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An activity of the Centre for European Studies, Carleton University  
[www.carleton.ca/ces](http://www.carleton.ca/ces) and [canada-europe-dialogue.ca](http://canada-europe-dialogue.ca)  
[ces@carleton.ca](mailto:ces@carleton.ca)

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## **LESSON PLANS (Teacher Plan 3)**

### **Title: EU Climate Change Policy**

#### **Section 3- EU International Climate Change Policy**



The EU has always sought to be an active supporter of climate change negotiations. The EU is a collection of states; this gives the EU advantages and also disadvantages, when negotiating internationally.

Advantages:

- Collective power (groups of countries are stronger than one)
- Provider of foreign aid (to many of its former colonies)
- World leader in technology and innovation
- Strong economic power (developed and industrialized countries)

Disadvantages:

- Different interests/ potential lack of unity (different countries have different energy needs)
- Big and slow bureaucratic (working with 28 different countries can be hard to produce a timely agreement)
- Wealth divide- Western Europe is more advanced economically than Eastern Europe, making common ground harder to find.

Since 1992, there have been three distinct climate negotiation conferences that have taken place - Kyoto Protocol in Japan (1997), UNFCCC in Copenhagen (2009), and UNFCCC in Paris (2015).

The EU has played a prominent role in all negotiations, and can be seen as a leader and innovator in its formulation of international climate change policy.

Section 3 will look at UNFCCC negotiations and conferences in chronological order (Kyoto in 1997, Copenhagen in 2009, and Paris in 2015).

### **Kyoto Protocol 1997**

#### Background:

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which commits its parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.

Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'.

#### Timeline:

Adopted Kyoto Japan 1997

Enforced February, 2005

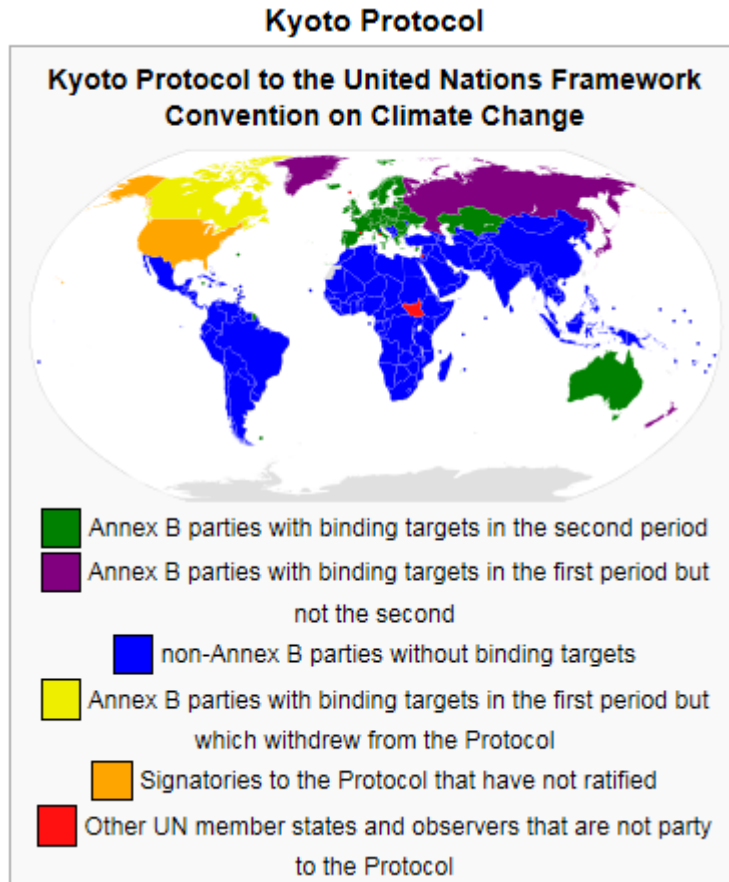
First Commitment Period 2008-2012

Extended in 2012<sup>1</sup>

**EU's Role:** The EU played a large part in drafting the accord and could be viewed as the default leader. During initial negotiations, the United States under Bill Clinton was unable to convince Congress to adopt the legislation, and China was not yet at the level of power it currently holds. When the Kyoto Protocol was under threat in 2012, the EU successfully lobbied a number of nations to extend the agreement until a future agreement could be reached. This occurred recently in Paris.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations. *UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol*. 2016. [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/items/2830.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php) (accessed 03 20, 2016).



(The extension of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012)<sup>2</sup>

## Copenhagen 2009

### Background:

Going into the conference, the EU was optimistic that it would be regarded as the leader that other countries, including developed and developing countries would follow. During Barack Obama's election campaign in 2008, he had made climate change a talking point. The EU saw this turnaround attitude from George Bush to Barack Obama as an opportunity to finally get the United States on board with climate change, where EU leadership could influence not only the U.S, but other big emitters such as China.<sup>3</sup>

### Outcome:

- After three weeks of negotiations, there was no binding agreement, only a temporary agreement to work again in the future

<sup>2</sup> [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:UNFCCC\\_parties.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:UNFCCC_parties.svg)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. *Copenhagen Accord*. 2009. [http://unfccc.int/meetings/copenhagen\\_dec\\_2009/items/5262.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/copenhagen_dec_2009/items/5262.php) (accessed 03 28, 2016).

- The EU was sidelined, as the U.S. and BASIC (Brazil, India, China, and South Africa) countries worked on legal terms that would precede any future deal
- The EU was seen as too ambitious (countries were not ready to adopt a system like the ETS on a world-wide scale)
- The EU pushed for mandatory reductions
- The EU focused too much on appeasing the U.S. and did not focus attention on the developing countries
- The EU had internal disagreements (Finland with timber, Italy with industry) which led to negotiation issues<sup>4</sup>

### Why Was There No Deal?

- Optimism that Obama would make a climate change deal a priority was premature.
- The EU was not viewed as 'the leader' but simply as 'a leader' who did not have power to influence big emitters such as China and the U.S
- The world was simply unprepared to adopt stringent methods related to climate change (it could be argued the international community was still in a 'feeling out' period<sup>5</sup>)

### Criticism:

- Did not achieve a legally-binding agreement
- No agreement was made on the successor that was to follow the Kyoto Protocol.
- Would not mobilize 100 billion in green energy investment for developing countries until 2020.
- Allegations of U.S. and China spying at the conference hampered ill-will towards EU member states and developing nations.
- There would be continued dialogue towards the Cancun Summit in 2010<sup>6</sup>

## **Paris 2015**

### Background:

While Copenhagen could be viewed as a failure for the EU and the international community as whole, subsequent UNFCCC meetings in Durban, Cancun, and Qatar kept dialogue alive heading into Paris 2015. The goal was to achieve an international binding agreement to limit GHG emissions to 2-Celsius pre-industrial levels by 2050.

### Key Issues:

- Emission reductions
- Adaptation, loss, and damage
- Finance, technology, and building capacity

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<sup>4</sup> Louise Schaik, "Explaining EU Activism and Impact in Global Climate Politics: Is the Union a Norm- or Interest-Driven Actor?" 50, no. 1 (2012): 178.

<sup>5</sup> Sebastain Oberthur. "The European Union's Performance in the International Climate Change Regime," European Integration Aquatic 33 no 6 (2011): 670.

<sup>6</sup> Diarmuid Torney, "External Perceptions and EU Foreign Policy Effectiveness: The Case of Climate Change," Journal of Common Market Studies 52, no.6 (2014): 1362.

Potential Roadblocks:

- Differentiation between countries
- Transparency, accountability, and dynamism
- Legal form and force of the agreement

Key Players:

- EU
- U.S.
- China
- **(G77)** at the United Nations is a loose coalition of developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations

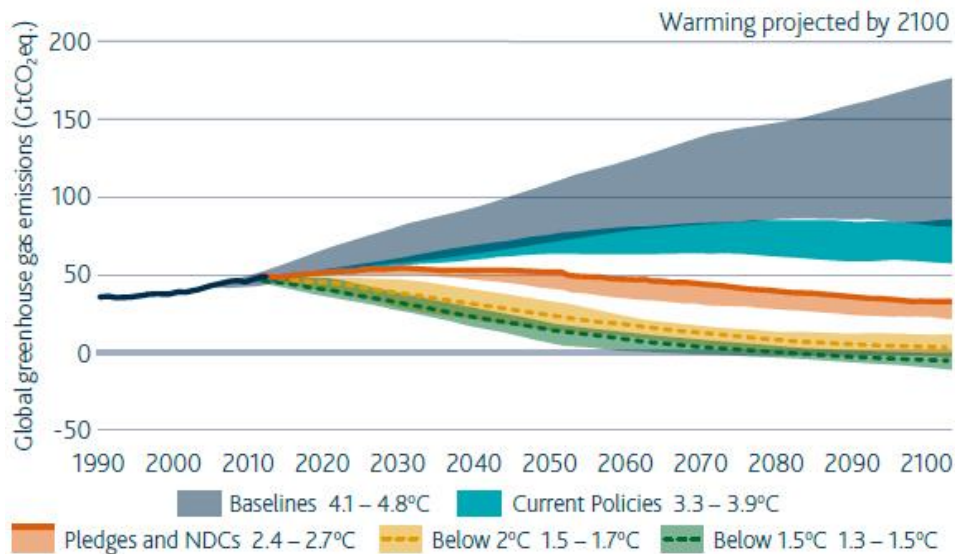
Result

- December 2015 - 196 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally-binding global climate deal
- The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change limiting global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius
- The agreement will enter into force in 2020

Implementation

- The need to identify when global emissions will peak, especially for developing countries
- Undertake rapid reductions when this peak is identified
- Will be signed in New York at the U.N headquarters in April, 2016
- Will continue to meet every year at the UNFCCC with every 5 years hosting a major conference

## Global warming projections as a result of submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Source: Climate Action Tracker

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(The chart above shows global warming projections vis-à-vis global temperature increase)

All information on the Paris Agreement is sourced with permission from Mr. Luigi Scarpa De Masellis (PowerPoint Presentation [Paris PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Right click to open the link. Not mandatory for this lesson plan).

### Aid to Foreign Countries

The EU views aid to developing countries as paramount to limiting the effects of climate change. Developing countries at the same time need to maintain economic growth. In order to maintain this growth, developed countries transitioning from heavy fossil fuels such as coal need investment and technology from developed countries.<sup>8</sup>

The European Union is the largest contributor of climate finance to developing countries and the world's biggest aid donor, collectively providing more than half of global official development assistance (ODA).

The EU's Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) initiative provides technical and financial support to developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets, and to implement projects that address climate change on the ground. The GCCA is also a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hermes-investment.com/blog/eos-articles/the-paris-agreement-progress/>

<sup>8</sup> *EU International Climate Change Finance*. 2016. [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/finance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/finance/index_en.htm) (accessed 03 20, 2016).

<sup>9</sup> *EU International Climate Change Finance*. 2016. [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/finance/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/finance/index_en.htm) (accessed 03 20, 2016).

## **Global Funding Programs**

### *Global Climate Change Alliance*

The Global Climate Change Alliance was developed by the EU in 2007 to provide a platform for dialogue between the EU and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.

It started its work in just four pilot countries. Today, it has a budget of more than €300 million and is one of the most significant climate initiatives in the world. It supports 51 programs around the world and is active in 38 countries, 8 regions and sub regions, and at the global level.<sup>10</sup>

### Two Pillar System

#### Dialogue (1<sup>st</sup> pillar)

Under the first pillar, the GCCA+ serves as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience between the EU and developing countries, focusing on climate policy and bringing renewed attention to the issue of international climate finance. The results feed into negotiations for a new climate deal under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).<sup>11</sup>

#### Technical and Financial Support (2<sup>nd</sup> pillar)

Under the second pillar, the GCCA+ acts as a source of technical and financial support for the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, whose populations need climate finance the most. Extra efforts will be made to strengthen the strategically important issues of ecosystems-based adaptation, migration, and gender equality.<sup>12</sup>

### *Green Climate Fund*

The fund was established in 2010 at the UNFCCC annual meeting in Cancun, Mexico and was adopted at the 2011 annual meeting in Durban, South Africa.

The overall goal of the fund was to allocate a total of 100 billion dollars per year by 2020 for green innovation in support of developing technologies for both developed and developing economies. Both governments and the private sector are expected to contribute to the funding program.<sup>13</sup>

The goal is to allocate 50% of the funds (50 billion) to developing countries and 50% to developing the technologies with companies based in the developed world.

The GCF is currently headquartered in Songdo, Korea. The board currently has 24 members, 12 from developed countries, and 12 from developing countries.

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<sup>10</sup> *Global Climate Change Alliance*. n.d. <http://www.gcca.eu/> (accessed 03 29, 2016).

<sup>11</sup> *Global Climate Change Alliance*. n.d. <http://www.gcca.eu/> (accessed 03 29, 2016).

<sup>12</sup> *Global Climate Change Alliance*. n.d. <http://www.gcca.eu/> (accessed 03 29, 2016).

<sup>13</sup> Green Climate Fund. *Green Climate Fund Homepage*. 2016. <http://www.greenclimate.fund/home> (accessed 03 20, 2016).

As of May 2015, the GCF has raised 10.4 billion (short of its goal).<sup>14</sup>

**Section 3 Video(s):**

[Paris 2015 Deal](#): Presented by GreenTV

\*To access the video, right click and open the hyperlink.

**Section 3 Key Terms:**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - Created in 1992 under the United Nations, a framework for drafting international climate change policy within the international community.

G77- The Group of 77 (**G77**) at the United Nations is a loose coalition of developing nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.

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<sup>14</sup> Green Climate Fund. *Green Climate Fund Homepage*. 2016. <http://www.greenclimate.fund/home> (accessed 03 20, 2016).



### Section 3 Activity: Climate Negotiations!

(Note: this activity could take an entire class, or a significant portion of it. Plan accordingly)

Separate the class into 4 groups that represent a different party (China, Canada, U.S. and the EU)

#### Steps:

1- Research each group's/countries or country's position. Each group should focus on 4 keys aspects:

- Their own wealth (i.e. GDP per capita)
- Their history of climate negotiations (Have they sought to work with others?)
- Their countries own natural resources
- Their own countries economic needs (i.e. are they energy hungry)?
- Potential wins/losses: what are the benefits of going green? What are the negatives?

References for Section 3 Research:

China: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_in\\_China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_in_China)

U.S: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change\\_policy\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change_policy_of_the_United_States)

Canada: <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=E18C8F2D-1>

EU: [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eccp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eccp/index_en.htm)

2- After each group has come up with their own strategy to fight climate change, present it to the class and pitch why your strategy is beneficial not only to your country/organization but for the United Nations (the world).

Group speakers are:

Justin Trudeau

Barack Obama

Jean-Claude Juncker (EU Commission President)

Xi Jinping (President of China)

3- After each group has presented their own views and strategy, start to negotiate with one another.

The main question is: how will everyone agree to a deal to limit GHG emissions to 2 Celsius pre-industrial levels? What sacrifices are you willing to make without damaging your own economy?

**Remember! You don't want to hurt your economy, but you do want a deal that will limit global temperature rise to 2 Celsius pre-industrial levels. A deal where no party is truly satisfied is almost always a good deal.**

4- Take the best elements from each country and draft a final climate treaty. For this exercise, try and incorporate two key aspects from your own treaty that could benefit the UN.

Link to public promotion of the UNFCCC:

[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_support/education\\_outreach/overview/items/8946.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/education_outreach/overview/items/8946.php)