

ASIC 200

CLIMATE NEGOTIATION SIMULATION

INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION ASSIGNMENT

Simulation Overview:

This simulation is an 8-group/10-actor role-play that simulates negotiations at a hypothetical international climate change conference in Vancouver in September 2030 (COP 36 Vancouver). The objective of the simulated negotiation is to reach agreement on the text of a “Vancouver Protocol” to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The simulation is focused on three negotiation areas:

- Mitigation: negotiating reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and 2100;
- Adaptation: negotiating dollar contributions to a New Green Climate Fund to support countries and communities affected by climate change;
- Geo-engineering: negotiating two Additional Protocols to the UNFCCC to establish programs to support solar radiation management and carbon dioxide removal.

This negotiation simulation is played with ten roles, eight of which are state or state group delegations composed of country/group representatives played by students. One of these is the COP Presidency that acts as the Chair of the meeting and facilitates discussion. The state delegations are:

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
Brazil
China
European Union (EU)
India
Japan
United States
COP Presidency/Canada (Meeting Chair)

The Assignment: Due by 5:59:59 pm on Thursday, 17th January via e-mail to asens@mail.ubc.ca

In this assignment, you are a foreign ministry official charged with composing the briefing notes for your country/country group delegates to the Vancouver COP. In a 600-word document, you are to provide an overview of your country/country group's experience and political position on climate change and climate change mitigation, adaptation, and geo-engineering. The assignment is worth 5% of the final course grade.

These briefings are to be written individually by each student. They are individual assignments that will be assigned individual grades. You can collaborate with others but do not hand in briefings that are identical or use identical passages. A research base of at least three sources from academic journals, government documents or online information resources, international institution publications, or NGO reports is sufficient. You may use news reports, but they do not count toward the research base. Use the Chicago citation system. The briefings should be organized into the following sections:

Part I: The history of the country's/country group's diplomatic approach to climate change and international response efforts (200 words):

- What is the carbon emissions profile of the country/country group? How does it compare to other countries, on a total and per capita basis?
- What has been the country/country group's general position on climate change responses? Has that position evolved over time?
- Was the country supportive of the UNFCCC? The Kyoto Protocol?
- Has the country received criticism for its climate change policies, either domestically or internationally?

Part II: The impact of climate change on the country/group of countries (100 words):

- What has been the impact of climate change on the country to this point? Where possible, include government documents as part of your research.
- What threats/risks does climate change present in the future?

Part III: Domestic politics and public opinion (100 words):

- To what extent is climate change a political issue or source of political division in the country/country group?
- What are the attitudes of publics in the country/country group towards climate change and climate change action?

Part IV: Contemporary position on climate change and responses (200 words):

- What has been the country's general approach to the Paris Agreement?
- What is the country's current position on GHG emission reductions?
- What is the country's current position and contributions to the Green Climate Fund?

- What is the country's current position on geo-engineering as a means of addressing climate change? This may be harder to find depending on the country/country group, just do your best.

Preparation Assignment Assessment

Does the briefing provide an accurate and effective overview of the history of the country/country group's GHG emissions and engagement on climate change diplomacy?

/20

Does the briefing provide an effective description of the current and projected future impacts of climate change on the country/country group?

/20

Does the briefing describe the extent to which climate change is a political issue in the country/country group? Is the state and evolution of public opinion effectively represented?

/20

Does the report effectively present the current political positions of the country/country group on key climate issues?

/20

Does a strong research base support the report? Are the citations in the correct format?

/10

Is the report well presented with few if any spelling or grammar errors?

/10

Grade: