

Communities and developing countries affected by climate change



The international political (his)story : the UNFCCC (United Framework Convention on Climate Change)

A framework for Climate Justice ?





“ A strong agreement in Copenhagen to tackle climate change will keep humanity in control of its destiny. Loose that opportunity now and we will shortly loose it forever ”



Yvo De Boer
Executive Secretary UNFCCC



1. What is UNFCCC all about ?

- The birth and of the UNFCCC and its main goals
- The actors present during the negotiation process
- The role of minorities and affected countries in this proces

2. The way to Copenhagen: the moment where the global climate battle can be won or lost?

- A quick history of COPs from Kyoto to Copenhagen

3. How to understand the decision making process and its weaknesses ?

4. What is the role of NGOs in this proces?

I. Welcome to the marvellous world of UNFCCC !



The political reaction to the reality



Are there possibilities for the affected communities to be heard and will the international community be able to negotiate an agreement ? Will this agreement be strong enough and not too late to bring about a real solution to dangerous climate change?

→ The UNFCCC : United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

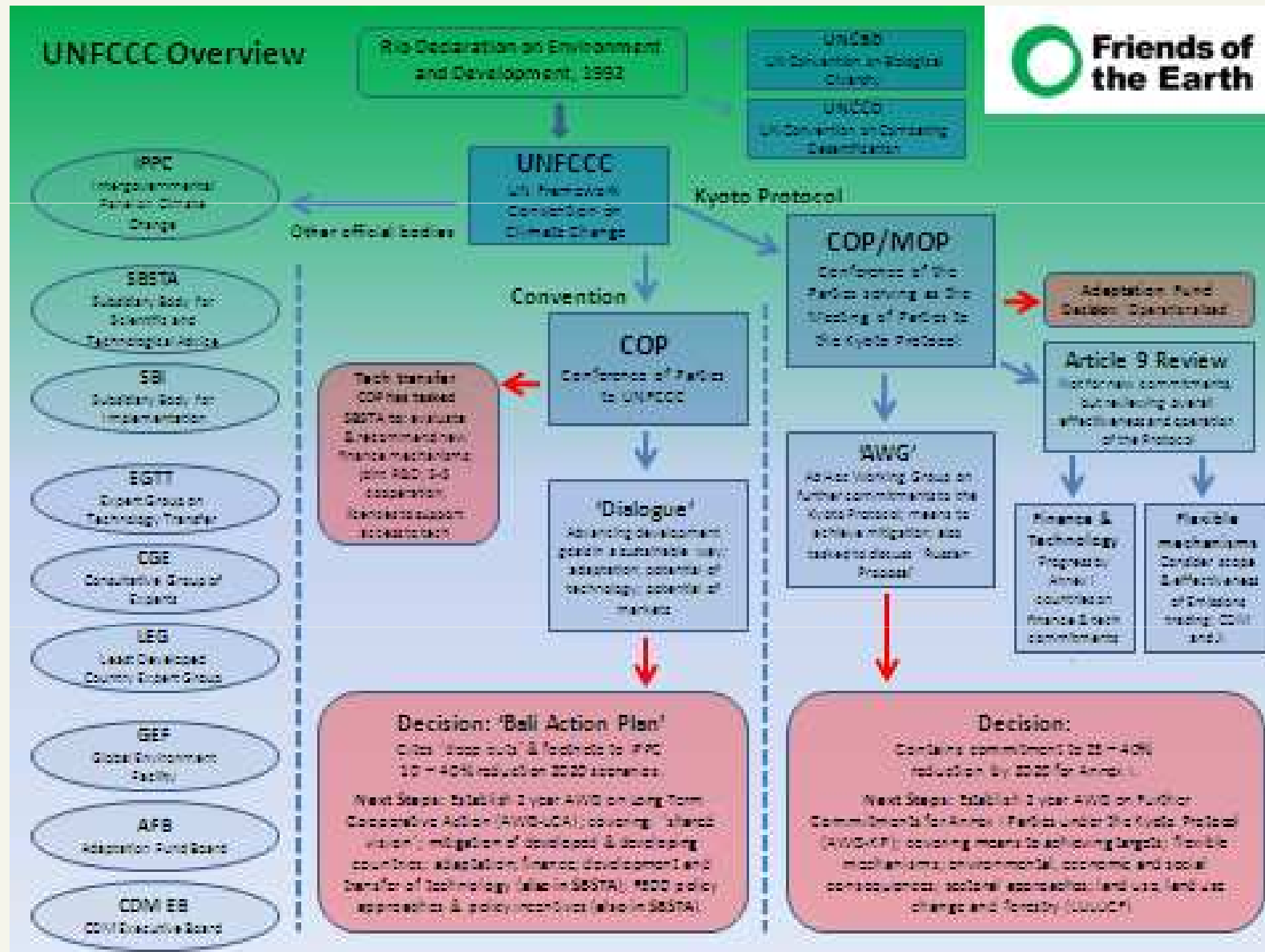
Birth of the UNFCCC: Rio Earth Summit (1992)

UN conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)
started on March 21st 1992
signed by 192 countries

Main goal?

The countries declared on a voluntary basis to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases on such a level that no dangerous climate changes can occur.







The structure of the Convention

Conference of Parties (COPs)

analysis of the progress, each year a climate summit
this is the highest decision board!

Secretary

The UNFCCC has its permanent secretary in Bonn (Germany)

Subsidiary Bodies

To advise the parties

**Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA)*
scientific, technological, technical and political matters

**Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)*
execution and implementation of decisions



Ad Hoc Working groups

**Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Countries under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG KP)*

gathering of some parties that signed the Kyoto-Protocol

**Ad Hoc Working Group for Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG LCA)*

just measurements on a longer term

Financial mechanism

goal : support to the developing countries and to countries that have a transitional economy in order to execute the main convention

**Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

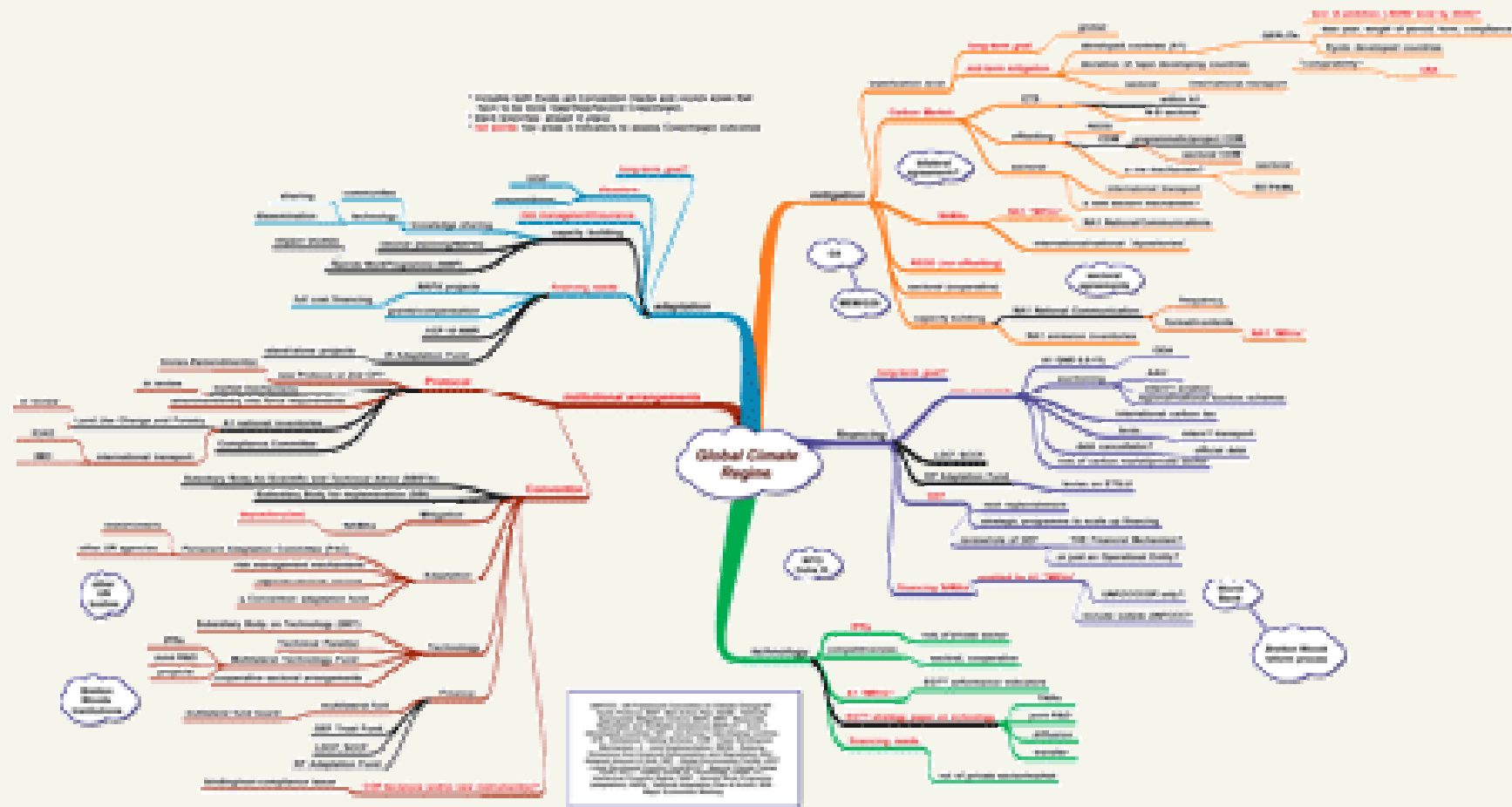
**Special Climate Change Fund*

**Least Developed Countries Fund*

**Adaptation Fund*

Expert Groups

Council and advice on methodology, technology...





Who is going to COPs ? (conference of parties)

10.000 people in Poznan, ... expected in Copenhagen !!!

National delegations

International organizations

Lobbies

NGO

Medias



IPCC (UN-Climate Panel) → **most important**

- founded 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the Environment Program of the United Nations (UNEP)
- Hundreds of experts from all over the world (universities, research centers, companies, environmental organisations and other organisations)
- the IPCC does no research, only evaluates research that is published in scientific magazines.



In 1997 the IPCC won the NOBEL PEACE PRICE together with the former American Vice-President and presidential Candidate Al Gore



Rachenda Pachauri, current president of the IPCC

II. Understanding the past to be able to make a change in the future



Recent history of the UNFCCC

Since 1994, each year a *Conference of Parties* takes place



COP 3, Kyoto, Japan (1997) **The Kyoto Protocol**

stronger agreement than the UNFCCC

guidelines for the current climate regime.

industrialised countries : a binding 5,2 % reduction of the emissions of greenhouse gases in comparison with the level of 1990

period 2008-2012.



Flexible mechanisms to lower the



Countries realise their obligations by investing in projects in foreign countries

1. International emission trading system

trading in emission rights

2. Mechanism for a clean development (CDM)

industrialised countries invest in projects in developing countries

3. Joint Implementation (JM)

industrialised countries invest in projects in other industrialised countries



Kyoto was overall a **symbolic** victory

→ for the 1th time developed countries accepted binding emission reductions

But

To slow

since 2005 (after ratification by Russia)

a real climate policy started not after the foundation of the UNFCCC, but only years later

Only a few countries

- * after the election of George W. Bush the US retreated

- * followed by Australia

To little

a reduction of 5,2 % is not enough to avoid dangerous climate change



COP 13, Bali, Indonesië Bali Roadmap: Bali – Poznán – Kopenhagen



for the first time talked about what has to happen after 2012
despite blocking attempts by the American delegation...

...The **BALI ACTION-PLAN**

- in Copenhagen: long-term agreement (by 2020 en 2050) and BIGGER emission reduction targets
- Cfr. Article 4
Funding flows that are new and additional and which are “measurable, reportable and verifiable”
 - > developing countries’ interpretation: these funds should be provided in addition to existing Official Development Assistance commitments of 0.7% of GDP
- Adaptation fund
(2 procent of the profit by selling CDM-loans)



COP 14, Poznań, Polen



not much progress

- Especially by the American delegation by George W. Bush
- Weak attitude by the European Union





Towards Copenhagen

Bangkok (October)

24th of October

Launch of the Big Ask Again movie

Barcelona (November)



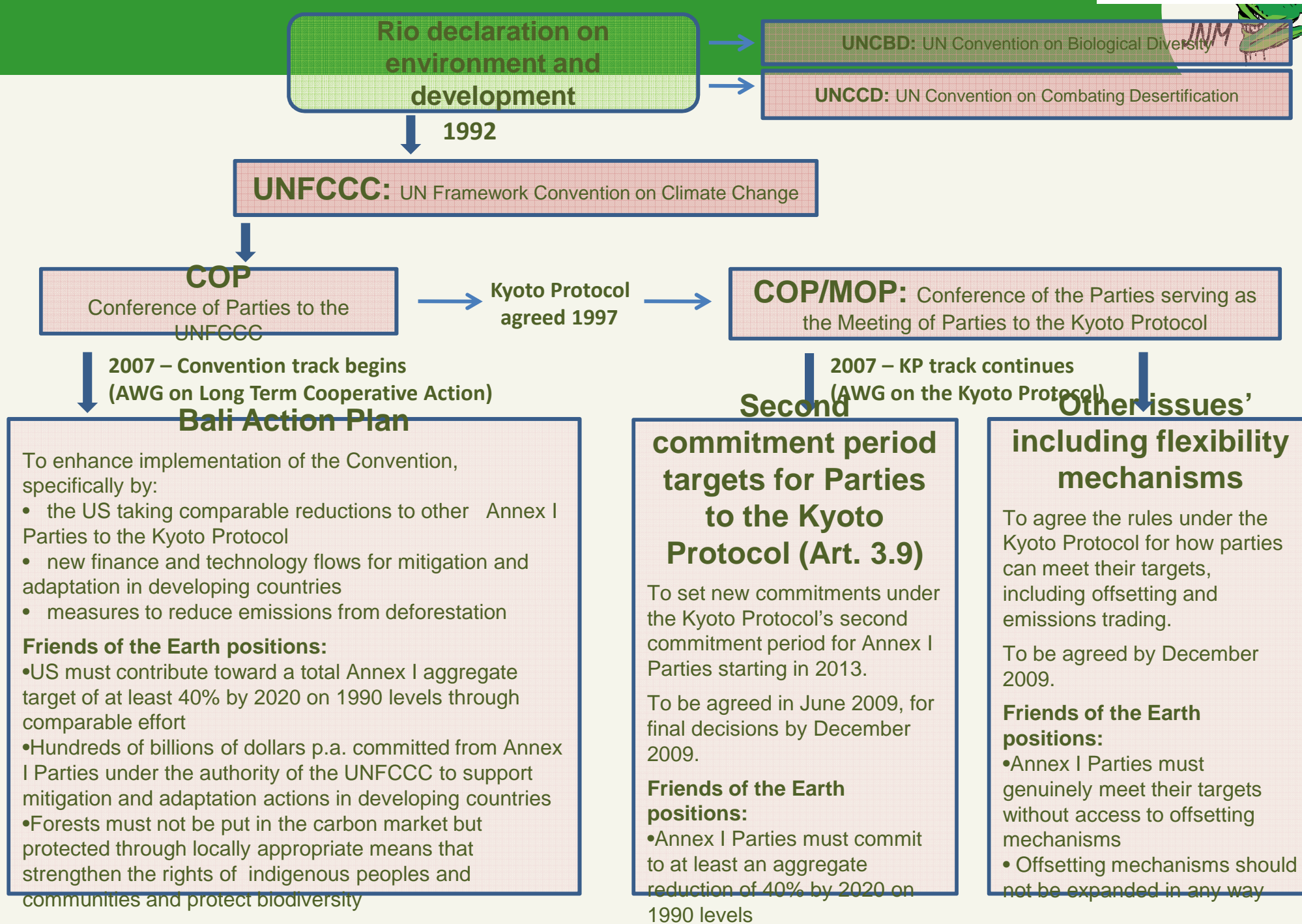
The route ahead

G20 Finance Ministers, Bangkok, Barcelona, UNGA, G20, G20 Finance Ministers Meeting, Copenhagen, beyond?...

III. The decision making process



How decisions in Copenhagen fit together



Decision making process



A fight between individuals interests.

The pressure of a very few leading countries

Blocking states vs. Impulsing states

Alliances to make a change



Negotiations at the UNFCCC

- *African Group
- *AOSIS (Alliance Of Small Island States)
- *Environmental Integrity Group
- *G77 and China
- *Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- *OPEC
- *Umbrella Group



UNFCCC principals in front of this situation



Main principal of the UNFCCC: **Common but differentiated responsibilities**

principal of International Environmental law
agreed in the Declaration of Rio in 1992

*Common responsibilities

*Differentiated responsibilities

- historical responsibility
- different financial and technological capacities to deal with these responsibilities

BUT

just 'soft law'

gives industrial countries a false excuse

UNFCCC principals in front of this situation



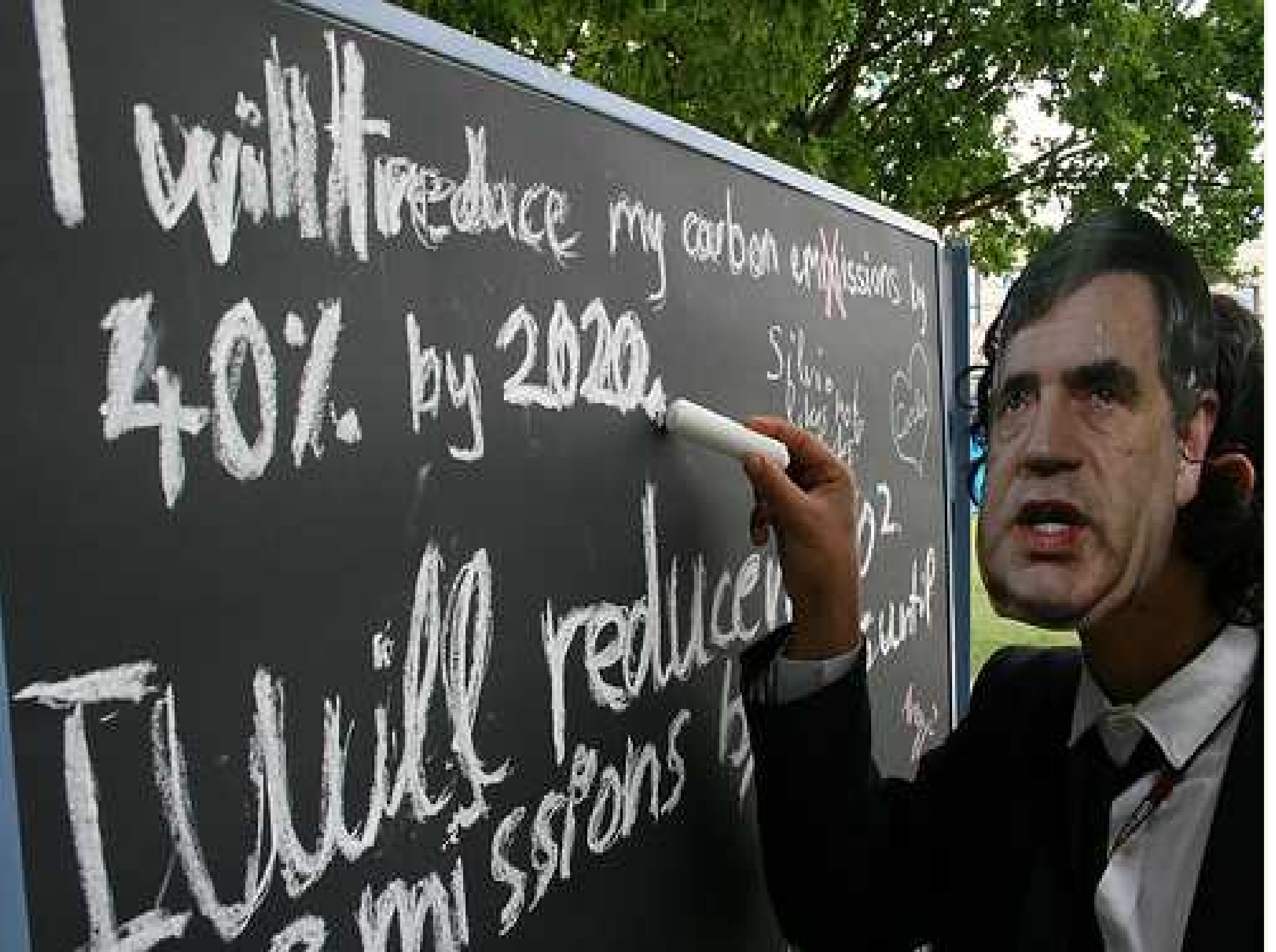
Article 4 of the UNFCCC

requires developed countries...

- to provide **financial support** to developing countries for
 - technology cooperation and transfer
 - conservation of greenhouse gas 'sinks'
 - and adaptation.

June 2009

“Indonesia, by some accounts the third largest emitter of heat-trapping greenhouse gases behind China and the United States, said it would reduce emissions 26 percent by 2020 and up to 41 percent if it received an unspecified amount of financing”



I will reduce my carbon emissions by

40% by 2020

I will reduce my carbon emissions by

Silvia
Luis
Luis



CO2
with

An unfair system ?



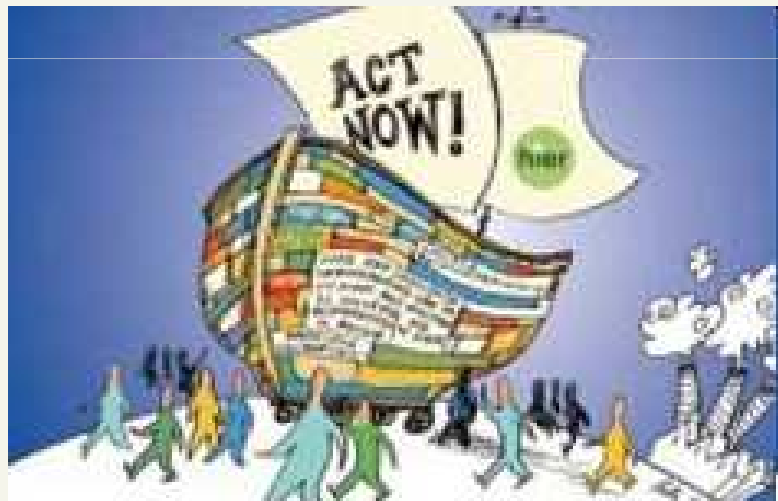
The UNFCCC has many weaknesses:

→ **Problems of fairness**

The indigenous communities are still excluded from negotiations...

This is a enormous **paradox** because they are the ones that are affected most by what industrial countries created!

For centuries they lived very close to nature, in doing so they have a lot of experience in adapting to climate change. They can deliver a lot of knowlegde in the search of solutions!



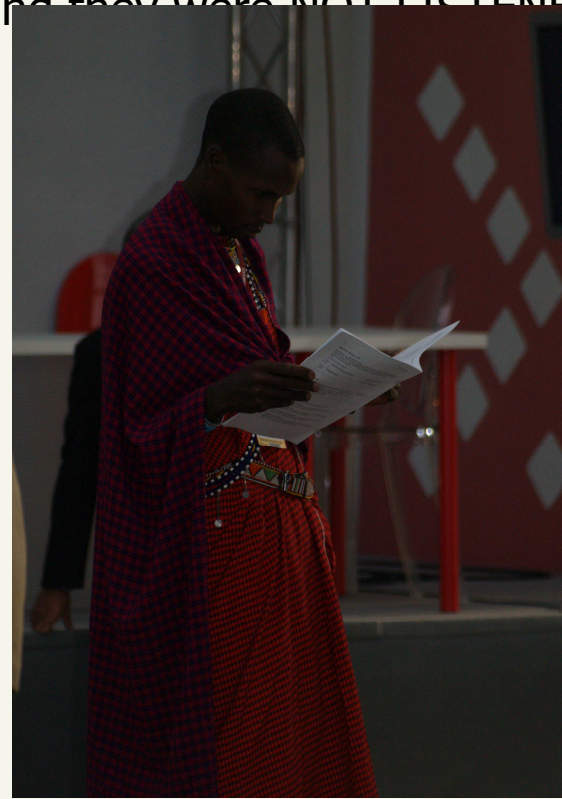


→ **ROLE OF MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THIS PROCES**

Already **since 2000** indigenous communities are asking decision power and the creation of an expert group within the UNFCCC...

But even today they still did not have any succes and they were NOT LISTENED

Accredited as 'observer organisations'
Badges don't allow them in places
where decisions are made

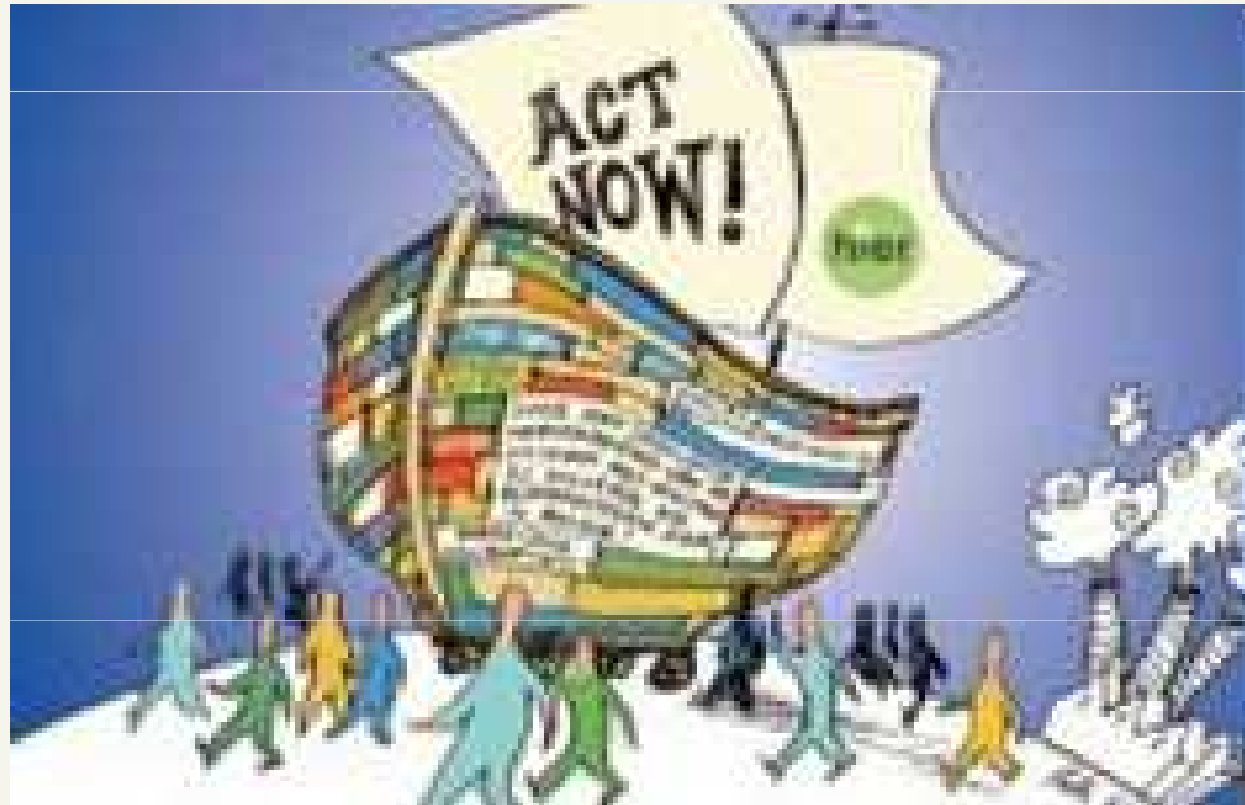




delegations don't have the same power

- ➔ Too much realism in the Global Governance (how are final decisions really taken ?)
- ➔ Depends too much on the conjuncture:
 - ex. Poznan: European package
 - Financial crisis
 - Obama's election

IV. Civil society: Let's ACT NOW to make a change for Tomorrow !



How can NGOs have any influence in all this process ?



Legitimacy: a key point.

Our tasks: Search, Lobby and Communicate

How to get to it ?



➤ Next Episode:

In Copenhagen we need an agreement based on Climate Justice!

