

What has happened since Copenhagen?

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Copenhagen Accord (Major Points)

1. Recognition that the global temperatures should not increase beyond 2 degrees Celsius
2. Agreement to voluntary targets (including major developing countries) in emission reduction that is not legally binding. The targets need to be stated provisionally with respect to specific targets with regard to Developed Countries and Specific mitigation action with respect to developing countries.
3. Agree that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.
4. Decision to pursue methods, including opportunities to use markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness to promote mitigation actions.
5. Collective commitment of developed countries to provide investments through international institutions upto 30 Billion USD, balanced between mitigation and adaptation needs of developing countries for the period 2010-2012. In addition mobilization of USD 100 Billion jointly among developed countries by 2020.

These points in the accord are not legally binding and India among other countries has written to the UNFCCC acknowledging the same (<http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/application/pdf/indiacphaccord.pdf>).

However, India has made a commitment to reduce its emissions per unit of GDP 20 to 25 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

Since Copenhagen two key meetings have taken place at Bonn and Tianjin. There has been little movement beyond the Copenhagen accord in terms of the broader mitigation targets.

The only significant movement of note is the mention of a “balanced package” between developed and developing countries (Basic Countries). This is still open to subjective interpretation. By and large it is expected that at Cancun a framework for an agreement will be developed that can be ratified precisely one year from now in South Africa.

Provisional Targets set by key Developed Countries		
Countries	Base targets	ER Target on 2020
Australia	2000	-5 to 15%
Belarus	1990	-5 to 10%
Canada	2005	-17%
Croatia	1990	-5%
Iceland	1990	-30%
Japan	1990	-25%
Kazakhstan	1992	-15%
Liechtenstein	1990	-20%
Monaco	1990	-30%
New Zealand	1990	-10 and 20%
Norway	1990	-30 to 40%
Russian Federation	1990	-15 to 25%
Switzerland	1990	-20 to 30%
Ukraine	1990	-20%
United states of America	2005	-17%
European Union	1990	-20 to 30%