

Climate film > Climate Treaties

Negotiations have taken place for almost 20 years under the umbrella of the United Nation's (UN) framework convention on climate change (UN climate convention) for an international climate agreement. The so-called distribution of burden is still a central issue of discord in the negotiations. How much shall each country cut back on emissions of greenhouse gases, and who shall pay? In this film we follow a day in the life of climate activist Lan Marie Nguyen Berg, and learn more about climate agreements, climate negotiations, measures to reduce emissions and how youth can become involved.

Assignments to complete before you watch the film

1. How has the global average temperature changed during the last 100 years?
2. How has the world's total emission of CO₂ changed in the same period?
3. Name at least five countries that currently have high CO₂ emissions?
4. Why do you think it is difficult to negotiate good international climate agreements?

Assignments relating to the film

1. In Rio, in 1992, the UN's climate convention was signed by the majority of UN member states. Then the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. Describe in a few sentences the main content of these two agreements.
2. Why was it a major disadvantage that the USA did not sign the Kyoto Protocol?
3. Developing countries that have signed the Kyoto Protocol, have less concrete obligations to reduce emissions than rich countries. A number of these developing countries, such as China and India, have in recent years experienced extraordinary economic growth and a substantial increase in CO₂ emissions. Why do you think it could be difficult to get these countries to participate in a new climate agreement?
4. Many poor countries have low levels of greenhouse gas emissions, but are hard hit by the climate changes. What do these countries demand of the global community?
5. Provide an example of some political decisions made in Norway that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
6. How has Norway managed to meet its obligations in the Kyoto Protocol?

7. What are the most important results from the climate summit held in Doha in 2012?
8. Provide an example of some major challenges when negotiating for a new international climate agreement in 2015.
9. Name three arguments for reasoning that youth should become engaged in climate negotiations.
10. Prepare your own appeal on what is needed to put the brakes on global warming.

Intensified assignments

1. The Kyoto Protocol allows countries that are going to cut their emissions, to do this in other ways than by just reducing emissions in their own country. The agreement opens for three mechanisms that are additional to national measures, and whose purpose is to make it cheaper to achieve the climate target. These mechanisms are Emission Quota trading, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI).
 - a) Explain the purpose of these three mechanisms.
 - b) Criticism has been levelled at the mechanisms that claims they have not functioned in the manner that was intended. Provide an example of the basis for this criticism.
2. Why is it difficult for the USA to ratify international climate agreements?
3. Assess the quotes below and write a brief text that discusses China's and Norway's responsibilities with regard to greenhouse gas emissions.
 - "Norway accounts for a minute percentage of the world's total emissions! China opens close to two coal power stations per week; just one of these pollutes more than all households in Norway combined." (FpU)
 - "Norway discharges more greenhouse gases per person than China!" (Grønn Ungdom)