From Kyoto to Paris

The 50-cent tour
In December, countries will sign a new international climate change agreement.
The 2015 deal will be:

“...a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties”
This might not sound like much to you, but to UNFCCC-watchers, it’s actually code
So, to decode things, let’s go back a few years to Kyoto
The Kyoto Protocol divided the world into two groups
This was done based on a core U.N. principle: COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES (and respective capabilities)
The U.S. signed Kyoto. But Congress had different ideas.
Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that--

(1) the United States should not be a signatory to any protocol to, or other agreement regarding, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, at negotiations in Kyoto in December 1997, or thereafter, which would--

(A) mandate new commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the Annex I Parties, unless the protocol or other agreement also mandates new specific scheduled commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Developing Country Parties within the same compliance period, or

(B) would result in serious harm to the economy of the United States; and

(2) any such protocol or other agreement which would require the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification should be accompanied by a detailed explanation of any legislation or regulatory actions that may be required to implement the protocol or other agreement and should also be accompanied by an analysis of the detailed financial costs and other impacts on the economy of the United States which would be incurred by the implementation of the protocol or other agreement.
President Bush declared Kyoto dead
Over the next 10 years the fight - mostly between the US & China -- went like this:

How about YOU go first..

I promise I'll follow
Then the Obama administration came to town
Let’s flash forward to Copenhagen, 2009
The result: The Copenhagen Accord

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reduction by 2020</th>
<th>Reduction Base Year</th>
<th>Reduction Type</th>
<th>Reduction on 1990 Scale</th>
<th>Share of World's Total GHGs</th>
<th>CO₂ Emissions per capita (tCO₂e)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>12/29/2009</td>
<td>President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva Tuesday signed a law requiring that Brazil cut greenhouse gas emissions by 34 percent by 2020, amounting to a 45 percent reduction from 2005 levels.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+17.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>12/30/2009</td>
<td>South Korea announced it would commit to a voluntary 2020 emissions target of 35 percent below business as usual.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+48.2%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1/13/2010</td>
<td>Country officials say they plan to submit a mitigation plan for achieving 34 percent by 2020 reductions to the U.N. climate regime by Jan. 1, 2011.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+87.3%</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>1/12/2010</td>
<td>Ghana’s Minister of Environment, Science and Technology said the government is prepared to commit to a 45% reduction in deforestation and forest degradation.</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+87.3%</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>They will accept the Copenhagen Accord, according to a UNFCCC spokesman. Specific commitments since Copenhagen have not yet been shared.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>They will accept the Copenhagen Accord, according to a UNFCCC spokesman. Specific commitments since Copenhagen have not yet been shared.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>They will accept the Copenhagen Accord, according to a UNFCCC spokesman. Specific commitments since Copenhagen have not yet been shared.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>They will accept the Copenhagen Accord, according to a UNFCCC spokesman. Specific commitments since Copenhagen have not yet been shared.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>They will accept the Copenhagen Accord, according to a UNFCCC spokesman. Specific commitments since Copenhagen have not yet been shared.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td><img src="image9.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Durban, South Africa: Where the huddle - and a new deal - was born
Group of 77
at the United Nations
This is where that code comes in again
“...a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties
NATIONS: 30 years after famine and strife, Ethiopia sees a future that is bright green

Ethiopia — Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has led a decade-long economic and political revolution, is using the capital's green revolution to boost the economy. The country has made a number of major efforts to increase its green space, including the planting of millions of trees. These efforts have been successful, and Ethiopia is now considered one of the most green countries in the world.

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Greater Expectations: The New Geopolitics of Climate Change

The pending Paris accord: not your father’s climate agreement

Lisa Friedman, E&I reporter

Conference: Wednesday, October 7, 2015

The 2011 “global wind-up the planet” that set the stage for the upcoming Paris climate accord. Photo courtesy of Lynn DeCesare.

By the time Ambassador Kari Holst took the microphone on a warm South African evening in December 2011, many years into a major overhaul of the climate change negotiations, he had just about enough.

For now, major emerging economies led by India had pushed back against efforts to launch a new deal that included all nations, insisting they should not be forced to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Wealthy countries have not come close to meeting their climate change targets, he argued, and poorer nations must have the right to use biodiversity and fossil fuels.

Those representing the most vulnerable countries — like Hood’s tiny island of Grenada — disagreed, but were reluctant to reverse the united front developing nations presented to the world. The rate of melting, China, India and other advancing powers were again left up to the United States and Europe. Hood decided something had to change.

I was on a plane flying into Paris, if only a country could pride their own atmosphere, that's fine. But we've all gone to pay the price of it, some people need to be responsible here. I don't think that I should keep my mouth shut. I felt somebody had to stand up — it was said from Beijing, where he now serves as Grenada's ambassador to China.

Stand up and say that all countries have a responsibility to keep global temperatures at safe levels, and no one — even historically low emitters — should have the right to unchecked development. "While this is a development, we like. And why should we be scared?" he asked a pocket full of surprised diplomats.

Hood’s intervention was the climax of a long-standing fight over whether developing nations should pay a stronger hand in allocating the greenhouse gas emissions that scientists say are warming the planet. As it was in 2011, a new international accord that could be completed in Paris December. It also underscored a rupture that has only deepened within the Group of 77 and China, nominally representing the interests of all developing nations.

When leaders from 196 countries meet in Paris, they will find a starkly different landscape than the one under
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