

## **ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS**

Article 1 clarifies that certain terms used in the Protocol are intended to have the same meaning as when used in the Convention, or as when used in the Convention, or as explicitly defined in Article 1 of the Convention.

Article 1(1), (7) and (8) differentiate between "Parties" to the Protocol and "Parties to the Convention". This distinction anticipates that, while all Parties to the Protocol must first be Parties to the Convention, not all the Parties to the Convention will necessarily become Parties to the Protocol. This may result in Parties to the Protocol having a different legal relationship to each other than they will have with Parties to the Convention, that have chosen not to become Parties to the Protocol.

## **ARTICLES 2-3: COMMITMENTS**

### **BASIC COMMITMENT (Article 2)**

This basic commitment applies to all Parties to the Protocol and restates, word for word, the core of the general commitment contained in the Convention's Article 4(1)(b), which requires, among other things, all Parties to the Convention to implement programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change. Article 2 of the Protocol, therefore, is not intended to create any additional commitments for any category of Party. It is included to signal the close relationship of the Protocol to the Convention and the far more specific focus of the Protocol on developed country greenhouse gas emissions.

The inclusion of this paragraph is consistent with the Berlin Mandate's aim of reaffirming existing commitments in article 4.1 and continuing to advance the implementation of these commitments in order to achieve sustainable development, taking into account the Convention's provisions on financial resources and technology transfer.

### **TARGETS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS (Article 3)**

This specific commitment, which is the heart of the Protocol, requires developed country Parties to the Protocol that are included in Annex I of the Convention to reduce their emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by at least 20% of 1990 levels by 2005, and to establish timetables for controlling emissions of other greenhouse gases.

The CO<sub>2</sub> target and timetable that would be established by the Protocol is often referred to loosely as the "Toronto Target" after the influential recommendations of the World Conference on the Changing Atmosphere held in Toronto, June 1988. The Toronto Statement declared that stabilising atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> is an imperative goal and estimated that this would require reductions of more than 50% from 1988 emission levels. The Toronto Statement recommended a 20% reduction from 1988 levels by 2005 as an "initial global goal".