

global greenhouse gas emissions to 'a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system'. Signatories agreed to take account of climate change in their domestic policy and to develop national programmes that would slow its progress. However, no mandatory targets were established for the reduction of emissions so the treaty remained legally non-binding. Instead it operates as a 'framework' document, with provisions for regular updates and amendments.

The first of these additions was the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Under the protocol, 36 developed countries are committed to reducing their collective emissions of six greenhouse gases to at least 5% below 1990 levels. These targets are scheduled to be met in the period 2008–12. By Feb. 2011, 192 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 Dec. 2007 led to the creation of the 'Bali Roadmap', which timetables negotiations for a protocol to succeed Kyoto. This process was continued at the 2008 conference in Poland with the aim of agreeing an international response to climate change at the next UNFCCC conference, which took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in Dec. 2009. The resulting Copenhagen Accord was not legally binding and failed to set out concrete measures for tackling climate change. 16th conference was held in Nov.–Dec. 2010 in Cancún, Mexico. A package of decisions, 'dubbed the Cancún Agreements' was adopted to encourage all governments to work firmly towards a low-emissions future. The 17th conference is scheduled to be held in Nov.–Dec. 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

*Headquarters:* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Haus Carstanjen, Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany.

*Website:* <http://unfccc.int>

*Email:* [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int)

*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.

### 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., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, USA.

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

*President:* Arthur C. Brooks.

### Aspen Institute

Founded 1950. Non-partisan organization that seeks to foster values-based leadership, encouraging individuals to reflect on the ideals and ideas that define a good society, and to provide a neutral and balanced venue for discussing and acting on critical issues. Hosts seminars, young-leader fellowships, policy programmes, and public conferences and events.

*Address:* One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C., 20036-1133, USA.

*Website:* <http://www.aspeninstitute.org>

*President:* Walter Isaacson.

### Bertelsmann Foundation (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

Founded 1977. Private, non-partisan organization that aims to identify social problems and challenges at an early stage and develop exemplary solutions to address them. Research covers politics, society, economy, education, health and culture.

*Address:* Carl-Bertelsmann-Str. 256, 33311 Gütersloh, Germany.

*Website:* <http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de>

*Chairman:* Dr Gunter Thielen.

### 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.

### Canadian International Council

Founded 2007 from the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. Private, non-partisan, nationwide foreign policy council established to strengthen Canada's foreign policy. Promotes research and dialogue on international affairs. Specific research areas: Arctic sovereignty and security; border issues; Canada and the Americas; Canada-India relations; China and emerging large powers; energy; international financial crisis; strategic studies.

*Address:* 45 Willcocks St., Suite 210, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1C7.

*Website:* <http://www.onlinecic.org>

*Chairman:* Jim Balsillie.

### Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Founded 1910. Independent think tank specializing in international affairs with particular focus on Russia and Eurasia,