

ASIC 200

CLIMATE NEGOTIATION SIMULATION

PARTICIPANT INSTRUCTIONS

This simulation is an 8-group role-play that simulates the international negotiations undertaken at the December 2009 Copenhagen Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This simulation is focused on achieving a negotiated agreement (a “Copenhagen Protocol” to the UNFCCC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions among the participating states. This agreement would replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. The role-play incorporates actual positions held by states and groups of states at the UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE NEGOTIATION

This negotiation simulation is played with eight roles, seven of which are country representatives and one of which is the COP Presidency that acts as the Chair of the meeting. The following role-player groups participate in the negotiation:

- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- Brazil
- China
- European Union
- India
- Japan
- United States
- COP Presidency/Denmark (Meeting Chair)

The COP Presidency/Denmark group acts as chair/host country of the meeting and facilitates discussion. This group is a participant in the simulation. The course instructors and teaching assistants will also engage in the simulation in various roles.

II. AGENDA FOR THE SIMULATION

The COP Presidency/Denmark will serve as meeting chair and conference host that facilitates the country representatives in the process of negotiation. The COP Presidency/Denmark is responsible for conducting the session according to the following agenda:

1. Simulation introduction and mechanics (10 minutes) Lecture Hall
2. Introduction by COP Presidency (10 minutes)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Presentation of Agenda and Approval
3. First Plenary: Presentation of Opening Statements (20 minutes) Lecture Hall
4. Group meeting: discussion of negotiation priorities and positions (10 minutes)
5. First Negotiation Session (45 minutes)
6. Recess and Country Deliberation (15 minutes)
7. Final Negotiation Session (20 minutes)
8. Group Meeting: preparation of final positions and statements (10 minutes)
9. Second Plenary: Presentation of final positions. (15 minutes) Lecture hall.

III. THE NEGOTIATION ISSUE AND GOAL

It is 2009. There is widespread consensus in the scientific community that preventing temperatures from increasing 2°C above pre-industrial levels is necessary to prevent dangerous climate change (drought, glacier melt, flooding, flooding, famine in certain areas). To achieve this goal, it is widely agreed that we must prevent carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations from rising above 450 ppm. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in 2009 CO₂ concentrations are already at 379 ppm compared to pre-industrial levels of 280 ppm, and temperatures have already increased by approximately 0.7°C over pre-industrial levels.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report estimates that increases in the global average surface temperature can still be limited to only 2°C above pre-industrial levels if global greenhouse gas emissions peak by around 2015 and are reduced to between 25% to 40% of 1990 levels by 2020, and to between 50% to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050.

IV. NEGOTIATION FRAMEWORK

It is 2009. At COP 13 in December 2007, the COP adopted the Bali Action Plan that calls for all developed countries to commit to quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, and developing countries to enhance “nationally appropriate mitigation actions” to address climate change. You are attempting to negotiate a new protocol to the UNFCCC that addresses the total percentage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 level by 2020 AND by 2050, AND the year in which emissions must peak, for both developed (Annex 1) countries and developing (Annex 2) countries. Below is a chart summarizing the negotiation issues:

Issues	Percentage reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2020	Peak Year for Emissions	Percentage reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050
Binding Negotiated Agreement of the Parties for Developed Countries?	Country/Group Position	Country/Group Position	Country/Group Position
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IV. DECISION MAKING UNDER THE UNFCCC

Decisions under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are made by consensus, not majority vote. Consensus decision-making requires that all major countries consent to the arrangements you negotiate. If a country does not agree to the arrangements and the group adopts a decision without them, that country is unlikely to sign or ratify the new arrangement, which eliminates the possibility of achieving an international climate treaty. So all country groups have to reach agreement on the negotiation issues above in order to achieve a treaty.

V. NEGOTIATION RULES

Below are the negotiations rules previously agreed to by all parties to the UNFCCC. These rules require that members:

- Avoid making personal attacks on other group members;
- Share relevant information with other group members;
- Explain the reasons behind one's statements, questions, and actions;
- Keep to the agenda;
- Make decisions by consensus, rather than majority rule.

VI. SOCIAL SCIENCE LAB REFLECTION

You must submit a one-page double-spaced written essay reflecting on the outcomes and process of the social science lab. This assignment is worth 5% of your course grade. Following negotiation, contemplate the outcome. If the simulation reached agreement, think about how strong an agreement you were able to achieve toward preventing dangerous climate change. Also consider what prevented reaching a stronger agreement. If the simulation did not reach agreement, consider what prevented reaching agreement. In a one page double spaced reflective essay, discuss the following questions:

- What constraints in frustrated/limited group efforts to reach agreement?
- Were the constraints political, economic, scientific, or other?
- Could those constraints be changed?
- If so, what would be required to change them?

Your written reflection is due in class the following week.