

7. Climate geopolitics: The road to Paris and beyond

Acronyms and abbreviations

AOSIS—Alliance of Small Island States
CAP—U.S. Climate Action Plan
CFCs—Chlorofluorocarbons
CO₂—Carbon Dioxide
COP—Conference of the Parties
G-77—Group of 77 developing countries
GATT—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IEA—International Energy Agency
INDCs—Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC—Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NASA—National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NOAA—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
UNEP—United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC—United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Glossary

Al Gore: An American politician who served as Vice President under Bill Clinton. Gore earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for his work on environmental protection and nature conservation as well as an Academy Award for his film on climate change, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Copenhagen Climate Conference: A UN Conference held in Copenhagen from December 7–18, 2009 where the “Copenhagen Accord” was drafted. The accord called for major economic powers like the U.S., China, India and Brazil to keep their temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius.

German Marshall Fund: A D.C.-based non-partisan organization created to strengthen transatlantic cooperation on regional, national and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

Greenpeace: An environmental organization that strives to lobby for climate change and other environmental issues like overfishing, deforestation and commercial whaling.

John Holdren: A senior advisor to President Obama, he is the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology.

John Podesta: Former Counselor to President Obama and current Chairman of the 2016 Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Keystone Pipeline Project: Also known as the Keystone XL pipeline, was a proposed plan to build a 1,179 mile long pipe running from Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska. Obama rejected it on November 6, 2015.

Koch Brothers: Refers to Charles and David Koch, co-owners of Koch Industries. The brothers are infamous for financing to conservative lobbying groups, think tanks and candidates running for office.

Kyoto Protocol: An international agreement adopted in Kyoto, Japan on December 11, 1997. The protocol was based on the concept of “common but differentiated responsibilities,” putting the obligation to reduce current carbon emissions on developed countries.

Larsen Ice Shelf: A large ice shelf located along Antarctica’s east coast. A large portion of the shelf, stable for 12,000 years, collapsed over a period of three weeks

in 2002. Scientists blame the event on warmer waters in the Arctic due to climate change.

Lower 48: A term that makes reference to the 48 states that are a part of the contiguous U.S.

National Snow and Ice Data Center: A U.S. research center that studies and reports on scientific data involving snow, ice, glaciers and climate change.

Ramsar Convention: Formally known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, it is a treaty that provides a framework for sustainable development through the conservation of the world's wetlands.

Sierra Club: An interest group instrumental in protecting environmental bills like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

UN Climate Summit: A UN climate change meeting that occurred on September 23, 2014. The summit brought together leaders of governments and corporations to help bridge the “emissions gap”.

U.S. Climate Action Plan: A plan proposed by President Obama on how the U.S. government was going to combat climate change. The plan is composed of three key pillars: cutting carbon pollution, prepare for any and all of the impacts of climate change, and to lead international efforts to combat global climate change.