

Purpose of the game

- To see the complexity of a decision process that is not enforceable with any kind of power. Furthermore, as the UN system is based on voluntary contributions, and majority decisions don't have any validity – everybody must agree – voting is irrelevant.
- To understand that the decisions have effects on all countries, but that the differences between how the results affect the different countries are considerable.
- To understand why global decision making is complex and often ends up being “rather less specific” given the nature of the process afterwards.

Preparation necessary to play the game

If you want the students to engage actively in the role play and get a better understanding of the greenhouse effect and the nature of a summit, you can choose among the following:

- Read about CO₂-emissions, greenhouse effect and consequences of the climate changes.
- Distribute the country and lobbyist roles prior to the game (though not more than 1 day before!).
- Let the students prepare for the game by researching with the help of the country-background (see student material).
- Students can prepare by bringing relevant costumes that could underline their role (e.g. bring a suit instead of a baseball cap and jogging trousers)

It is possible to play the game without these preparations by using only the role play descriptions.

Programme for the role-playing day

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| 08:30 – 09:30 | Introductions to the subject of global warming, the game, and distribution of the roles |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Preparation for the summit – investigate their country and lobbyist meetings |
| 10:00 – 10:45 | First meeting of the summit |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Lunch break |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | Bilateral negotiations and preparations for the final meeting |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | Break |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Final meeting of the summit – agreements must be made |
| 13:30 – 13:45 | Evaluation – could a better result have been reached? |

Historically on climate summits

When a global decision is needed, it must be unanimous. It is therefore necessary to ensure that all countries can agree to the contents of an agreement. When things are to be decided locally, it is possible to make



majority decisions, and there are often good possibilities for influencing a given decision making process.

COP 15 in Copenhagen 2009 was set to be the summit where a global agreement on how to tackle climate change should be made. The results would be crucial to the future of the ecosystems animals and humans.

Kyoto agreement 1997

In 1997 most countries of the world agreed to set targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which cause the part of the global warming that is influenced by human activities. The participating countries signed the Kyoto agreement at the summit in the Japanese city Kyoto. It is the first international agreement that sets specific targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agreement did not come into effect before the president of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin signed it 16 February 2005 – 8 years after it had been agreed. The agreement would not be implemented until at least 55 countries, emitting at least 55% of the total emissions, had signed. Countries like US and Australia did not sign the agreement.

The targets set in the agreement were not enough to stop the climate changes, partly because the US, being one of the most significant greenhouse gas emitters, chose not to sign, and also because countries like China, India and Brazil were not committed to specific reduction targets. The Kyoto agreement forces the industrialized countries that have agreed to the protocol to reduce CO₂-emissions by 5.2% compared to the 1990 levels by 2012. The Kyoto agreement is valid until 2012 and the replacement was supposed to be negotiated at COP 15 in Copenhagen 2009. One of the major issues during these negotiations were, that the developing countries would not accept, that a weak COP 15 agreement should replace a firm Kyoto agreement. Therefore the COP 15 result has been named as the first step in a direction to finding an agreement that will name specifically how the reduction targets should be reached in every country that is part of the agreement. One of the historical achievements of COP 15 was that the major industrialised nations agreed that rise in temperature should be kept under 2 degrees C in comparison to 1990 levels. As the instruments to achieve such a result have not yet been agreed upon, many fear that it is a hollow and ineffective agreement.

Who is IPCC and what is their influence?

There is a close relationship between IPCC and the international attempts to combat climate change. IPCC is a UN based organisation and its work consists of a global scientific network of more than 10,000 researchers.

The first evaluation report from IPCC 1990 was the direct reason that the climate issue hit the international political agenda. After only 2 years, the text for the climate convention was agreed in New York in 1992. Later that year, more than 150 countries signed the convention on the UN conference for environment and development UNCED in Rio de Janeiro. Every year the countries that have agreed to the convention have a meeting called a COP (Conference Of Parties to the convention).



Since the IPCC reports have both scientific and political backup, they are the foundation of the UNFCCC efforts. . The UNFCCC has a scientific branch, SBSTA, which can ask IPCC for supplementary investigations to support the negotiations. It is thus the IPCC that creates the guidelines that direct how the individual countries must report their emissions.

The IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) was founded in 1998 by UNEP (UN development programme) and the UN based Meteorological organization. The purpose was to ensure the best possible foundation to make political decisions on the global warming issue. This was due to the experience that the issue is a more complicated problem than other problems that have previously been processed in the system.

IPCC does not conduct research, but evaluates research that has already been carried out. The experts in the panel are researchers from almost all countries in the world, and the reports from the panel are commented by experts appointed by the governments behind the IPCC. This means that the assessments made by the panel constitute a strong foundation for political decisions, because there is consensus between politicians and researchers. The evaluation reports come every 5-6 years – the latest one from 2007 is the fourth. IPCC also produces smaller supplementary reports.

What is global warming?

Students should understand the seriousness of the global warming problem and what a summit is before engaging in the role play. Therefore the following actions are advised for preparation:

1. The students should read the contents about global warming in the info centre: <http://www.comfu.org/index.php/infocentre>
2. A good overview about the reasons for and effects of global warming are can be found here: <http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/climate-change-global-processes-and-effects1>
3. A good comprehensive page on global warming is found by Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming

What is a role play?

A role play is a situation where a person pretends to be somebody else in an imaginary story. A role play is different from an act because it is not supposed to be viewed by anybody other than the participants. It is disturbing to the role play if one or more persons are not participating, thereby breaking the illusion that the players have. Thus in a role play there is no audience, only (more or less) active participants with differing roles to play. Another distinction between the act and the role play is the element of improvisation that characterizes the role play – even though parts of it can be predesigned. The predesigned part is mostly planned by the game leader or the persons in charge of arranging the event.

Young people are often engaging in role plays online, taking on the role of different characters, and this could be used as a reference point to introducing



the situation to the students: “Imagine that this is World of Warcraft or a similar game where you assume a different identity than yourself”.

Climate summit role play – how to play the game

Definitions:

Nations

There are 7 “nations” represented in the game: US, EU, Kenya, China, Russia, Kiribati and OPEC.

These have been chosen because they have been seen as exemplary players in the real summit situation. OPEC has been chosen to highlight the common interests of the oil producing countries. EU has been chosen given their role as leader of the efforts by the industrialised nations to tackle the climate change issue. The other roles are hopefully quite obvious.

Lobbyists

Two lobbyist groups have been chosen: IPCC and Greenpeace. They represent obvious interests to influence the course of the negotiations, and are more or less well known globally.

General Secretary

This role is often played by the teacher but could be played by a very skilled student that has the ability to lead a complicated situation.

Role cards

Students are distributed in 9 groups and they each draw a role. If you decide not to play the general secretary yourself because you have a student who is capable, or you simply want to liberate yourself from the role to be able to support the groups, 10 groups are needed. It is advised to let the general secretary to have staff also – therefore if you do not play the general secretary yourself there should be a group representing this role also, but only one person acting as the secretary.

Print out the role cards so that all students in each group have a card. It is advised to give the students time to prepare by using the background cards and a computer the day before the day of the role play. This will qualify the game significantly. Every delegation chooses a chairman. The role can be shared by different players during the course of the game.

At the conference every group must produce a name card with name, nation or lobbyist group and a flag or logo. To give the participants possibility to engage in their role it is advised that they “dress up for the party” looking like people from the country or group they represent.

The role cards describe which points of view should be given priority, but with good preparation the groups could introduce other relevant issues or argumentations to the game from real life giving the play even more coupling to real life.



What is the summit about?

National delegations

In the role cards there are proposals for practical solutions to be used at the conference. It is the aim that most of the viewpoints from the group are part of the final agreement, but not necessarily all of their proposals for practical solutions.

Lobbyists

They only participate with speeches at the conference. They can however influence national delegations to support certain proposals or oppose others. It is the aim to have as many of the viewpoints represented in the final agreement as possible.

Conference chairman – the general secretary

It is the role of the general secretary to run the conference, lead the meetings, introduce the sessions and end the conference. It is this role that ensures that a decision is made that not only ensures an environmentally sound decision but also ensures the rights of the world's poor nations.

Dilemma cards

During the game it is possible to spark even more debate by introducing a dilemma to the situation. This is done by the general secretary. The dilemmas can change the path of the game because they introduce new catastrophes that have just occurred somewhere in the world. This can be done at every stage if there is a need to spark or focus the debate.

Phases of the summit

1. Preparations (30 min)

All delegations prepare their work thoroughly by reading their role cards – possibly supplemented by information obtained in advance if it has been chosen to let the groups prepare.

National delegations (number of participants: 2-4) should prepare the following:

- On the role cards there are links to supplementary information about the country.
- Election of delegation chairman. The chairman speaks for the country at the summit. No other member can speak during the negotiations, but it is possible to clarify issues with the rest of the group. It is possible to change this role between the negotiation rounds.
- Investigation of the viewpoints and proposals from the other delegations to identify which delegations could support and who might oppose proposals from their own delegation.
- List the proposals from their delegation. For the first round, 4 proposals should be chosen. They are chosen based on the interest of the country. Identification of reasons to support your proposals. This should be used by the chairman in the first speech.



- Preparation of speech. The delegation should prepare a 4 min. speech where the chairman presents and argues for the proposals from the delegation.

Lobbyists (number of participants in the groups: 2-4) should prepare the following:

- Investigate links on the role cards that give supplementary information about your organisation.
- Election of delegation chairman that acts as a spokesperson for the delegation.
- The members of the delegation should note propositions made by the national delegations and choose which delegations to influence during the negotiation phase.
- During the first meeting in the lobbyist delegation it must be agreed which proposals should be given support and which should be opposed.
- The delegation prepares a poster with the chosen 4 favourable proposals.
- The delegation should prepare the chairman's 3 min. speech for the first meeting to present their viewpoints.
- Greenpeace presents a demonstration or happening, and IPCC prepares a short folder on global warming.

2. First meeting (45 min.)

- All national foremen are placed at tables in front of the rest of the participants – the general secretary in the middle.
- The general secretary calls the first meeting.
- The general secretary introduces the format and purpose of the first meeting – introduction by the country delegation foremen, followed by speeches from the lobbyist groups.
- The general secretary makes a speech about the seriousness of the global climate changes and the necessity to prevent these. The speech acts as scene setter and is crucial to the success of the whole role play. It must therefore be well prepared!
- All country delegations present their viewpoints and their 4 proposals for action – one by one without debate.
- The 2 lobbyist groups are given 3 min. to present their viewpoints.
- A short round of questions from the delegation foremen to clarify issues.
- The general secretary presents the negotiation phase and asks the delegations to work on an issue – please remember that everybody must agree on the final document.

3. Bilateral negotiations and preparation of final meeting (45 min.)

- Delegations return to their own premises (e.g. groups)
- All delegations can apply for meetings with other delegations during the first 30 min. The delegations should spread out to ensure maximum influence on the results. In between "flying" to meetings it is advised to



share experiences, if possible. Lobbyists can participate in negotiations if the delegations agree to this.

- After the negotiations, the delegations spend the last 10-15 min. deciding how to handle the last meeting. They must agree on 2 proposals for the final round. They must remember that they should be able to defend the proposals for their national populations after the conference.
 - Write the proposals on a piece of paper for others to read.
4. Second and final meeting (60 min.)
- The general secretary calls the final meeting, reminds everybody of the seriousness of the issue and reminds everyone that a final paper must be fully agreed upon by all parties.
 - All national delegations hand in their paper with their 2 final suggestions. They must be numbered and posted for everybody to see.
 - All delegations are given 3 min. to argue for the proposals that they favour – also the ones made by the other delegations.
 - Lobbyists are given 2 min. as experts to argue which proposals should be rejected.
 - There should be time for a short round of questions.
 - Every national delegation should now point out which of the proposals they favour.
 - The general secretary writes the decided proposals down and concludes the conference.
5. Evaluation (15 min.)
- Negotiations have ended. All delegations evaluate whether they “won or lost” the negotiations, and the consequences of the agreed proposals for their country.
 - Did they use the right strategy or could something have been done differently?
 - Does this role play create an understanding to the difficulty of reaching a global agreement on the matter?

Dilemma card 1

Africa

Global warming is threatening millions of people. The organisation “Christian Aid” assesses that some 185 mio. people south of Sahara will die due to the spread of diseases caused by global warming. Other millions are threatened by floods, hunger, drought and wars when nature and countries collapse.



Dilemma card 2

Hottest February in Hong Kong ever

Southern China and especially Hong Kong have had a hot February. In Hong Kong the last month of winter was the hottest since temperature measurements began 125 years ago. The average monthly temp. was 20.5C, which is 4.2 deg. more than the average for the month.

A groundbreaking max. was also set for the city with astonishing 28.3C, writes China.org.cn.

During the last 50 years, the average temp. for February has risen by 0.4C. every decade. The generally warmer weather this year was followed by a weakened monsoon that lead to less wind from the Siberian north and more from the southern areas.



Dilemma card 3

Climate change threatens water supply in 2080

Half of the world's population risk scarce water supply in 2080 due to the effects of global warming, an expert reported in a south Asian conference on climate change. Professor Wong Poh Poh of the Singapore National University reported that by 2050, some 2bn people will not have access to pure drinking water, according to IPCC, and that number will grow to an astonishing 3.2bn in 2080.

Global warming is expected to lead to increased precipitation in some areas while reduced in others. Drought will hit vast areas where water resources are already scarce, the conference predicted.

Source: International Herald Tribune.