The Warsaw Climate Summit

and the Path towards
Paris 2015

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Distinguished Panelists

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IT'S SETTLED...
WE AGREE TO SIGN A PLEDGE TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING TO CONSIDER CHANGING COURSE AT A DATE YET TO BE DETERMINED.
The UNFCCC

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and ratified by 194 countries.

- Aims to stabilize “greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” (UNFCCC, Article 2).

- The principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ divides countries into Annex I and Non-Annex I parties. (UNFCCC, Article 3)

- In 1997 all countries signed the Kyoto Protocol.
The Warsaw Climate Summit

The 19th Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC took place in Warsaw in November.

It set out to:
- clarify finance – to support adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries
- create a loss and damage mechanism
- develop a draft text for COP 10 in Lima in 2014 that will form the basis of the new Paris 2015 agreement
Issues at COP 19

- **Science:** IPCC 5th Assessment Report
- **Climate Equity:** who should reduce emissions and who should pay for adaptation and loss in poor countries?
- **Corporate Involvement:** COP 19 saw a new level of official corporate sponsors of the UN climate summit
- **Civil Action:** COP 19 saw a number of protests, e.g.,:
  - 'Hunger strike' by Philippine delegate Yeb Sano
  - NGOs supporting the imprisoned Greenpeace activists, the Arctic 30
  - Activists shouting “WTF – Where is the finance?”
COP 19 Outcomes

- Operationalising the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre and Network
- Warsaw Framework for REDD+
- Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
- National plans for emission reductions to be submitted by March 2015
What’s ahead

- 2013/2014 - IPCC releases AR5:
  - WG I: The Physical Science Basis (Sept 2013)
  - WG II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (March 2014)
  - WG III: Mitigation of Climate Change (April 2014)

- September 2014 – Climate Summit in NYC
- December 2014 – COP 20 in Lima
- December 2015 – New protocol is to be negotiated in Paris to come into effect in 2020
Making sense of COP 19
Dr. Benito Müller,

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Thank you!

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Extra slides

- Useful Links
- History of the UNFCCC
- Critique of the UNFCCC regime
Useful Links

UNFCCC website: www.unfccc.int
IPCC website: www.ipcc.ch
COP reports: www.iisd.ca/climate/cop19/

Analysis:
Oxford Climate Policy: www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org
Wuppertal Insitute: www.wupperinst.org
The UNFCCC Timeline – Part 1

1979 - First World Climate Conference by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
1988 – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) established by WMO and UNEP
1992 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is signed at the Earth Summit in Rio
1994 – UNFCCC enters into force
The UNFCCC Timeline – Part 2

1997 – Kyoto Protocol (KP) adopted at the third Conference of Parties (COP 3) to the UNFCCC
2001 – Marrakesh Accords adopted at COP 7
2005 – KP enters into force
2007 – IPCC and Al Gore win Nobel Peace Prize
The UNFCCC Timeline – Part 3

- 2009 – *UEA email scandal* fans ‘climate scepticism’ but is later found to be unsubstantiated
- 2009 – COP 15 in Copenhagen ends in chaos with fragile *Copenhagen Accords*
- 2010 – COP 16 adopts *Cancun Agreements* based on above
- 2011 – *Durban Outcomes*
  - KP to be continued
  - new platform of negotiations
  - global review to be conducted
- 2012 – *Doha Climate Gateway:*
  - KP second commitment period agreed
  - Streamlined work
  - New financing and technology infrastructure
Background – UNFCCC

The Parties in the Preamble of the UNFCCC:

- [acknowledge] “that change in the Earth’s climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind,”

- [note] “that the largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated in developed countries, that per capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low and that the share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs,”
UNFCCC Article 3(1)

The principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’ divides countries into Annex I and Non-Annex I parties.

“The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.”
Model 1: Aid

Global North funds mitigation projects

Global Agencies mediate intergovernmental process

UNFCCC legislates
Governments have agreed on this treaty and have made it binding under their own legal systems.

GEF coordinates
This World Bank spin-off evaluates proposals and delegates the implementation of projects.

Global South proposes and hosts projects

UNEP, UNDP, World Bank implement
The implementing agencies set up the project, sometimes in combination with a loan or other funding.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change :: 1992
Background - Kyoto Protocol

- Commits its Parties to emission reductions
- Signed in 1997, entered into force in 2005
- Establishes market-based mechanisms: Emission Trading, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI)
- The Marrakesh Accords (2001) detail the rules for implementation
- First commitment period (2008-2012): legally binding targets for 37 industrialized (Annex I) countries of 5% reduction on average compared to 1990 levels
- Second commitment period (2013-2020): 18% reduction below 1990 levels
- Initially ratified by 184 countries (147 Non-Annex I) but composition has changed since
Model 2: Market Based

Emission Trading Market
Sets the price of credits
If many players can sell credits because they have been allocated low targets ('hot air'), this will affect the price. The Kyoto Protocol determines the number of players and the emission reduction targets.

Corporations & NGOs
Implement
Any organization can propose and implement a project. Multinationals are most likely to have the required infrastructure and expertise.

How It Works
Any country or organization can propose a mitigation project. The country of the North invests in an approved project of its choosing and in turn receives credit towards its emission target for this transaction. The country of the South can agree to hosting a project. The whole process is evaluated by a third party, the Designated Operational Entity. Projects with the lowest cost per ton of carbon reduced will be favoured.

Kyoto Protocol :: Clean Development Mechanism :: 1997