

# GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2020 EDITION

## Climate Change and the Global Order

### Acronyms and abbreviations

**CDP**—Carbon Disclosure Project

**CLCS**—Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

**COP**—Conference of the Parties

**CO<sub>2</sub>**—Carbon Dioxide

**GND**—Green New Deal

**IPCC**—Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**IoT**—Internet of things

**NOAA**—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NDC**—Nationally Determined Contributions

**SIO**—Scripps Institution of Oceanography

**UNEP**—United Nations Environment Programme

**UNFCCC**—United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**USGCRP**—U.S. Global Change Research Program

**WMO**—World Meteorological Organization

### Glossary

**Antonio Guterres:** Is the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. He took office on January 1st, 2017. Before joining the United Nations, Guterres was Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002. He joined the UN in 2005 as the High Commissioner for Refugees.

**Chernobyl:** is the name of a nuclear accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Pripjat, Ukraine. The accident took place on April 26th, 1986 when a catastrophic meltdown occurred, releasing radioactive contamination into the air.

**Deforestation:** refers to the removal of forests. The forests are cut down and converted for a different use, such as for a plantation or lumber mill.

**Fukushima Daiichi:** refers to a nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Okuma, Japan. The meltdown occurred on March 11, 2011 after the devastating effects of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami disaster. Water damage from the tsunami led to a series of nuclear meltdowns at the plant, and a massive release of radioactive material into the air and ocean.

**Global Warming:** is the long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate. Global Warming is an aspect of climate change, and refers to any human-caused changes in the temperature.

**Greenhouse Gases:** refers to gases that are released from the burning of fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases (such as CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) can cause a “greenhouse” effect that contributes to global warming.

**Green New Deal:** refers to a series of proposed legislations in U.S. Congress. The legislation calls for a change to more renewable energy sources and combating both climate change and economic inequality.

**Mette Frederiksen:** is the current Prime Minister of Denmark, having been appointed in June 2019. Frederiksen was the Leader of the Social Democratic Party since 2015. She is the youngest Prime Minister in Denmark history, and also the second female Prime Minister.

**Paris Climate Agreement of 2015:** is an agreement reached in 2016 within the UNFCCC, dealing with greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. The agreement was signed in April 2016. In 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he would be withdrawing the U.S. from the agreement, joining Turkey and Iran as the only countries not signed on.

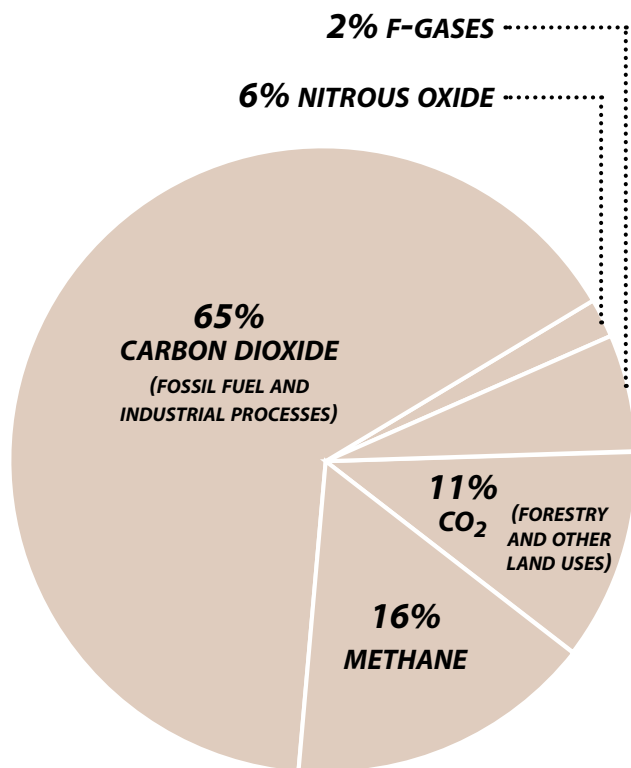
**Rio Climate Convention:** also known as the “Earth Summit”, the Rio Convention took place from May to June 1992 and led to the adoption of the UNFCCC. The Rio Convention is the beginning of the global order’s efforts to combat climate change.

**Uranium-233:** is a not naturally-occurring isotope of uranium. Uranium-233 is the element that is used in nuclear weapons and reactors.

## Graphs

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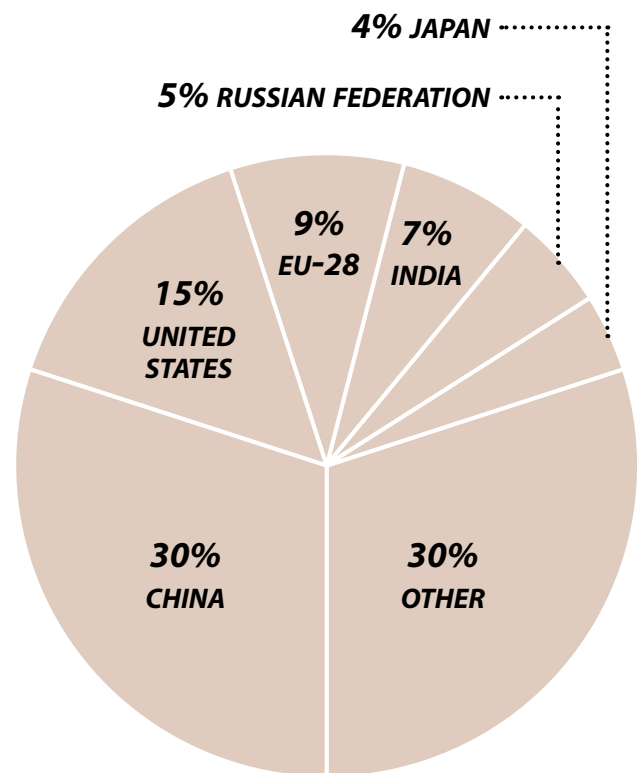
### Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source



SOURCE: Source: IPCC (2014) based on global emissions from 2010. Details about the sources included in these estimates can be found in the Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

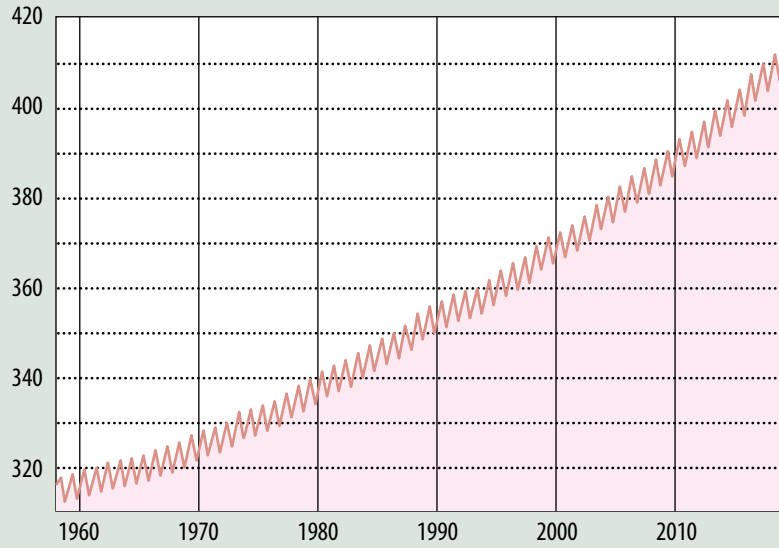
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### Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by Country, 2014



SOURCE: Boden, T.A., Marland, G., And Andres, R.J. (2017). National CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Fossil-fuel Burning, Cement Manufacture, And Gas Flaring: 1751-2014, Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy.

**MAUNA LOA OBSERVATORY, HAWAII MONTHLY  
AVERAGE CARBON DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION**  
(in parts per million)



SOURCE: SCRIPPS CO<sub>2</sub> PROGRAM ARE SUPPORTED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE); EARTH NETWORKS