

An agreement reached in Madrid in April 1991 and signed by all 39 parties in Oct. imposes a ban on mineral exploitation in Antarctica for 50 years, at the end of which any one of the 28 voting parties may request a review conference. After this the ban may be lifted by agreement of three quarters of the nations then voting, which must include the present 28.

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Further Reading

Elliott, L. M., *International Environmental Politics: Protecting the Antarctic*. 1994
 Jørgensen-Dahl, A. and Østreg, W., *The Antarctic Treaty System in World Politics*. 1991

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons opened for signatories on 1 July 1968. It came into force on 5 March 1970. A review meeting takes place every five years. The initial treaty was limited to a 25-year term but it was extended indefinitely in 1995.

The treaty aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The International Atomic Energy Agency (*see* page 24) is responsible for setting safeguards to ensure compliance.

Of the treaty's 190 members only five have nuclear weapon capabilities: China, France, Russia, UK and USA. Three states known or believed to have developed nuclear weapons have not ratified the treaty: India, Israel and Pakistan. North Korea withdrew from the treaty in 2003, the only state to have done so.

See also Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on page 25.

Website:
<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The convention was produced at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development with the stated aim of reducing 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. A second commitment period of the Kyoto

Protocol will begin on 1 Jan. 2013. By Feb. 2012, 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. A package of decisions, 'dubbed the Cancún Agreements', was adopted to encourage all governments to work firmly towards a low-emissions future as a result of the 16th conference held in Nov.–Dec. 2010 in Cancún, Mexico. The 17th conference, held in Nov.–Dec. 2011 in Durban, South Africa, was the second largest of its kind. As well as advancing negotiations on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action Plan and the Cancún Agreements, the Parties decided to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change by no later than 2015. The 18th conference is scheduled to be held in Nov.–Dec. 2012 in Qatar.

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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.

Bertelsmann Foundation (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

Founded 1977. Private, non-partisan organization that aims to identify social problems and challenges at an early stage and