

UN Organisers



This is **Ban Ki Moon**, the Secretary General (leader) of the UN.



You are to play Ban Ki Moon and his team. Your job is to:

- A. **Organise the summit:** (You need to make sure that the world leaders listen to each other and do not talk over each other.)
- B. **Lead the discussion:** (Discuss the different points and try to agree targets).

THINGS TO DO:

1. At the beginning of the summit, you need to explain the aims: Please read out:

Scientists now believe that it is very likely that climate change is caused by human activities. In 1997, world leaders met in Kyoto, Japan, to agree emissions cuts. These cuts were quite small and have not been met. The Kyoto targets run out in 2012, and there is widespread agreement that new targets should be agreed by 2009. This will allow countries to get ready to put them into place before 2012. We are here today to discuss what these targets might be and any other ideas you might have for addressing the problem of climate change.

We should be agreed that the time for talk is over and we need to act now to prevent disaster.

2. Next, ask each country to introduce themselves and explain:

Where in the world the country is.

How rich the country is.

How Climate Change is affecting them, what they are willing to do to stop it and what they think other countries should do.

3. Next, discuss the following things asking the countries to respond to each question in turn:

A. Do you agree that something needs to be done about climate change in the very near future?

B. Do you agree to an 80% cut in emissions by 2050?

C. Do you agree to providing money for poorer countries so they can pay for the damage caused by climate change?

Make sure they give reasons for their comments. Allow every country to speak and don't let one country dominate.

4. Ask if any countries have any further comments. Make sure that all countries have spoken. If they haven't, ask them what their opinion is.

5. At the end, take a vote on the following issues:

A. Do you agree that something needs to be done about climate change in the very near future?

B. Do you agree to an 80% cut in emissions by 2050?

C. Do you agree to provide money for poorer countries so they can pay for the damage caused by climate change?

6. Explain that there will be a final climate change summit in Copenhagen in Denmark in December 2009 to decide final targets.

TASKS TO PREPARE:

1. Read through the Country information. Highlight any points that you think are important (e.g. the things that definitely need to be said).
2. Think about what you will say and how you will say it. You might need to make notes here.

General instructions to all countries

There is now scientific agreement that climate change is caused by human activities. In 1997, world leaders met in Kyoto, Japan, to agree emissions cuts. These cuts were quite small and have not been met. The Kyoto targets run out in 2012, and there is widespread agreement that new targets should be agreed by 2009 so that countries can get ready to put them into place before 2012.

You are going to join lots of other countries at a UN conference in Copenhagen. The purpose of this summit is to plan a new global deal for tackling climate change and take a vote on what should happen next.

What you need to do:

- (a) Please read the notes on your country.
- (b) Complete the task at the bottom of this sheet to help you prepare for the Copenhagen summit.
- (c) At the summit, try to act out your role as realistically as possible. You will be asked to explain a little about the background of your country at the start of the summit.

United Kingdom

You are a rich country. Carbon emissions helped you become one of the richest nations.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You want to agree a percentage figure for how much emissions should be cut at this summit. You want this to be somewhere between 25%-40% by the year 2020. You accept that it is harder for developing countries such as China and India to be able to hit these targets as their technology is not as advanced. You might like to suggest that they take on a smaller target.

Be prepared!

- If richer countries do not want a target, really push them. Explain that we are headed towards disaster and something needs to be done.
- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

TASK:

Read this sheet carefully and then make notes on the following questions:

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2. Does your country agree that Climate Change is a big problem?
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4. Do you think that developing countries should have the same targets as rich countries? Why?
5. Do you think that the poorest countries should have the same targets as other countries? Why?
6. Are you prepared to give money to poorer countries to help pay for the damage caused by Climate Change?

USA

You are a rich country. Carbon emissions helped you become the richest nation on the planet. You are the most powerful country, and control 30% of world wealth.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage. Do not agree to any targets. It is difficult for you to agree new targets as your President (Barack Obama) is still settling in and he does not want to make any promises yet on climate change.
- You feel that because nations such as China and India are growing so quickly, that they are the main cause of climate change now. If they are not prepared to accept targets, then why should you be?

Be prepared!

- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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China

You are the world's most populated country – with a population of 1.3 billion people. You suffered a lot of poverty in the twentieth century, but your country is now developing quickly. Carbon emissions are helping to do this. Your emissions have risen dramatically over the past decade.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You are trying to find ways of using less energy. You have already set a target of meeting 15 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.
- However, you have large stocks of coal and want to use them – just like richer countries have done – to make goods to sell in China and to other countries.
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage. **Do not agree to any targets.**

Be prepared!

The rich countries may put pressure on you to accept targets for reducing emissions. You could respond by pointing out that:

- The rich countries did not have to cut emissions when they were developing, so why should China?
- Both the UK and USA emit much more carbon **per person** than China.
- A lot of China's carbon emissions come from making things that people in richer countries buy e.g. – televisions, MP3 players, clothes. It's not just China that is driving up China's carbon emissions!

The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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6. What would you like from richer countries in order to agree targets?

India

You are a large country with a massive population in South Asia. You suffered a lot of poverty in the twentieth century. Your country is now developing quickly. Carbon emissions are helping to do this.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage. **Do not agree to any targets.**

Be prepared!

- The USA may put pressure on you to accept targets. If they do, point out that they did not have to cut emissions when their country was developing, so why should India?
- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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Tanzania

You are a poor country in Africa. You have suffered the effects of climate change.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You do not produce many emissions yourself because you are a poor country. You do feel the effects from them through droughts, so you want the leaders to agree on targets on how much to reduce emissions.
- If the other leaders do not agree with this, explain that you feel it is unfair that your country should suffer when you do not produce many emissions yourself.
- You would also like some money to help pay for the effects of climate change, such as poorer yields from crops.

How climate change is affecting Tanzania

- Coffee growers on the lower slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro are being hit hard by rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns - irrigation ditches and water taps are running dry and their harvests aren't as good.
- Malaria is spreading into areas where it never existed before.
- The Maasai pastoralists of northern Tanzania are some of the country's most at-risk people. They often live in drought and disaster-prone areas, and depend on cattle for their survival. The increasingly unpredictable climate and poor rains have left the animals too weak to provide milk, blood and meat.



The summit of Mount Kilimanjaro has less much less ice than it did 50 years ago.

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Tanzanian coffee beans – at risk from a changing climate

Bangladesh

You are a poor country in South Asia. You have suffered the effects of climate change.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You do not produce many emissions yourself because you are a poor country. You do feel the effects from them, especially through worse flooding. This has crippled your country in recent years, so you want the leaders to agree on targets on how much to reduce emissions.
- If the other leaders do not agree with this, explain that you feel it is unfair that your country should suffer when you do not produce many emissions yourself.
- You would also like some money to help pay for the effects of climate change, such as flooding and poorer yields from crops.

How climate change is affecting Bangladesh

- Scientists believe that there will be more tropical storms and that these will be more severe.
- Already, the kind of floods that used to happen every 20 years are now happening every five years.
- As most of Bangladesh is less than 10 metres above sea level this threatens people, property, crops and clean water supplies across large areas of the country.

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France

You are a rich country. Carbon emissions helped you become one of the richest nations.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You want to agree a percentage figure for how much emissions should be cut at this summit. You want this to be somewhere between 25%-40% by the year 2020.
- You accept that it is harder for developing countries such as China and India to be able to hit these targets as their technology is not as advanced. You might like to suggest that they take on a smaller target.

Be prepared!

- If richer countries do not want a target, really push them. Explain that we are headed towards disaster and something needs to be done.
- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea. You might like to suggest that they get the money in return for agreeing to ensure they also cut their emissions.

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Spain

You are a rich country. Carbon emissions helped you become a rich nation.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You want to agree a percentage figure for how much emissions should be cut at this summit. You want this to be somewhere between 25%-40% by the year 2020.
- You accept that it is harder for developing countries such as China and India to be able to hit these targets as their technology is not as advanced. You might like to suggest that they take on a smaller target.

Be prepared!

- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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Canada

You are a rich country in North America. Carbon emissions helped you become one of the richest nations.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage. **Do not agree to any targets.**
- You feel that because nations such as China and India are growing so quickly, that they are the main cause of climate change now. If they are not prepared to accept targets, then why should you be?

Be prepared!

- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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Peru

You are a poor country in South America. You have suffered the effects of climate change.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You do not produce many emissions yourself because you are a poor country. You do feel the effects from them through droughts and flooding. These have crippled your country in recent years, so you want the leaders to agree on targets on how much to reduce emissions.
- If the other leaders do not agree with this, explain that you feel it is unfair that your country should suffer when you do not produce many emissions yourself.
- You would also like some money to help pay for the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and poorer yields from crops.

How is Peru already affected by climate change?

- Between 1970 and 1997 the Cordillera Blanca mountain range is estimated to have lost 22 per cent of its glaciers. The retreating glaciers are releasing more water each year, and in just 15 years most glaciers will disappear altogether. The melt is causing widespread fears of long-term water shortages for farmers and communities.
- Farmers are also reporting that warmer temperatures and reduced rainfall is affecting their crops, and that warmer weather is bringing more pests, which damage their crops.

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Japan

You are a rich country in Eastern Asia. Carbon emissions helped you become one of the richest nations.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- The problem is that you are struggling to meet the targets set out in the Kyoto agreement, so you are worried about committing to more targets now. **Do not agree to any targets.**
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage.

Be prepared!

- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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Brazil

You are a large country in South America. You suffered a lot of poverty in the twentieth century. Your country is now developing quickly. Carbon emissions are helping to do this.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You are not prepared to accept a figure for how much emissions should be cut at this stage. **Do not agree to any targets.**

Be prepared!

- The USA may put pressure on you to accept targets. If they do, point out that they did not have to cut emissions when their country was developing, so why should India?
- The poorer countries may ask you to provide money to protect their forests and to pay for the damage caused by climate change. You agree with this idea but you're not sure how to organise such a system. Unless someone comes up with a good idea, refuse to pay for it at this stage.

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Indonesia

You are a poor country in South East Asia – with the world's fourth largest population.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You do not produce many emissions yourself because you are a poor country. **Do not agree to any targets for reducing your country's emissions.** If the other leaders do not agree with this, explain that you feel it is unfair that your country should suffer when it does not produce many emissions.
- You would also like some money to help pay for the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and poorer yields from crops.
- You also have a large amount of forests. As you are a poor country, you would like money to help protect your forests.

How climate change is affecting Indonesia

- Annual rainfall has fallen by between 2 and 3 per cent in recent years. With less rain at important times of the year, there will be more drought and smaller harvests – leading to poverty and an under-fed population.
- With 80,000 kilometres of coastline and 17,500 islands, Indonesia will suffer greatly if coastal flooding gets worse as sea levels rise and storms get more frequent and severe. Much of this coastal land is good farmland.
- The Jakarta flood in February 2007 killed more than 65 people and left nearly half a million people homeless. It also cost the country US\$450 million.
- Warmer temperatures may lead to more cases of certain diseases (e.g. dengue fever).

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Mauritania

You are a poor country in Africa that does not produce many emissions. However, you are already suffering the effects of climate change.

Your position

- You agree that climate change is a big problem.
- You do not produce many emissions yourself because you are a poor country. You do feel the effects from them through droughts. This has crippled your country in recent years, so you want the leaders to agree on targets on how much to reduce emissions.
- If the other leaders do not agree with this, explain that you feel it is unfair that your country should suffer when you do not produce many emissions yourself.
- You would also like some money to help pay for the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and poorer yields from crops.

How climate change is affecting Mauritania

Many scientists predict that the climate will become drier leading to worse droughts, which lead to death of livestock, food shortages and more poverty. Zeine Mint Ahmed (opposite) told Oxfam about the changes the villagers have seen in the local climate in Affolé:

'The weather has changed. There is no rain any more. There were many wells where we collected water, but now they are dry. We are not crazy. We can see these changes around us. There was grass everywhere when we built this village. The hillsides were green for months where we are sitting now. That has gone.'



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