

The first of these additions was the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Under the protocol, 37 developed countries are committed to reducing their collective emissions of six greenhouse gases to at least 5% below 1990 levels. These targets were scheduled to be met in the period 2008–12. By 2010 results were mixed. The EU had reduced emissions by 16.8% and Russia by 54.7%, while the USA's had risen by 8.6%, Canada's by 46.4%, New Zealand's by 59.5% and Turkey's by 147.5%. In Dec. 2011 Canada announced it would be the first signatory to formally withdraw from the agreement. A second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol began on 1 Jan. 2013. By Feb. 2013, 191 countries plus the European Union had signed and ratified the treaty. The USA has not ratified the protocol. China and India, also amongst the world's top five producers of emissions, are exempt from the protocol's constraints by virtue of their status as developing countries.

The members of the UNFCCC meet on an annual basis. The conference in Indonesia in 2007 led to the creation of the 'Bali Roadmap', which timetables negotiations for a protocol to succeed Kyoto, a process continued at the 2008 conference in Poland. The subsequent Copenhagen Accord of 2009 was not legally binding and failed to set out concrete measures for tackling climate change. A package of decisions to encourage all governments to work towards a low-emissions future was adopted at the 16th conference held in 2010 in Cancún, Mexico. The 2011 conference, held in Durban, South Africa, advanced negotiations on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action Plan and the Cancún Agreements. At the 18th conference in Doha, Qatar in 2012 plans were laid for the development of a successor protocol by 2015 to be implemented by 2020.

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Executive Secretary: Christiana Figueres (Costa Rica).

Leading Think Tanks

Adam Smith Institute

Founded 1977. Independent, non-profit libertarian think tank that engineers policies to increase Britain's economic competitiveness, inject choice into public services and create a freer, more prosperous society. Research issues: tax and economy; education policy; health policy; justice and liberties; welfare and pensions; regulation and industry.

Address: 23 Great Smith St., London SW1P 3BL, UK.

Website: <http://www.adamsmith.org>

Director: Dr Eamonn Butler.

African Economic Research Consortium

Founded 1988. Non-profit organization that seeks to strengthen local capacity for conducting independent research into management problems of economies in sub-Saharan Africa. Two programme components: research; training.

Address: 3rd Floor, Middle East Bank Towers Building, Milimani Road, PO Box 62882 00200, Nairobi, Kenya.

Website: <http://www.aercafrica.org>

Chairman of the Board: Mthuli Ncube.

American Enterprise Institute (for Public Policy Research)

Founded 1943. Private, non-partisan think tank based around principles of private liberty, individual opportunity and free enterprise. Six principal research areas: economics; foreign and defence policy; health; legal and constitutional studies; political and public opinion studies; social and cultural studies.

Address: 1150 Seventeenth St, NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, USA.

Website: <http://www.aei.org>

President: Arthur C. Brooks.

Brookings Institution

Founded 1916. Independent, frequently cited as the world's best think tank. Goals are to strengthen American democracy; foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans; and secure a more open, safe, prosperous and co-operative international system. Priority research areas include energy and climate, growth through innovation, managing global change, and opportunity and wellbeing.

Address: 1775 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20036, USA.

Website: <http://www.brookings.edu>

President: Strobe Talbott.

Bruegel

Founded 2004. Independent European think tank working in the field of international economics. Research areas: emerging powers and global governance structures; Europe's macroeconomic and structural challenges; competitiveness, innovation and financial regulation; climate change and energy.

Address: Rue de la Charité 33, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium.

Website: <http://www.bruegel.org>

Director: Jean Pisani-Ferry.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Founded 1910. Independent think tank specializing in international affairs with particular focus on Russia and Eurasia, China, the Indian subcontinent/South Asia, globalization, non-proliferation and security affairs. Aims to advance co-operation between nations and promote active international engagement by the USA and become 'the first truly multinational—ultimately global—think tank'. Offices in Washington, D.C., Moscow, Beijing, Beirut and Brussels.

Address: 1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20036-2103, USA.

Website: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org>

President: Jessica T. Mathews.

Carnegie Middle East Center

Founded in 2006 as part of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Middle East programme. Public policy think tank and research centre that aims to better inform the process of political change in the Arab Middle East and deepen understanding of the complex security and economic issues that affect it. Programmes: Middle East economies; Arab politics; regional relations; security.

Address: Lazarieh Tower, Building No 2026 1210, Fifth Floor, Emir Bechir St., Beirut, 11-1061 Riad El Solh, Lebanon.

Website: <http://www.carnegie-mec.org>

Director: Paul Salem.