

IPCC: G20 1 and 2: Committee briefing paper: Global Classrooms: London Climate Change Conference



Regional Summary:

The Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G-20, G20, Group of Twenty) is a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from 20 major economies: 19 countries plus the European Union, which is represented by the President of the European Council and by the European Central Bank. Their heads of government or heads of state have also periodically met at summits since their initial meeting in 2008. Collectively, the G-20 economies comprise 87.2% of global nominal GDP, 83.1% of global GDP (PPP), 85% of global gross national product, 80% of world trade (including EU intra-trade) and two-thirds of the world population. They contribute to 84.1% and 82.2% of the world's economic growth by nominal GDP and GDP (PPP) respectively from the years 2010 to 2016 according to International Monetary Fund (IMF). They also emit 80% of global CO₂ emissions.

At the G20 Pittsburg Summit 2009, the leaders recognised the importance of energy security and promotion of energy efficiency in response to the challenges of climate change. And being a forum of finance ministers, discussions have been mostly focused on how to finance global mitigation and adaptation actions. At last year's G20 Seoul Summit, the G20 reaffirmed their commitment to take actions according to the objective, provisions, and the principles of the UNFCCC and also support green growth policies. Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies is another main agenda reaffirmed by the leaders that is expected to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy access of the poor. Moreover, the Seoul G20 Business Summit encouraged companies to invest in energy efficiency and use renewable and low-carbon energy, and discussed the potentials of green jobs.

The cumulative CO₂ emissions of the Group of 20 is approximately 80 percent of the global emissions, thus it is critical that G20 nations take the lead in CO₂ reduction. And as G20 members are capable of boosting and implementing climate change financing at a global level, it seems that G20 can develop into an important forum for climate change discussion. Already at the meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors held in February 2011 participants discussed the outcomes of the Cancun COP 16 and confirmed to continue discussions on mobilising financing from various and innovative sources. The 2011 summit will be held in Paris and subsequently in Mexico in 2012. Mexico has previous experience as it was the hosting country of the COP 16. Whether G20 can become a meaningful and outcome-producing forum outside of and in cooperation with the UN system in response to the issue of climate change remains to be seen.

You will need to research:

1. Climate change issues and actions in your country.
2. UN actions by your country on Climate Change, including in your focal region
3. Climate Change issues in your committee region
4. Make sure you can discuss how your country thinks the UN should tackle:
5. Past UN action on Climate Change eg. UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol

G20 Climate Change research links – a starting point:

Article about lack of G20 Climate Change action:

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/1804391/un-chastises-g20-leaders-lack-climate-change-action>

G20 Climate backslide:

http://www.wwf.org.uk/wwf_articles.cfm?unewsid=4037

G20 should be laying foundations for action: Red Cross article:

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/opinions-and-positions/opinion-pieces/2009/the-g20-must-lay-the-foundations-for-bold-action-on-climate-change-in-copenhagen/>

What the EU is doing about Climate Change:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/brief/eu/index_en.htm

The Kyoto Protocol:

http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

Climate Change: the big emitters:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3143798.stm>

UN resources: Climate Change mitigation:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/gateway/themes/mitigation>

UN resources: Climate Change adaptation:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/gateway/themes/adaptation>

UN resources: Climate technology:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/gateway/themes/technology>

UN resources: Climate Change financing:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/gateway/themes/financing>

Good background on UN actions on Climate Change:

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/gateway/the-negotiations/the-un-climate-change-convention-and-the-kyoto-protocol>

Climate change background: themes, country profiles and links:

<http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/climatechange>