

Letter from the Executive Board

Hello,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations General Assembly at CAMUN 2013. I hope that by now your research is well on its way and you have gained a fair idea about the agenda at hand. This guide has been made with the intention of familiarizing you with what exactly are we looking at when we discuss this agenda and how I expect one to be prepared for the committee. However, the given list of topics is not exhaustive and it is not intended to be. The list is simply indicative of pressing issues and topics of concerns which must be addressed and will give you a bird's eye view of the gist of the issue. You are at full liberty to bring up any other relevant points for discussion.

Apart from the research on the agendas that shall be required of all the delegates in the committee, I would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring that you are aware of your country's historical background and current situation in the global politics and international relations. It is imperative that you come to the conference with a clear and decisive foreign policy as the representative of your respective countries.

I understand that MUN conferences can be an overwhelming experience for first timers and a tiring one for those who are familiar with the concept and I strongly suggest the first time MUNers to participate fully in the conference and if any doubt persists in their minds (either substantive or related to parliamentary procedure), they do not hesitate to clarify the same. I would want to start by saying that I am available for any questions that you might have on my mail, phone and facebook profile.

The success of this UNGA as a committee depends on each and every delegate of the committee. And therefore on a final note I must advice all delegates to act in the capacity of representatives of their respective countries and thus conduct themselves with proper decorum and diplomacy. From each one of you, we expect impeccable diplomatic conduct – which includes diplomatic courtesy, effective lobbying and above all compromising on negotiable grounds.

Also do not forget our mandate. We would also entertain motions to change the order of the agendas so feel free as a committee to decide which agenda you'd like to discuss first.

Good Luck with research!

Regards,

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THE NATURE OF PROOF/EVIDENCE IN COUNCIL

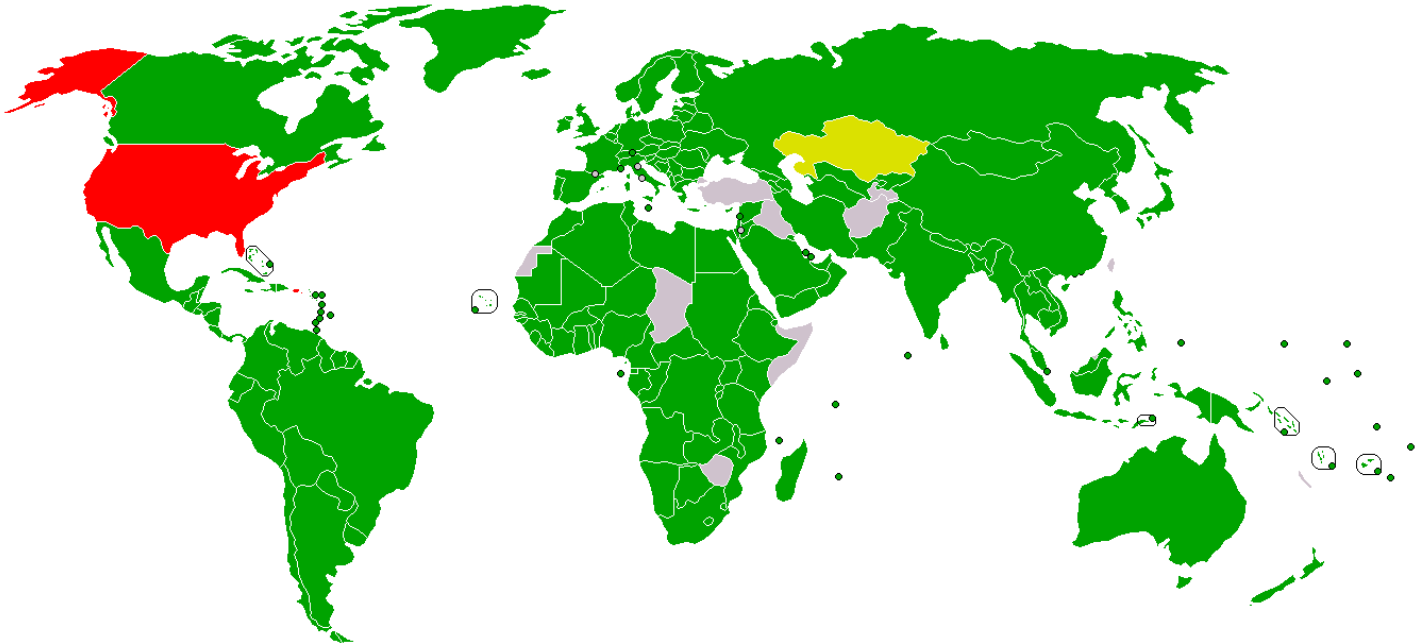
The following kinds of documents (in the order of decreasing precedence) can be admitted as proof in council:

- UN Documents- reports by any UN body.
- State Reports- Any State's Report from their govt portals or State owned media
- Reuters reports on incidents- there are two probable problems with Reuters:
 - > Reports claiming to quote an individual from any govt will not necessarily reflect the govt's point of view in totality (should there be a disagreement in the two view points).
 - > Reuters reports in committee will be admitted as persuasive proof only, and a State is entitled to denying the basis of Reuters' investigative reports.
- For any definitions of terms in international law- definitions clearly defined only in Treaties and Conventions or ICRC rules of International Humanitarian Law shall be considered.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WITHIN THIS AGENDA

- Should each nation be allowed to set their own emissions targets? Will that be more effective?
- Are some of the ways that have been used to tackle climate change, especially carbon trading, part of useless economic propaganda in terms of its benefits to reducing global warming?
- If Kyoto Protocol and Copenhagen Accord are not the right way forward then what is?
- What roles do multinational companies and governments have to play?
- Can we afford to leave out developing nations from treaty obligations and emissions reduction?
- What are green jobs? Are they feasible?
- How effective is nuclear energy as a solution?
- Is your country considered developing? Did your country ratify the Kyoto Protocol? Why or why not? Have they changed their position since the Copenhagen conference?
- Does the country have measures to mitigate climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases? Are there current plans to do so?
- What are the loopholes in present form of Kyoto Protocol? How countries are able to evade the commitments they are required to fulfill under the present legislation? What could be done about that?

Preparing For The Completion Of The Successor-Agreement For The Extended Kyoto Protocol In 2017



Green countries have signed and ratified the treaty; yellow countries have signed but not yet ratified it. Red countries have signed but have no intention of ratifying. Gray countries have not taken a position.

What is the Kyoto Protocol?

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international agreement created by the United Nations to reduce the effects of Climate Change by setting for industrialized countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. The Kyoto Protocol sets for its signatories to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases. It was made in Kyoto, Japan and entered into full force on February 16th 2005. As of February 2009, 183 countries have agreed to follow the Kyoto Protocol. Under this treaty, industrialized countries agreed to reduce their collective greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5.2% from the level in 1990. National limitations range from the reduction of 8% for the European Union and others to 7% for the United States, 6% for Japan, and 0% for Russia. The treaty permitted the emission increases of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland.

However, the treaty suffered a massive blow when in 2001, the US, responsible for about a quarter of the world's emissions, pulled out. The then president, George W Bush said that implementing it would gravely damage the US economy. His administration dubbed the treaty "fatally flawed", partly because it does not require developing countries such as India and China to commit to emissions reductions in spite of the fact that they are two of the world's biggest producers of greenhouse gases. Mr Bush though, added that he backs emissions reductions through voluntary action and new energy technologies.

Additionally, Canada's December 2011 decision to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol - based on domestic economic concerns as well as its view that the world's top greenhouse gas emitters have refused to ratify the accord—has generated concerns that the Kyoto Protocol itself may be in danger of collapse.

What is emissions trading?

Kyoto includes defined "flexible mechanisms" such as Emissions Trading, the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation to allow annex I economies (industrialized) to meet their GHG emission limitations.

Emissions trading works by allowing countries to buy and sell their agreed allowances of greenhouse gas emissions. Highly polluting countries can buy unused "credits" from those which are allowed to emit more than they actually do. Countries are also able to gain credits for activities which boost the environment's capacity to absorb carbon. These include tree planting and soil conservation, and can be carried out in the country itself, or by that country working in a developing country. There are several active trading programs in several pollutants. For greenhouse gases the largest is the European Union Emission Trading Scheme. In the United States there is a national market to reduce acid rain and several regional markets in nitrogen oxides.

What is CDM ?

The Clean Development mechanism (CDM) is an arrangement under the Kyoto Protocol allowing industrialized countries with a greenhouse gas reduction commitment of Annex 1 countries to invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing countries as an alternative to more expensive emission reductions in their own or other industrialized countries. The most important factor of a carbon project is that it establishes that it would not have occurred without the additional incentive provided by emission reductions credits. The CDM allows net global greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced at a much lower global cost by financing emissions reduction projects in developing countries where costs are lower than in industrialized countries.

Copenhagen Accord

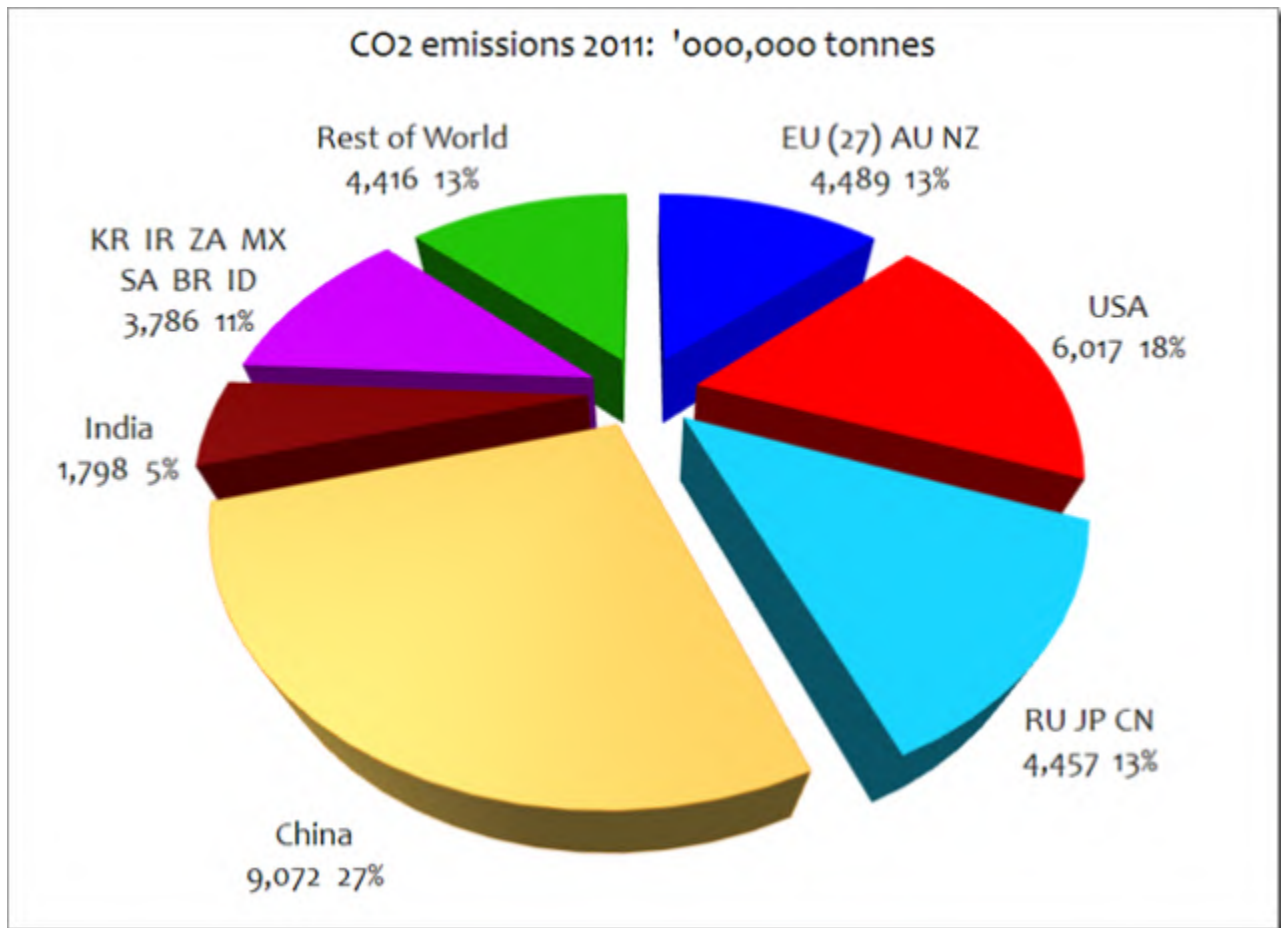
This accord is the outcomes of the UN climate change conference held in Copenhagen from December 7-18, 2009. It is not a legally binding treaty. The Accord upholds the scientific view that temperature rises must be contained at 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures. To achieve this long-term goal, developed nations are committed to implement economy-wide emissions targets for 2020, while developing nations are committed to implementing nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

Despite its many frustrations and failures, COP 15 did achieve the difficult task of eliciting emission pledges from all the major economies, including China and other major developing countries. It is the first time in the history of UNFCCC negotiations that developed and developing nations' emissions reductions targets have been on the table at the same time.

- **141** countries, including the 27-member EU, are likely to or have engaged with the accord, representing **87.24%** of global emissions
- **8** countries will not engage with the accord, representing **2.09%** of global emissions

Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, December 2011

This outcome document was released on December 10, 2011 at the 17th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa. The meeting resulted in the decision to begin forging a new treaty next year, to be completed by 2015 and coming into effect by 2020. A new climate fund, the "Green Climate Fund" was established, and the EU and a number of other countries agreed to emissions cuts under the Kyoto Protocol.



Top-ten Carbon Dioxide Emitters:

- China – 17%, 5.8
- United States – 16%, 24.1
- European Union– 11%, 10.6
- Indonesia – 6%, 12.9
- India – 5%, 2.1
- Russia – 5%, 14.9
- Brazil – 4%, 10.0
- Japan – 3%, 10.6
- Canada – 2%, 23.2
- Mexico – 2%, 6.4

Weakness of the current systems

The Kyoto Protocol includes firm commitments to curb emissions only from developed countries, but does not include the United States and has no meaningful consequences for noncompliance; it has also come under unprecedented strain as Canada officially withdrew from the accord in December 2011. Specifically, Canada's environment minister suggested Canada could only be a part of an accord, which

includes all major emitters as parties. As Japan and Russia could soon follow Canada's example, the hopes for a legally binding climate accord—even if desirable—may be fading. Additionally, the regime, other than providing numerous exemptions regarding greenhouse gas emissions, fails to provide emerging big emitters like China and India with meaningful targets and incentives to curb their emissions. The architecture for global climate governance looks particularly shaky after the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP-15), in Copenhagen, failed to overcome entrenched differences among the major parties and deliver targeted emissions cuts. Following Copenhagen, COP-16, in Cancun, made some strides toward effective multilateral action, but the regime still falls well short of promoting needed action to effect positive change, including committing to a post-Kyoto framework .

Similarly, little progress was made during the COP-17 meeting in Durban. While parties agreed to extend the Kyoto Protocol until at least 2017 as well as solidified an operating structure for the Green Climate Fund, little was clarified concerning the form of a successor accord to the Kyoto Protocol. Delegates to the COP-17 did agree, however, that the new accord would include reduction targets for all nations, rather than exclusively those considered to be developed.

Although delegations at Durban, Cancun, and Copenhagen developed reporting mechanisms, funding pledges, and unilaterally declared country-specific emissions reduction goals, the ongoing lack of an international enforcement body has left these promises largely empty.

The limitations of the Durban Platform, as well as the increasingly tenuous status of the Kyoto Protocol, have created a fresh imperative for global action on climate change. Concerns, however, arose over the refusals of India, China, and the United States to unequivocally accept legally binding admissions targets at the meeting, placing doubt on the extent that other significant greenhouse gas emitters will participate in the new commitment window.

At the most basic level, countries disagree over climate monitoring and financing stipulations in the Kyoto Protocol or other potential legally binding emissions accords. Climate frameworks struggle to effectively monitor greenhouse gas outputs, especially in developing countries. Many countries lack the domestic capacity to audit their total emissions; even if they are able to monitor national levels, some fear that reporting such numbers would encourage international pressure to cap their emissions. Others, like China, argue that an international monitoring system represents an infringement on national sovereignty and that developing states should be afforded some leniency in emissions as they are currently in critical stages of economic development.

Additionally, the climate regime does not adequately address the sources of financing needed to help developing countries cope with climate change. While the meeting in Copenhagen witnessed political progress, including pledges by industrialized countries to provide \$100 billion by 2020 to developing countries, and the Green Climate Fund was put into place at Cancun, concrete funding streams have yet to materialize. While the COP-17 attempted to clarify how the Green Climate Fund would operate and disperse funds, little firm monetary support was allocated to the mechanism. To date, the total disbursed funds for climate change initiatives, both within and outside of the UNFCCC, add up to only \$2.1 billion.

Plans of a successor accord

At the launch of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change seventeenth Conference of Parties (COP-17) in Durban, South Africa, many climate change experts were concerned that the Kyoto Protocol could expire in 2012 with no secondary legally binding accord on limiting global emissions in place. This fear, however, was somewhat assuaged as the nearly two hundred countries present at the COP-17 approved an extension of the protocol through 2017 and potentially 2020. A decision was also reached at the meeting to draft a successor accord to the Kyoto Protocol by 2015, which would ultimately come into force in 2020. Delegates also envisioned that the new accord would include greenhouse gas emissions targets for all countries, regardless of their level of economic development. This framework notably contrasts with that of the Kyoto Protocol, which primarily focuses on reducing emissions emanating from developed countries.

Looking Forward — Some Points to think about:

Over one quarter of Asia's carbon emissions are generated in the production of exports, mostly for consumers in developed countries, and a consumption-based cap and trade system may be more in

accordance with the principles of benefit taxation An interesting feature of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme is that it includes forest carbon and creates deforestation liabilities for landowners. On December 11, 2008, Rex Tillerson, the CEO of Exxonmobil, said a carbon tax is "a more direct, more transparent and more effective approach" than a cap and trade program, which he said, "inevitably introduces unnecessary cost and complexity." The International Air Transport Association, whose 230 member airlines comprise 93% of all international traffic, position is that trading should be based on "benchmarking," setting emissions levels based on industry averages, rather than "grandfathering," which would use individual companies' previous emissions levels to set their future permit allowances.

Looking Forward — Beyond the Kyoto Protocol:

In the non-binding 'Washington Declaration' agreed on 16 February 2007, Heads of governments from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa agreed in principle on the outline of a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. They envisage a global cap-and-trade system that would apply to both industrialized nations and developing countries, and hoped that this would be in place by 2009.

On 7 June 2007, leaders at the 33rd G8 summit agreed that the G8 nations would 'aim to at least halve global CO₂ emissions by 2050'. The details enabling this to be achieved would be negotiated by environment ministers within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in a process that would also include the major emerging economies.

The Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate is an agreement among seven Asia-Pacific nations: Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. The pact allows these countries to set arbitrary goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions individually, without any enforcement mechanism for these goals.

Finally, the Summit on climate change at the United Nations in New York on 22 September 2009 injected new optimism into the search for an agreement to tackle climate change. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the Summit "marked the moment when the political momentum has shifted in favour of sealing a fair, effective and ambitious global climate deal in Copenhagen."

Conclusion:

Even if all carbon emissions stopped tomorrow, global warming would continue for the next 30 years. James E. Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy and member of Copenhagen Climate Council said "It is a myth that we have the technologies to do the job. We don't. New technologies are crucial as is further development of existing technology."

At the EXPO 2008, the Danish government presented their objectives as a hosting nation for COP15:

- To get all the world's countries to agree on a global target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- To get the world's industrialised countries to take the lead and reduce their CO₂ emissions significantly, while the world's newly industrialised countries and developing countries contribute to a collective solution
- To agree on a global climate regime which does not restrain economic growth and does not distort competition on the world market.

"My personal view is that the future of humanity is at stake," said Tim Flannery, Professor at Macquaire University and chairman of the Copenhagen Climate Council. It is therefore important for all countries to acknowledge that action needs to happen fast. It is thus our hope that the meeting does not lead to empty promises but measurable goals.

APPENDIX A

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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http://www.coloradomun.org/BHSMUN_Adv_CombatingGlobalWarming.pdf

APPENDIX B

Committee Goals

The following is expected from council as a whole during three days of debate and deliberation inside council to qualify as successful committee:

- 1) Develop framework to alleviate that which is not working and plans for further reduction and sustainability mechanisms, in accordance with the clean development mechanism and article 2 of the Kyoto Protocol.
- 2) Determine realistic reduction goals and balancing the contribution of those goals from developed nations along with commitments of developing nations.
- 3) Examine effectiveness of the Adaptation fund and reduction and benefits from the Clean Development Mechanism for energy projects in all nations and suggest improvements to the language, enforcement, and oversight.
- 4) Establish certain energy projects and programs that could be implemented drawing from the reduction goals and the Kyoto Protocol.
- 5) Discuss ways to improve measurement of emissions, especially from concrete sources such as energy production and energy use in connection with manufacturing.
- 6) Draft a new 'protocol commitments' and 'reductions' for a period after 2012.

APPENDIX C

Key points to think about:

The following point should always be kept in mind while doing research since they are VERY IMPORTANT for the agenda:

- 1) To review the status of the current energy projects and adherence/ability to accurately measure emission levels.
- 2) Should there be a larger focus on sustainability projects in the future?
- 3) How largely is your country committed to renewable initiatives? Have they changed their stance on the Kyoto Protocol since the Copenhagen conference?
- 4) Reviewing of the quotas of greenhouse emissions, and possibilities of a carbon tax for large emissions or other adherence incentives.
- 5) Assessment of previous accountability methods.