



Photo: Alf Berg/Plan

Climate Role Play

Included in the teaching materials of Plan Sweden:
Children's Rights in a Changing Climate



Guidance for the teacher in preparation for the Climate Role Play

The Climate Issue

The climate issue is one of the greatest and most complex challenges facing humanity. Climate experts on the UN Climate Panel, IPCC¹, are in agreement that the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is gradually increasing – which, in turn, leads to higher temperatures. In the opinion of the Climate Panel a rising average temperature leads to more extreme weather conditions where drought, heat waves, flooding and hurricanes occur more frequently. Researchers are also in agreement that people are probably causing global warming.

Researchers tell us that the consequences of climate change can be very serious and have an impact on many different areas such as international security, food security, water supply and people's health. Both rich and poor countries will be affected. The people and societies that have the fewest resources will be most seriously affected. People's basic needs and their right to food, housing, healthcare, education and safety are threatened.

Global warming is a cross-border problem and global agreements are necessary to slow down the pace of climate change. For the agreements to be concluded, the participants must perceive the decisions as just. The relationship between the world's rich and developing countries is a key factor in international climate negotiations. Many developing countries have very little trust in the rich world, which has not fulfilled commitments on amounts of aid and reduced carbon dioxide emissions. An important principle in the Climate Convention is that industrial countries should take the lead in the fight against climate change and its damaging effects. This is because rich countries have historically been the source of the greatest amount of emissions.

Many important questions have still not been solved: What mechanisms should be put in place to reduce emissions? What would a fair division of responsibility between the countries of the world look like? How will the technical and financial support for adapting to the changing climate be increased and be available for use by developing countries? The UN has an important role to play here, since international climate negotiations are conducted through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC²).

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, is the UN's scientific panel on the climate. IPCC does not conduct its own research; instead it is entrusted with evaluating the extensive climate-related research that is being conducted worldwide.

2. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, was adopted in connection with the UN Conference on Environment and Development ("the Earth Summit") in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The rules came into force on September 21, 1994 and, among other things, the following is included: "The parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing such measures, taking into account that policies and measures to deal with climate change should be cost-effective so as to ensure global benefits at the lowest possible cost." The Convention's parties (those countries that signed the convention) meet every year for negotiations at a Conference of Parties, or 'COP'. This annual Climate Convention is an important and extensive framework for the earth's climate. The agreement has been signed by more than 200 countries to date.

Climate role play

The climate role play is a simulation of international climate negotiations under the auspices of the UN. The students work in groups or 'delegations'. During the entire conference they act as if they were real delegates representing nations or organizations. The delegates debate certain questions which are decided upon and prepared in advance. The task of the students is to try and make as great an impact as possible to promote the standpoints of their countries or organizations. The delegations will lobby for their demands and be prepared to accept compromises and make concessions. The goal is for the delegations to work out and agree a future climate agreement. The content and the format of the meetings should mirror the real climate negotiations as much as possible.

The climate role play is about questions relating to the environment as well as economics, social development, security policies, human rights and justice. The idea is that the students, through the role play, will experience the conflicts and difficulties that arise when nations, regions and other participants with different contexts, needs, ideologies and interests have to cooperate with one another.

The purpose of the climate role play is that, by participating in realistic climate negotiations, students will increase their knowledge and will get involved in, as well as build belief in, the possibility of solving one of the greatest challenges of our time.

The climate role play does not require any previous experience of role play on the part of the teacher or student. Instructions, detailed role cards for the delegations, and material and helpful links are included here. If you as a teacher want to use the specific method produced by the UN when considering how to conduct a UN role play³, you will find all the material you need on the Model UN webpage. You are also given examples of how to write resolutions according to the forms of the UN, which you can find useful when writing climate agreements: www.mun.org. A UN role play, or Model UN, can last from a day to a whole week. Often the UN Security Council or the General Assembly is simulated but even specific conferences such as the climate meeting are not unusual.

Learning outcomes

The climate issue contains many different branches of study and the teaching should therefore be characterized by an interdisciplinary perspective. In a Model UN, the students are active and use political tools for change since the game works by putting students in the position of going through decision-making processes similar to those that contemporary people in positions of power go through. Experience shows that students quickly gain insight into the complexity behind international negotiations and importantly, how stimulating it can be to debate international politics. An important explanation of why the Model UN has been so successful from an educational perspective is that students, through their roles as delegates, practise seeing problems from another perspective. Also, students can feel more secure in debates when they do not have to defend their own values and positions. A role play gives them the chance to loosen up and explore in detail their role's argumentation. At the same time, students gain greater understanding of different positions and the complexity inherent in real international political negotiations.

³ For more than 50 years the Model UN has been arranged in high schools as well as at universities and colleges all over the world. 100,000 students a year participate in Model UNs, ranging from small Model UNs in the shape of security council with 30 students in one class room to international Model UNs with more than 3000 students. Read more at www.mun.org

Climate Role Play concerning a New Climate Agreement

A future global climate agreement

The climate negotiations take place within the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCCC, where the principle of common but differentiated responsibility is central. The new agreement will above all push for considerably reduced emissions from industrial countries. The intention is that the agreement should include all industrial countries as well as developing countries with fast growing economies. At the same time, the agreement will support developing countries so that their emissions can be limited without risking their economic development.

The international climate negotiations are complex and require decisions to be made on many small questions that are a part of the larger issue. The negotiations focus, among other things, on the construction and distribution of emission reductions, climate adaptation, technical development, technological transfer and deforestation.

Climate role play's main questions

In the role play, the issues in the international negotiations can be summed up into two main questions. The role play can include both these two questions (one at a time), or just one of them.

1. Emission reductions (*mitigation*)

How the emission of greenhouse gases will be reduced is discussed on various levels. This is a matter of reaching agreement on a global, long-term goal and of the actual construction and division of how the commitment should be divided between countries. To reach the goal for emission reductions it is necessary that questions about financing, technological development, technological transfer, reduced deforestation and flexible mechanisms, are all considered.

2. Adapting to climate change (*adaptation*)

The question of adapting to climate change is of central importance for developing countries. In addition to the requirements on reduced emissions in industrial countries, developing countries require extensive technological and financial support for sustainable development and their own adaptation to a warmer climate. Discussions on adaptation have been difficult but the focus is less on how much aid the industrial countries will supply and more on how it will be achieved.

Climate role play participants

In the climate role play there are nations and organizations as well as a chairperson and vice chairperson that lead the conference. In real climate negotiations, the organizations do not have any rights to make decisions but they can participate in discussions and lobbying. Every delegation has access to a role card that describes the position or the country of organization on the climate issue. The role play will be more successful if the students develop their roles beyond the descriptions on the role cards but one main rule is that the delegates always act in line with their nation's policies.

Climate Role Play

Participants:

Chairperson	Vice Chairperson
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Nations:

Australia	Bangladesh
Brazil	EU
India	Japan
China	Russia
Samoa/AOSIS	Saudi Arabia/OPEC
South Africa	Uganda
USA	

Organizations:

Climate Justice Now	Swedish Society on Nature Conservation (the SNCC)
Vattenfall/ICC	

Climate negotiations

During climate negotiations, questions that have been decided on and prepared in advance are debated with the goal of working out and agreeing a new climate agreement. An important part of the negotiations is lobbying, when delegates try to get support and create alliances to advance their positions. During the negotiations, delegates can be exposed to special challenges by being given a press release on a crisis scenario, for example an extensive natural disaster. The delegation's task is then to react to the crisis and possibly change certain positions and proposals. The purpose of an interruption in the negotiations can be:

- To let students use their knowledge of their role under new circumstances
- To fuel the debate
- Integrate new questions
- Widen and change perspectives

Planning and execution

Conducting the climate role play requires organizational and pedagogical planning by the teacher and advance knowledge on the part of the students. The extent and content of the preparatory instruction is determined by many factors including the subjects and goals that are to be covered, the questions that are to be debated in the negotiations, and the amount of time put aside for the game. Subject preparation and the delegations' preparations are important for a thoughtful negotiation strategy, dynamic role playing and a lively debate.

It is also important that all delegates are aware of the debating rules, the agenda for the meeting and the role of the chairperson.

It is advantageous for the role play to include many different subjects for example Social Studies, Geography, Natural Science, Global Environmental Health, Environmental Politics and Global Studies. The Climate Role Play can also be conducted within the framework of a single subject.

Teachers should prepare in advance for:

- Theoretical subject knowledge that climate negotiations require
- Time for preparation and the carrying out of the negotiations
- Logistics in respects of rooms and schedule planning
- Distribution of roles (countries, organizations and chairperson)
- What main questions and sub-questions are going to be debated (emission reductions and/or adaptation)
- The delegations' preparations
- Rules for the debate, agenda for the climate negotiations and follow-up discussion
- Suggestions for what a climate agreement can look like
- Chairperson and vice chairperson
- Press releases
- Evaluation: Will the preparatory work be evaluated or just the climate negotiations? Will the role play be followed up with oral seminars or written assignments?
- Material and helpful links

Preparation for delegates

Preparation is essential in order for a delegate's country or organization to have an impact at the negotiations and reach the desired outcome. Thorough preparation gives a delegate a solid base to stand on.

Subject preparations

As well as being aware of their own country's/organization's standpoints, all delegates should have basic knowledge of:

1) The climate issue and international politics

2) The UN

The UN organization, UN's history, mandate, etc. www.un.org

3) International relations

For example the concept of sovereignty, power, goals and means in foreign politics. The relationship between industrial and developing countries, international and supranational cooperation.

4) Diplomacy

Delegation's preparations before the climate negotiations

Each delegate will have access to a role card that outlines the participant's positions and suggestions on the climate issue. Below are suggestions for ways in which the delegation can develop and deepen their role characters.

Basic knowledge about countries and organizations

Since the task is to represent a country or an organization, delegates need to have knowledge of the country or organization in question from several aspects. It is necessary to map out political, geographic, economic and social conditions that are central for an understanding of the participants' positions and proposals as well as their relationship to other participants.

Countries:

- Let the groups study the country's form of government, history, religion, language, minorities, population, social and economic conditions, respect for human rights, demography, geopolitical situation, natural resources, internal and external conflicts, important trade partners, exports/imports, membership of different organizations, the country's foreign policy, military capabilities, diplomatic capability, climate, climate-related problems, carbon dioxide emissions per capita and total emissions for the country, technical development and international reputation.
- Let the students follow news reporting on the country up to the climate meeting, www.irinnews.org

Organizations:

- Let the groups study the organizations' purpose and goals, resources, network, reputation, diplomatic experience, expertise, etc.

Analyze and develop the participants' role cards

A *position paper* is a summary of the opinions and undertakings of a country or organization on the different international questions taken up at the UN conference in question. A position paper is written to enable delegates to quickly determine what their position is on a particular issue. In votes and debates it is important for a delegate to be able to quickly determine his/her position on a question and in such cases a position paper is of great help.

The delegations' role cards work similarly to a position paper that outlines for the participants the positions they should take on the climate issue, suggestions for courses of action and for cooperation and alliances.

Let the students go through the role cards together to:

- Note down and find out the meaning of difficult words, concepts and phenomena.
- Develop and get more into the role's positions and suggestions for courses of action.
- Possibly add additional positions and suggestions for courses of action.

Opening speech

The purpose of the opening speech is for the delegations to get a chance to tell other delegations what issues they regard as the most important ones during the climate negotiations and where the delegations stand in these questions. The opening speech should not last more than two minutes.

Negotiation strategy

Here it is important to form a strategy in order to be as successful as possible:

- Which of the delegation's positions and proposals are most important? Highlight the important arguments that support the proposals and formulate these in proposal for a climate agreement.
- Which of a delegate's positions are negotiable and which positions are non-negotiable?
- Which organizations and countries are potential partners for support or for an alliance?

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)
www.un.org/en/members/

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

How to prepare a position paper:

www.un.org/wcm/content/site/gmun/lang/en/home/delegates/papersguide

Rules of debate and agenda for climate negotiations

The delegations now have some knowledge of the questions that are going to be dealt with during the climate negotiations. They have also read up on their delegations' positions and proposals. The climate negotiations begin with registration and the delegations' opening speeches. After this, lobbying takes place followed by the main negotiations.

Rules of debate

- 1) The delegates ask for permission to speak by raising their hand.
- 2) The chairperson decides who should speak.
- 3) The delegates should begin their speeches with the phrase "Mr. or Ms. Chairperson and honoured delegates".
- 4) The chairperson decides whether the delegates may reply to a statement.
- 5) The chairperson has the right to allow another delegate to speak if a statement takes too long.
- 6) Personal attacks are not allowed.
- 7) The delegates should stick to the agenda.

The agenda of the climate meeting

Step 1: Registration

The role play starts with registration. The delegations are given name tags, information on placing and the agenda.

Step 2: Opening speeches

The chairperson opens the meeting and asks each delegation to hold its opening speech. The delegates have the opportunity to comment on speeches and/or pose questions in order to get answers.

Step 3: Lobbying

The delegations look for support for positions and proposals and create alliances. The delegations try to promote their agendas. At the same time they must be prepared to make compromises and concessions.

Step 4: Main negotiations

The delegates discuss the question of emission reductions and/or adaptation. The chairperson and vice chairperson have the task of leading and moving the negotiations forward.

The goal is for the delegations to work out a consensus decision⁴ on a new climate agreement. If the delegations do not succeed in reaching an agreement, then the final goal of the role play can be for the delegates to have presented their opinions, explanations and arguments for and against the various suggestions.

4. A consensus decision requires the countries to approve the proposal that is put forth for a new climate agreement. If a country does not approve the proposal it is likely that that country will not ratify the agreement. That will lead in turn to a weakening of the climate agreement.

Step 5: Follow up

As a follow-up, the outcome of the Climate Role Play can be discussed.

a) If the group succeeded in reaching a common climate agreement the discussion can focus on the agreement's strengths and what prevented the delegations from reaching a stronger and more complete agreement.

b) If the group did not succeed in reaching an agreement, the discussion can focus on what prevented the delegations from doing so.

Discuss the following questions:

- What was it about your role that limited your efforts to reach an agreement? Was it a question of political, economic, scientific or other issues? Were there any conditions that stood in the way that were possible to change and if so, how?
- What participants were the least flexible and inclined to compromise? What participants were the most flexible?
- What participants made the most constructive proposals? Who made the least constructive proposals?

c) How well does the role play correspond to real-life climate negotiations?

Chairperson and vice chairperson

In order for the debate to function properly it is important that the chairperson and vice chairperson are prepared. Students or teachers can act as chairpersons.

Preparations

The chairperson should prepare himself/herself by going through:

- The role cards to get a better understanding of the participants' positions and proposals.
- The main and secondary issues of the climate negotiations in order to gain a better understanding of them.
- Decide which main questions and sub-questions are going to be debated and present an agenda for the climate meeting.

Task during the climate meeting

The chairperson and vice chairperson should lead the discussion and help to move it forward. They are responsible for steering all the parts of the climate meeting: registration, opening speeches, lobbying and main negotiations.

Step 1: Registration

The chairpersons are responsible for the delegates' name tags, the placing of the delegations and the presentation of the agenda.

Step 2: Opening speeches

The chairperson's task is to let every delegation hold an opening speech. The chairperson should make sure that the delegates do not exceed the time allotted to them. If they do, the chairperson should use the gavel and tell the delegate to finish his/her speech. If the delegate does not do so, the chairperson can interrupt him/her despite the fact that the speech is not finished.

Step 3: Lobbying

The chairperson's task is to facilitate the delegates' work and be available to answer their questions. To facilitate lobbying the chairperson should have insight into the different delegations' positions and proposals and encourage alliances and cooperation.

Step 4: Main negotiations

The chairperson's task is to lead the negotiations and to move them forward. The chairperson should divide the speaking time in a fair way and make sure that as many delegations as possible are allowed to speak. The chairperson can use various methods for moving the debate forward:

- Breaking down the main questions into sub-questions
- Repeating and clarifying positions and proposals raised by delegates
- Freezing negotiations (breaking off the negotiations and temporarily suspending the role play) to work out difficulties
- Summarizing negotiations and calling attention to proposals that could become a part of a new climate agreement
- Stimulating negotiations through issuing policy statements and press releases

Policy statements

The chairpersons can challenge every delegation to write down their opinion on an issue and then give a brief 30 second statement. This is a good way to force participants to take positions so that they do not sit through the negotiations without saying anything. Often, delegates are forced to formulate an opinion on a specific issue for the country they represent.

Press releases

The chairperson can use press releases to put delegations through special challenges during the ongoing negotiations. The press release can force delegates to react to a crisis scenario, for example a serious accident at a nuclear power plant. The delegations' task is then to react to the crisis and possibly change certain positions or proposals.

Press releases

During ongoing negotiations, delegations can be faced with special challenges through a crisis scenario presented in the form of a press release. One example might be a food supply crisis. The delegations' task is to react to the crisis and possibly change certain positions or proposals. The purpose of this type of disruption to the negotiations can be:

- To let students use their knowledge of their role under new circumstances.
- To fuel the debate.
- To integrate new questions.
- To widen and change perspectives.

The following are four examples of press releases that describe realistic but fictional crisis scenarios. You can of course write your own press releases with current examples.

Financial crises – A press release on the financial crises

Dear delegates.

The world is on the brink of a financial crisis. A large number of misguided investments, made by various listed companies in one of the world's largest countries, have paved the way for the crisis to spread all over the world. We already have seen that large national banks and investment firms have gone into bankruptcy or have been saved by being bought up by a larger company or nationalized by the countries' governments.

In connection with the widening of the financial crisis, it is becoming more difficult for both individual citizens and companies to get loans. To bring in additional funds, banks raise interest rates and it is thus more expensive to have an existing loan or to take out a new one. In the wake of the financial crisis there is unemployment. Many jobs are lost when companies and institutions cannot get loans to make investments and maintain their businesses during a crisis. In certain countries, the financial crisis has had such a large impact that the ruling party has been forced to leave office.

The UN encourages all delegates to consult their fellow countrymen to analyze what the consequences of the financial crisis will be for your country. We also encourage you to discuss the country's future actions in respect of the climate from the perspective of the current financial crisis.

The general assembly will meet again in 20 minutes to listen to a short statement from all countries.

Food supply crises – A press release on a food supply crisis

Dear Delegates,

The world is on the brink of a food supply crisis. After record harvests around the world in 2008, 2009 is expected to be a substantially worse year for crops. The consequences of climate change have started to have an effect and harvests on continents around the world have been affected by drought or increased precipitation and flooding.

After a long period of relatively stable food prices, the prices of grains, raw materials and farming land began to rise in 2003. In recent years we have seen large swings in the prices of wheat, corn, rice and soya. Large price swings create insecurity among the world's farmers and lead to a situation where many of them hesitate to use their farming land to its fullest capacity.

Climate adaptation has increased the demand for bio-fuels and led to a change in farming production. Land which was previously used for farming is now being used for fast growing energy forests ready to be converted into, for example, wood pellets for use in heating. Some of the world's leading producers of wheat now cultivate wheat for producing ethanol for fuel instead of food. The world's nations must work together to secure access to food for all people – in the light of climate change this is one of the greatest challenge we face. Estimates tell us that about 850 million people suffer from hunger today – of these about 820 million live in developing countries. So it is developing countries that are going to be most negatively affected by climate change.

The UN encourages all delegates to get together with their fellow countrymen in order to analyze what consequences the food supply crisis will have specifically for their countries. We encourage you to also discuss your country's future climate responses from the perspective of the prevailing food supply crisis.

The general assembly will meet again in 20 minutes to listen to a short statement from all countries.

Flooding – A press release on flooding

Dear delegates,

The world has been hit by a major natural disaster. The rising average temperature has caused increased precipitation in some parts of the world at the same time as other parts experience drought. After a period of extreme precipitation, Southern Asia has experienced extreme flooding. Housing has been washed away by the flood waters and the disaster has been exacerbated by landslides. Hundreds of thousands of people are now homeless and lack of food is prevalent throughout the area since harvests and food supplies have been destroyed by the floods.

The floods, which are the worst in years, have resulted in the deaths of 900 people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal and the number is expected to rise.

Humanitarian efforts from the rest of the world are needed to prevent the situation from getting even worse. The poor sanitary conditions result in stomach and intestinal sicknesses. The floods also cause a shortage of clean drinking water. The stagnant pools of water are also excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes which can later be carriers of malaria and Dengue Fever. Health care in some villages is reportedly within a couple of days of collapse if no relief arrives.

The UN encourages all delegates to get together with their fellow countrymen in order to analyze what consequences future natural disasters and flooding will have specifically for their countries. We encourage you to also discuss your country's future climate responses from the perspective of the prevailing natural disaster.

The general assembly will meet again in 20 minutes to listen to a short statement from all countries.

Energy disaster – A press release on the energy disaster

Dear delegates,

The world has been struck by a major disaster. Approximately 45 minutes ago a nuclear reactor in central Europe exploded. A large amount of nuclear fuel was vaporized in a nuclear meltdown at the plant. The explosions blew away the roof and other parts of the reactor structure. Radioactive substances, mostly cesium-137 and iodine-131, spread over large parts of Europe. Several hundred thousand people are being evacuated at this very moment. According to estimates, several hundred thousand people have received doses of radiation well over normal limits. Large areas of agricultural land will be unusable. The disaster is a deathblow for all nations that see nuclear power as an alternative to fossil fuels for supplying their countries with energy.

The UN encourages all delegates to get together with their fellow countrymen in order to analyze what consequences future disasters such as the explosion of a nuclear power plant will have specifically for their countries. We encourage you to also discuss your country's future energy policy from the perspective of the present disaster.

The general assembly will meet again in 20 minutes to listen to a short statement from all countries.

Material and link list

There is a great deal of material that deals with the climate issue from different perspectives. This is a selection of sources that can be used by both teachers and students. For sources in Swedish, see the Swedish version of the climate role play.

The material is organized under 5 headings:

- 1. Climate, development and human rights**
- 2. Climate and international politics**
- 3. The UN, individual nations and other participants in international climate politics**
- 4. Educational material**
- 5. Films**

1. Climate, development and human rights

- The climate-related work of Sida. www.sida.se
- The climate-related work of Oxfam. www.oxfam.org
- Summary of Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world (2007), Stockholm.
http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_20072008_Summary_English.pdf
- Humanitarian news and analysis. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
www.irinnews.org
- Children in a changing climate is a cooperative effort by several international aid organizations and research institutes with the purpose of promoting the perspective of children and youth in the climate issue. www.childreninachangingclimate.org
- A right to participate: Securing children's role in climate change adaptation. Children in a changing climate (2008). www.childreninachangingclimate.org/docs/right_to_participate.pdf
- Climate change and children, a human security challenge, UNICEF (2008).
www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/climate_change.pdf
- Our Climate, our children, our responsibility. The implications of climate change for the world's children UNICEF (2008). www.crin.org/docs/climate-change.pdf
- In the Face of Disaster. International Save the Children Alliance.
www.savethechildren.net/alliance/media/newsdesk/2008-06-30.html
- Climate change, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. www.preventionweb.net
- Gapminder strives to increase the use and understanding of statistics and other information on social, economic, and environmental development at the local, national and global level. Gapminder was founded and developed by, among others, Professor Hans Rosling of Karolinska Institute. www.gapminder.org
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child www.unicef.org/crc/

2. Climate and international politics

- The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC. www.ipcc.ch
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, is an initiative by the UN to try to lessen global warming. Within the framework of the UNFCCC the world's nations meet and negotiate on emission reductions. www.unfccc.int
- UNFCCC glossary <http://tiny.cc/downwithjargon>

- The UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, a summary of the different countries' positions for the climate meeting in Poznan in 2008, UNFCCC. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/awglca4/eng/16r01.pdf>
- Sweden has accepted 16 goals of environment. www.miljomal.nu
- Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI. www.sei.se

3. The UN, individual nations and other participants in international climate politics

- The UN. www.un.org
- The CIA world factbook. www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html
- The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches) www.un.org/en/members/
- The countries' opening speeches at the UN general assembly 2008. www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate
- BLICC – Business Leaders Initiative for Climate Change. www.blicc.se
- Confederation of Swedish Enterprise. www.svensktnaringsliv.se/english
- The International Chamber of Commerce. The World Business Organization. www.icc.se
- The European Union. www.europa.eu
- The European Union Delegation to the UN. www.europa-eu-un.org
- The Group of 77 – G77. www.g77.org
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC. www.opec.org
- Alliance of Small Island States, AOSIS. www.sidsnet.org/aosis
- Climate Justice Now. www.climatejustice.blogspot.com
- Climate Action Network. www.climatenetwork.org
- The African Union. www.au.int

4. Educational material

- Calculate your ecological footprint, WWF. <http://www.panda.org>
- www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/in-english/climate/
- *Climate Diplomat Post-2012 Climate Negotiation Simulation*. A web based educational material with instructions for climate role play and background to the climate issue. eeocw.org/environmental-negotiation/climate-diplomat-post-2012-climate-negotiation

5. Films

- *Children on the frontline*, the Philippines and El Salvador. These films by Plan show how children in the Philippines and El Salvador are effective communicators of risk and drivers of change in their communities.
- *An Inconvenient Truth*. The award winning film with Al Gore, 2006.
- *The Planet*. Documentary film on environmental issues, released in 2006. Produced by SVT.
- *The Gathering Storm - Africa* and *The Gathering Storm - Asia*, several short films on the negative effects of the climate change in African and Asian countries produced by IRIN, Humanitarian news and analysis, The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme. www.irinnews.org/film

China

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed Chinese name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

China has one of the world's oldest existing cultures but is also a country undergoing rapid change. The country has over 1.3 billion inhabitants of whom many live in poverty but it is also one of the world's fastest growing economies. Income is very unevenly distributed in the country. China is one of the most active participants in the G77 coalition.

Important standpoints

The Climate Convention's *principle of common but differentiated responsibility* is of the utmost importance for China. The principle highlights the responsibility of industrial countries for emissions historically, as well as the fact that per capita consumption is many times greater in industrial countries compared to developing countries. In addition, measures to fight poverty in the country are given higher priority than the climate issue. One of China's most important goals is the right to reach the same standard of living as in the western world.

There is an inherent conflict in the climate issue in China. The overall principles of the domestic policy in the country are social stability and economic development. At the same time Chinese foreign policy is characterized by efforts to maintain its global reputation and integrity. For China climate policy is, therefore, a balancing act between not losing economic development momentum while being considered a responsible nation.

Background

China wants to participate in the international climate negotiations since the country wishes to:

- Increase its integration with the international community
- Attain a more environmentally friendly development
- Improve energy security by modifying its great dependence on coal and oil

China has not made public any international goals it strives towards in terms of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions but it participates in climate negotiations. It has, however, presented a relatively ambitious national climate policy.

China is the world's second largest consumer of energy (after the USA) and the world's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. This is related to the fact that the country is the most populous in the world with about one fifth of the world's total population. Economic development is important for fighting poverty in the country. Since China's economic development is threatened by a shortage of energy, the country is focusing on energy-saving measures and on the development of nuclear energy to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. Currently, 70 percent of the energy China uses comes from coal and the importance of coal is expected to remain significant even if the country invests substantially in energy efficiency, the development of renewable energy and nuclear power. Even optimistic forecasts expect fossil fuels to represent most energy production in the year 2050. Limitations in the availability of energy can not only affect the country's development but also increase the risk of social unrest.

Emission reductions

The country maintains its earlier position that, historically, it is the industrialized nations that are responsible for the largest emissions. China believes that they should therefore take the greatest responsibility. China believes that industrialized countries should be able to meet a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 with 1990 as base year. In addition China wishes that the industrialized countries should donate at least 0.5 to 1 percent of their GDP to the climate measures taken by developing countries. China believes that internationally binding emission reductions should not be imposed on developing countries in a new climate protocol. Developing countries should instead adopt voluntary NAMAs (National Appropriate Mitigation Actions) at the national level.

China has accordingly a tough negotiating line. For China's strategy to be credible, the country already needs to make efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions. In the strategy for Climate Change, which was released in 2007, China put up three measurable main targets for controlling emissions of greenhouse gases:

- to reduce energy consumption compared to GDP (also known as reducing energy intensity), by 20 percent by 2010, with 2005 as base year.
- to increase the share of renewable energy (including nuclear) to ten percent by 2010.
- to increase forest cover from 18.2 to 20 percent of the country's area by 2010.

China will, from 2005 to the first half of 2009, have reduced its energy intensity by almost 13.5 percent. The improvements were initially slow but have accelerated. The financial crisis is one of the reasons for reduced energy consumption. The share of renewable energy in the country's energy mix was 8.9 percent in 2008. According to some official Chinese statements, progress to meet targets looks promising. A majority believes that the country will manage to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix without any problem.

In the international climate negotiations that deal with future climate goals it has been discussed that industrial countries can have 25-40 percent emission reductions by 2020 as a short-term goal and a long-term goal can be 80-95 percent reductions compared to 1990 levels. The EU has put forth the idea that developing countries can, as a group, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020, while recognizing that certain developing countries' needs for development can involve a temporary increase in emissions of greenhouse gases for a limited period of time. China has opposed long-term climate targets that include developing countries. There has however been a national discussion on developing a Chinese trading system for emission rights. A development of a trading system for emission rights is not a realistic goal in the near future.

Deforestation

The country has set a goal of increasing its forested area from 18.2 percent (in the year 2005) to 20 percent of the country's surface area by the year 2010. The increase in the forested area in the country is making slow progress and has only risen to about 18.3 percent. Efforts to increase the number of carbon sinks in the country have become more difficult due to, for example, natural disasters (the Sichuan earthquake, floods, etc.). Even though China has extensive forest planting, there are problems of desertification in northern China. Due to previous large scale deforestation China has a relatively small amount of forested areas in relation to its population.

Adaptation

Adaptation is especially important for China since it is expected to be severely affected by global warming. Lately, China has strived to give the process of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as high priority as efforts to adapt society to climate change. Adaptation means among other things preventing the spreading of deserts, increasing the effectiveness of agricultural irrigation, expanding the protected nature reserves and trying to prevent future flooding by improving infrastructure.

China and the G77 are of the opinion that UNFCCC has to establish an adaptation committee for climate change with a majority of members coming from developing countries. Included in the assignment to the committee, there should also be the establishment of regional adaptation networks or centres in vulnerable regions in developing countries.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

China has been cautious towards the flexible Clean Development Mechanism, CDM, for a long period of time. China thinks that the CDM projects are too small in scale to meet the needs of the country when it comes to technology transfer. A reform of the CDM mechanism is therefore desired in the future.

Today a number of projects called Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS-projects, are underway in China. These are cooperation projects with, for example, the EU. It may be mentioned that Chinese companies are already on the technological forefront in some CCS technologies, but that China as a country lags behind in the use of carbon storage. At the plants which are running, it has been possible to use captured carbon dioxide, for example in the food industry as carbon dioxide in beverages.

China and the G77 have put forward a proposal for a new mechanism to develop and spread climate-smart technology. The proposal is a climate technology fund, Multilateral Technology Acquisition Fund, MTAF, which will finance all activities and projects that the mechanism approves. The climate technology fund will be financed by the fund that China and the G77 have proposed (see under Financing below). China stresses the importance of international research and development cooperation in the area of technology. China sees itself as a potential leader in a future world market for environmental technology.

Financing

In August 2008, China and the G77 presented a proposal for creating a financing fund. The fund would be financed by funds from the GDP of donor countries. According to the proposal, the donor countries' contribution should be equivalent to 0.5-1 per cent of their GDP and the contribution should be separate from any budget the donor countries have already set aside for aid. Most of the financing would not have any requirement for repayment by the recipients. The proposal also implies that donor countries cannot count their contribution as a part of their existing aid budget; instead the fund should be separate from other financing commitments.

In October, 2008 China explained that developing countries are prepared to meet the climate threat but that industrial countries must take their responsibility by contributing 1 percent of GDP to financing technology transfer and other efforts in developing countries. The proposal has been commented on by industrial countries but the reaction has been cool.

Alliances

China is a member of G77, a coalition with roots in the mid 1960s when it was formed as a platform to promote the agenda of developing countries in the UN. China is a very active member of G77 when it comes to climate negotiations. Other important cooperative efforts they are involved in are the G8 and the G5 groups. The G8 consists of the world's largest economies and the G5 is a group of the five largest growing economies (China, Brazil, India, South Africa and Mexico). The relationship between India and China is very important and the countries conduct informal climate discussions with each other. Of importance here is that the two countries are geographically close to each other and have a similar situation with regard to economic growth and population development. From China's perspective it is also important that India takes a more uncompromising stance on the climate issue thereby freeing China from having to take that position alone. China has to struggle harder to keep the G77 coalition together in the climate debate. Pressure on the country comes from both outside and inside the G77. Island nations and poorer countries feel that China should make more commitments in respect of climate action than it is willing to do. Rumour has it that China is conducting negotiations with the USA in an attempt to reach an agreement outside the framework of the UNFCCC.

Role profile/character

The members of the Chinese delegation have a key role in the climate negotiations. China, together with India, will to a great extent set the tone of the negotiations. You know that China has played a very small role, historically and in per capita terms, in the now threatening process of climate change and you react accordingly. You are unwilling to enter into commitments on emission reductions until the industrial countries have shown results. At all times, you emphasize your country's right to develop. The rhetoric of the Chinese delegation has evolved to putting an increasing focus on the historical debt of industrialized countries.

Source:

ITPS, the Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies, The Development of Climate Politics in India, Japan, China and the USA, 2008, as well as Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology transfer.

www.ccchina.gov.cn/WebSite/CCChina/UpFile/File370.pdf

Tillväxtanalys, Mål och strategier för minskad klimatpåverkan i Kina, Indien och USA, 2009.

www.tillvaxtanalys.se (source in Swedish)

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

India

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed Indian name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

India is a country which is rich in natural resources, fertile land and long coastlines. Despite this, India is on the list of the 40 poorest countries in the world. The distribution of incomes is very unequal and there is a growing middle class with high incomes. The population of the country is just below 1.2 billion people.

Important standpoints

To India, the Climate Convention's *principle of common but differentiated responsibility* is of utmost importance. India emphasizes that the industrial countries have a historical responsibility for emissions and that their consumption per capita today is many times that of developing countries. India also stresses that their right to development must be respected in the climate negotiations. The country has not made official any international goals that they are working towards regarding emissions of greenhouse gases.

India's positions for the forthcoming climate negotiations are:

- Industrial countries must keep their commitments on reducing carbon dioxide emissions before developing countries begin to discuss setting up their own commitments on limiting emissions. India refers here to those countries that have not fulfilled the commitments they made in the Kyoto Protocol.
- All the earth's citizens have the right to development. The goal for India is for emissions of carbon dioxide per capita to be equal throughout the whole world. India's per capita emissions are currently 1/5 of the global average and just 1/25 of the US level.
- The country has an energy deficit that has to be corrected if the economic growth that the country has experienced recently is to continue.
- The transfer of technology is important and the country emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in research and access to patents.
- The country's officials state that the cost of adapting to a changing climate is going to be much more expensive than expected.

Background

Energy is climate politics in India. To understand India's climate change policies you need to know the political energy situation. Currently, India is the 5th largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. India's emissions are expected to rise dramatically up to the year 2030. India is expected to be the world's 3rd largest producer of emissions during the years from 2015 to 2030. India will continue to be strongly dependent on fossil fuels, above all coal, for the next 20 years. One of India's greatest challenges is to secure the country's energy supply. Currently the country has an energy deficit. At the national level India is attempting to take steps to save energy as well as to develop a larger mix of energy sources in which fossil fuels will be phased out and nuclear power and renewable energy sources phased in. Despite this, it is predicted that India will be dependent on fossil fuels, primarily coal, for a long time to come.

Today the country's energy sources primarily consist of coal (51%) and oil (36%). When it comes to India's production of electricity, coal accounts for 70 percent. The demand for electricity is expected to increase by 8-10 percent per year up to 2020. Nuclear power is likely to gain a strong position in India. The country has signed agreements with France, Russia and the USA to supply nuclear power plants, as well as with a number of states (especially Russia) for the supply of uranium. Nuclear power is part of what India sees as a "green" solution to its energy problems.

Emission reductions

In the international climate negotiations that concern future climate goals, it has been discussed that industrial countries can have a 25-40 percent emission reduction target by 2020 as a short-term goal and a final goal by 2050 of an 80-95 percent reduction compared to 1990 levels. The EU has put forth the idea that developing countries can, as a group, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 while recognizing that certain developing countries' needs for development can involve a temporary increase in emissions of greenhouse gases for a limited period of time. The country has made demands for a long time in respect of differentiated responsibilities, and no international monitoring of national activities. India's position that all steps to reduce greenhouse gases should be financed internationally has resulted in a blocking and negative image of India.

The country points out that many of the countries that have committed themselves to emission reductions in line with the Kyoto Protocol have instead actually increased their level of emissions. There has also been an increase in greenhouse gas emissions per capita. India conducts extensive climate work at the national level. Since the Indian economy is threatened by a lack of energy, the country chooses to focus on steps to save energy and on developing nuclear power to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. India is also examining new technologies for extraction, incineration and power generation.

Deforestation

India's national plan of action includes building carbon sinks by replanting forests. There are large areas of underutilized land available for planting. However, India has already tried planting forests. This was under the name "social forestry" during the 1980s and 1990s but the results were poor.

Adaptation

India is vulnerable since climate change is expected to have a negative impact on the country's economic and social development and make the fight against poverty more difficult. India believes that a plan for the financing of adaptation measures must be established and that the level of funding must be adequate and predictable to make planning easier. One proposal is that 2 percent of the funds in the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM, can go to the Adaptation Fund. India is interested in the EU proposal that a certain percentage of the income for emission trading should go to the Adaptation Fund.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

India's interest in projects in *Carbon Capture and Storage* (CSS) has been weak. Projects in CCS are being carried out in India today but India would rather not be in the role of test subject for such a new technology. India has most projects in the world within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism, CDM. By June, 2008 there were already 533 registered projects in renewable energy and 303 projects focused on energy efficiency within the framework of CDM in India. India believes that the existence of strong patent protection rules prevents the transfer of technology and it stresses the importance of international research and development cooperation in the area of technology. India sees itself as a potential leader in the future world market for environmental technology.

Financing

In August 2008, the G77 presented a proposal for creating a financing fund. The fund would be financed by funds from GDP of donor countries. According to the proposal, the donor countries' contribution should be a percentage of their GDP and the contribution should be separate from any budget the donor countries already have set aside for aid. Most of the financing for the recipient would not have any requirements for repayment. The proposal would also stipulate that donor countries cannot regard their contribution as a part of already committed aid funds; instead the fund should be separate from other financing commitments. The suggestion has been commented by industrial countries but the reaction has been cool.

Alliances

India is a member of G77, an alliance with roots in the mid-1960s when it was formed as a platform to promote the agenda of developing countries in the UN. India is a very active member of G77 when it comes to climate negotiations. Other important cooperative efforts are the G8 and the G5. The G8 is a group of the world's largest economies and the G5 consists of the five largest growing economies (China, Brazil, India, South Africa and Mexico). The relationship between China and India is very important and the countries conduct informal climate discussions with each other. Of importance here is that the two countries are geographically close to each other with a similar situation with regard to economic growth and population development. From India's perspective it is also important that China takes a more uncompromising stance on climate questions. This would mean that India would not have to take this position alone. India is reluctant to enter into commitments for emission reductions until the USA and China do so since these countries account for a greater amount of emissions than India. India refers to the fact that the USA accounts for 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gases even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population.

Role profile/character

The members of the Indian delegation have a key role in the climate negotiations. You, together with China, will set the tone of the negotiations to a high degree. You know that your country has played a very small role, historically and in per capita terms, in the now threatening process of climate change and you react accordingly. You are unwilling to enter into commitments on emission reductions until the industrial countries have shown results. You argue with a certain degree of aggressiveness and always emphasize your country's right to develop.

Source:

ITPS, the Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies, The Development of Climate Politics in India, Japan, China and the USA, 2008 www.itps.se

Tillväxtanalys, Mål och strategier för minskad klimatpåverkan i Kina, Indien och USA, 2009. www.tillvaxtanalys.se (source in Swedish)

Tips for further study

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The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008. www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Japan

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed Japanese name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Japan is a nation made up of islands and is one of the world's most densely populated countries. Japan is one of the world's leading countries economically and technologically.

Important standpoints

As a requirement for an international climate agreement Japan, together with the USA, proposed that all the world's leading economies, including China and India, must guarantee their commitment to emission reductions. However, China and India have firmly refused to make any commitments before the USA takes it upon itself to reduce emissions. The rationale behind this is that the USA is responsible for 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions but only has 5 percent of the world's population. Japan has a great faith in technology and market-based solutions for solving the climate problem.

Common goals

Japan thinks that all countries should adopt a long-term goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50 percent. However, they do not suggest which year this 50 percent reduction should be based on.

Background

From the EU's perspective, Japan was a key country in the question of ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. Japan's decision to ratify the protocol in the summer of 2001 was met with great appreciation. Japan was given one of the largest greenhouse gas emission reductions – 6 percent in relation to 1990 by the year 2012. Japan has received international criticism since the country may not fulfil its climate commitment. This sends the wrong signals since Japan is working towards getting developing countries to enter into commitments on future emission reductions.

Japan has worked with energy efficiency for a long time in order to, among other things, reduce its dependence on oil. The Japanese government has demanded that industries should increase their energy efficiency in both the industrial and service sectors and this has shown results. Companies over a certain size must have a plan for their energy usage and report to the government. The country sees nuclear energy as an important part of its future energy supply.

Emission reductions

Japan's goal is to take a leading role in climate negotiations. The country's climate policies are influenced much more by the direction in which the US government is moving than by the national debate. Japan has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and by 2012 it should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent compared to 1990 levels. The country is going to have difficulties in reaching the goal set by the Kyoto Protocol since emissions during the period 1990 to 2005 have instead increased by 7.8 percent. Japan believes that all countries with high greenhouse gas emissions, both developed and developing countries, should adopt similar emission reduction commitments. The country has a proposal that involves a reduction in emissions of 25 percent

by 2020 (with 1990 as base year) and a long-term goal of emission reductions of 80 percent by 2050, also with 1990 as base year. Japan believes that the voluntary commitments for developing countries with low greenhouse gas emissions are inadequate, but that these countries do not have to have absolute targets for emission reductions.

In Japan, a discussion is underway on implementing an obligatory national trading system for emission rights and/or an environmental tax. A trading system for emission rights was tested during the autumn of 2008. Japan's environmental department hopes that the system can become obligatory by 2010-2011 and that the country's system can be linked to other countries' trading systems. Japan has a strong belief in market-based solutions. Japan, together with the USA, questions how a climate agreement might affect the ability of its industries to compete.

Adaptation

Japan is interested in cooperating in efforts to adapt to climate change in developing countries as well as in Japan.

Deforestation

Japan plans to reach their commitments in the Kyoto Protocol with the help of *Clean Development Mechanism* projects, CDM, and with carbon sinks such as planting new forests. Of the 6 percent reduction in greenhouse gases, carbon sinks are expected to account for 3.9 percent.

Japan is a country with an interest in the global availability of forest and the country has no need to prevent the global conversion of forest to pasture and agricultural land. The country demands that developing countries individually indicate their definition of forest so that Japan can act accordingly. A common definition and plan, such as REDD, *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*, makes it difficult for the country to pursue its interests. REDD has the effect that countries should receive credit for reducing emissions by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation. It provides a way for countries with large forest areas to absorb the huge amounts of carbon stored in forests. The proposal should result in developing countries becoming actively engaged in decreasing the felling of their forests.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

After Great Britain, Japan is the largest financier of the Clean Development Mechanism, CDM. Japanese companies finance about 20 percent of the project. Japanese companies are also investing heavily in technology related to *Carbon Capture and Storage*, CSS. The investments are mostly aimed at future export markets since Japan's geology is not suitable for the technology. In addition to CCS, Japan is also investing in the field of solar cell technology and hybrid technology for motor vehicles. A goal for solar cell technology is to increase use by ten times by 2020, and by 40 times by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. In addition, 70 percent of all newly-produced houses will be equipped with solar cells. Regarding motor vehicle technology, the goal is to increase the percentage of cars with new technology (hybrid, hydrogen, electricity, clean diesel or gas) from the current 2 percent to 50 percent by the year 2020.

Japan has a great deal of faith in the power of innovative technology. Japan plans to invest 30 billion in the field of new technology during the next 5 years. Japan is open to increased international research and development cooperation in the climate field. Japan, like the US and the EU, opposes the view that strong patent protection hinders technology transfer.

Alliances

Japan is a member of the so-called Umbrella Group together with the USA, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Norway, Iceland and Russia. Members have some positions in common but nevertheless they act on the basis of their own national agendas. In other words, Japan cannot count on automatic support from Umbrella Group members. Historically, Japan has a close relationship with Australia and the USA regarding the climate negotiations, but feels betrayed by the United States when the USA did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Japan will not sign a future climate agreement unless the United States, China and India do so as well.

Role profile/character

The Japanese delegation has great faith in climate-smart technology and they believe that their country is going to reduce emissions with the help of technology transfer and innovation. Japan as a country believes in the power of industry and business to positively contribute to climate-smart technology. You participate actively in the negotiations and whenever you get the chance you lobby for increased international cooperation in research and development of climate-related technology.

Source:

ITPS, the Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies, The Development of Climate Politics in India, Japan, China and the USA, 2008 www.itps.se

Tillväxtanalys, Mål och strategier för minskad klimatpåverkan i Kina, Indien och USA, 2009. www.tillvaxtanalys.se (source in Swedish)

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The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008. www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

USA

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed American name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

The USA is one of the countries that emits most greenhouse gases and has one of the largest emissions per capita. It is the third most populous country in the world. The USA is a superpower with a leading position in respect of economic and military power.

Important standpoints

The USA is one of the countries that has chosen not to ratify the Kyoto Protocols and has been regarded for a long time as one of the major obstacles to reaching agreement on a climate change. The appointment of President Barack Obama has brought a radically changed approach to US energy and climate policy, both nationally and internationally. As early as during the election campaign, Obama emphasized his intention to change the country's energy and climate policy through the introduction of a national trading system for greenhouse gases and extensive investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, etc.

After the financial crisis, these types of efforts have also been directly linked to the ability to create new so-called green jobs as a counterweight to rising unemployment. The Obama administration also believes that global warming can be fought while the country's economic growth continues. It advocates so-called sustainable growth. The administration focuses on the issue of energy where the goal is to achieve greater energy independence and supply security. The United States demands that an international climate agreement must guarantee emission reduction commitments from all the leading economies – including India and China. China and India have firmly refused to enter into any commitments before the USA does so, on the grounds that the USA accounts for 20 percent of world greenhouse gas emissions even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population.

Background

USA's economy has been built up with the aid of fossil fuels. Today the country is the world's largest producer, consumer and net importer of energy. Even if the USA has been oppositional in the climate issue internationally, there are national efforts underway in the US Congress to implement an obligatory national system for greenhouse gas emission trading. The work of Congress on trade and emissions focuses very little on the possibility of linking the USA system to the trading systems developed in other countries. One reason for this is that it is complex enough in the USA to design a national system that can reconcile differing desires and get it accepted by a majority in the Congress. In addition, there have already been problems in linking a future national emission trading system with the regional system already under development or in place. Another important reason is that a linkage to the EU trading system would most likely mean higher prices for emission allowances. Another reason for the American lack of interest in linking is its desire to control the system.

Emission reductions

The USA is perhaps the country that has the highest expectations of future climate negotiations. The USA administration, with President Barack Obama in the lead, has presented a plan for emission reductions in three steps. The first target is a decrease of 17 percent from 2005 to 2020, and then a 30 percent decrease shall be reached by 2025. By 2050, the hope is that emissions should be reduced by 83 percent compared to the 2005 level. One criticism of the USA is that it has chosen to use 2005 as the base year. Compared with 1990 levels, which most countries are using as their base year, the decrease in step one would be no more than four percent.

Deforestation

The USA emphasizes carbon sinks, land usage and deforestation as central areas for future climate negotiations.

Adaptation

The USA is interested in participating in climate-related adaptation measures in developing countries as well as at the national level.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

In the USA the country's economic growth and energy supply is of greatest importance. To reduce the country's vulnerability, investments are being made to improve energy efficiency and domestic energy sources. The country invests heavily in alternative fuels as a way of reducing its dependence on oil. US state laws requiring that a certain percentage of electricity should be produced from renewable energy have contributed to the rapid development of renewable electricity. A law which is supposed to benefit the production of alternative fuels has been implemented at the national level. The law contains the requirement that a certain percentage of fuel use should come from alternative fuels, the so-called "Renewable Fuel Standards". In addition, there are different forms of tax subsidies for ethanol in the production and distribution chain as well as tariffs on imported fuels. One goal is that, within 10 years, 20 percent of the country's fuel should come from alternative fuels. The country has great hopes of cellulose-based ethanol and one goal is for the method to be commercially viable by 2012.

A large proportion of the world's coal reserves are found in the USA, and a large proportion of the country's electricity is produced by coal. For this reason a new technology for clean coal use is a high priority and considerable resources are being put into research in this area. The country is very interested in *Carbon Capture and Storage*, CSS, and a number of small projects testing CSS are planned. The USA considers nuclear power to be a significant part of future energy supply. Other important methods for renewable energy are bio-fuels, solar energy, wind power and hydrogen fuel cells.

The USA has a great deal of faith in technological and market-based solutions to the climate issue. The country is open to increased international research and development cooperation in the climate field. The USA, like Japan and the EU, opposes the position that strong patent protection hinders technology transfer.

Financing

The USA is opposed to the funds under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. They want control over what the finance will be used for and how. The USA is one of the countries that initiated the *Clean Investment Funds* (CIF) that are administered by the World Bank. The USA also emphasizes the importance of market-based solutions and private investments.

Alliances

The USA is a member of the so-called Umbrella Group together with Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Norway, Iceland, Russia and the Ukraine. The countries have certain positions in common but they act on the basis of their own national agendas. In other words, the USA cannot count on automatic support from other Umbrella Group countries. Historically, the USA has had a close relationship with Australia and Japan in climate negotiations. Rumour has it that the USA is conducting negotiations with China in an attempt to reach an agreement outside the UNFCCC.

Role profile/character

As a delegate of one of the world's richest and most powerful countries you know that your participation in negotiations is required in order to reach a new climate agreement. You also know that opinions in the USA on climate change are strongly divided. You stress the importance of cooperation but are careful not to make any promises or make concrete proposals. You are conscious that the USA, both historically and today, accounts for a large percentage of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, you are not prepared to restrict your country to any commitments as long as countries such as India and China are not included in the agreement.

Source:

ITPS, the Swedish Institute for Growth Policy Studies, *The Development of Climate Politics in India, Japan, China and the USA*, 2008 www.itps.se

Tillväxtanalys, *Mål och strategier för minskad klimatpåverkan i Kina, Indien och USA*, 2009. www.tillvaxtanalys.se (source in Swedish)

Tips for further study

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The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008. www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Australia

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed Australian name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Australia is a country with a population of 19.2 million spread across the world's largest island which is also the world's smallest continent. The country has large exports of steel and livestock such as beef and lamb.

Important standpoints

Australia accounts for only 1.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions so the country is of the opinion that a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Australia has less importance compared with the largest emitters such as China and India. However, Australia has one of the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the world. Australia's position is that, in order to slow down climate change, it is of the utmost importance that all countries with high emissions are included in a climate agreement on emission reductions.

In the climate negotiations Australia's goal is to reach an international agreement:

- equal to the request that the concentration of greenhouse gases should not exceed 450 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents.
- where the greenhouse gas emissions should reach a global emissions peak before 2020.
- which includes, for example, carbon sinks (*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*, REDD).
- which includes large developing country commitments that reduce their emission levels over time which will give slower growth. Developing countries should agree to a joint commitment of at least 20 percent below the business-as-usual scenario by 2020. Each large developing country should also individually specify the year when the country will reach its emission peak.
- which provides a global treaty that will mobilize substantial financial resources – including funds from major developing countries – which will result in a fully functioning global carbon market.

Background

Australia first ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2007. Australia's Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, accepted the protocol after only holding the office of prime minister for a few hours. The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol means that the country must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent in relation to 1990 levels. A future global climate treaty should, according to Australia, include similar emission reduction measures for all rich countries and should get all the large economies (including developing countries such as China and India) to drastically curb their emissions. Australia is also working to ensure that many other countries reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. After Kevin Rudd took office as Prime Minister, Australia was expected to play an active role in international climate negotiations. However, the expectations that arose after the signing of the Kyoto Protocol have not been met. Australia has not reacted with the forcefulness that Rudd showed when he first took office in 2007. Australia and the USA have a close relationship in climate negotiations.

Emission Reductions

In December 2009, just before the Copenhagen Climate Conference, the Australian Parliament rejected a law for a significant reduction in greenhouse gases. This represents a setback for the country's Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, who had hoped to go to the climate meeting with a promise of a 25 percent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared to levels in the year 2000. The government has not given up and will try again to get the bill approved.

The Australian Government is willing to adopt a target of reduction in emissions by 25 percent as part of an international climate agreement, which means that the concentration of greenhouse gases should not exceed 450 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents. Before the industrial era the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere was 280 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents. The Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, and other researchers estimates that carbon dioxide concentration should not exceed 350 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents – in combination with modest levels of other greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxides. The recommendation of the Scientific Council on Climate Change to the Swedish government is that the goal should be 400 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents in the atmosphere (source: www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/08/69/66/fd457e80.pdf).

Deforestation

The government aims to encourage the country's farmers to adopt sustainable farming methods that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create carbon sinks. Australia often points out that it still has a large number of people immigrating to the country and it has to cut down forests to get more land for agriculture.

Adaptation

Australia is a country that already suffers from what can be seen as consequences of climate change and it therefore must take action to adapt. The country will probably receive a large number of refugees from low-lying and nearby countries such as the Maldives. Extensive forest fires cause death and injuries as well as a considerable loss of property. Drought is another weather-related phenomenon that is believed to be exacerbated by climate change. Climate change is also threatening the country's agricultural production. If the earth's average temperature increases by more than 2°C it is expected that the country's livestock would be reduced by 40 percent. As an island, Australia is also highly vulnerable to rises in sea level and high waves from storm surges as a result of climate change. Just as climate change is expected to affect people, the country's plant and animal life is also in danger. The threat consists of a reduction of habitat and reduced quality of life. A temperature increase between 2.1 to 2.9°C may cause a reduction by half of a large part of the Australian species.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

Technological development and market-based solutions should combine to transfer Australia's economy to a low-coal-economy. However, cutbacks in coal usage will have to be compatible with continued economic growth and higher living standards. The goal is to increase the amount of renewable energy usage by 20 percent by the year 2020. A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions requires a broad spectrum of appropriate technologies such as increased energy efficiency and clean fossil fuels, bio-fuels and hydrogen gas. The Australian government is investing 500 million dollars in a fund for renewable energy, 500 million dollars in a national fund for clean coal, 500 million dollars in an innovation fund for greener cars, 150 million dollars for solar and clean energy

research and 240 million dollars for establishing climate-smart businesses and innovative solutions. Australia is open to the idea of increased international research and development cooperation in climate-related fields and the country has taken the initiative to establish an international Carbon Capture and Storage Institute.

Alliances

Australia is a member of the so-called Umbrella Group together with Japan, New Zealand, USA, Canada, Norway, Iceland, Ukraine and Russia. The countries have certain positions in common but they act on the basis of their own national agendas. In other words, Australia cannot count on automatic support from other umbrella group countries. Historically, Australia has had a close relationship with the USA and Japan in climate negotiations.

Role profile/character

As a delegate for Australia you have a friendly and open attitude. You are polite and well spoken. However, contributing constructively to the negotiations is not always Australia's strongpoint. *Climate Action Network (CAN)* is an important and influential network that participates in the international climate negotiations. At the end of every negotiation, CAN gives a prize, the "colossal fossil", to the country that had the most negative impact on the possibility of successful negotiations. Australia was named the "colossal fossil" in Poznan, Poland, in 2008 by the Climate Action Network. The prize is an indication that the country does not contribute constructively to the negotiations.

Source:

www.climatechange.gov.au

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Saudi Arabia/OPEC

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

The population of Saudi Arabia is concentrated to the urban centres and a few oases. Lack of water and poor soil limit agriculture. In an attempt to make the country independent of meat imports, cattle farms with air conditioning have been built in the desert. Oil is the major export product. Saudi Arabia has more oil than any other country in the world – 25 percent of the world's oil reserves. Saudi Arabia is a member of OPEC, the *Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries*.

Background

OPEC consists of oil-producing nations, including countries in the Middle East and Africa. OPEC was built in 1960 to counterbalance the big oil companies (which come almost exclusively from the USA and Europe) and their influence over the international oil market. Oil ministers from OPEC countries meet regularly to try to control international oil prices. One method they use to achieve this is to regulate the amount of raw oil that is pumped out. OPEC countries produce approximately 40 percent of the world's oil and they own almost 80 percent of the world's oil reserves.

Therefore, their decisions are very significant for the international oil market, the energy market and the entire world economy. The climate issue is very much a critical issue for OPEC countries since many of them lack large natural resources which can replace oil. The countries' economies are very dependent on oil exports. OPEC countries emissions per capita are among the highest in the world, in many cases several times higher than the USA's emissions. The countries also have a relatively high GDP per capita. Saudi Arabia and OPEC want political decisions to be based on scientific data from the IPCC.

Important standpoints

Saudi Arabia and OPEC do not believe that the international community will be able to agree successfully on a climate treaty if the treaty's intention is to set an additional economic burden on developing countries. Even if climate change is a global problem and a universal challenge for the international community, it is still unjust and unrealistic to expect adoption of a treaty by developing countries apart from those that are already included in the Kyoto Protocol. OPEC countries are eager to point out that it is the industrial countries that are largely historically responsible for carbon dioxide emissions. Even today industrial countries are still responsible for nearly half of the emissions despite the fact that they represent only 20 percent of the world's population. Saudi Arabia stresses the important role of industrialized countries on climate change and is against developing countries taking on binding climate commitments.

The idea behind the Kyoto Protocol's so-called flexible mechanisms is that efforts to reduce emissions should be implemented where they are least expensive. The opportunity to invest in emission constraints in developing countries should also support sustainable development in these countries. OPEC and Saudi Arabia see the industrial countries' use of flexible mechanisms as a way

of promoting emission reductions for their own benefit. OPEC and Saudi Arabia hope that the industrial countries truly see climate change as a global threat and not as a business opportunity. OPEC and Saudi Arabia think that many industrial countries are still far from reaching their own emission reduction commitments.

In addition, OPEC/Saudi Arabia's position is that their economy is going to suffer negatively from measures taken by other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is because the demand for oil, their most important source of income, will be reduced. For this reason, OPEC wants compensation for the negative effects of reduction measures.

Emission reductions

Saudi Arabia is opposed to binding commitments in future climate negotiations and believes that only the industrialized countries that are already committed to emission reductions under the Kyoto Protocol should have future emissions targets. Saudi Arabia believes that developing countries should only have voluntary and non-specific commitments on greenhouse gas emissions.

Saudi Arabia points out that energy is necessary for economic and social development. Saudi Arabia is dependent on its oil and it believes that conversion to renewable energy sources would involve an unreasonable cost and would hinder the country's continued development. It argues that political decisions must support the two key requirements for sustainable development – social and economic development. You could also see this as each individual's right to development and hence, the right to a higher use of energy. The 2.4 billion people that today only have access to bio-fuel and lack modern energy for cooking and heating lack the very concept of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For these people, the daily focus is to fight their worst opponent: poverty. For the benefit of these people, the world's objective must be to make sure they have access to modern kinds of energy that are reliable, economically realistic, socially accepted and environmentally sound. This will not only raise their living standards, it will also help them to adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

The EU believes that the OPEC countries belong to the group of developing countries that should enter into commitments for emission reduction measures.

Adaptation

From Saudi Arabia and OPEC's point of view, efforts to solve the climate issue should not be limited to reducing carbon dioxide emissions but should instead include measures to adapt to climate change, especially for developing countries. OPEC and Saudi Arabia welcome discussions on an Adaptation Fund.

Deforestation

Saudi Arabia supports the REDD program, *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*. REDD has the effect that countries should receive credit for reducing emissions by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation. It offers a way for countries with large forest areas to benefit from the huge amounts of carbon stored in forests. The proposal will make developing countries more engaged in decreasing the felling of forests.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

Saudi Arabia and OPEC welcome the use of different forms of energy. However, it is clear that fossil fuels are going to meet the world's increasing energy needs in the coming years. Saudi Arabia and OPEC believe that technology can play a significant role in helping the world to

find solutions to the climate question but that technology must be distributed fairly among the countries of the world.

Since fossil fuels are expected to play a dominant role in energy supply in the foreseeable future, it is of great importance to facilitate the development and dissemination of cleaner technologies for fossil fuels. One such technology is *Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS*. CCS is a new technology that could contribute to major reductions in carbon emissions by mid-2000s. Industrialized countries should take command and lead the world with the financing and implementation of large-scale CCS demonstration projects. It is also important to make this technology a *Clean Development Mechanism, CDM*, as quickly as possible.

Saudi Arabia and OPEC have closely followed the increasing role that CDM plays. They believe that the mechanism must be reformed to overcome its limitations such as financial barriers and uneven regional and sectoral distribution of projects. It is above all China, India and Brazil that can attract CDM projects. Saudi Arabia wants the industrialized countries to have financial commitments. They believe it is against UNFCCC principles to require developing countries to contribute financially.

Saudi Arabia likens the CCS technology to the REDD program. The country claims that REDD and CCS are comparable since they both contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere but emphasise that the implementation of the mechanisms should not be harmful to developing countries.

Alliances

Allies are, without a doubt, low-income countries and middle-income countries such as China and India.

Role profile/Character

As Saudi Arabia's representative, you are skilful and well-read and have as a general goal to maintain the health of the future oil market. You point out that there may be problems with proceeding too rapidly with climate work and you can try to stall negotiations by referring to legal questions. You try to form an alliance with the large developing countries on the question of substantial commitments on climate issues by the industrial countries. Your position is not entirely predictable. Your most important requirement is that, in addition to other efforts, help must also be given to the oil-producing countries to enable them to adapt not only to climate change but also to the impacts of climate change actions. You require compensation for the shrinking oil market. In conclusion Saudi Arabia and OPEC can be troublesome negotiators but can also be capable of unexpected compromises, especially if they do not feel they have the support of other members of the G77 Group.

Source:

www.opec.org

Towards a new climate regime? The key players gearing up for Copenhagen, Dr. Anna Korppoo et al, WORKINGPAPERS60, 1 December 2009, FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Brazil

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world after Russia, Canada, China and the USA. The country has a varied landscape with rainforests, mountains and savannah areas. A major problem for the country is the deforestation of the rainforest. Mining, livestock and agriculture are some of the reasons for this deforestation.

Important standpoints

Brazil ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. Brazil believes that when distributing responsibility between countries for the reduction of greenhouse gases two factors should be taken into account:

- *The historical responsibility of industrial countries*

The countries that have largely used fossil fuels since the beginnings of industrialism to promote their economic development are responsible for the current global increase in temperature.

- *The vulnerability of developing countries*

The countries that have contributed relatively little to climate change and have fewer resources to enable them to adapt their societies to the consequences of climate change should be given less responsibility.

These two factors determine Brazil's interpretation of the Climate Convention's *principle on common but differentiated responsibilities*.

Background

Brazil, together with the other developing countries, is going to be affected negatively by global warming. The Brazilian government has a climate group with representatives from the different government sectors and their task is to coordinate climate discussions for the government. The official climate debate in the country is lively. Brazil emphasizes that it is important that questions such as climate change are dealt with by global institutions such as the UN.

Emission reductions

Brazil believes that industrial countries have to reduce their emissions by 25-40 percent in relation to 1990 levels by the year 2020. According to the Kyoto Protocol, Brazil is not forced to take measures for reducing emissions. In 2009 Brazil gave a pledge to reduce its emissions by 36-38 percent by 2020 with 1990 as base year. Brazil advocates binding but different commitments on emission reductions for all major countries. Brazil places strict requirements on industrial countries and Russia to reduce their emissions. The country is concerned that certain countries, such as Japan, do not seem to meet their commitments and that the major emitters India, China and the USA have no binding commitments.

Brazil has developed a national plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that relies heavily on renewable forms of energy. In the transport sector, the country has a great deal of experience of using sugarcane to make ethanol, which has proven to be the world's most successful bio-

fuel initiative. Currently, 80 percent of all cars sold in Brazil are hybrid vehicles. It is up to the consumer at the petrol pump to determine the mix of petrol and ethanol, ranging from 1 percent to 100 percent ethanol. Ethanol has replaced 40 percent of the use of petrol for cars and has in this way contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector. Great importance is placed on building up nuclear power and building renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Brazil has criticized the EU's proposal for tariff-free treatment of climate-smart technology because it would exclude ethanol made from sugarcane. Brazil pushes for dismantling the trade barriers for ethanol and other renewable fuels in which they have large interests.

Deforestation

75 percent of Brazil's total greenhouse gas emissions come from the deforestation in the Amazon. For Brazil, illegal clearing of forest in the Amazon is a big problem. Rising world market prices for meat and soya have paved the way for continued illegal felling. In 2009, Brazil's environment minister announced that deforestation of the Amazon had decreased by 46 percent last year. It is 21 years since the country began to keep annual statistics on deforestation. The country now has the lowest deforestation rate in 21 years. Brazil's attempts to tackle deforestation using police and an advanced satellite surveillance system have begun to bear fruit. But it remains to be seen whether the decrease in the deforestation rate will persist, or if it is for example a result of the financial crisis.

In 2005 Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea presented a proposal which is now known as *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*, REDD. REDD has the effect that countries should be given credit for reducing emissions by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation. It is a way for countries with large forest areas to benefit from the huge amounts of carbon stored in forests. The proposal will make developing countries more engaged in decreasing the felling of forests. REDD is a proposal supported by Brazil. REDD estimates that 15-20 billion Euros could reduce global deforestation by 25 percent by 2015. It is a measure that would be of great importance, both for the reduction of greenhouse gases and for the conservation of biodiversity.

Adaptation

Global warming is expected to transform parts of the rainforest into savannah, leading to desertification and to erosion from heavy rain. Researchers believe that climate change can lead to more intensive dry periods. Fires in Brazil are already a large source of greenhouse gases.

Brazil refers to the Climate Convention and points out that industrial countries are obliged to contribute their support to adaptation in the most vulnerable countries. Brazil's goal is to raise as much finance as possible for the Adaptation Fund and the fund for *Least Developed Countries*, LDC. Brazil supports the suggestion that 2 percent of the finance in the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM, should go to the Adaptation Fund. Brazil is also interested in the EU's proposal that a certain percentage of the income from emission rights trading should go to the Adaptation Fund.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

Brazil took the initiative to introduce the concept of CDM, which became part of the Kyoto Protocol. The Brazilian government is very positive towards the use of the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms such as the CDM. Brazil is the third largest recipient of CDM projects after China and India. The Brazilian government thinks that CDM is an important step in a necessary transfer of technology which allows developing countries to gain clean technologies at a reasonable cost, which is a prerequisite for developing countries to be able to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Brazil thinks that it should be possible to use the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms, such as CDM, for projects that invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency but not for carbon dioxide storage projects (*Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS*). Brazil contends that the presence of strong patent protection rules hinders technology transfer. Brazil stresses the importance of international cooperation in the area of technology research and development. Brazil sees itself as a potential leader in the future market for environmental technology.

Alliances

Brazil is a member of G77, an alliance with roots in the mid 1960s when it was formed as a platform to promote the agenda of developing countries in the UN. Other important forms of collaboration are the G8 and the G5 groups. The G8 is a group of the world's largest economies and the G5 a group of the 5 largest growing economies (China, Brazil, India, South Africa and Mexico).

Role profile/Character

As a delegate for Brazil, you have one of the most accommodating roles in the climate negotiations. You are results-oriented, full of ideas, willing to compromise and you participate actively in preparatory informal negotiations. You are very active in questions on carbon sinks, deforestation and cooperation related to technology. Currently Brazil is probably the developing country that is most open to a future commitment to limit its own emissions.

Source: The Swedish Embassy of Brazil. *Brasiliansk klimatpolitik*. (source in Swedish)
www.swedenabroad.com/SelectImageX/130224/Klimatpolitikbrasilien.pdf

Dagens Nyheter 2009-09-02 Skövlingen av Brasiliens regnskog minskar. (source in Swedish)
www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/skovlingen-av-brasiliens-regnskog-minskar-1.943929

Dagens Nyheter 2009-10-30 Bakgrund: Detta är REDD (source in Swedish)
www.dn.se/nyheter/klimatmotet/bakgrund-detta-ar-redd-1.985138

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)
<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

The European Union

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

The European Union is an international and supranational organization with 27 European member states. Cooperation between member states deals with political, economical and social issues. The member states have negotiated common standpoints on the climate issue and the European Union has one vote in international climate negotiations. The countries have national strategies.

Background

The European Union plays an important part in international negotiations on reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

The Union believes that extensive climate targets and measures are important in order to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions as well as to win international credibility. In the Kyoto Protocol the then 15 member states of the EU decided to reduce emissions by 8 percent by the year of 2010 compared to 1990 levels. The efforts of the EU have been divided between the member states.

The Union is on the way to reaching its climate emission targets. Between 1990 and 2005 emissions inside the EU were reduced by 2 percent. Additional measures that have already been agreed and planned should reduce emissions by an additional 6 percent. For example, it is estimated that the EU will gain a 1 percent decrease in emissions from forest carbon sinks. Estimates for the period 2008-2010 indicate that the EU will be able to achieve emission reductions of more than 10 percent in total.

Although the EU has reduced its emissions of greenhouse gases, it is responsible for about 14 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions per capita are on average 6.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person in the EU. This can be compared to a global average of 4.1 tonnes per person.

About 80 percent of energy use in the EU is from fossil fuels. By reducing the use of fossil fuels it is possible to secure energy supplies in the EU while limiting climate change at the same time. In addition, the EU's own fossil fuel resources are being used at a faster pace than global use. The EU is becoming increasingly dependent on imports, and is thus more vulnerable to supply and price shocks.

Emission reductions

The heads of states and governments in the EU have jointly decided to limit climate change to, at the most, two degrees above pre-industrial levels. In March 2007, the European Council agreed to emission reductions of 20 percent by the year 2020, compared to 1990 levels. If more industrial countries, including the United States, take part in a new global climate treaty for 2020 the European Council has decided to reduce its emissions by 30 percent, provided that more industrial countries agree to comparable reductions in emissions.

The European Council and the European Parliament decided in December 2008 on which measures are necessary to achieve desired climate targets. In addition to the goal of reducing emissions by 20 percent by 2020 (30 percent under a global climate agreement), the following decisions have also been taken:

- 20 percent of the EU's final energy consumption will come from renewable sources by 2020. The objective also includes a stipulation that the proportion of bio-fuels in the same year will be 10 percent.
- Energy use will be made 20 percent more efficient by 2020.

The European Union has presented the idea that developing countries as a group should limit their emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 but also acknowledges that some developing countries need development, which could mean increased emissions of greenhouse gases for a period of time. The European Union considers it necessary for developing countries like China and India to start limiting their emissions of greenhouse gases.

Critics of the EU point out that the increasing use of energy puts the EU's international climate commitments at risk. Without energy streamlining and a larger percentage of energy coming from renewable sources, Europe will find it difficult to reach climate goals. Development within the transport sector is also considered troubling. Emissions from transportation within the EU grew by 26 percent between 1990 and 2005 (member states from 2004 are not included in this estimate). The EU system of emission rights trading is the world's first major trading system for greenhouse gases. The trading system was launched in January 2005 and covers approximately 12,000 industrial and energy production plants in the EU. In total more than 40 percent of the EU greenhouse gas emissions are covered.

EU trading in emission rights is regulated through a specific directive and includes all the member states of the EU. Intensive work is being done in the EU to develop this trading system. Air transportation will be included by the year 2012; however, there are no proposals at present for including sea and road transportation. In 2020, the emissions of carbon dioxide that plants in the trading system should be allowed to discharge will be determined centrally rather than as now by the Member States. The allowances to the companies' concerned will be auctioned to a larger extent and, in comparison with the past when only carbon dioxide was included, nitrous oxide and perfluorocarbons from certain activities will also be integrated into the system.

Adaptation

Ongoing development efforts might fail due to rain, drought and wind. In the long run environmental and climate-related problems can increase involuntary migration flows that are difficult to handle, contributing to political instability, conflict and severe health problems. The connection between climate and development is obvious.

The EU considers the financing of adaptation to have high priority. The EU believes that the most vulnerable countries should be given priority: Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (members of the AOSIS and the UN). The EU, together with the other industrialized countries, has undertaken to provide immediate funding, \$30 billion by 2012. There is also a long-term commitment for funding which in 2020 amounts to \$100 billion per year.

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

According to the EU's Seventh Frame Programme for Research and Technical Development for the years 2007-2013, research on energy techniques for low or zero carbon dioxide emissions will obtain considerable funding. Energy research and the promotion of energy-saving measures are also financed by the EU programme for competitiveness and innovation. A large part of the funding is dedicated to projects that indirectly or directly deal with climate change. Among other things, the projects include the development of hydrogen gas and fuel cell technology that will be needed when we reduce the use of fossil fuels, using methods to separate and store carbon dioxide, using energy more effectively, developing clean and effective transportation and using environmentally friendly materials. The emissions of greenhouse gases often come from the production and use of energy. Therefore, energy policies are important in order to reach climate goals. The EU has had a collective policy framework for energy issues for many years, so collective action in the area of energy is nothing new.

Financing

The EU attaches great value to the economic growth of the union but believes that costs of measures against climate change will be limited and lower if the world acts now, compared to the costs of the damage that will occur if the world does not act in time. If the industrial countries unite in reducing their emissions by 30 percent by the year 2020, annual economic growth would be reduced by less than 0.2 percent. This is a low cost compared to the potential long-term costs of climate change. Besides, there are other benefits associated with rapid action such as reduced air pollution, secured energy production with predictable prices and enhanced ability to compete due to innovation. In practice, these gains from emission reductions might more than compensate the costs.

Alliances

The EU has allies in all parties that have long-term goals for emission reductions and constructive suggestions for climate agreements.

Role profile/character

As a delegate from the EU you represent the European Union's common climate policy. You are among the most important diplomats at the climate negotiations with the goal of reaching an ambitious climate treaty in which as many states as possible enter into commitments for emission reductions. You understand that the industrial countries, historically speaking, are responsible for much of the greenhouse gas emissions but, at the same time, you think that a climate treaty would be meaningless without for example India and China.

Source:

www.naturvardsverket.se/sv/Klimat-i-forandring/Klimatpolitiken/Klimatpolitik-i-EU/
www.naturvardsverket.se/sv/Klimat-i-forandring/Klimatpolitiken/Klimatpolitik-i-EU/EUs-klimat--och-energipaket (sources in Swedish)

Tips for further study:

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<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Uganda

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Uganda has a population of 28.9 million. The country has many natural resources such as fertile earth and minerals, and has good prerequisites for development. Today about 30 percent of the population live in extreme poverty. The poverty limits people's lives and opportunities of choice. The lack of, among other things, health care and education is setting the country back. Uganda belongs to the group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) and the African group.

Background

Research from the IPCC shows that poor countries such as Uganda will suffer very severely despite the country's very limited contribution to climate change. There are various reasons as to why a developing country such as Uganda is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The state has weak institutional capacity, lack of knowledge in emergency management, lack of equipment for disaster relief, limited financial resources, and an economy that is largely dependent on natural resources. Many people are forced to use these natural resources in a way that damages the environment, such as clearing forests in order to get more farmland or to get firewood for heating and cooking. This leads in turn to soil erosion and the reduction of forest areas that absorb carbon dioxide.

The importance of a productive and modernized agricultural sector, together with a widely extended technological, innovative and competitive industry, is emphasized in the Uganda vision for 2025. The country wants to invest in information technology and a greater research capacity. However, poverty in Uganda is a factor that makes the vision difficult to achieve.

The energy sector in Uganda is mostly dependant on bio-fuels, such as wood, which accounts for up to 93 percent of the nation's total energy needs. The high demand for wood has lead to deforestation and erosion. Other sources of energy are oil, which accounts for 5 percent of the energy use in the country, and hydro power, constituting 1.5 percent. Uganda invests in renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar energy and by-products from agriculture. Most of the use of fossil fuels is in the transport sector. The fossil fuels used in Uganda are imported. Means of transportation in Uganda is dominated by private motor vehicles and minibuses. More than 60 percent of the motor vehicles in the country are found in the capital, Kampala. There are approximately 200,000 vehicles in the country with an estimated average growth of 10,000 vehicles per year. Air transport plays an important role in Uganda's economic development.

Emission reductions

Compared to other countries Uganda has very low emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels. In order to reduce these emissions Uganda plans measures to improve the feeding of livestock in order to reduce emissions of methane gas, to prevent savannah and trash burning, and to make efficient use of animal wastes (e.g. in order to produce fuel). In addition, Uganda will also promote organic farming and minimize the use of artificial fertilizers and raise awareness of climate change.

Uganda had been working on reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels by changing its mixture of fuels for motor vehicles. One suggestion is for Uganda to produce ethanol from sugarcane and for petroleum to have a 15 percent mix of ethanol by no later than 2020 (ethanol mixed with petroleum up to 20 percent does not require any changes in motor engines). At present, however, the estimated cost of ethanol production in Uganda is far above the corresponding cost of petroleum. Uganda still has underdeveloped sources of water power, mostly on the Nile. Studies have suggested that the state should focus on an electricity programme that would raise the coverage of electricity in the country from today's 1 percent to 10 percent by the year 2012. The nation is also planning to invest in solar power.

The European Union has brought forward the idea that developing countries as a group should limit their emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 but also acknowledges the need of development in some developing countries, which could involve more emissions of greenhouse gases for a period of time.

Deforestation

In 2005 Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea presented a proposal which is now known as REDD, *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*. REDD means that countries should receive credit for reducing emissions by avoiding deforestation and forest degradation. It offers a way for countries with large forest areas to benefit from the huge amounts of carbon stored in forests. The proposal will make developing countries more engaged in decreasing the felling of forests. REDD is a proposal that has been supported by Uganda. REDD estimates that 15-20 billion euro could reduce global deforestation by 25 percent by 2015. This measure could be of great importance both for the reduction of greenhouse gases and for conservation of biodiversity. Uganda has implemented a plan where the goal is to increase forest cover and ensure sustainable management of forests.

Adaptation

The potential of Uganda to develop agriculture, tourism and water power is threatened by current levels of poverty which are being exacerbated by climate change. Ugandan vegetation mostly consists of savannah, steppe and tropical forests. The biological diversity of Uganda is particularly sensitive to prolonged periods of drought and floods. During recent decades Uganda has seen an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions that have had serious socio-economic consequences. Uganda risks being hit by droughts, floods and heat waves. Very heavy rain can, among other things, cause erosion and infrastructure damage. The negative impacts of climate change affect a variety of different areas such as political stability, the health of people (for instance outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever, cholera and dysentery), food security and access to clean water.

Uganda has great needs for climate adaptation but lacks the technical and financial capacity required. The nation is dependent on technical and financial support in its adaptation efforts.

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

Concerning technology transfer Uganda, like other countries in the Least Developed Countries group, LDC, and the African group, emphasizes the importance of access to affordable technology in order to adapt to climate change. The country is very interested in renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency which could also contribute to its adaptation to climate change. Uganda welcomes the UNFCCC initiative to establish a framework for ways in which technology can be transferred from industrialized countries to developing countries. However, there are still major disagreements about how the framework and patent rights should work. Currently, technology for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is not important to Uganda.

Financing

Uganda indicates that it understands the focus of industrial countries on market-based solutions and the need for private investments but, at the same time, it distrusts the market since it acts where market conditions work best. Uganda is in need of financial support for climate-related work. Uganda welcomes the \$30 billion in climate aid that industrialized countries will contribute in the period 2010-2012, but believes that the sum is too modest. Japan, Europe and the USA have promised to stand for the greater part of the grant. Some of the aid will be taken from already pledged aid funds. From 2013 climate aid will progressively increase so that by 2020 it will reach \$100 billion annually. Many questions remain unanswered on how the financial system for climate aid will be organized.

Alliances

Uganda is part of the G77 group, the LDC group and the African group. One factor in common for the LDC group and the African Group is that they are highly focused on adaptation, since the countries in these groups are sensitive to climate change.

Role profile/character

The delegates from Uganda are not ready to enter into emission reduction commitments. Nevertheless, they are very willing to cooperate on climate-smart solutions that could help the country to switch over to more modern types of energy that could also contribute to social and economic development. You, as a delegate, have an energetic attitude towards research and development work but a reluctance to discuss any commitments on emission reductions.

Source:

unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/uganc1.pdf

Dagens Nyheter 2009-10-30 Bakgrund: Detta är REDD (source in Swedish)

www.dn.se/nyheter/klimatmotet/bakgrund-detta-ar-redd-1.985138

Dagens Nyheter 2009-09-02 Skövlingen av Brasiliens regnskog minskar. (source in Swedish)

www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/skovlingen-av-brasiliens-regnskog-minskar-1.943929

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

www.un.org/en/members/

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Samoa/AOSIS

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Samoa consists of two major islands and its population is approximately 200,000. Samoa is a member of the *Alliance of Small Island States*, AOSIS, which is an association of small countries working together in order to make their voices heard in climate negotiations.

Important standpoints

Samoa and AOSIS emphasize that climate change is a global problem that crosses borders and advocate a new climate agreement in which every nation contributes to emission reductions. The participation of all countries is vital in order to secure a sufficient global response.

It is urgent that ALL countries start a new dialogue with more extensive attempts to fight climate change and move towards a new agreement with a broad approach to reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Background

AOSIS is an organization of small islands and coastal countries that share similar challenges and problems when it comes to their environment. The countries are very vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. The function of AOSIS is first and foremost to conduct lobbying for a better climate and to be a negotiating power for small island states. AOSIS has 43 member states from all the oceans and regions in the world: Africa, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Pacific and the China Sea. Of these 43 member states eleven are so-called *Least Developed Countries*, LDC. The countries that are members of both AOSIS and the UN are called SIDS, *Small Island Developing States*. The common issues that the countries in AOSIS share, apart from the negative effects of climate change, are that they struggle with maintaining the coastal zones, fresh water supply and waste management.

Emission reductions

AOSIS and Samoa warmly welcome every step towards reducing the effect of climate change such as rises in sea levels and extreme weather conditions. The members of AOSIS have played a significant role in the negotiations that led to acceptance of the Kyoto Protocol in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. Actually, it was AOSIS that originally suggested the idea of a protocol in 1994. During the early 1990s AOSIS realized that the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, UNFCCC, did not create enough initiatives that encouraged countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to any significant extent. Moreover, they considered legally binding commitments to be necessary. While many industrialized countries have taken steps toward reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases, AOSIS and Samoa are of the opinion that all countries must contribute to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases. This must be done in a fair way for the greater good.

AOSIS believes that binding commitments from industrial countries, which are also historically the countries behind the largest emissions of green house gases, are necessary. They think it might also be necessary within the next 10-20 years for major developing countries such as China, India and Brazil to make binding commitments on emission reductions. The countries in AOSIS and the LDCs should not have to make binding commitments in the foreseeable future due to their, historically speaking, low levels of emissions and their right to development.

Adaptation

Efforts to adjust societies to climate change must go hand in hand with efforts to mitigate climate change. Small island states are already suffering from the negative effects of climate change. Rises in sea levels, together with devastating hurricanes and cyclones in the Caribbean and Pacific, are evidence of the increasing effects of climate change that threaten to destroy the entire economies of already troubled island states. AOSIS thinks that Samoa and the member countries need international support to adapt their vulnerable societies to climate change. AOSIS and Samoa ask the establishment for help in creating a new insurance structure that could bear the costs of re-establishing societies that are exposed to extreme weather conditions and other climate-related effects.

AOSIS and Samoa welcome the \$30 billion in climate aid that industrialized countries will contribute during the period 2010-2012, but believe that the sum is too modest. Japan, Europe and the USA have promised to provide most of the grant. Some of the aid will be taken from already pledged aid funds. From 2013 onwards, climate aid will progressively increase so that by 2020 it will reach \$100 billion annually. Many questions remain unanswered about how the financial system for climate aid will be organized. AOSIS and Samoa also want to prevent and prepare society for future climate threats. Such a fund should include:

- Funding for the protection of fresh water reserves, which are a very valuable resource for small islands.
- Funding to adapt society through new agricultural reforms.
- New building traditions and protection of coastal zones.

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

The Kyoto Protocol offers, with the aid of so-called flexible mechanisms, the possibility for industrial countries to fulfil part of their climate commitments through other countries instead of at home. Since the impact on the climate is the same no matter where on earth emissions are reduced, countries can use flexible mechanisms as a complement to reducing their own national emissions. The idea behind flexible mechanisms is that efforts to reduce emissions should be implemented where they are cheapest. The opportunity to invest in emission constraints in developing countries should also support sustainable development in these countries. It is mainly China, India and Brazil that have been able to attract these types of investments.

The Clean Development Mechanism, CDM, is a flexible mechanism, It has the effect that participants in countries with emission commitments based on the Kyoto Protocol can implement emission-reducing steps in other countries (generally in developing countries) that are part of the Kyoto Protocol but that do not have any binding commitments.

Samoa and AOSIS believe that the CDM is a small but important step towards creating a market which creates healthy financial initiatives for the development and use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. Samoa and AOSIS support the G77's proposal to establish a multilateral climate technology fund. They stress the importance of accelerating the transfer of renewable energy technologies, and that all countries need to facilitate international trade in renewable energy technologies.

Alliances

Samoa and AOSIS support all countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and that have already committed themselves to emission reductions. AOSIS is happy to cooperate with countries and organizations that give priority to the environment and that show great understanding of the vulnerability of countries as well as different levels of development.

Role profile/character

As a delegate of the island nation Samoa you also represent the association AOSIS. Since Samoa and AOSIS and other participating nations are threatened by the consequences of climate change in terms of rising sea levels, drought and fresh water shortages, your negotiation techniques should be to appeal to the delegates' emotions.

Source:

www.sidsnet.org/aosis

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Russia

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Russia is in terms of surface area the biggest country in the world and has 142 million inhabitants. Russia is a major exporter of natural gas and oil.

Important standpoints

Russia recognizes that the climate issue can only be solved through a global effort and especially through the participation of all large economies. Russia wants the principle from the Climate Convention on *common but differentiated responsibility* to be followed consistently. Russia thinks that the common goal of 25-40 percent emission reductions by the year 2020 compared to 1990 levels is unreasonable for both industrial countries and developing countries. A global climate agreement for the period after 2012 is, according to Russia only possible, if the following conditions are met:

- Commitments on emission reductions should not be forced on countries and backed by penalties
- Participants need support in order to be able to fulfil their commitments
- It should be possible to adjust the commitments retrospectively

Background

Russia has a tradition of acting on its own agenda and has traditionally had very little faith in global institutions such as the UN and its capacity to take on global challenges. Nevertheless, Russia is willing to participate in climate negotiations under the auspices of the UN. The country's decision to ratify the Kyoto Protocol enabled the protocol to take effect in February 2005. The participation of Russia in international climate negotiations has so far been driven mostly by the opportunity for economic and political advantages and less by an actual ambition to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Emission reductions

According to the Kyoto Protocol, Russia has a binding commitment to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases. But the commitments are so generous that the country does not have any problem meeting them. Russia believes that the future long-term climate goals must be ambitious. Russia believes that industrialized countries must not only be allowed to use flexible mechanisms to reduce emissions but that they also must drastically reduce their emissions at home.

Since Russia, due to low economic growth, has not used its quota of greenhouse gases that it is permitted under the Kyoto Protocol, Russia wants the surplus to be transferred to a future climate agreement. For Russia it is also important to secure scope for increasing greenhouse gas emissions for the country's future economic growth. It is unlikely that an emission limit under the business-as-usual scenario will be acceptable to Moscow.

Russia believes that a new system of climate policies should be introduced in order to concretize the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The division of responsibility for reduced emissions of greenhouse gases should take into consideration national circumstances and practical limitations such as GDP per capita and other criteria that illustrate social and economic differences between countries. The UN agencies and the World Bank should be involved in the development of such criteria. The work should give particular attention to countries such as Russia and Saudi Arabia which are highly dependent on income from the production, refinement, export and/or consumption of fossil fuels and for which transition to renewable energy will be difficult.

Russia is responsible for 17.4 percent of the global emissions of greenhouse gases and is a major exporter of fossil fuels. In 2006, economic growth in Russia was 6.7 percent and greenhouse gas emissions increased by 2.6 percent. Economic growth has been supported by the high revenues Russia has obtained from its oil exports. In 2000, Vladimir Putin, the former president of Russia, set the goal of doubling the country's GDP by 2010. The goal may be in conflict with measures to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Electricity consumption is steadily increasing as an effect of the increasing standard of living in the country. Since energy production is already operating at full capacity, the increased demand for electricity has led to the reopening of old, inefficient electricity generators that were shut down in the beginning of the 1990s. These generators are powered by coal. In comparison with gas and oil, coal is expected to be cheaper. The Russian government is promoting a large-scale shift from gas to coal for domestic use in order to maximize gas exports. In order to justify the decision to return to the use of coal Russian experts say that the country should be allowed to increase its emissions after 2012 to be able to develop economically and socially.

The general opinion of Russians on the climate change could be interpreted as negative since 45 percent do not want to spend the nation's assets in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while 28 percent think that limited resources should be used to reduce global warming.

Deforestation

"Are we ready to support Denmark's efforts in the post-Kyoto period? We are ready to do this. But there are two conditions: all countries must sign it. And Russia will insist that capacity of its forests for absorbing carbon dioxide must be taken into account."

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (November 2, 2009).

For Russia deforestation is a key issue in the negotiations on a future climate agreement. The Russian forest reserves must be accepted as a fully recognized carbon sink. The Kyoto Protocol's recognition of forests as carbon sinks is seen by Russia as insufficient.

Adaptation

Climate change is not considered an acute problem in Russia. Many Russian researchers and scientists in the IPCC believe that Russia with its cold climate is a nation that could actually gain from a rise in average temperature. Positive effects from a rise in temperature of up to 2 or 3° C could be larger agricultural production, lower mortality rates from winter-related diseases, lower heating costs and a potential boost for tourism.

Among the negative consequences of a higher average temperature is a considerable increase in damage to buildings and roads in those parts of Russia that have been built on permafrost, and reduced biological diversity. An additional negative consequence is more and longer periods of drought which in turn result in reduced crops. This could lead to regional conflicts in a nation that is already divided. The effects of climate change on Russia's ecosystem are, among others, that the tundra is gradually getting smaller. The forest will gradually stretch further north and push the tundra towards the Arctic coast.

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

Russia has considered it unfair that projects under the flexible mechanisms such as the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM, and *Joint Implementation*, JI, have been mostly located in developing countries. Russia also considers itself in need of technological support and investments.

Alliances

Russia is a member of the so-called Umbrella Group together with Ukraine, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Norway, Iceland and the USA. These countries have some common standpoints but are still acting on the basis of their own national goals. In other words, Russia cannot count on automatic support from the Umbrella Group.

Role profile/character

As a Russian delegate you maintain a fairly relaxed attitude towards the climate negotiations. You know that your country will not only suffer but will also actually benefit from the increase in temperature caused by emissions of greenhouse gases. In addition, Russia is a major exporter of fossil fuels. You follow the climate negotiations but would rather not tie the nation to any future demanding commitments on emission reductions.

Source:

Climate Change Russia Country Paper by Renat Perelet, Serguey Pegov, Mikhail Yulkin, Human Development Report Office OCCASIONAL PAPER, 0712.

Russia and the post-2012 climate regime: *Foreign rather than environmental policy*, Dr. Anna Korppoo, BRIEFINGPAPER 23, 24 November 2008, FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Towards a new climate regime? The key players gearing up for Copenhagen, Dr. Anna Korppoo et al, WORKINGPAPER 60, 1 December 2009, FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)
<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Climate Justice Now

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Climate Justice Now is a loose network of organizations and movements from all over the world. The network is dominated by organizations based in developing countries. Climate Justice Now fights for equality and social and ecological justice.

Background

Climate change is a fact and has already had negative impact on people's lives, especially women, indigenous peoples, small farmers, the marginalized and the poor. Climate Justice Now believes that climate change necessitates action at the global level and that it is the industrialized countries that have the historical responsibility for most of the greenhouse gas emissions during the last 250 years. Cheap energy in the form of oil, coal and gas has been the driving force behind the industrial countries' industrialization and economic growth. Poor people have had to suffer the consequences of the selfish acts of industrialized countries. The extraction of fossil fuels, transports and production, i.e. the motor behind their economic growth, have been the cause of many emissions of greenhouse gases which have led to a warmer climate. This, in turn, has led to a series of negative effects, for example famine, and there is now a real risk that entire island nations, such as the Maldives and Samoa, will be obliterated.

In 2005, the USA, Canada and Australia emitted about 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person and year, China 4 tonnes (which is also the average for the whole world), India less than two tonnes and many other developing countries far below one tonne per person. A Swede emits on average 5.6 tonnes per person and year.

Climate Justice Now believes that the value of life and the common good must be given priority over profit.

Emission reductions and adaptation

Climate Justice Now believes that in the climate negotiations industrialized countries have made unreasonable and unjust demands on the governments of developing countries. At the same time they have not lived up to their own binding and moral commitments from the Kyoto Protocol on emission reductions and adapting societies to climate change.

Several industrialized countries think that they do not want to bind themselves to too extensive commitments before the developing countries have also bound themselves to promises of emission reductions – especially industrialized developing countries such as China, India and Brazil.

Climate Justice Now is critical towards the governments of industrialized countries, financial institutions such as the World Bank and the WTO, and multinational companies that promote climate measures based on increased free trade and privatization. The network emphasizes the problems of measures such as trading in emission rights and the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol such as the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM.

The flexible mechanisms give industrial countries the opportunity to fulfil some of their climate commitments in other countries instead of in their own nations. Since the effects on the climate will be the same no matter where on earth the emissions are reduced, the countries can use the flexible mechanisms as a complement to reducing their national emissions. Climate Justice Now believes that industrialized countries should take a much greater responsibility for reducing their emissions at home even if it is more costly.

The opportunities for industrialized countries to invest in emission reductions in developing countries should also support sustainable development in these countries. Climate Justice Now thinks that the investments of the industrialized countries do not lead to sustainable development in developing countries and that the investments will not prove of use for the poorest countries. It is mostly large economies such as China, India and Brazil that have been able to attract investments for these types of projects.

The network has a negative attitude towards bio-fuels as a measure for climate change mitigation since bio-fuels are produced at the cost of agriculture for food production. One example is the so-called Tortilla crisis in Mexico when corn prices skyrocketed due to the demand for corn from the ethanol industry.

Climate Justice Now is in favour of measures entailing:

- A complete halt to the extraction of fossil fuels in order to invest in energy-efficient, safe and clean renewable energy instead. The work should be run locally.
- A radical reduction of environmentally dangerous consumption, first and foremost in industrial countries but also among the rich in developing countries.
- Extensive financial transfers from industrial countries to developing countries. The transfers should be seen as a form of reimbursement of the climate debt of the industrial countries to the developing countries and a balancing of the industrial countries' historical and present political and economic dominance in the developing countries.
- Financing measures of adaptation and measures for reduced emissions of greenhouse gases in developing countries. The steps taken should be financed by the funds that are used for military ends today, innovative sources of financing and debt-forgiveness.
- Respect for the indigenous peoples' rights and the right to independence. Independence and the right to decide on natural resources such as forests, land and water, must be reinforced and protected.
- The development of sustainable methods for family agriculture and secure food supplies.

Alliances

Climate Justice Now is implementing its struggle for equality and social and ecological justice not only in climate discussions in the context of the UN, but also on the streets. The global climate work must get grassroots support. Climate Justice Now says that it is necessary to create a greatly diverse movement – locally and globally - for a better world. Climate Justice Now welcomes every individual and organization that has similar goals and is willing to make rapid and radical changes that will carry its struggle forward.

The network supports developing countries which are largely dependent on adaptation, lack resources of their own, and are innocently affected by the negative effects of climate change.

Role profile/character

You are convinced that the industrial countries are responsible for climate change and, thus, it is their responsibility to finance climate adaptation and the means to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. You advocate measures that lead to equality and social and economical justice. You often and willingly point out the historical and present injustice between industrialized and developing countries and the unjust fact that climate change has the most serious effects on those who contribute least to climate change.

You are the spokesman for women, children, indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers and the marginalized and poor people who are already suffering and who will be affected in the future as well. As a representative for Climate Justice Now you urge rapid and radical action. You want to gather people around the world and mobilize the power to implement radical action to reach out with your message. You want to attack the real causes of climate change and to point out those responsible for it. You are not afraid to speak out. However, you do not belong to any state and, thus, you are not allowed to speak officially during the climate negotiations.

Source:

www.carbontradewatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=227&Itemid=95
www.carbontradewatch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=211&Itemid=95

Tips for further study:

The global climate movement:

- Friends of the Earth International, www.foei.org
- Climate Action Network (CAN), www.climatenetwork.org
- Third World Network (TWN), www.twinside.org.sg

Learn more about those with whom you can form alliances:

Search on respective country's website for statements and speeches

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

In 2009 the SSNC turned 100 years. The foundations of the work of this non-profit organization are – and have always been – the love of nature, engagement for a good environment, and the stubborn belief that it is always possible to change society.

Important standpoints

The most important goal for the SSNC is a binding commitment for industrial countries on emission reductions by the year 2020. The SSNC says that with this commitment the industrial countries should reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases nationally by at least 40 percent in comparison to 1990 levels. It is not out of the question that the goal should be extended at the same rate as new research from, for example, Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, is published. The goal for the year 2020 may need to be supplemented with short-term binding commitments, for example five-year commitments and a long-term goal of a global emission reduction of 90 percent nationally in the industrial countries by the year 2050 in order to facilitate future investments for example for the industrial sector. The SSNC says that the UNFCCC must strive towards getting the industrial countries to base their climate work on two main areas: adopting their own emission reductions and giving support to the climate work of developing countries.

According to the SSNC the climate work in the industrial countries should:

- Contain binding national emission reductions by the year 2020.
- Give support to climate measures in developing countries.
- Launch adequately financed cooperation in the field of technology with developing countries.
- Give financial support to developing countries for adaptation to climate change.
- Financially, and in other ways, support the prevention of deforestation in the tropical zone.
- Distribute emission allowances equally between the earth's inhabitants. The goal should be to reach a global emission level not exceeding more than half a tonne per person per year by 2050.

Background

Many politicians and stakeholders focus on the steps the developing countries must take. In the opinion of the SSNC, the EU, the USA and many others ask more from the developing countries than what can be considered fair – from a historical perspective on emissions and from a per capita perspective. The right of every country to develop has to be taken into account as well as keeping in mind those countries that have the capacity to pay in order to “fix the climate” sufficiently rapidly and efficiently. The SSNC is of the opinion that the countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol (the so-called annex 1 countries) must take the lead first and show results from existing commitments on reductions of emissions and financial and technological support for developing countries, and enter into commitments for more ambitious goals for the period following 2012. Only then will there be a reason to argue for binding commitments for developing countries. The framework for the period after 2012 must reflect a situation in which the industrial countries really discharge their responsibility for emission reductions of greenhouse gases.

The SNCC is of the opinion that there is a need, for the EU and internationally, to scrutinize the targets for greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere and also to reconsider the climate goals of the EU for the years 2020 and 2050. The SNCC says that the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere must not exceed 400 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents. Before industrialism the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere was 280 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents. The Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, and other researchers estimate that carbon dioxide concentration should not exceed more than 350 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents – in combination with modest levels of other greenhouse gases such as methane gas and nitric oxides. The recommendation of the *Scientific Council on Climate Change* to the Swedish government is that the goal should be 400 ppm carbon dioxide equivalents in the atmosphere (source in Swedish: www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/08/69/66/fd457e80.pdf).

Emission Reductions

The Bali Action Plan, the outcome of the climate negotiations within the framework of the UNFCCC on Bali, is a shared vision for long-term common climate measures. It contains long-term climate goals for emission reductions in order to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents the climate having dangerous effects on people. The SNCC applauds the fact that the EU, as early as in 1996, introduced a long-term goal to limit the earth's average temperature rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC states that global emissions should be reduced by 50-85 percent. In order to achieve the minimum effects of climate change we must aim at the largest emission reduction recommended by the IPCC. New research from the Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, NASA and others, shows that global emissions of greenhouse gases may need to be reduced by as much as 100 percent by the year 2050. The SNCC says that the debate on climate would become even more tangible if the EU or the world set a global goal per capita showing that emissions in the year 2050 should be a maximum of one tonne per capita. If the world population in 2050 is 9 billion people, a 90 percent reduction in emissions of greenhouses gases in comparison with the levels of 1990 would mean an emission of 0.44 tonnes of greenhouse gas per capita.

The SNCC states that the low level of ambition of the EU's own steps to tackle the climate problems means that it will become more expensive for the EU in the long term. The EU has a goal today to reduce emissions by 20 or 30 percent within the framework of a global agreement. Research shows that a 40 percent reduction nationally within the EU by the year 2020 is needed in order to lessen the effects of climate change. The EU's goal is to avoid having to realize all emission reductions within the EU. The EU wants between 50-75 percent of its member countries' emission reductions to be allowed to be made through measures in developing countries. The low level of ambition for emission reductions that exists today in the EU has the consequence that adaptation to a more climate-smart economy within the EU nations will come to a halt. This will reduce the EU's competitiveness in the long run and make the climate crisis worse, which in turn will raise costs. To take early measures is considerably more cost efficient than to postpone them, which is clearly shown by the Stern report. The SNCC is of the opinion that the common vision from the climate negotiations on Bali should specify when the global peak for emissions of greenhouses gases should take place.

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

The SNCC is deeply worried about the lack of a policy, at both national and EU level, that supports development, technology and the mitigation of climate change for developing countries. One positive development in climate policies is that the EU parliament is working to strengthen the EU Commission's weak Climate and Energy package which is designed to support developing countries. The SNCC believes that technology cooperation is a much larger question than just the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM. The SNCC believes that, in many cases, too much faith is put into what CDM can achieve in the form of technology transfer, efficiency, sustainable development and reduction of greenhouse gases. Too many CDM projects do not provide any real emission reductions (they are not additional); they merely deliver reductions that would have been achieved anyway. As many as 20 percent of almost one hundred CDM projects analyzed by the German Öko Institute were found to provide no emission reductions (source: www.oeko.de).

The SNCC believes that much funding is needed for research into the effects of climate change and strategies to reduce society's fossil-energy-intensive production and consumption patterns.

Alliances

Everyone who wants to move in the same direction as the SNCC – in other words, even unexpected alliances. An important task for the SNCC is to influence Swedish decision-makers, who, in turn, may exert an influence on the EU's climate policies.

Role profile/character

As a spokesperson for the SNCC you are not a representative of any nation and cannot speak in the climate negotiations. You do have a role to play before, during and after the climate meeting when you create alliances, highlight arguments and lobby for your agenda in other ways. It is important to find partners in cooperation that can carry your arguments further. To succeed you have to be very flexible and continually search for new and unexpected cooperation, and be a good listener. Representatives of the SNCC present practical and solution-oriented arguments with a scientific foundation.

Source: www.naturskyddsforeningen.se/klimat (in Swedish)

Tips for further study:

Learn more about with whom you can form alliances:

Search on respective country's website for statements and speeches
www.un.org/en/members/

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Vattenfall/ICC

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humour – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Climate change is a global problem that needs a global solution. The International Chamber of Commerce, ICC, is a network of representatives of companies in all the economic sectors from all parts of the world. Before a decision on a particular question is taken, companies around the world meet in the ICC's local so-called national committees to discuss the ICC's position. Swedish Vattenfall and Dutch Nuon have been a leading European energy company since February 2009. Through joint investment programmes the company hopes to speed up the process of transformation to climate-neutral operations by the year 2050. Vattenfall is a member of the ICC network.

Important standpoints

The ICC considers climate change to be one of the greatest challenges of our time. A climate agreement must be reached in a context of increasing energy needs, increasing access to energy and efforts to achieve sustainable development and economic growth for all. The ICC thinks that a climate agreement, designed to come into force from the year 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires, should maximize the possibility for companies to participate. Companies are not included in the current agreement. A framework for the time after 2012 should, for example, reflect the following measures:

- Involve all nations and other interested stakeholders. In order to maintain fair competition, it is important that all major emitting countries make commitments. The agreement should contain clear and long-term rules to make it easier for companies to make the right decisions when they invest.
- Make it possible for companies to contribute to the efforts to combat climate change through their various operations. In countries that already have far-reaching environmental requirements (e.g. Sweden) companies should be able to regard, as their own, the emission reductions achieved through investments in developing countries, in order to make it easier for the companies to work in the right direction. In this way, emission reductions are made where they are most needed and where they are most effective. The "opponents" think that companies avoid their responsibilities by making reductions in other countries instead of in their own companies.
- Provide an appropriate framework for improving the development and use of technologies to fight climate change. To stimulate the businesses to develop new technologies, there must be good protection for inventions, i.e. protection of so-called "intellectual property". The ICC is therefore against compulsory licensing of climate technology, which means, for example, that developing countries may use technology developed by companies at no cost to themselves. The ICC believes that it is necessary that the companies are paid for their products to ensure continued research and development by the businesses in the future. For example funds from industrialized countries should finance a part of the technology transfers, paying companies to share their climate technology with countries that need it.

- Acknowledge that all countries need to develop secure supplies of energy and maintain economic growth. The need for energy is growing constantly, as a result of the increasing world population and of more and more countries reaching a higher level of development. Energy is an important component for welfare. According to the ICC, no energy source should be prohibited, in order to make the supply of energy sufficient for all. Even coal and oil should therefore be used to generate energy.

Background

Business operations in the world account for about 80 percent of all investments. Investments via the private sector and trade are expected to contribute greatly to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. To meet the challenge of emission reductions, companies need predictable and stable rules for their long-term planning and investments. Rules from the UNFCCC are necessary to allow companies to accelerate and disseminate technological research and long-term projects on energy supply, energy infrastructure and energy efficiency, and to create a diversity of energy sources.

The world's population is expected to grow from 6.5 to 8 billion people, energy use is expected to rise by 50 percent, and economic yields are expected to double within the next 25 years. To meet the need for increased energy use and to go from fossil fuels to renewable fuels a framework is required that increases the use of existing technologies and the development of new, effective and innovative long term solutions. In addition efforts to reduce the demand for energy must be implemented.

Emission reductions

"Our vision is that our energy production will be carbon dioxide neutral by 2050. Together we can work wonders for the environment." Lars G Josefsson, CEO, Vattenfall.

Vattenfall is the first large energy company in the world to present a plan to make its production of electricity climate-neutral. Vattenfall has previously announced its intention to substantially reduce emissions by 2030. Now, Vattenfall is increasing its ambitions further, to be climate-neutral by 2050. Vattenfall has already reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by about 25 percent. The goal is to reduce emissions per produced kWh by 50 percent. Vattenfall is driving development and has the ambition to be ahead of its competitors and to fulfil by far the demands that society is making.

Adaptation

The ICC believes that a climate agreement after the year 2012 should ensure that nations integrate adaptation measures in their long-term plans for housing, agriculture, energy and other infrastructure. The ICC thinks that UNFCCC should assist vulnerable developing countries with adaptation measures based on the UN's climate convention. In addition, the Adaptation Fund should be structured and made more effective.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

Vattenfall is a part of the energy sector and as such is partially responsible for reducing the climate impact of electricity production and heating. Vattenfall wants to be a part of the solution and therefore it is running a *Carbon Capture and Storage*, CSS, project. The goal of the project is to actively participate in the development of techniques to capture, separate and store carbon dioxide produced by coal-burning power plants. Vattenfall's ambition is to be part of the process of developing safe, cost-effective, feasible techniques for CSS and, in this way, achieve significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. Vattenfall aims to have a fully developed concept completed by the year 2020.

A future climate agreement should support the development and expansion of the flexible mechanisms: *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM and *Joint Implementation*, JI, which enable firms to receive credits for work done to reduce emissions in other parts of the world than where the company has its core business. CDM and JI should be developed to accommodate major projects with the potential to reduce emissions substantially but the mechanisms should also be less bureaucratic, especially for small projects. The ICC's perception is that the technology CCS is an effective method for stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Financing

Economic development and sound investments are required in order for companies to put in the necessary resources to deal with climate change. A climate agreement should provide a framework for effective energy use and sustainable energy, increase general awareness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Alliances

The ICC and Vattenfall network with large interest groups and alliances. The ICC and Vattenfall are very willing to participate in official and unofficial meetings in order to be heard and to get partners in cooperation for their technical projects and guidelines. The ICC encourages climate initiatives from groups like the G8, *The Major Economies Forum*, (MEF), *the Asia-Pacific Partnership* (APP) and OPEC. The ICC and Vattenfall do not keenly ally themselves with groups that criticize projects like Carbon Capture and Storage, CCS. Some groups view CCS as a project that facilitates continued use of fossil fuels instead of contributing to the switchover to more renewable energy.

Role profile/character

As a spokesperson for the ICC and Vattenfall, you are not a representative of any nation and hence are not allowed to make any statements during the climate negotiations. You do have a role to play before, during and after the climate meeting when you create alliances, highlight arguments and lobby for your agenda in other ways. It is important to find partners in cooperation that can carry your arguments further. To succeed you have to be very flexible and continually search for new and unexpected partners, and be a good listener.

Source:

- Business views on a UNFCCC, post-2012 framework to address climate change for the UNFCCC, The International Chamber of Commerce, ICC. www.iccwbo.org
- Vattenfall www.vattenfall.se

Tips for further study:

Learn more about with whom you can form alliances:

Search on respective country's website for statements and speeches
www.un.org/en/members/

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.
www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

Bangladesh

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humor – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

Bangladesh is a country which is rich in natural resources, has fertile plains and large stretches of coastline. Despite this, Bangladesh is on the list of the world's 40 poorest countries. Income inequality is very high. The population of the country is 160 million and the population density is about 1,000 people per square kilometre.

Important standpoints

To Bangladesh, the Climate Convention's *principle of common but differentiated responsibilities* is of utmost importance. Bangladesh emphasizes that the industrial countries have a historical responsibility for emissions and that their consumption per capita today is many times that of developing countries. Bangladesh also stresses that their right to development must be respected in the climate negotiations. The country has not made official any international goals that they are working towards regarding emissions of greenhouse gases.

Bangladesh's positions for the forthcoming climate negotiations are:

- Industrial countries must keep their commitments on reducing carbon dioxide emissions before developing countries begin discussing setting up their own commitments on limiting emissions. Bangladesh refers here to those countries that have not fulfilled the commitments they made in the Kyoto Protocol.
- All the earth's citizens have the right to development. The goal for Bangladesh is for emissions of carbon dioxide per capita to be equal throughout the world.
- The transfer of technology is important and the country emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in research and access to patents.
- The country's officials state that the cost of adapting to a changing climate is going to be much more expensive than expected.
- Bangladesh emphasizes that climate change is a global problem that crosses borders and it advocates a new climate agreement in which every nation contributes to emission reductions. The participation of all countries is vital in order to secure a sufficient global response.

It is high time for ALL countries to launch a new dialogue with a more far-reaching attempt to tackle climate change and work towards a new agreement with a broader approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Background

Bangladesh is a developing country in the central part of Asia. The country is very flat and located in a geographically vulnerable area and is therefore highly vulnerable to floods during the monsoon season. Bangladesh is, with approximately 160 million inhabitants living on an area about one-third the size of Sweden, one of the world's most densely populated countries. The country is also one of the poorest and has very high population growth.

Approximately 60 million of the population live below the so-called the poverty line, which means that they have a daily income of less than two dollars per person. The natural landscape has been affected to a quite large extent, since a large proportion of the people in Bangladesh make their living from farming. Large areas of woodland have been felled to make way for arable and pasture land.

A flood in 1998 put approximately two-thirds of Bangladesh under water, forcing millions to flee. This gave a frightening indication of what the future might look like. It is estimated that sea levels will rise by between 0.09 to 0.88 metres between 1990 and 2100. This would mean that a large part of Bangladesh would be naturally flooded because the country is low-lying as it is, and may force up to 30 million people to move. CO₂ emissions in 2004 were 0.3 tonnes per capita, compared to 20.6 in the USA or 6.1 in Sweden.

Emission reductions

In the international climate negotiations that deal with future climate goals it has been discussed that industrial countries can have 25-40 percent emission reductions by 2020 as a short-term goal and a long-term goal can be 80-95 percent reductions compared to 1990 levels. The EU has put forth the idea that developing countries can, as a group, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 while recognizing that the need for development in certain developing countries' can necessitate a temporary increase in emissions of greenhouse gases for a limited period of time. The developing countries response to this is that it is not possible to impose requirements for the same reductions on countries that have such different levels of emissions. It would mean, for example, that Bangladesh would be frozen at a level of emissions per capita at one percent of that of the USA.

Bangladesh has so far internationally opposed any emission reduction commitments. The country points out that many of the countries that have committed themselves to emission reductions in line with the Kyoto Protocol have instead actually increased their level of emissions. There has also been an increase in greenhouse gas emissions per capita. Bangladesh conducts extensive climate work at the national level. Funds are primarily being invested to adapt the country to rising sea levels.

Bangladesh believes that binding commitments by industrial countries, which are also historically those behind the largest emissions of greenhouse gases, are necessary. Countries like Bangladesh and the so-called *Least Developed Countries*, LDC, should not have to make binding commitments in the foreseeable future due to their, historically speaking, low levels of emissions and their right to development.

Adaptation

Bangladesh is vulnerable as climate change is expected to affect the country's economic and social development and hinder the process of poverty reduction. The efforts to adjust societies to climate change must go hand in hand with the efforts to mitigate climate change. Low-lying countries already suffer from the negative effects of climate change. Rising sea levels, together with devastating hurricanes and cyclones in the Caribbean and the Pacific, are evidence of the increasing effects of climate change that threaten to destroy the entire economies of already threatened countries. Bangladesh thinks that the country needs international support to adapt its vulnerable society to climate change.

Bangladesh ask the establishment for help to create a new insurance structure that could bear the costs of re-establishing societies that are exposed to extreme weather conditions and other climate-related effects.

Bangladesh believes that a plan for the financing of adaptation measures must be established and that the level of funding must be adequate and predictable in order to make planning easier. One suggestion is that 2 percent of the funds in the *Clean Development Mechanism*, CDM, can go to the Adaptation Fund.

Bangladesh would like to see the Adaptation Fund as a form of assistance to prevent, and prepare societies for, future climate threats. The Adaptation Fund should include:

- Funding for the protection of fresh water reserves, which is a very valuable resource for small islands
- Funding to adapt society through new agricultural reforms
- New building traditions and protection of coastal zones

Technology development, dissemination and transfer

With the aid of so-called flexible mechanisms, the Kyoto Protocol offers the possibility for industrial countries to fulfil part of their climate commitments through other countries instead of at home. Since the impact on the climate is the same no matter where on earth emissions are reduced, countries can use flexible mechanisms as a complement to reducing their own national emissions. The idea behind flexible mechanisms is that efforts to reduce emissions should be implemented where they are cheapest. The opportunity to invest in emission constraints in developing countries should also support sustainable development in these countries.

The Clean Development Mechanism, CDM, is a flexible mechanism. It allows participants in countries with emission commitments based on the Kyoto Protocol to implement emission-reducing programmes in other countries (generally in developing countries) that are part of the Kyoto Protocol but that do not have any binding commitments. Bangladesh believes that the CDM is a small but important step to create a market which provides healthy financial initiatives for the development and use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies. Bangladesh supports the G77's proposal to establish a multilateral climate technology fund. It stresses the importance of accelerating the transfer of renewable energy technologies, and that all countries need to facilitate international trade in renewable energy technologies.

Bangladesh's interest in the projects in the *Carbon Capture and Storage* (CSS) programme has been weak. CCS projects are being carried out in Bangladesh today but Bangladesh would rather not be in the role of test subject for a new technology of this type. Bangladesh has several projects within the framework of CDM. Bangladesh believes that the existence of strong patent protection rules prevents the transfer of technology and it stresses the importance of international research and development cooperation in the area of technology.

Financing

In August 2008, the G77 presented a proposal for creating a financing fund. The fund would be financed by funds from the GDP of donor countries. According to the proposal, the donor countries' contribution should be a percentage of their GDP and the contribution should be separate from any budget the donor countries already have set aside for aid. Financing for the recipient would

by and large have no requirement for repayment. The proposal also stipulates that donor countries cannot count their contribution as a part of already committed aid funds; instead the fund should be separate from other financing commitments.

Bangladesh welcomes the \$30 billion in climate aid that industrialized countries will contribute in the period 2010-2012, but believes that the sum is too modest. Japan, Europe and the USA have promised to provide most of the grant. Some of the aid will be taken from already pledged aid money. From 2013 climate aid will progressively increase so that by 2020 it will reach \$100 billion annually. Many questions remain unanswered in respect of how the financial system for climate aid will be organized.

Alliances

Bangladesh is a member of the G77, a coalition with roots in the mid-1960s when it was formed as a platform to promote the agenda of developing countries in the UN. Bangladesh is a very active member of the G77 when it comes to climate negotiations.

Bangladesh refers to the fact that the USA accounts for 20 percent of the world's greenhouse gases even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population. Bangladesh supports all countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and that have already committed themselves to emission reductions. Bangladesh is happy to cooperate with countries and organizations that give priority to the environment and that show great understanding of the vulnerability of countries as well as different levels of development.

Role profile/character

The members of the Bangladesh delegation have a key role in the climate negotiations. You know that your country has played a very small role, historically and in per capita terms, in the currently threatening process of climate change, but is at risk of huge problems.

You are unwilling to enter into commitments on emission reductions until the industrial countries have shown results. You argue with emotional arguments combined with future horror scenarios including millions of climate refugees. Delegates from Bangladesh are not ready to enter into emission-reduction commitments. However, they are very willing to negotiate on climate-smart solutions that can help the country to switch to more modern forms of energy use which also may contribute to social and economic development.

You as a delegate have a keen attitude towards research and development collaboration, but a reluctance to discuss emission-reduction commitments.

Source:

hdrstats.undp.org/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_BGD.html

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

www.un.org/en/members/

The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

www.un.org/ga/63/generaldebate

South Africa

Some general advice:

- Be well-informed
- Adopt an assumed name
- Dress appropriately and act in a diplomatic and professional manner
- Feel free to use humor – but always within the context of your role
- Divide tasks within your delegation so that you are efficient and comfortable with your roles

South Africa has a population of 48.8 million. The democratic elections in South Africa in 1994 marked the end of apartheid. The peaceful transition from authoritarian minority rule to democracy has made the country into a role model. The last elections, in 2009, were held in a calm and orderly manner and with a high level of participation. The election confirmed South Africa's democratic culture, although the fact remains that it is a very young democracy.

Background

South Africa is a country struggling with considerable challenges including HIV and AIDS which is one of the biggest. Every fifth person is HIV-positive. Every day about one thousand South Africans die of AIDS and several hundred thousand are infected by HIV each year. The disease threatens the country's development, social structure and economic growth. The gap between rich and poor is huge, unemployment is high, and there are significant skills gaps between the white minority and the historically disadvantaged black majority.

The uneven distribution of wealth is the economy's biggest problem. Many black South Africans live from subsistence agriculture on or below the poverty line, even if there is a growing wealthy black middle class. The ANC government's major challenge is to combat mass poverty while the business sector becomes more efficient and attracts new investors. The combination of inequality and unemployment explains much of South Africa's widespread social ills such as crime, violence, sexual assault and domestic violence. In addition, the high proportion of poor people is an unutilised resource for the country's social and economic development.

South Africa is the most highly industrialized country in Africa. The country has a highly energy-intensive production, mainly based on fossil fuels. South Africa's economy is more energy-intensive than that of some OECD countries. The mining industry is the most important industry in South Africa, unlike the rest of Africa. The price of energy is also low, which reduces the incentive to reduce energy use. South Africa's coal is cheap to mine and provides the country with a very large proportion of its electricity. Over 90 percent of the electricity comes from coal. Electricity is also exported. Nuclear power is the other major energy source. Africa's hitherto only nuclear power plant is in South Africa. Hydropower is also used to produce electricity. Still, three out of ten are without access to electricity in South Africa, but in 1994 about two-thirds of the households were without electricity.

The country imports oil to meet energy needs. Water is overexploited and is no longer sufficient for all. Vaal River, which is the source of water for the mining and industrial areas in Gauteng and Free State, is fully exploited. Environmental organizations have criticized a large water project in which Lesotho's rivers will be diverted for export to South Africa. There are also other environmental problems. For example, the air in metropolitan areas is polluted and the country's extensive and unique flora and fauna are endangered. South Africa is the world's leading gold producer and is estimated to have 40 percent of the world's gold. It also has large deposits of diamonds, coal and uranium. Significant gas discoveries have been made and there is an ongoing search for oil.

Emission reductions

South Africa has the largest greenhouse gas emissions (44%) of the countries in Africa. South Africa is ranked in 11th place in the world when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. Since South Africa is a developing country, it has no limits on its greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. South Africa believes that it should contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, but less so than more developed countries. It considers technology transfer to be essential. South Africa believes that it must be allowed to develop and that restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions will hinder economic growth which limits the country's ability to improve the situation of the poor.

Martinius van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environment and Tourism, said: *“developing countries such as ourselves will be expected, and should be expected to take our fair share of responsibility and demonstrate our plans to contribute to the global response, albeit in a different way that recognizes our growth imperative and our small contribution thus far to the current crises”.*

Although the South African government is taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, some departments are acting in the opposite direction. For example, the Department of Minerals and Energy has developed programmes to increase the use of coal.

Regarding South Africa's long-term plan for emission reductions, areas given priority are carbon taxation, nuclear power and renewable energy, and electric vehicles (however, today South Africa only has one nuclear reactor). South Africa estimates that its emissions of greenhouse gases will increase and reach its peak sometime between 2025 and 2035, and decline after 2060.

Deforestation

One of the most important measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to increase the number of carbon sinks. South Africa has adopted an action plan with the objective of ensuring sustainable forest management and combating forest fires.

Adaptation

Research from the IPCC shows that countries in sub-Saharan Africa will be hit very hard by climate change due to their natural vulnerability to climate change impacts, and due to the fact that their economies have a weak ability to adapt. South Africa has better adaptability due to its well-developed industrial sector, but will nevertheless be affected by impacts on ecosystems and society. The country has, for example, a great shortage of water and will, even without climate change, exhaust its water reserves in a few decades. Climate change will exacerbate water shortages as the intensity and regularity of the rainy season will be affected. This in turn is expected to also increase the risk of malaria. Some researchers believe that the risk of conflict caused by water scarcity will increase.

South Africa is also concerned that sea levels will rise. It is vulnerable to flooding as it is an urbanized country.

Maize is an important staple crop, especially for the poor in the country. Maize production will be hit hard by climate change. A drier and warmer climate will reduce maize production by 10-20 percent in 50 years. South Africa has a great need for climate adaptation, but its economic growth would be inhibited.

Technological development, dissemination and transfer

South Africa is very interested in renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency which could contribute to adaptation. South Africa would like to see itself as a “low-carbon economy” and is trying to attract investment. It argues that this will take a long time and it is not willing to slow growth in order to achieve this. South Africa is in favour of CDM and currently has several projects. It also does research into CCS (*Carbon Capture and Storage*). South Africa sees itself as a future pioneer country when it comes to solar power and the goal is to become the market leader.

Financing

In August 2008 South Africa and G77 presented a proposal for a financing fund. The fund would be financed with funds from the GDP of donor countries. Financing would, to a great extent, have no requirement for repayment on the part of the recipient. The proposal also implies that donor countries cannot count their contribution as a part of their existing budget for aid; instead the fund should be separate from other financing commitments.

South Africa welcomes the \$30 billion in climate aid that industrialized countries will contribute in the period 2010-2012, but believes that the sum is too modest. Japan, Europe and the USA promised to provide most of the grant. Some of the aid will be taken from already pledged aid money. From 2013 climate aid will progressively increase so that it by 2020 will reach \$100 billion annually. Many questions remain unanswered about how the financial system for climate aid will be organized.

Alliances

South Africa is part of the G5 group (South Africa, Brazil, India, China, Mexico), G77 and the African Group. One common factor for the LDC and the African Group is that they are highly focused on adaptation, since the countries in these groups are sensitive to climate change. The governments of India, Brazil and South Africa feel that they have similar political objectives and believe that cooperation enhances their ability to affect negotiations in for instance the World Trade Organization. Another priority is the countries' efforts to obtain permanent seats in a future extension of the UN Security Council.

Role Profile/character

Delegates from South Africa are not ready to enter into commitments on emission-reduction commitments. However, they are very willing to negotiate on climate-smart solutions that can help the country to switch to more modern forms of energy use which also may contribute to social and economic development. You as a delegate have a keen attitude towards research and development collaboration, but a reluctance to discuss emission-reduction commitments.

Source:

www.info.gov.za/speeches/2008/08072816451001.htm

www.ccs summit2009.co.za/Downloads/Hot_issues/2009.03.01_Climate_Change_Policy_Framework.pdf

Tips for further study:

The country's website (search on respective country's website for statements and speeches)

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The countries' opening speeches in the UN general assembly 2008.

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