



## The COP process since Paris

Multilateral cooperation as an instrument for climate protection and sustainable development



Dr. Martin Cames | SLE: Ecological aspects of global change | Berlin | 11/03/2024

## Questions

- What is your feeling when you're going to the COPs?
- As a scientist, what do you expect from the discussion there?
- Why was a voluntary mechanism for L&D preferred?
- How can most impactful decisions be made?
- Did the characteristics of the COPs change over time and are there outstanding COPs?
- How has the stakeholder engagement developed and what has to be considered in the future?
- What would you change to make the COPs work better?
- How does the withdrawal of the USA of the Paris Agreement affect the process?
- What is the strategy to come to a consensus in certain agenda items?

## Questions

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- Should we still talk to governments when they are not able to control companies?
- Which events impacted the COPs the most?
- Power dynamics: which voices are heard?
- Was the GST and encouragement or discouragement to the target set?
- What is your opinion of the DEU/EU delegation?
- What alternative process to the COPs would be necessary?

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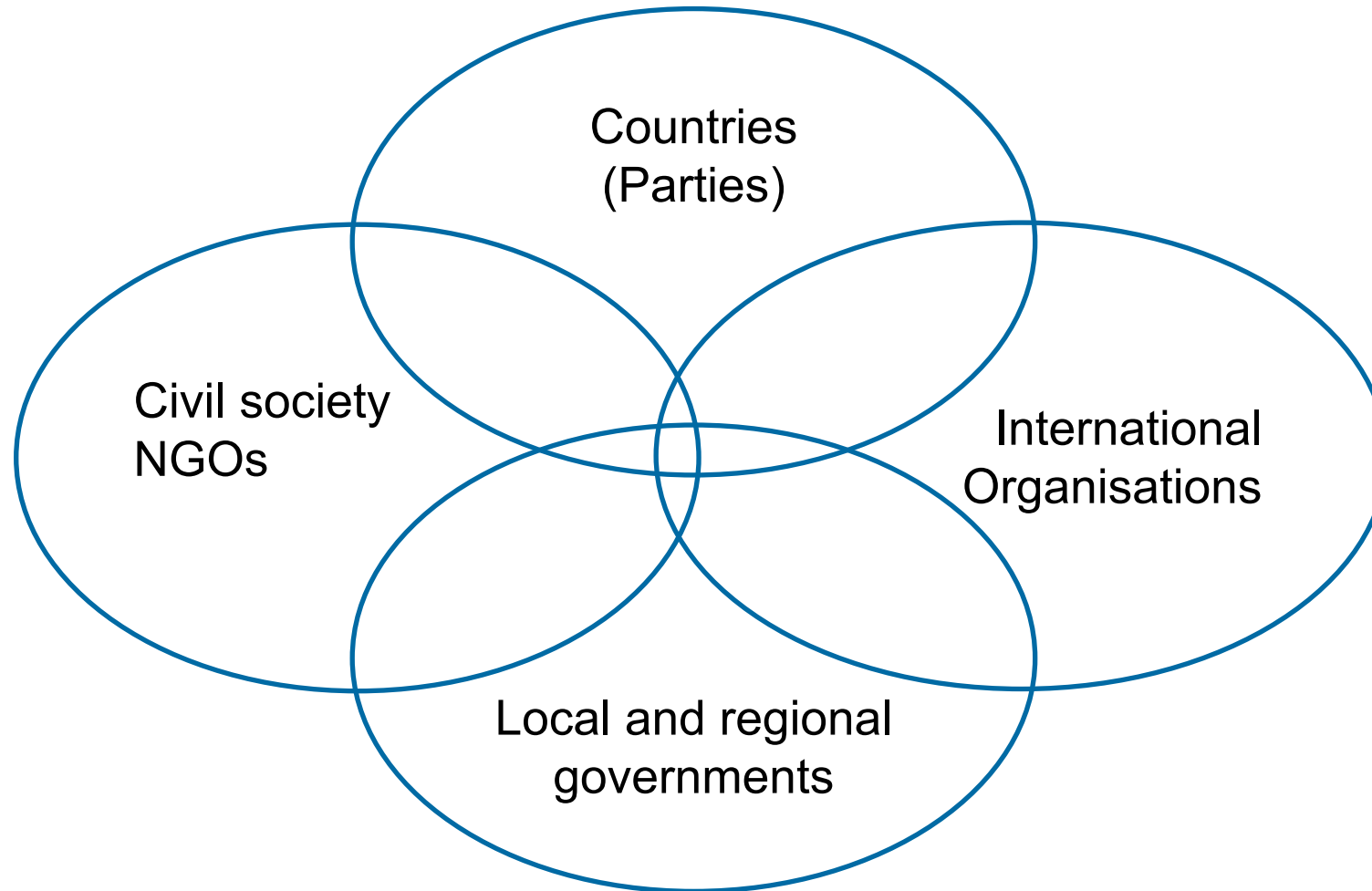
# The Framework Convention on Climate Change

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- **Goal:** To stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous interference with the climate system
- **Signed:** 1992 (UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro)
- **In force :** Since March 21, 1994
- **Parties:** 196 countries and the EU
- **CBDR:** Principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities": Stricter requirements apply to industrialized countries. These countries are listed separately in an "Annex I"



# Actors



# Course of the negotiations

## Conference of the Parties (COP)

- Meets annually and makes decisions on the implementation and design of the Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Also semi-annually: meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (negotiations on technical issues)
- Countries organize themselves into groups that represent a common position
  - G77 + China: Many developing and emerging countries
  - African Group; Arab Group; Least Developed Countries (LDC)
  - AOSIS (small island states)
  - Umbrella Group: Many industrialized countries
  - European Union

# What actually happens at a COP?

## 1. Cover decision

- Political decision similar to G7 or G20
- final declarations or conclusions of the EU Council

## 2. Regular negotiations

- Further elaboration and implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement
- Concrete decisions

## 3. Trade fair

- Numerous pavilions, side events, announcements of initiatives
- Exchange and networking of stakeholders



## Quiz question 1

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- In which year did the first COP take place?
- Where did it take place?

## Quiz question 1

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- In which year did the first COP take place? **1995**
- Where did it take place? **Berlin**

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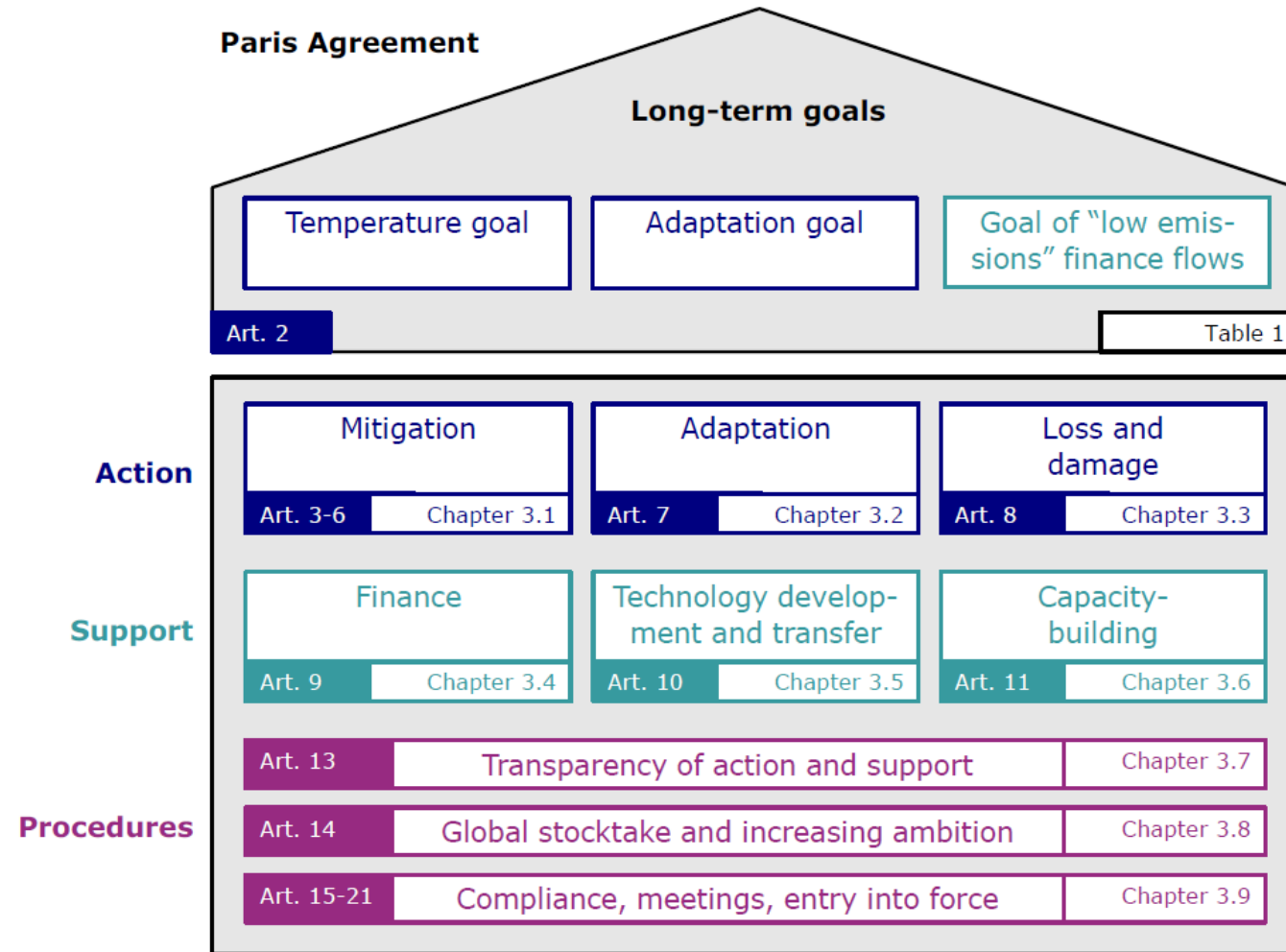
**1** The Framework Convention on Climate Change and the international climate negotiations

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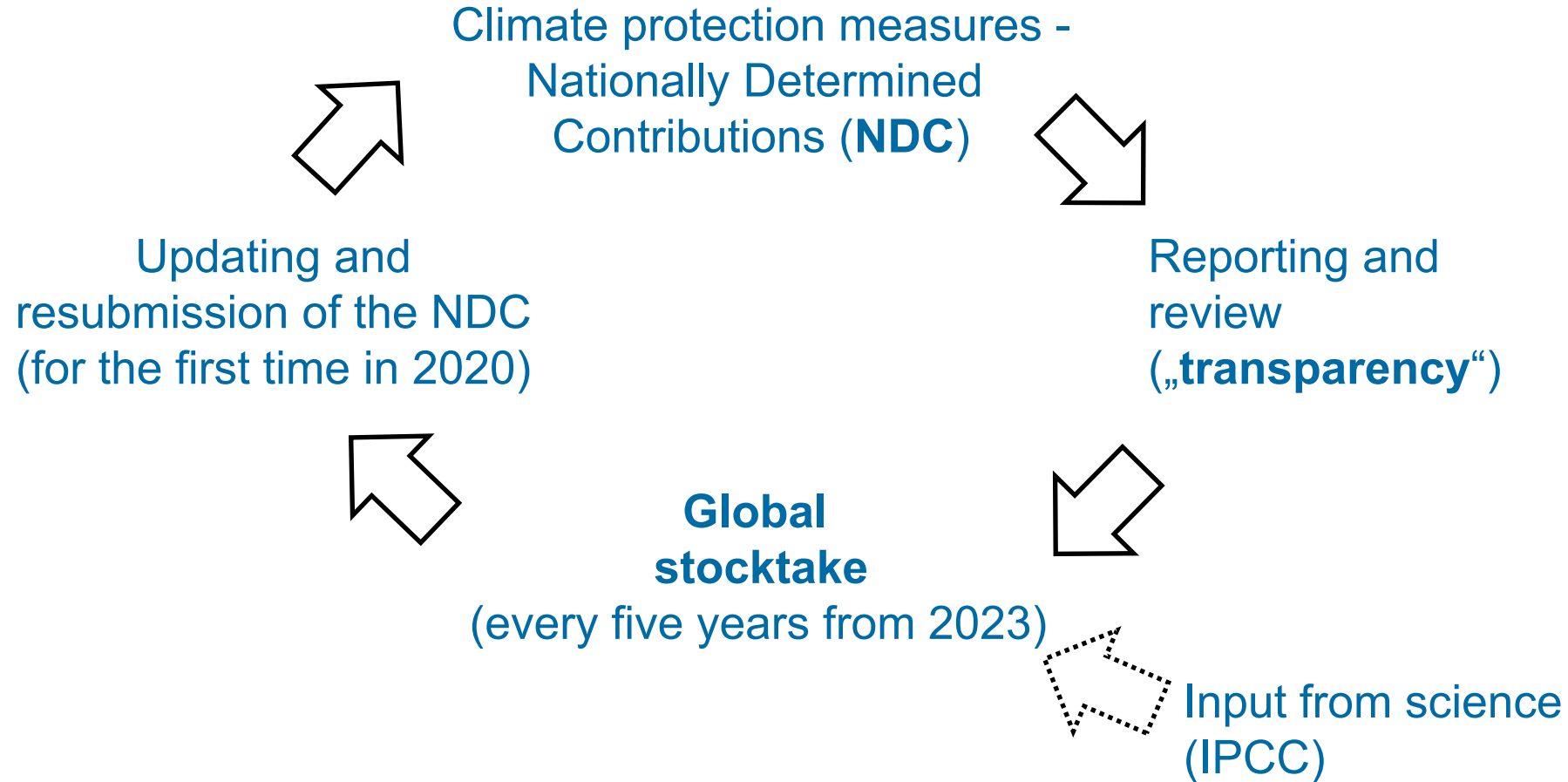
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# The Paris Agreement



# Important concept: Raising ambition – Global stocktaking



## Quiz question 2

- **Witch country was first to submit an NDC?**
  - a. Tuvalu & Palau
  - b. Virgin Island
  - c. Haiti
  - d. Antigua & Barbuda



## Quiz question 2

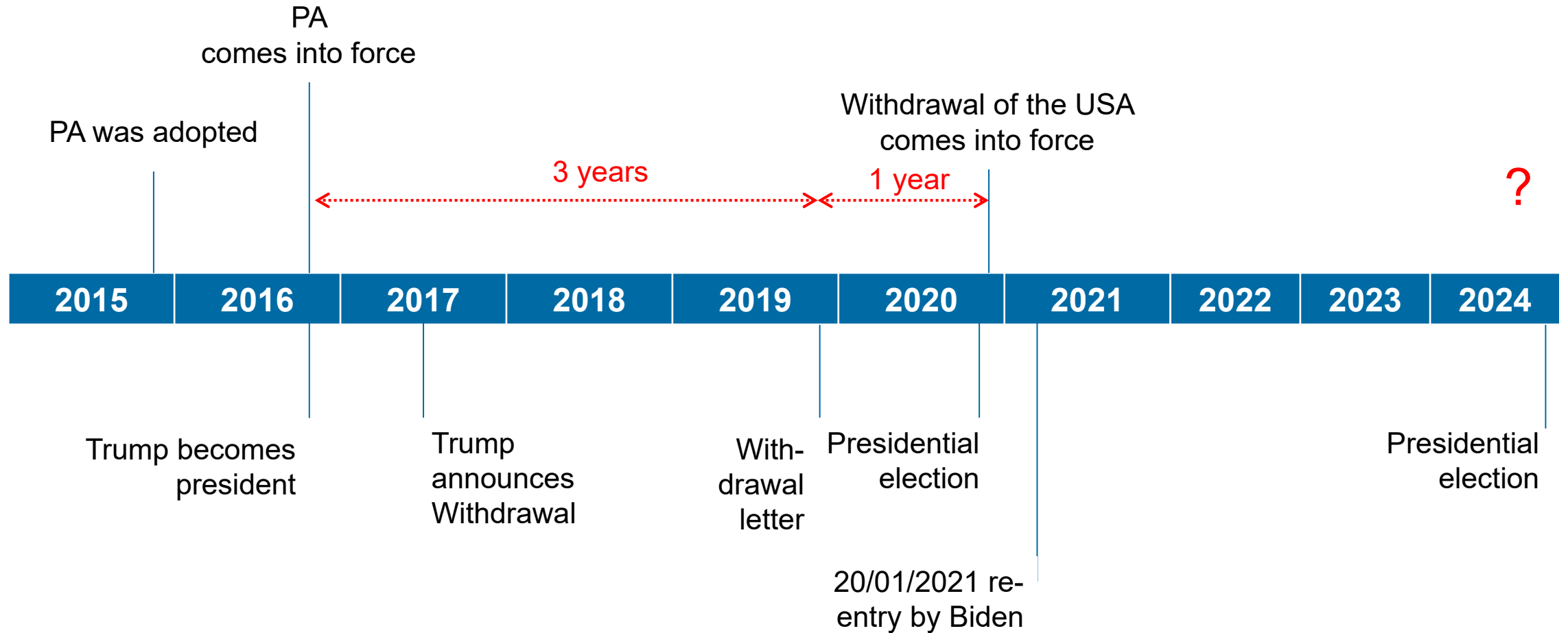
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22.04.2016

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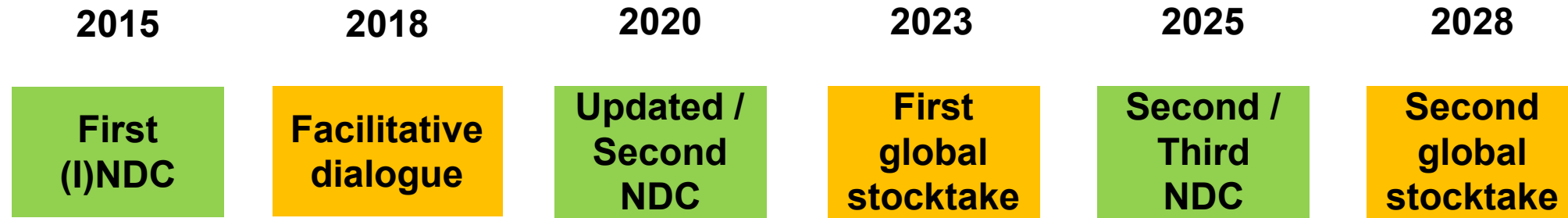
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# Paris Agreement (PA): Withdrawal/entry of the USA



## First global stocktake

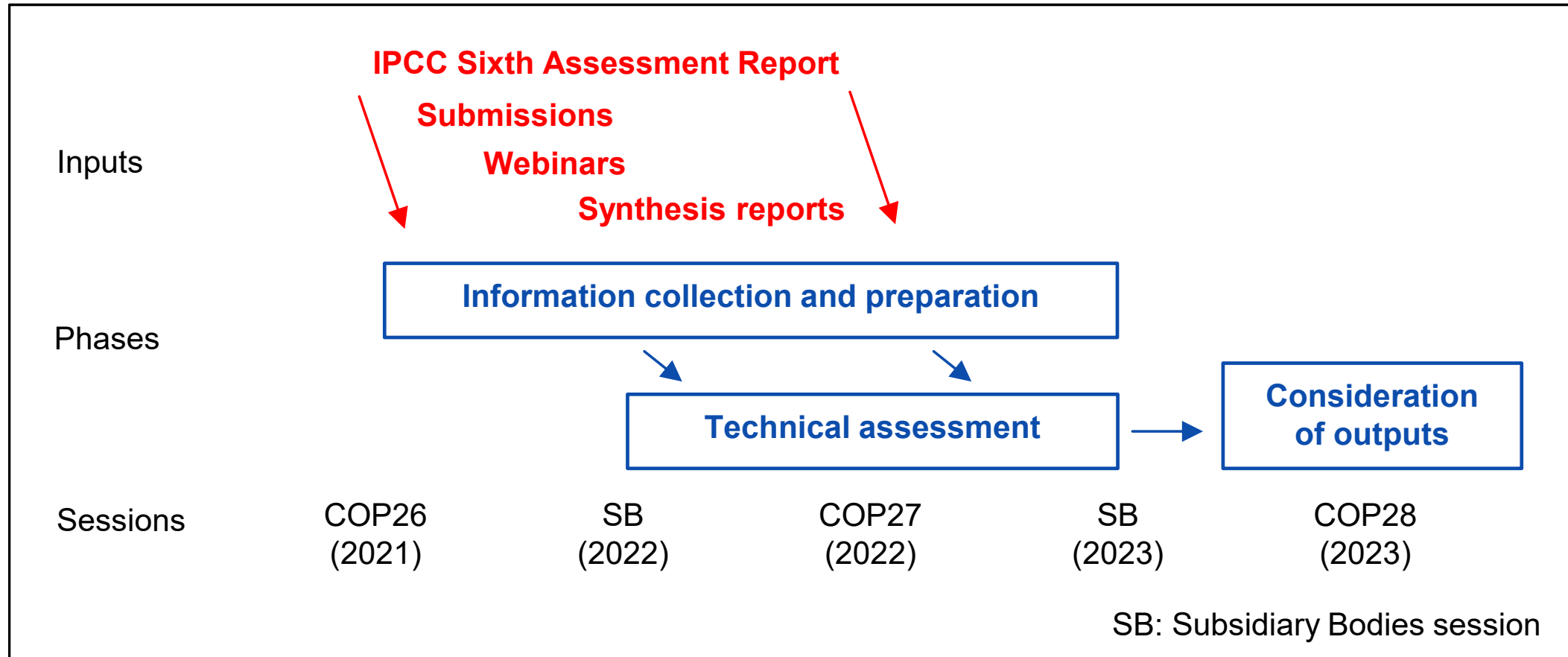
### The NDC and stocktake cycle



### First global stocktake

- Two-year process that culminated at COP28
- Takes stock what was achieved and guides countries and stakeholder on further action
- Covers all areas of climate action
- Temperature increase of 2.1 to 2.8 °C versus about 4°C prior to Paris Agreement
- Emissions in 2030 projected to be only 5% below 2019 levels with implementation of NDCs

# Global stocktake



## First global stocktake – Unpacking key results on mitigation (1)

**Emission trajectories:** Recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5 °C with no or limited overshoot requires deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions of 43 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2035 relative to the 2019 level and reaching net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050

- Similar language as at previous COPs but with 2035 target
- Guidance for Parties on next NDC
- EU 2030 NDC corresponds to a **37 per cent** reduction

**Renewables and energy efficiency:** Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030

- Important milestone
- Reference year not fully clear

**Phase-down of coal:** Accelerating efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power

- Same language as at COP26



## First global stocktake – Unpacking key results on mitigation (2)

**Transitioning away from fossil fuels:** Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science

- First reference to “fossil fuels”
- No “phase out”
- Limited to “energy systems”

**Ratcheting up 2030 ambition:** Requests Parties that have not yet done so to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2024

- An important call with probably limited impact

**Post 2030 ambition:** Encourages Parties to come forward in their next NDCs with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C

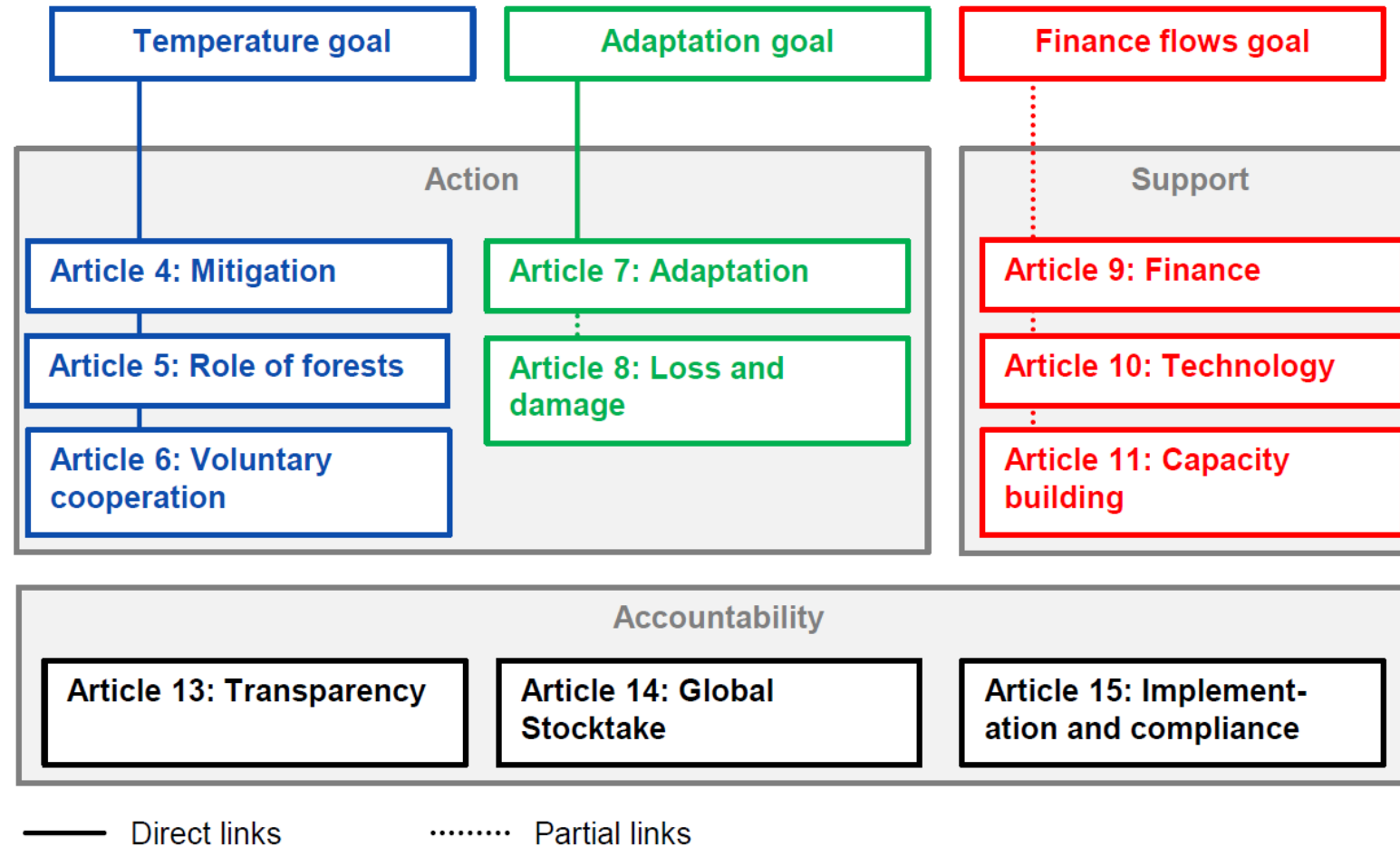
- Important milestone
- Based on US - China agreement

⇒ **Mixed picture: Important milestones with some caveats**

## Other important decisions

- Loss and damage fund
  - Decision on operationalization of the fund on the first day of the COP
  - More than 700 million USD in funding
  - First time funding from a larger oil producing country: UAE
- Climate Finance
  - Pathway for a decision at COP29 on a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for international climate finance after 2025
- Mitigation work programme
- Global Goal on Adaptation

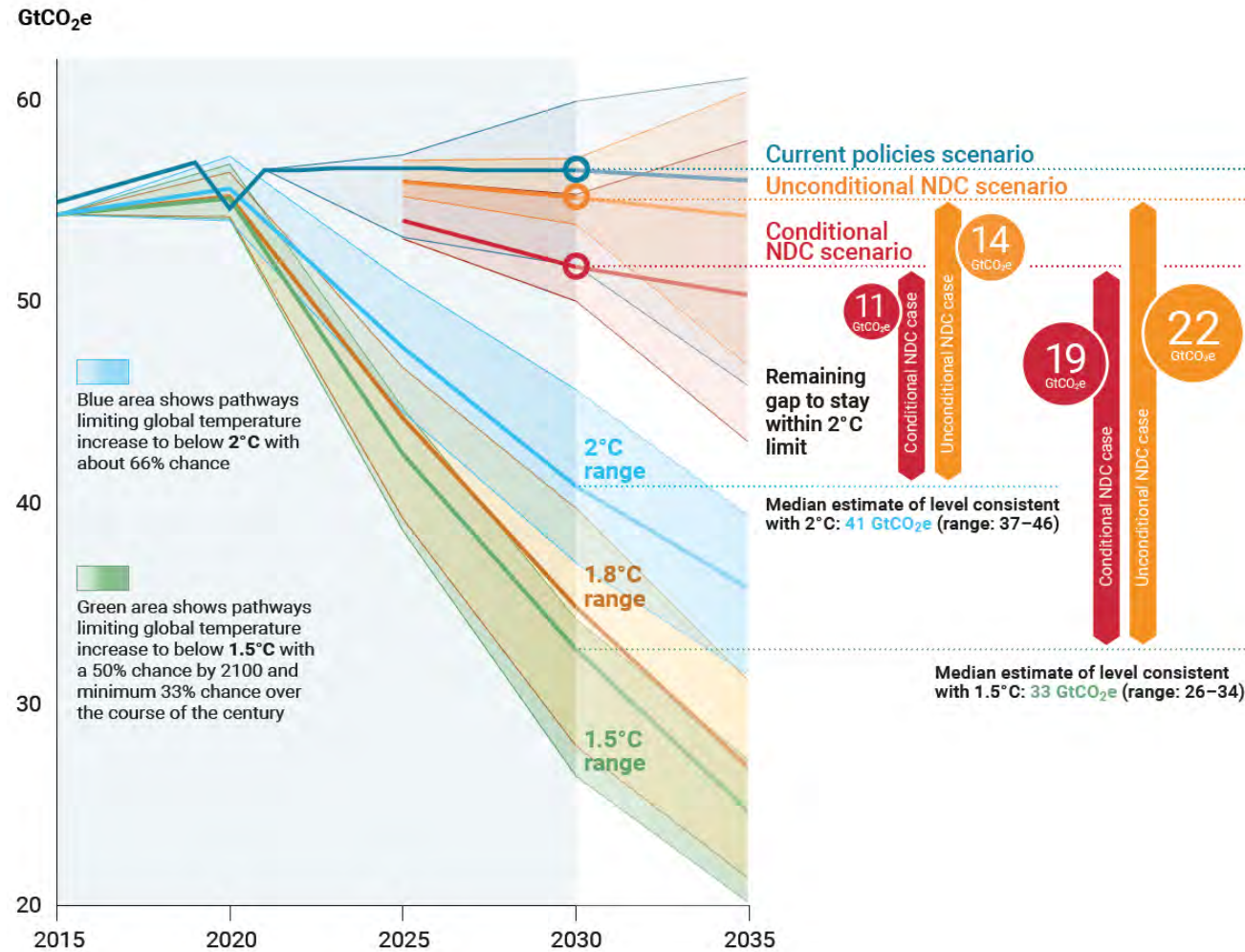
# Important topics as the COP



Goals of the Paris Agreement

Articles of the Paris Agreement

# The emissions gap – remaining CO<sub>2</sub> budget



Carbon budget for a 50 per cent chance of limiting warming to 1.5 °C



# Transparency

Reports under the Convention

Biennial transparency reports under the Paris Agreement

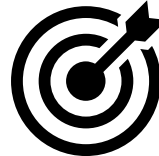


Technical expert review



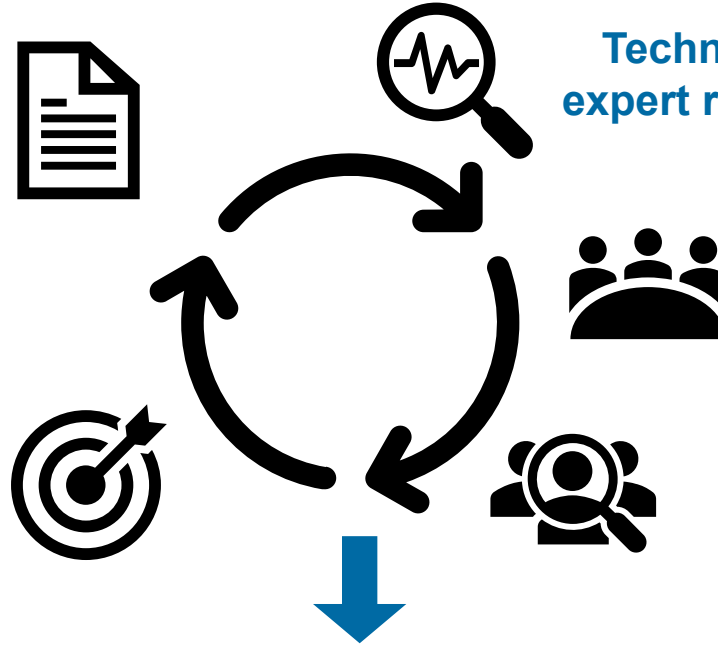
Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress

Review of individual progress and improvements



Article 15 – Committee: Promotion of compliance

Article 14 – Global stocktake: Review of collective progress



## International aviation and maritime transport (SBSTA)

- Emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport
  - Submissions by ICAO & IMO
  - Draft Conclusions: Rule 16
- GST: no invitation to ICAO/IMO to contribute
  - MEPC: RMI
  - CAEP/Council: KEN
- Green Shipping Challenge (GSC): 40 announcements



## Main results of COP 28

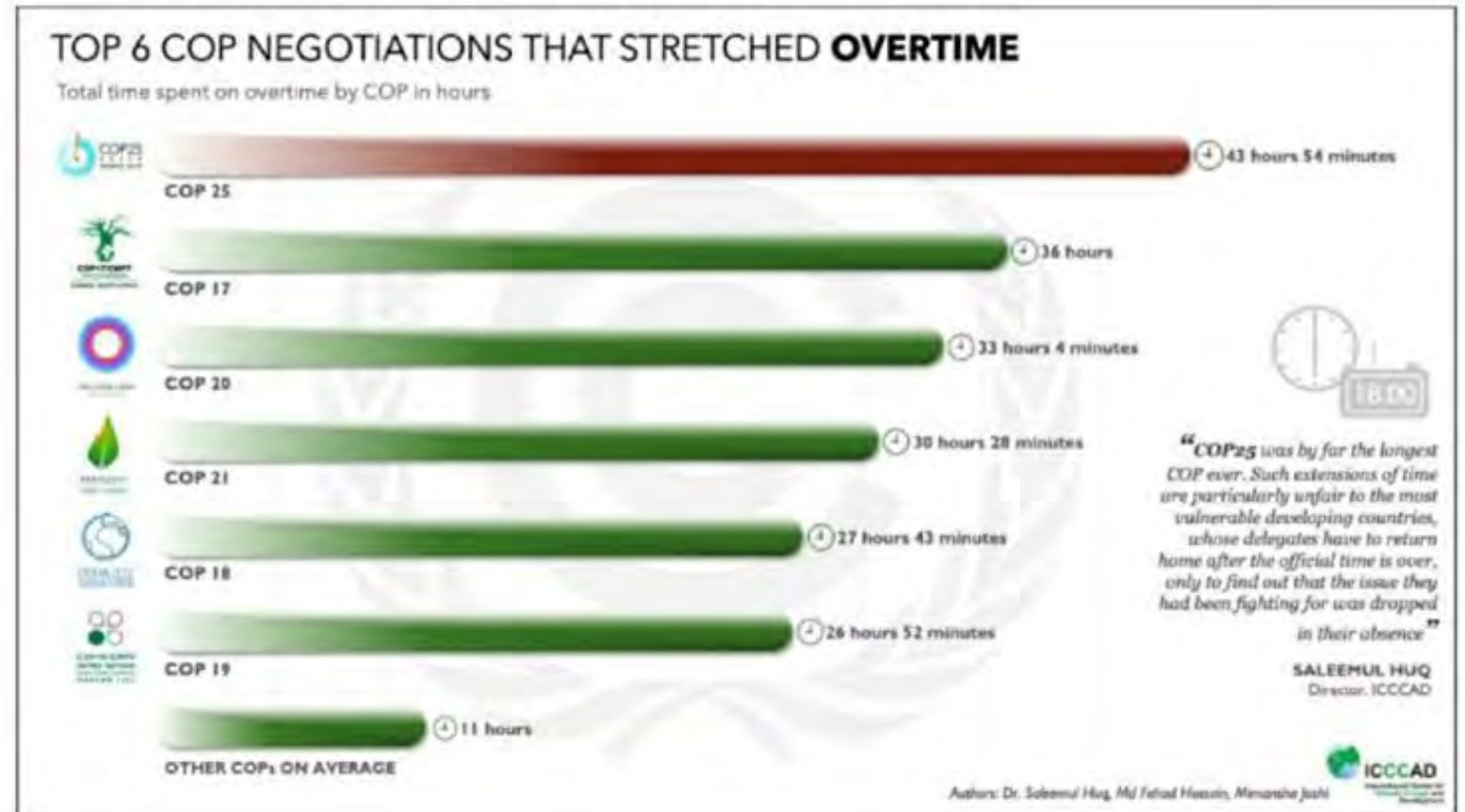
- **L&D Fund:** everywhere it is emphasized that almost 800 million US\$ has been pledged; this is peanuts in view of the need of 4 trillion/year (0.02%); more important is that UAE has paid in and thus the **distinction between developing and developed countries** has been broken down
- **Finance:** transition will only succeed with private capital, according to Schulze, for example, public money alone is not enough; unfortunately, representatives of companies can be seen everywhere at the side events, who only think about investment options and profit interests; you can literally see the \$ sparkling in their eyes, behavioral changes/sufficiency/qualitative instead is hardly an issue
- **GST:** fossil occurs twice ([Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems](#)) CCUS only once; beginning of the end: OPEC & Co. had to intervene massively and well over 100 countries, including the USA, have committed to a complete phase-out of fossil fuels: Interpretation rather half empty or half full? Could have been worse
- **Carbon markets:** no agreement or parked, as the EU felt that the draft rules on industrial removals were too weak

## Quiz question 3

- **Which COP was the longest by how much it was overrun?**
  - a. COP12 in Nairobi
  - b. COP19 in Warsaw
  - c. COP21 in Paris
  - d. COP25 in Madrid

## Quiz question 3

- Which COP was the longest by how much it was overrun?
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  - d. **COP25 in Madrid**



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## Assessment & conclusions

- Press, NGO: Lost year
- Important progress
  - Establishment of the L&D fund, contributions by ‘developing’ countries
  - Completion of the first GST
- Overall ambition: processes and discourse much further than 10 years ago
- Climate protection is becoming mainstream
- COPs create attention and pressure

# 2025: Touchstone for multilateralism



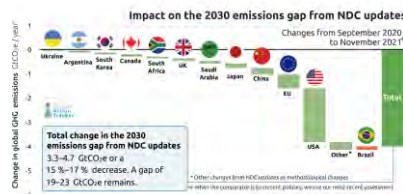
2015: Paris Agreement,  
Success for multilateralism



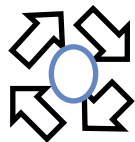
2019: The limits of multilateralism?  
Role of civil society, F4F/S4F/etc.



2020: Difficult international environment



2021: New momentum, BVG-Urteil, FF55,  
NCD-Updates (Gap 19-23 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e, -16%)



2023: Global stocktake

2025: Resubmission of NCDs

# Thank you for your attention!

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