

Post-2012 climate change agreement

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What is the problem?

IPCC WGI summary for policy makers:

- Global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values
- The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are due primarily to fossil fuel use and land use change, while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture
- Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level



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What is the problem? (2)

IPCC WGI summary for policy makers:

- Long-term changes in climate have been observed:
 - changes in arctic temperatures and ice
 - widespread changes in precipitation amounts, ocean salinity, wind patterns
 - aspects of extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones
- Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations



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International developments

Significant events to date:

- G8 summit declaration (June)
- Midnight Sun Dialogue (June)
- UNGA thematic debate on climate change (31 July-2 Aug)

Still to come this year:

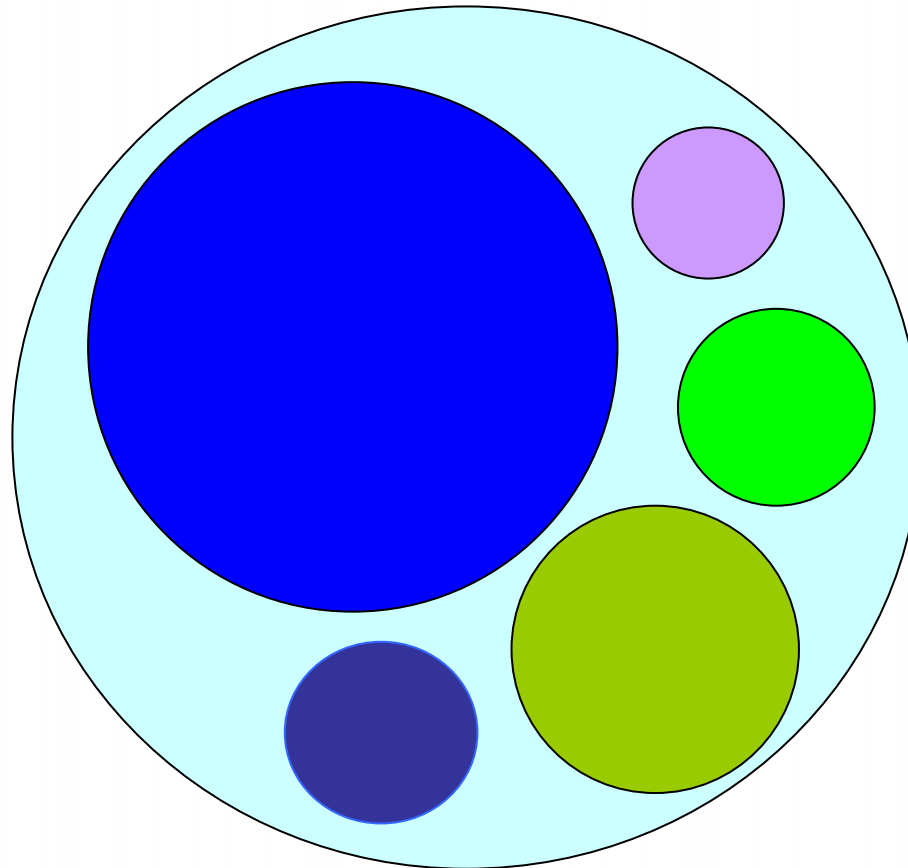
- UNFCCC meetings (AWG and Convention Dialogue) in Vienna (27-31 Aug)
- APEC Leader's Forum (September)
- UNSG's High Level Event on climate change (24 Sept)
- US President's meeting for major economies (27-28 Sept)
- UNFCCC meetings in Bali (3-14 Dec)



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Post-2012 agreement



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Post-2012 agreement (2)

Components likely to include:

- Adaptation measures
- Developed country targets
- Quantifiable voluntary actions by developing countries
- Deforestation reduction measures
- Sustainable development strategy
- Impacts of response measures
- Technology transfer and deployment
- Finance strategy



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Post-2012 agreement (3)

Bali Roadmap:

- accelerated process after December?
- two-phase process akin to Berlin Mandate?
 - Information gathering
 - Formal negotiations
- end date for these negotiations would be 2009?



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Post-2012 agreement (4)

- What are the key issues for New Zealand?
- What are New Zealand's priorities?
- Where can we be most effective and have the most influence?



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