

## Summary of G8+5 Country Climate Change Positions

### G8 Countries: Canada, European Union<sup>1</sup> (France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom), Japan, Russia, United States

#### Canada

<b>Position</b>	At COP17, Canada withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, considering the economic burden of meeting its established target as too costly and the Protocol to be ineffective, as the two major emitters (the US and China) did not form part of it. Instead, it supports the work towards an international climate change agreement building on the Cancún Agreements and the Durban Platform.
<b>Status</b>	Until its withdrawal, Canada was an Annex I nation and subject to the commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol. Canada has signed on to the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Given Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol, its original target to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 6% by 2012 (base year: 1990) is obsolete.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	According to the Copenhagen Accord, Canada is committed to a 17% GHG emission reduction (base year: 2005) by 2020, equivalent to emissions of 607 Megatons (Mt). This target is aligned to the target and baseline of the United States and is subject to adjustment in accordance with US target adjustments. In 2012, estimations project emissions to reach 720 Mt in 2020.

#### European Union

<b>Position</b>	At Durban, the EU stressed the urgency to close the gap between current pledges and the goal to limit global warming to 2°C. In addition, it reiterated its willingness to commit to a 30% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020, provided ambitious commitments from all major economies. It offered to take a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol given that all major emitters enter a legally binding framework after that time.
<b>Status</b>	Although each member state has its own national emission reduction targets, the EU as a bloc sets a joint target which was submitted to the UNFCCC in line with the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Under the Kyoto Protocol, the 15 EU states that were EU members at the time the Kyoto Protocol was signed committed to reduce emissions to 8% below 1990 levels by 2012. According to the latest Annual Progress Report GHG emissions of the EU-15 were 14% below 1990 levels and emissions of the EU-27 were 18% below 1990 levels in 2011.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	For 2020, the EU set an emissions reduction target of 20% below 1990 levels across its 27 member states. It has offered a 30% reduction if other major economies commit to similarly ambitious emissions reduction targets.

#### France

<b>Position</b>	France considers a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (base year 1990) necessary in order to limit a global average temperature rise to 2°C. At Durban, France was prepared to prolong its Kyoto commitments, given a new legally binding agreement, involving all major economies, was forged. At the level of the European Union, France pushed to include into the energy and climate legislative package a 14% emissions reduction for sectors excluded from the emissions trading scheme.
<b>Status</b>	France is a member of the EU and an Annex I nation committed to the Kyoto Protocol along with the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Under the Kyoto Protocol, France pledged to reduce emissions to 1990 levels. The country surpassed its target already in 2009, when GHG emissions were 8% below 1990 levels.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Reduce GHG emissions by 75% by 2050 (base year: 1990) at an average emissions reduction rate of 3% per year, achieving nearly a 23% emissions reduction by 2020.

#### Germany

<b>Position</b>	At COP17 in Durban, Germany spoke in favor of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol recognizing the responsibility of developed countries to play a lead role while at the same time stressing the necessity of all major emitters to commit to binding emissions reduction targets.
<b>Status</b>	As a member of the European Union, Germany holds commitments to the Kyoto Protocol as an Annex I nation and is also committed to the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	21% emissions reduction by 2012 (base year: 1990) in line with Kyoto commitments. By the end of 2011, Germany had reduced its emissions by 26.5% (base year: 1990) and thus achieved its target.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	40% emissions reduction by 2020 (base year: 1990), with emphasis on emissions reductions through the transport, building, and construction sectors. In addition, while not legally binding, the major political parties in Germany have agreed upon commitments of 55% emissions reductions until 2030, 70% until 2040, and 80% - 95% until 2050.

<sup>1</sup> The European Union negotiates as a bloc and is therefore included here along with its respective G8 nations.

## Italy

<b>Position</b>	In Copenhagen, Italy followed the European Union's position which sought an international agreement to limit a global average temperature increase to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, sought to work collaboratively with other developed nations to lower emissions by 25-40% by 2020 and 80-95% by 2050 and held that developing countries as a group should reduce their predicted emissions growth rate by 15-30% by 2020.
<b>Status</b>	As a member of the European Union, Italy is committed to the Kyoto Protocol and will implement the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	For the period 2008-2012, Italy agreed to cut CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by 13.65 million tons from sectors covered by the ETS with a total cap of 201.63 million tons. During this same period, Italy aimed to reduce its total GHG emissions by 6.5% (base year: 1990), or 483.255 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> /year, in accordance with its Kyoto commitments.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	In accordance with the EU, Italy is committed to a reduction in GHG emissions of 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (base year: 1990). This target could be increased to a 30% emissions reduction by 2020 under the conditions of the European Council of December 2009.

## United Kingdom

<b>Position</b>	In order to limit a global average temperature rise to 2°C, the UK held the position that global emissions should be reduced by at least 50% by 2050 (base year: 1990), with developed countries implementing an 80% GHG emissions cut by 2050 (base year: 1990) and 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. In addition, with significant financial assistance from public funding and investments from the private sector, developing countries should also be committed to a low carbon development pathway, with levels of effort reflective of their national circumstances.
<b>Status</b>	As a member of the European Union, the UK is committed to the Kyoto Protocol with a reduction of GHG emissions of 12.5% (base year: 1990) by 2012 and will implement the Copenhagen Accord.
<b>2012 Target</b>	A reduction in GHG emissions of 22% (base year: 1990) for the first commitment period: 2008-2012.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	A reduction in GHG emissions of 34% (base year: 1990) by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The UK is also in favor of a 20% emissions reduction target within the EU by 2020 (base year: 1990), with an increase to 30% reductions by 2020 provided comparable emissions reduction commitments from other developed countries.

## Japan

<b>Position</b>	In Durban, Japan announced it would not participate in the 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol without the inclusion of emerging economies and the United States in the agreement. Instead, Japan emphasized the necessity to establish a new, fair and effective legal framework in which all major economies have legally binding emissions reduction targets in order to reduce global GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050.
<b>Status</b>	Japan, as an Annex I country, has binding commitments to reduce its GHG emissions. Despite the conclusion of the first Kyoto commitment period this year, Japan commits itself to continue its ambitious emissions reduction targets beyond 2012.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Reduce GHG emissions by 6% (base year: 1990) during the first commitment period, 2008-2012.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Japan has a long-term target to reduce its GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 and a mid-term target to reduce its GHG emissions by 25% by 2020.

## Russia

<b>Position</b>	In a divergence from former positions, Russia accepts that anthropogenic global warming poses severe risks and requires immediate action to limit carbon emissions.
<b>Status</b>	Russia has been a Party to the Kyoto Protocol since 2004 and agreed to fulfill commitments within the framework of the Copenhagen Accord to reduce emissions in the post-2012 period.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Under the Kyoto Protocol, Russia committed to limiting its GHG emissions (base year: 1990) from 2008-2012.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	The Russian Federation aims to cut GHG emissions 15-25% by 2020 (base year: 1990), contingent upon appropriate accounting of the potential for Russia's forestry to contribute toward emission reduction obligations and legally binding emission reduction obligations for all major emitters. In addition, Russia aims for a decrease in energy intensity (base year: 2010) by at least a factor of 2.3 by 2030.

## United States

<b>Position</b>	In Durban, the United States reiterated its commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 17% by 2020 compared to 2005 levels.
<b>Status</b>	The United States is part of the UNFCCC and signed the Kyoto Protocol but never ratified it. Therefore, it does not face binding emissions targets under this international agreement. Nevertheless, the US signed the Copenhagen agreement and submitted suggested U.S. emissions reduction targets to the UNFCCC.
<b>2012 Target</b>	Having no binding emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol, the United States had no binding short-term target for the first commitment period, 2008-2012.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	By 2020, the U.S. envisages to cut emissions by 17% (base year: 2005). By 2050, the government has announced it will push for 80% reduction in comparison to 2005 levels.

## +5 Emerging Economies: Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa

### Brazil

<b>Position</b>	At COP17 in Durban, Brazil showed its support for a multilateral response to climate change under the UNFCCC and urged for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and enhanced action for mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building.
<b>Status</b>	Brazil is a Non Annex I country and has no obligations to reduce emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.
<b>Short-term Target</b>	In 2009, Brazil passed Law No 12.187 that establishes its national climate policy. Two major instruments to plan and implement climate policy are the National Climate Change Plan and the National Climate Change Fund. Decree No 7.390/2010 stipulates the development of Sector Plans to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in different economic sectors, such as forestry, energy, agriculture, and mining, etc.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	By 2020, Brazil envisages to reducing its emissions between 36.1% and 38.9% relative to its projected emissions. This is equivalent to an absolute reduction of between 1,168 GtCO <sub>2</sub> e and 1,259 GtCO <sub>2</sub> e.

### China

<b>Position</b>	At the COP17 at Durban, China aligned itself with the G77 stressing the necessity that developed countries should shoulder the responsibility of setting ambitious emission reduction targets under a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to be negotiated according to the Bali Roadmap.
<b>Status</b>	China, as a non-Annex I country, has no binding commitments to reduce its GHG emissions.
<b>Short-term Target</b>	According to its 12th Five Year Plan, China envisages to cut the carbon intensity of its economy (emissions / GDP unit) by 17% by 2015, compared to 2010 levels.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Under the Copenhagen Accord, China announced the voluntary objective to cut carbon intensity by between 40 – 45% by 2020, compared to 2005 levels.

### India

<b>Position</b>	In Durban, India aligned itself with the G77+China and BASIC negotiating blocs. As part of BASIC, India took an active role in the climate change negotiations to prevent any possible imposition of terms by developed countries and was involved in the final tussle with EU on the precise wording of the Durban outcome.
<b>Status</b>	As a Non Annex I country, India has no obligations to reduce emissions under the Kyoto protocol. Although ranking fourth in total GHG emissions, due to its large population, India will remain a minor per capita emitter.
<b>Short-term Target</b>	India aims to neutralize 10% of its emissions by 2012 through the application of Clean Development Mechanism projects.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Under the Copenhagen Accord, India voluntarily announced that carbon intensity of its economy would fall between 20-25% by 2020 compared to 2005 levels. However, this pledge excludes emissions from the agriculture sector.

### Mexico

<b>Position</b>	The country recognizes the need to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2°C and emphasizes shared but differentiated responsibilities. As the host of COP16, Mexico took a leading role towards negotiating the Cancun agreements. It participated actively at COP17, pushing for the approval of the Green Fund, which it had promoted since 2008.
<b>Status</b>	Mexico has no internationally binding commitments to reduce its GHG emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. However, it has set itself voluntary targets that were reiterated in the General Climate Law, published in 2012.
<b>Short-term Target</b>	Mexico worked towards decreasing the increase of emissions by roughly 50 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> in 2012. By November 2011, Mexico had achieved 73% of this reduction and is expecting to meet its target by the end of 2012.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Mexico has the voluntary goal to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020 and 50% by 2050 (base year 2000). This commitment is subject to the condition that an international climate change regime provides adequate financial and technical support towards developing countries' mitigation efforts.

### South Africa

<b>Position</b>	South Africa hosted COP17 in Durban, taking a leading role in the negotiations. In July 2012, South Africa launched a Climate Change Response Policy which recognizes and acknowledges its commitment to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions in order to meet its emission reduction targets.
<b>Status</b>	South Africa is a Non-Annex I nation and has no obligations to reduce emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. However, South Africa agreed to the Copenhagen Accord and has submitted its mitigation actions to the UNFCCC.
<b>Short-term Target</b>	South Africa has no short-term reduction commitments.
<b>Long-term Target</b>	Reduce emissions 34% below business as usual (BAU) by 2020 and 42% below BAU by 2025 enabled with finance and technology in the context of an international agreement. It envisages that emissions will peak between 2020 and 2025 then level out for about a decade before decreasing afterwards.