

## Copenhagen: climate politics

Officials from 192 countries arrived in Copenhagen to address global climate change, seeking a successor to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Every country had its own set of priorities and concerns, which makes it very difficult for all to reach an agreement. Developing countries demanded that rich nations commit money and technology transfer and accept sharper cuts in their emissions, highlighting the divisions among the world's rich and poor nations that stand in the way of a new global climate deal. On the other hand, developed nations urged developing countries to reduce emissions sharply, without pledging a specific amount of aid for them. Visible political rifts remain between the rich and poor.

Of all countries, the US and China's roles are crucial. These two countries are responsible for almost half of all greenhouse gas emissions. For the first time, the world's top two greenhouse-gas-producing countries offered specific targets to reduce their emissions, but their broad promises ahead of a United Nations climate summit only presaged a high-stake struggle over money and future economic growth.

Despite progresses observed, notably at the level of negotiations between the US and China, no binding agreement on carbon emission reduction was reached at the end of Copenhagen summit. Only general principles underline the necessity

- to limit the increase in global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius
- to provide sustainable financial resources and technologies to emerging countries
- to improve transparency in emerging countries for monitoring respects of agreements

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This summit is finally only a first step in direction of a real binding agreement on climate change. We explain the reasons of such a delay in negotiations and describe the conditions for a new agreement to be successful.