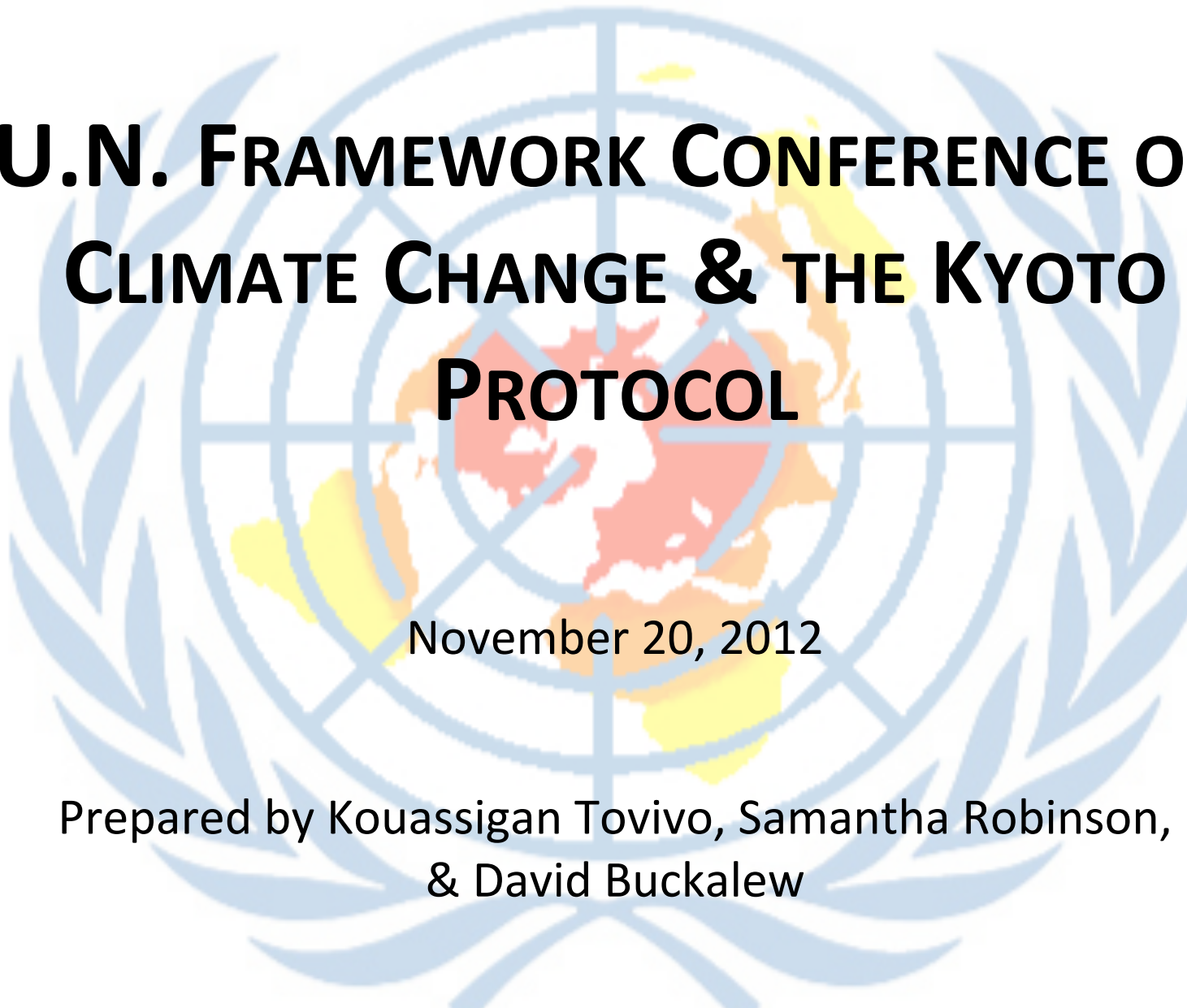




# **U.N. FRAMEWORK CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE & THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

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# **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

## **II. UNFCCC WITH DAVID**

- a. Background
- b. Origin
- c. Content

## **II. KYOTO PROTOCOL WITH KOUASSIGAN**

- a. Objectives
- b. Architecture
- c. Achievements
- d. Challenges

## **III. POST-KYOTO WITH SAM**

- a. Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban Conferences
- b. What's next?
  - 1. Doha Conference

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

# UNFCCC Background

- 1988 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is created
- 1990 IPCC's first assessment report
- June 3-14, 1992 Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro: UNCCD, UNCNBD, UNFCCC.
- May 9, 1992 Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee produces formal text for UNFCCC
- 1995 First Conference of the Parties

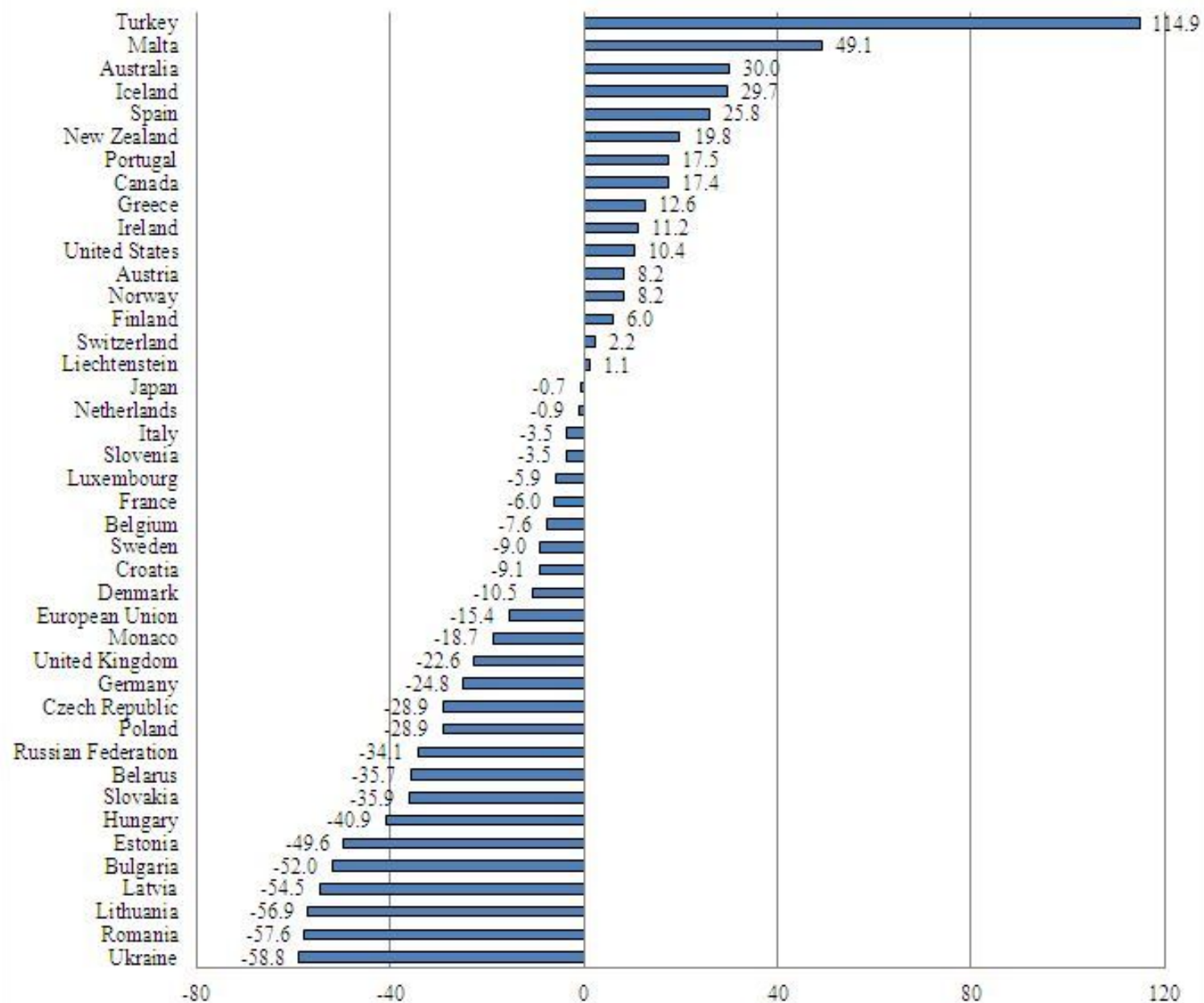
# UNFCCC Purpose

- To provide an international framework and encourage countries to “stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”
- Furthermore: “Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, ensure food production is not threatened and enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”
- Annex 1 Countries-“Common but differentiated responsibilities”

# Achievements

- Recognized that there was a problem and sets goal.
- Puts the onus on developed countries to lead the way. (Annex I countries were expected by the year 2000 to reduce emissions to 1990 levels. Many of them have taken strong action to do so, and some have already succeeded.)
- Directs new funds to climate change activities in developing countries.
- Keeps tabs on the problem and what's being done about it
- Charts the beginnings of a path to strike a delicate balance.
- Kicks off formal consideration of adaptation to climate change.
- Annual Conference of the Parties, since 1995 to discuss and assess progress in dealing with climate change
- No legally binding commitments for GHG reduction.

Changes in GHG emissions excluding LULUCF (%)



# The Kyoto Protocol

- Adoption date: December 11, 1997 in Kyoto, Japan
- Effect date: February 16, 2005

***The main objective:*** commit industrialized countries to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions based on the principle of the Convention by setting 5% binding reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries compared to 1990 levels, and this over the 5 year period(2008-2012).

# Architecture

The main components of the Kyoto Protocol are:

- Reporting and verification procedures
- Flexible market-based mechanisms( with all their own governance procedures)
- Compliance system  
( facilitative and enforcement branches)

# Main achievements

- Prompted governments to put in place legislation and policies to meet their commitments
- businesses to make climate-friendly investment decisions and formation of carbon market

# POST-KYOTO

**2009** — *Copenhagen Accord* drafted at COP15/MOP5 in Copenhagen. This was taken note of by the COP. Countries later submitted emissions reductions pledges or mitigation action pledges, all non-binding.

**2010** — *Cancun Agreements* drafted and largely accepted by the COP, at COP16/MOP6.

**2011** — *The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action* drafted and accepted by the COP, at COP17/MOP7.

**2012** — The 18th session of the COP to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the meeting of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from Monday, 26 November to Friday, 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.

# 2009—COPENHAGEN ACCORD: “A NEW HOPE (SORT OF...)”

## *I. Achievements of the Copenhagen Conference:*

- a. Brought the United States and China to the table with a willingness to “discuss” commitments to emission reduction and financing
  - 1. ‘Side deal’ guaranteed \$30 billion over the next three years in climate aid and endorses a goal of mobilizing \$100 billion a year by 2020 to developing nations hit hardest by climate change.



## *II. What was missing?*

- a. Lack of a deadline to negotiate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol
- b. The Bail Action Plan (2007) set CO15 in 2009 as the deadline to negotiate a successor Treaty to the Kyoto Protocol. Copenhagen did not agree on a new treaty and did not set a future deadline.
- c. No internationally binding GHG emission targets

# 2010—CANCUN AGREEMENTS: “THE COP STRIKES BACK”

## I. *Achievements of the Cancun Agreement*

- a. Brought GHG emissions reduction targets under the UNFCCC process
- b. Ensured greater transparency in emissions reporting by all countries
- c. Established the “Green Climate Fund” to help facilitate financial support to developing nations



## II. *What was missing?*

- a. Countries will still fall short of what science says is needed to prevent worse impacts from climate change
- b. Financial support is still not sufficient to support developing countries in coping with impacts.

# 2011—DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION

## *I. Achievements of the Durban Platform*

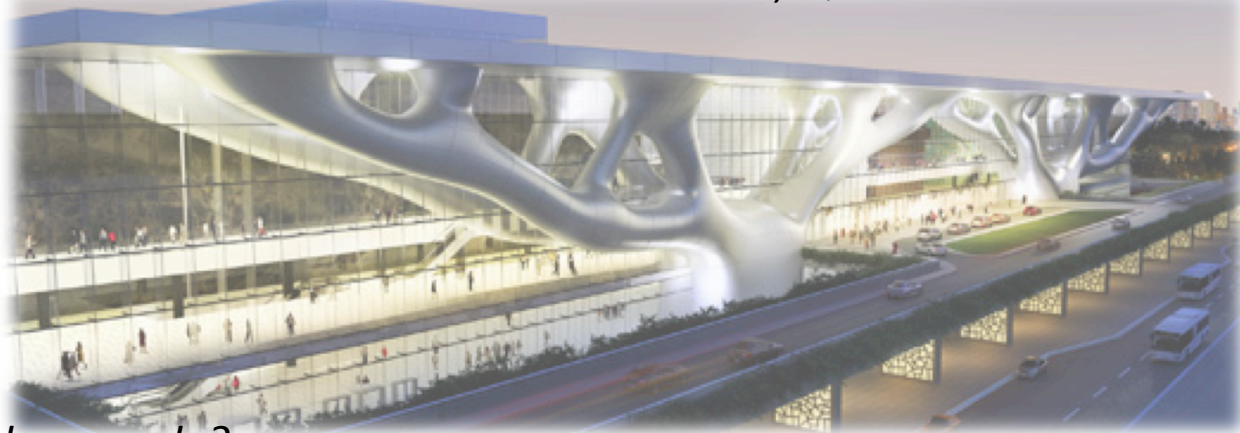
- a. Pledged to negotiate a new international climate treaty by 2015
- b. Formally provides for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol of either 5 or 8 years
- c. Launched the Green Climate Fund

## *II. What was missing?*

- a. Effectiveness of the 5-8 yr. extension has been questioned as Canada, Russia and Japan did not sign up to new targets under the second Kyoto commitment period. Countries will still fall short of what science says is needed to prevent worse impacts from climate change. Combined with the US, which has never ratified the Kyoto Protocol, countries responsible for 85% of emissions are not legally bound to cut emissions until the next decade.
- b. Considerable debate over the legal status of the international agreement that is to be negotiated by 2015. No one really knows what an “outcome with legal force” actually means...

# 2012 & BEYOND—DOHA CONFERENCE: “RETURN OF THE LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT?”

- I. *COP18/MOP9 to take place next Monday-Friday in Doha, Qatar*
  - a. The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from Monday, 26 November to Friday, 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.

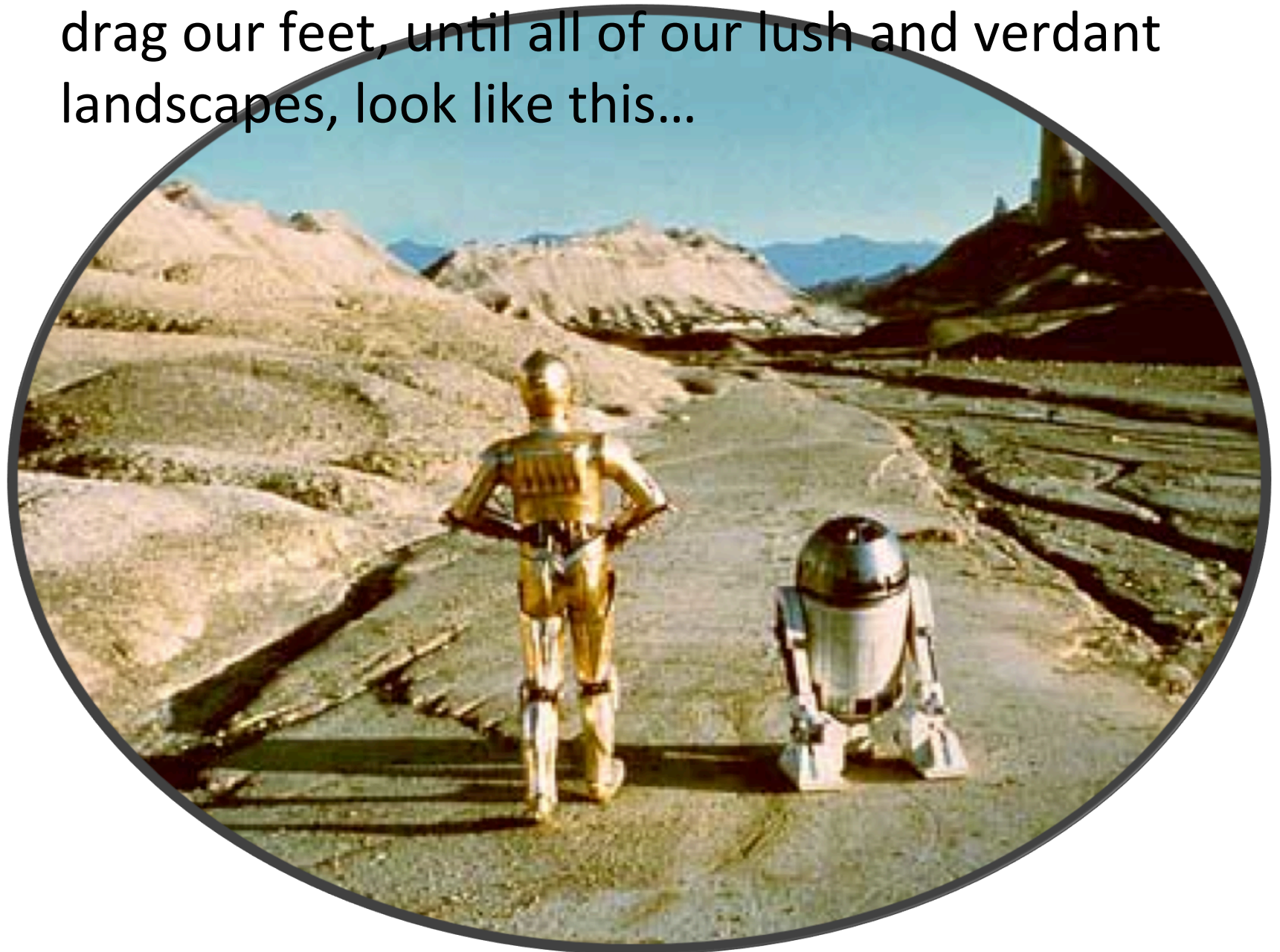


- II. *What's on the agenda?*
  - a. *Hope that COP will agree upon and ratify a legally binding extension to the Kyoto Protocol*
  - b. *A lot of talk about REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation ), a tool that conserve natural resources and reduces greenhouse gases*
- III. *Where is the U.S. in terms of reducing GHG emissions?*
  - a. 2012 U.S. carbon emissions at a 20 year low thanks in large part to natural gas boom and a slowing economy

# THE BIG QUESTION...

Will the U.S. sign and ratify  
a Kyoto extension and help  
save our planet from  
certain doom?

**...OR** will we and other key players continue to drag our feet, until all of our lush and verdant landscapes, look like this...



# KEY QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT'S THE KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UNFCCC AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL?
  - a. The major distinction between the Protocol and the Convention is that while the Convention encouraged industrialised countries to stabilize GHG emissions, the Protocol commits them to do so.
2. WHAT ARE SOME FAILURES AND/OR CHALLENGES RELATED TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL?
  - a. Weak/non-existent mechanisms to enforce GHG emissions standards
  - b. The U.S., one of the largest emitters of GHGs, signed but did NOT ratify the Treaty
3. WHAT DO CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCATES HOPE TO SEE ACHIEVED AT THE UPCOMING DOHA CONFERENCE?
  - a. The Kyoto Protocol Treaty is due to expire at the end of this year. As such, the goal of the Doha Conference is to have the COP sign and ratify a a legally binding second commitment period of the Treaty, which would include country specific GHG emissions targets for the next 5-8 years