FACTS ABOUT COP
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COP stands for Conference of Parties.

COP is a conference where all parties interested in climate change, from Academia, Civil society, Government and Private Sector come together to agree on coordinated action to tackle climate change.

Negotiation processes started in 1995 during COP1 in Berlin with a capacity of less than 2,000 participants.

There are normally two zones at the COP, blue and green.

The Blue Zone is where all negotiations happen. It’s normally the zone for delegates from various Governments and also serves as the pavilions for countries.

The Green Zone is for the Private sector, Civil Society and it’s usually referred to as the climate action area.

There are four types of badges at COPs.

The Pink tag or badge is for countries’ official delegates, Yellow tag for civil society organizations accredited by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC), Green tag for people accredited for the green zone and orange tag for media personnel.

There is also the Purple tag for world leaders like Head of States and Prime Ministers.

Negotiations at the COP specifically COP 26 are under 2 agreements. The Kyoto protocol and the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Conference of the Parties, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol is called the CMP.

All States that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are represented at the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), while States that are not Parties participate as observers.

The CMP oversees the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation.
The Conference of the Parties, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement is called the CMA.

All States that are Parties to the Paris Agreement are represented at the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), while States that are not Parties participate as observers.

The CMA oversees the implementation of the Paris Agreement and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation.

The Paris Agreement has 16 articles. 3 main articles, 6 means of implementation and other technical articles.

Usually, countries don’t negotiate alone but in groups with common interests.

Ghana is a member of African Group of Negotiators, G77 plus China and many others.

The COP is the highest governing body of the UNFCCC.

Under it, there are two main bodies. The Subsidiary body for technological and statistical advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary body of implementation (SBI).

The SBSTA is one of two permanent subsidiary bodies to the Convention established by the COP/CMP. It supports the work of the COP, the CMP and the CMA through the provision of timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters as they relate to the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

SBI stands for Subsidiary Body for Implementation, and its work has been at the heart of all implementation issues under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently the Paris Agreement.
This paper has been developed to provide brief insight about COP by the policy team of SYND led by Patience Agyekum with support from our Executive Coordinator, Chibeze Ezekiel and Graphic Designer, Enoch Anyane.

ABOUT SYND

The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) is a youth-oriented NGO, which promotes youth inclusion in the governance of our natural resources and environmental sector. It functions through four thematic areas namely Climate Change, Biodiversity, Forestry and Renewable Energy.

SYND is the convener of the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform. The Platform provides space for learning and sharing among young people working on different environmental actions as well as create opportunity for joint advocacy. The ultimate aim is to promote youth inclusion in the governance of the Natural Resources and Environmental sector. www.syndghana.org