

350

POLITICS

A BRIEF PRIMER ON INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLITICS



What will it take to get the countries of the world - from the richest, biggest polluters, to the most vulnerable island nations - to agree upon a solution to the biggest problem we face?

All of us! Last December, over 100 heads of state, 192 countries, and over 100,000 members of civil society came together in Copenhagen to seek a global treaty to deal with climate change. It was the largest, most high-profile climate summit in history--and yet according to the latest climate science, the weak outcome from Copenhagen is not nearly enough to stop dangerous climate change. It's become clear that we can't wait for our leaders to act - we'll have to get to work ourselves - but we must continue to demand that they do the same. Here's a quick look at climate policy after Copenhagen, and what we need to do:

National Policy

By the end of 2009, 117 countries endorsed the 350ppm target - but they weren't the most powerful countries. It became clear in Copenhagen that a few countries - Brasil, S. Africa, India, China, and the U.S. - have the most power to block progress, or be leaders. Visit our site to see how 350 is working to demand those countries be leaders.

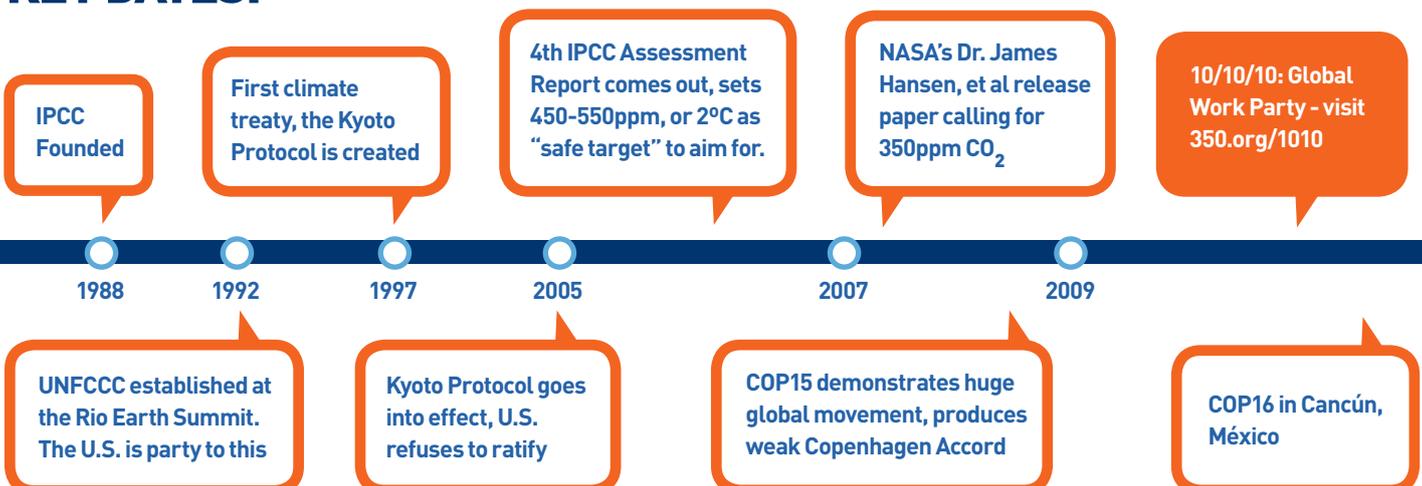
International Negotiations

National politics will be important, but the international negotiations are too - it's a global problem, after all! In 2010, the UN climate treaty process will meet again in December in Cancun, Mexico for COP16 to continue work towards a fair, ambitious, and binding climate treaty. Before then, governments will meet at several other important international fora - the People's Climate Summit in Bolivia in April, the G20, and the Major Economies Forum are just a few.

ACRONYM WATCH

- AOSIS** The Alliance of Small Island States: a group of Small Island Developing States that negotiate together at the UN
- BASIC** Brasil, South Africa, India and China - the group of countries (plus the U.S.) responsible for drafting the Copenhagen Accord
- CA** Shorthand for the Copenhagen Accord - the agreement reached in December of 2009 at COP15 - not officially adopted by the UNFCCC, too weak to reach 350ppm.
- CMPPC** An alternative meeting to the UNFCCC of progressive governments, indigenous groups, and civil society led by the Bolivian Government
- COP/MOP** Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC/Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol: Takes place for 2 weeks every December
- G-77** Group of 77 and China: a coalition of developing countries that negotiate together at the UN
- IPCC** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: UN body of 2,000 climate scientists. Jointly awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize
- LDCs** Least developed country: a bloc of especially vulnerable countries, mainly from Africa, that negotiate together at the UN
- UNFCCC** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - this is the body that convenes and organizes the international climate change negotiations.

KEY DATES:



Influences on Climate Policy

As you can see, civil society - public opinion, young people, NGOs, etc. play a major role - your voice is needed!



Country positions

Climate Champions:

AOSIS, LDCs, African Group, Bolivia and some Latin American countries, Progressive EU

Where we most need to pressure:

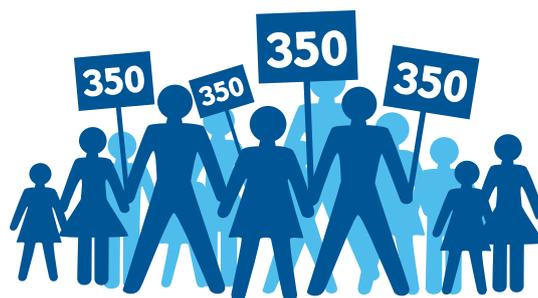
U.S., E.U., Russia, Canada, BASIC countries (Brasil, India, China, South Africa)

That's why in 2010, 350 is focusing on national campaigning in the U.S. and BASIC countries and the U.S. in particular. Together, we'll build up a movement strong enough to change the politics in these key countries.

350 at the U.N.

With such a complex process, the 350 target helps cut right to the core of the debate - will this treaty be enough to avoid the worst effects of global warming? Just over a year ago, almost no one had heard about the number 350.

Now, thanks to activists worldwide, 350ppm is on the agenda and has the support of over 117 countries. Check to see if your country is on the list at www.350.org/countries. For technical resources to deliver to your government about why supporting the 350ppm target is important, visit www.350.org/resources.



HELPFUL TERMS TO KNOW

Adaptation: reducing the the vulnerability of natural and human communities to climate change impacts.

Mitigation: cutting greenhouse gas emissions and protecting "sinks", such as forests or soils that naturally store CO2 and other greenhouse gases.

"Common But Differentiated Responsibilities": the idea that all countries must take action, but that some countries have contributed more to the problem, and therefore have more responsibility [and often more capacity] to act.

Annex I: Developed countries. Under the Kyoto Protocol, only Annex 1 countries have to reduce emissions

Non-Annex I: Developing countries. These countries were not required to cut emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.



350.org is an international grassroots campaign that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to action. 350 parts per million (PPM) of CO2 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. To get there, we need a different kind of PPM-a "people powered movement" that is made up of people like you in every corner of the planet.

Visit www.350.org or contact organizers@350.org to get involved.