

Climate Change Conference of Parties Simulation

Each of you will be asked to represent a country in the upcoming Paris Agreement Conference of Parties to review Nationally Determined Contributions and decide how to proceed with implementing the Paris Agreement. I will act as the secretariat for the negotiations. The list below is indicative of the positions adopted by some of the key players. I will provide you with the links to NDCs and your incentive structures in a separate email.

Country Groupings in the Conference of Parties/Observers

	<u>Proactive</u>	<u>Opposed/Skeptical</u>
Industrial Countries	EU, Germany, France, UK, Italy, Spain, Canada	Australia, US, New Zealand
	Japan, Russia Switzerland, Poland	
Developing Countries	Tuvalu, Malaysia, China, India, Argentina Mexico, South Korea, Brazil	Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela

In preparation for the negotiations you will need to prepare a 5 to 7 bullet-point negotiating position for your country on the justification for your nation's NDC, which you should propose based on your nation's initial submission in 2015. Your position should begin with a general statement of your country's understanding of the threat of climate change (again, only a brief statement or bullet point is required for presentation on Monday). This should be followed by a brief summary of your country's key specific interests related to the provisions in your NDC, and your comments or objections to commitments provided by other nations' NDCs. Before you prepare your position, you should briefly obtain some background information about your country and its likely costs and benefits of addressing climate change. This information should be generally available in your website materials and the Internet, but I am glad to provide you with direction to additional resources if you need them.

As you prepare for the session you will need to review the following information on your country to buttress your negotiating position. This background information need not be included in your 5 to 7 bullet-point position statement.

Statistics:

- 1) Total emissions of carbon dioxide
- 2) Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide
- 3) Carbon dioxide emissions per dollar of GDP
- 4) Sectoral composition of carbon emissions (i.e. percent of total emissions from the transportation sector, energy sector, industry, etc.)

As you prepare your position, you should consider these political variables:

- 1) What policies has your government already undertaken to manage carbon dioxide emissions?
- 2) Which sectors will likely have to bear the costs of regulations to reduce carbon emissions?
- 3) What are the likely costs of inaction on climate change?
- 4) Who will bear the costs of inaction within your country?
- 5) Which domestic interest groups have the most influence on climate policy decisions?
- 6) What are the positions of the major parties and politicians on climate change?
- 7) How would you describe domestic public opinion on climate change?
- 8) What role have non-governmental organizations played in the climate policy process?
- 9) What role has science played in your climate policy process?
- 10) Have international organizations or other countries influenced your state's climate policy?
- 11) Are there other issues that your country might like to link to climate change that would provide for tradeoffs in the climate negotiations?

Put yourself in the position of a negotiator for your country. You must represent the interests of your country (as defined by your domestic political establishment) to the best of your abilities—whether you agree with your country's position or not. You must first establish your country's preferences in the negotiations. You must then decide, based on these preferences, what your country's position on each of the provisions in the draft text will be.

Prior to the beginning of the negotiations, you will briefly present the key points outlined above and your country's position on the negotiating text. You must then seek to reach an agreement on the protocol's final text.

There is no separate grade for this exercise. It will instead count towards the overall participation portion of your grade in this class.