

## Get to know UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is a group of 195 governments (officially called 'parties to the convention') that negotiate legally binding international laws regarding climate change. Understanding past UNFCCC successes and failures is key to understanding the importance of pushing for big action in 2015.

### 2015

The Conference of the Parties will meet in Paris to create new legally binding agreements to keep global warming below 2 degrees celsius, which will be implemented in 2020. In the current political climate, it is unlikely the United States Congress will ratify a climate change agreement.

### 2013

Parties meet in Warsaw, agree to begin or intensify domestic plans for national contributions for December 2015 agreement that will keep global warming below 2 degrees celsius. Agreed on loss and damage mechanism to aid developing countries already vulnerable to climate change. Parties agree that the Green Climate Fund will be ready by late 2014.

### 2005

Kyoto Protocol is enforced. United States Senate never ratified the treaty, making the protocol non-binding in the U.S. The U.S. believed the agreement should have placed the same limits on greenhouse gas emissions in developing nations like China and India as it did in developed nations. Differing emissions limits between the Global North and the Global South continue to be a source of conflict.

### 1995

First Conference of parties in Berlin.

### 1994

UNFCCC enters into force.



### 2014

Climate Summit in New York at the United Nations General Assembly is held for government officials, heads of state, and private organizations to announce 'ambitious' actions. The event is intended to gain political support for 2015 agreements; at the Conference of the Parties in Lima the initial draft text for 2015 agreements must be submitted.

### 2009

Non-binding emissions pledges were taken in Copenhagen.

### 1997

Parties signed the Kyoto Protocol, the first binding global agreement to lower Greenhouse Gas emissions. The United States signed the protocol.

Countries agree to form UNFCCC at the Earth Summit in Rio.

### 1992

# Ready, Set, March.

## A PopDev guide to the People's Climate March and UN Climate Summit.

On September 21, 2014 hundreds of environmental justice, social justice, religious and community organizations will participate in the People's Climate March in New York City. Marchers will show support for progressive international and national climate change policy two days before the U.N.

### Climate Summit.

At the U.N. Climate Summit, heads of state and private organizations will announce commitments to action on climate change. With a disappointing history of climate change policy (or lack thereof), it is imperative that civil society demand ambitious action from the U.S at the summit and in future agreements.

### Why are people marching?

With a deadlocked congress and dwindling support for climate change policy in the United States, civil society organizations are using this summit to show there is overwhelming demand for the U.S to sign and ratify the 2015 agreement.

Next December, the Conference of Parties will be creating a new, more aggressive international climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto was the first international climate agreement, signed by the Parties in 1997. The United States signed the protocol; however, the treaty was never ratified by the U.S. Senate, making Kyoto non-binding in the U.S.

### What will happen at the Climate Summit this September?

According to the U.N website, the summit will 'catalyze ambitious action' to reduce emissions and strengthen political will for the signing of a new climate agreement in 2015. What defines 'ambitious' action is unclear, but a large chunk of the summit is set aside for announcements from heads of state regarding domestic climate policy. Climate policy experts say this is a chance for corporations, governments, and non-governmental organizations wishing to be seen as leaders in climate change policy.

### Are these agreements effective?

International climate agreements are important and necessary to progress towards slowing climate change, but often they privilege the interests of national and global elites. Climate justice advocates insist that social justice should be at the center of climate policy and demand that those most affected by climate change -- small island nations, indigenous people, and poor populations in both urban and rural areas -- have a powerful voice in climate deliberations. See our *DifferenTakes* by Martha Psowski, 'Is this the Future We Want? The Green Economy vs Climate Justice' for an example.

Link to 'Is this the Future We Want? The Green Economy vs Climate Justice' with this QR Code.



Did you know Hampshire's Rabbi Ellen Bernstein will be speaking at the Religions of the Earth Multifaith Service held after the Climate March? Link to the code on the right for more info.

