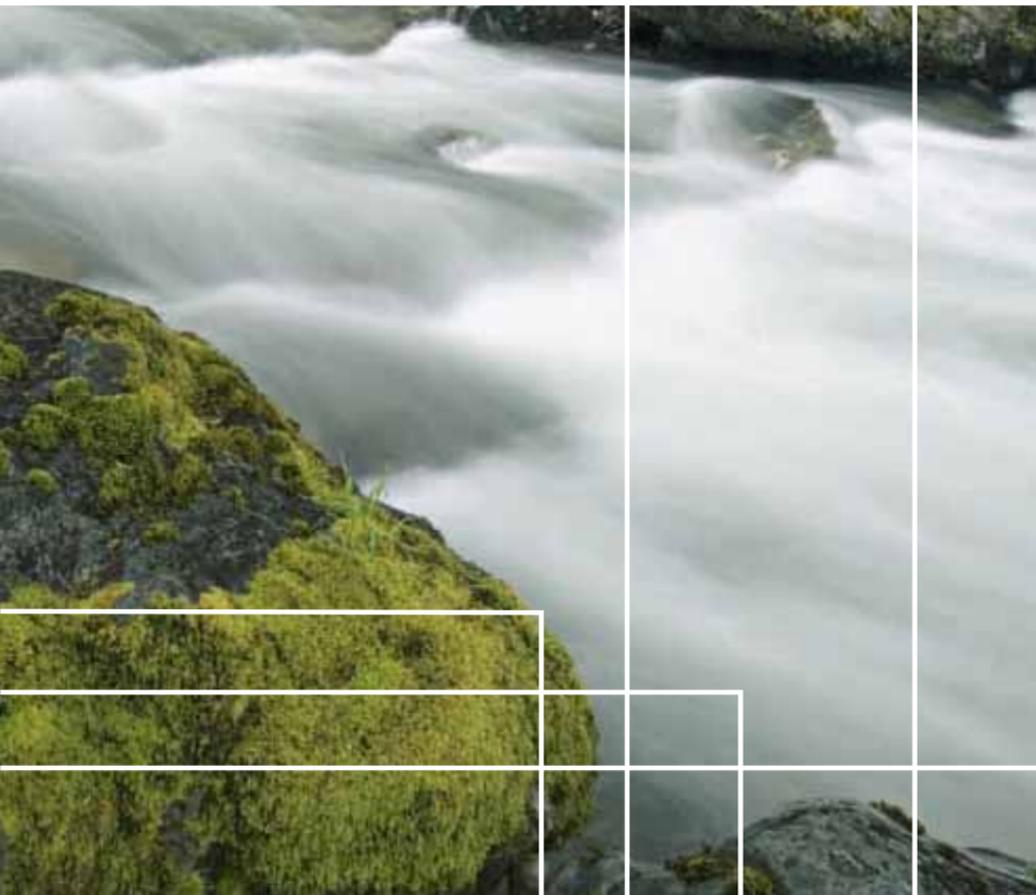


Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements



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Cascade in Sucker Creek, Siskiyou National Forest, Illinois River Valley, Siskiyou Mountains, Southern Oregon.

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Introduction

This glossary of terms and acronyms aims to provide a support tool not only for those that are frequently engaged in negotiations under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), but also for those involved in the daily implementation of such agreements and related decisions.

The need for such a glossary has arisen in the course of several regional and national-level workshops organized by UNEP, including workshops to disseminate the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs and the UNEP Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs.

UNEP believes that negotiations are part of the implementation chain, as crucial decisions are made at the negotiation level that clearly impact on the ability of a State to fulfill its commitments under an MEA. In its continued endeavour to strengthen the capacity of countries to implement their commitments under MEAs, UNEP has therefore engaged in a series of regional and national training workshops to build the capacity of novice negotiators and strengthen that of experienced negotiators to prepare for, conduct, and follow up on negotiations.

The glossary is not meant to be exhaustive in its scope, but provide definitions for the most commonly used terms and acronyms in environmental fora. It recognizes that each MEA is unique and uses its own specific terminology. In this regard, an Annex to the glossary provides for the internet addresses of the glossaries developed by MEA Secretariats, when available.

This glossary has been prepared by the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP on the basis of publicly available information, including the United Nations Treaty Collection Treaty Reference Guide, websites of the global MEAs, the UNITAR Glossary of Terms for UN Delegates, and literature on international negotiations and international law.

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User notes

When an acronym, word, or phrase in a definition is underlined, the acronym, word, or phrase has its own separate definition in the glossary.

When a definition is the definition provided under an MEA, the source has been provided in parenthesis (e.g. "CBD").

A

Aarhus Convention

Shorthand for the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Adopted in 1998, entered into force in 2001.

ABS

Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. Acronym used to refer to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization as set out in of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

ACAP

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Adopted in 2001, entered into force in 2004.

Acceptance

In practice acceptance is used instead of ratification when, at a national level, constitutional law does not require an agreement to be ratified by the head of State. Acceptance has the same legal effect as

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