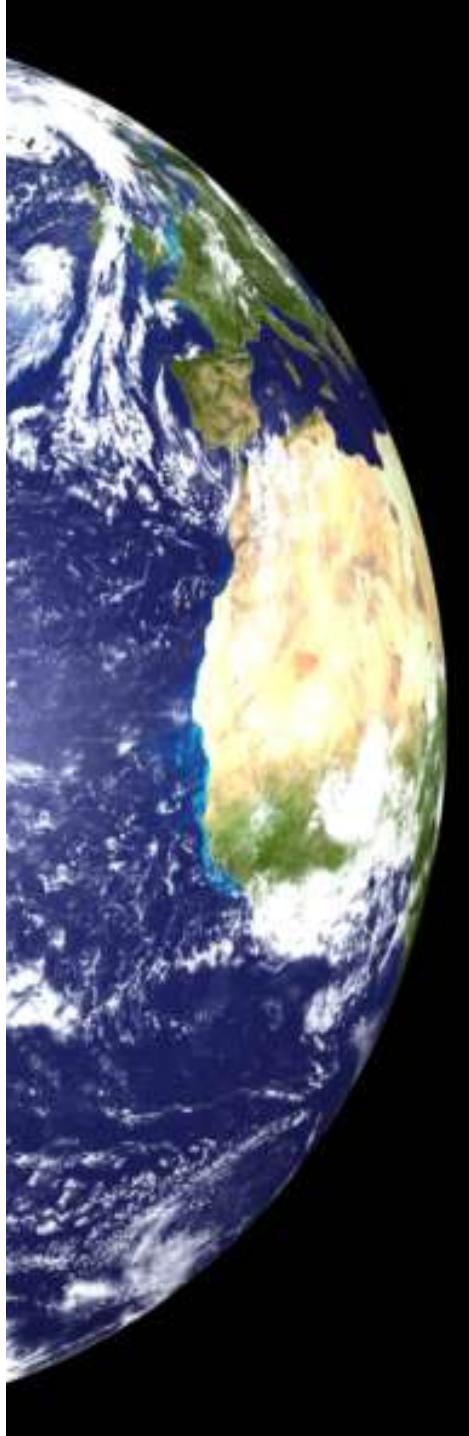


# The half-way mark on the road to Copenhagen 2009

The intergovernmental climate change  
negotiations

*Yvo de Boer*  
*Executive Secretary*  
*UNFCCC*





# The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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- 192 Parties – near universal membership
- **The ultimate objective of the Convention:** change is inevitable, but pace and intensity must be managed so that people and ecosystems can adapt.
- Principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities: **developed countries must take the lead**



# The Kyoto Protocol

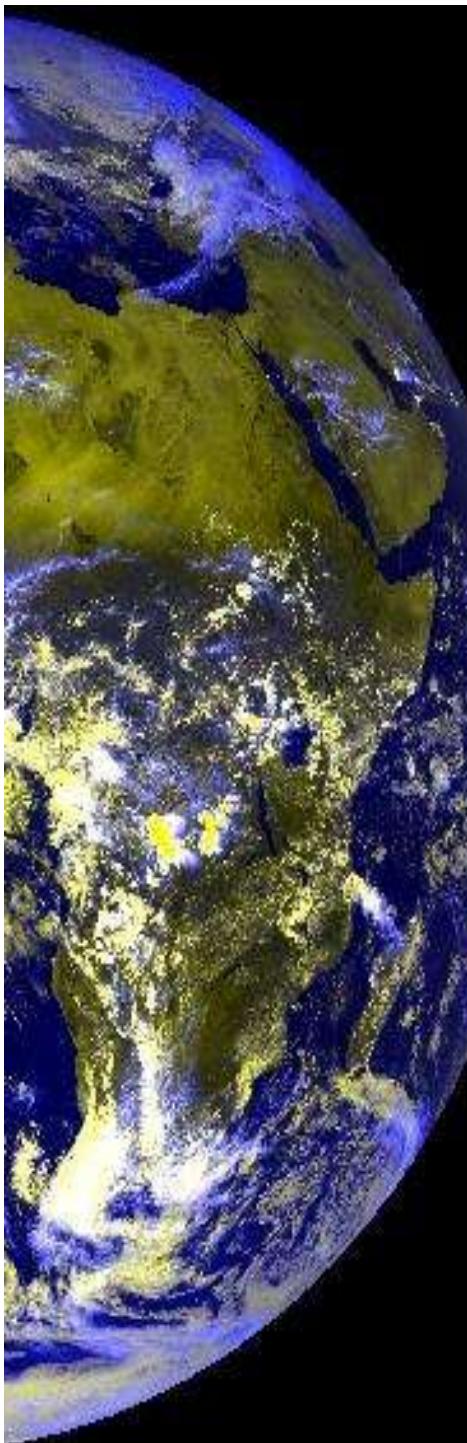
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- Entry into force on 16 February 2005
- 183 Parties (December 2008)
- Commitment period: 2008 – 2012

## Main features

- **Legally binding targets** for emissions of six major greenhouse gases in industrialized countries during first commitment period
- At the end of 2012: reduction of about 5%
- New **international market-based instruments** creating a new commodity: carbon
- **Valuable architecture**, but scope not commensurate with the scale of the problem

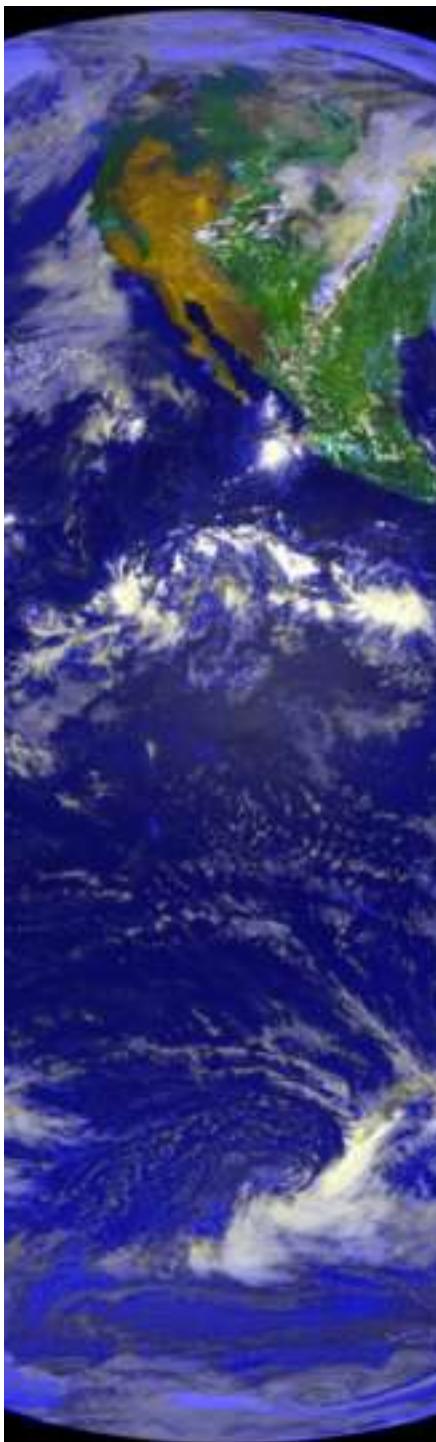




# Clean Development Mechanism

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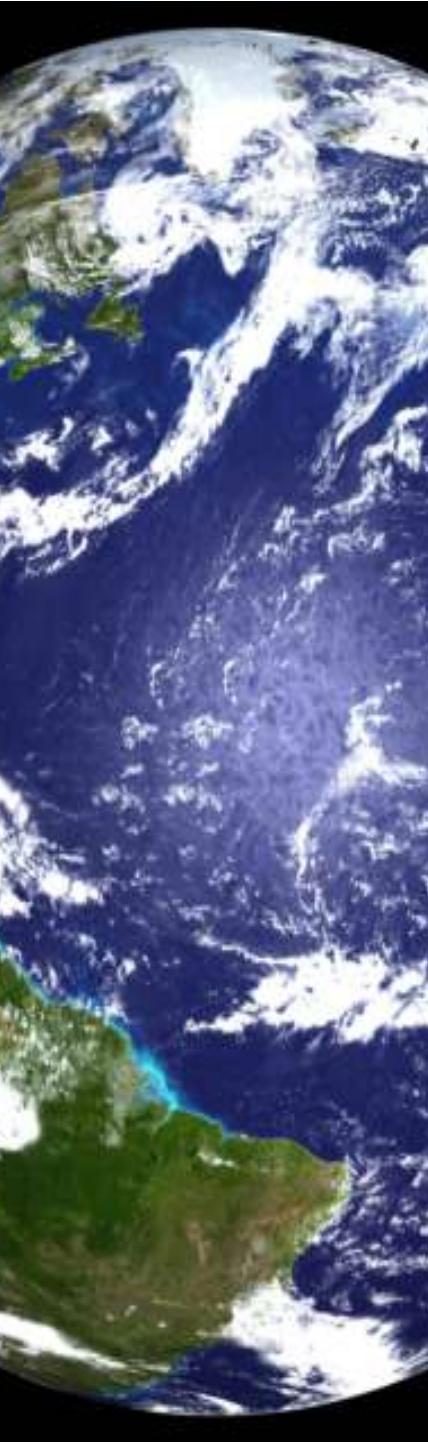
- Industrialized countries pay for projects that **cut or avoid emissions in poorer nations**
- They earn certified emission reduction (CERs) credits to help meet their own emissions targets
- Recipient countries benefit from **sustainable development initiatives**
- Estimation: CDM projects that entered the pipeline will **result in 25 billion USD capital investment**
- **Boosts technology transfer** to developing countries
- **Adaptation Fund: 2% levy on projects**



## 2007: “The year of climate change”

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- Launch of the IPCC’s fourth assessment report: recognition that **current efforts are not commensurate with the scale of the problem**
  - **Mitigation:** IPCC best case scenario: industrialised countries to reduce by **25 – 40% over 1990 by 2020;**
  - **Adaptation: impacts to affect developing countries the most; new sources of funding needed**
- Recognition of the **urgency to act**
- Nobel peace prize
- Huge **political momentum** and increased **public awareness** on climate change



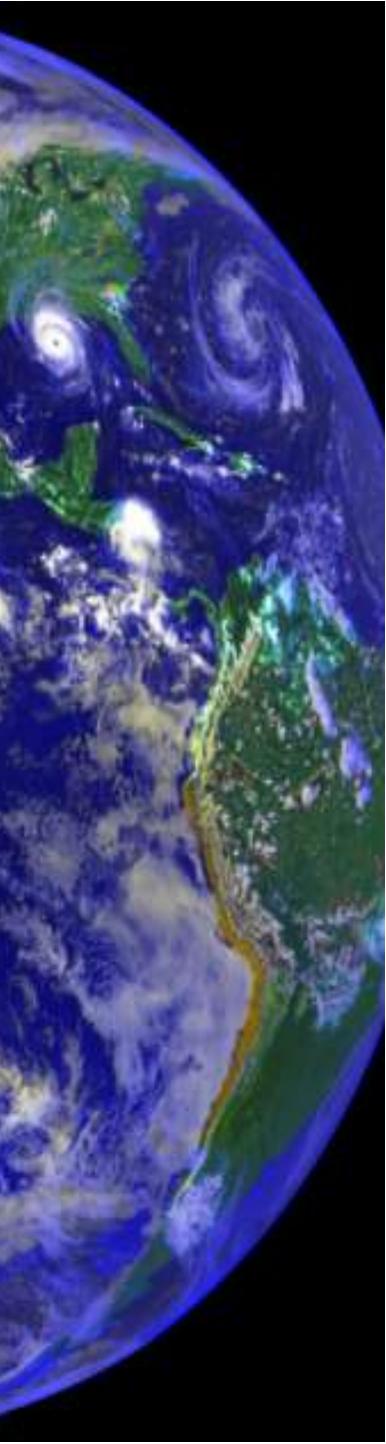
# The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali 2007

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## The Bali Road Map – different streams:

- Convention negotiations: strengthen the international response up to and beyond 2012
  - Negotiations on 4 building blocks: adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance
  - Shared vision
- On-going work, e.g. technology, adaptation, deforestation
- Kyoto Protocol negotiations





# The Bali Road Map (BRM) – negotiations towards Copenhagen

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- Negotiations towards an **agreed outcome** in **Copenhagen 2009: ratification processes**
  - **tight time-line**, no need for a fully elaborated outcome; **but:**
  - **Copenhagen 2009 needs to be a strong and ambitious policy framework that sets a clear overall direction for future global climate change action**
  - **developed countries to take the lead;**
  - **economic development and poverty eradication in developing countries must not be jeopardised**



# BRM negotiations: enhanced action on mitigation

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- Developed countries: **quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives**
- Developing countries: **Nationally appropriate mitigation actions, supported and enabled by technology, finance and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner.**
  - Developing countries are willing to make a contribution over and above what they are already doing if they get support



# BRM negotiations: enhanced action on adaptation

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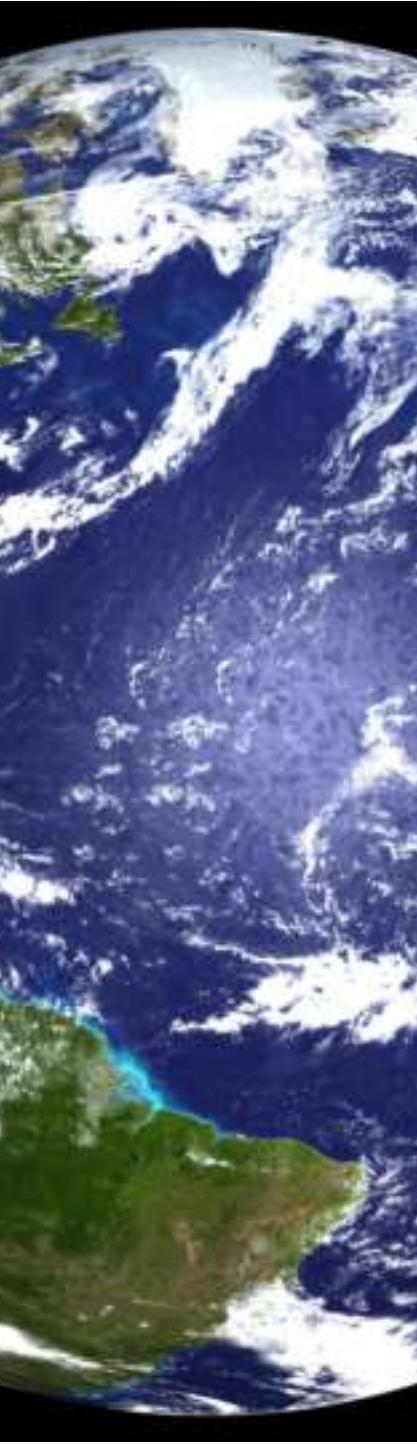
- Support for the **implementation of adaptation** actions, especially in LDCs, SIDS, African countries;
- **Disaster reduction** strategies;
- **Risk management**;
- Enhanced action on the provision of **financial resources**;
- Adaptation is likely to cost tens **billions of dollars per year in 2030**.



# Current status of the negotiations towards Copenhagen

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- Parties met at additional sessions in 2008:
  - clarified ideas, exchanged views
  - tabled proposals on a wide range of issues, e.g:
    - ways to boost adaptation; institutional needs, ways to finance action;
  - Proposals compiled into an assembly document
- Parties to go into real negotiating mode at Poznan and during 2009

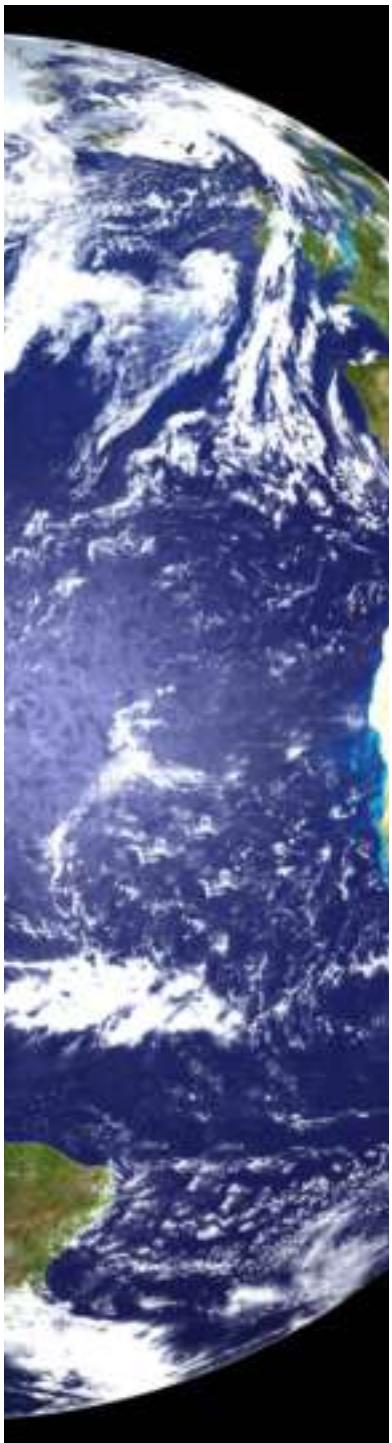


# Poznan 2009

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- The **half-way mark** between Bali and Copenhagen
- First time that Ministers meet after Bali, last time before Copenhagen – **stock-taking**
  - **Shared vision**
  - **Progress on the financial architecture**
- **Other issues on the agenda:**
  - **Adaptation:** risk management and risk reduction; urgent adaptation needs of vulnerable Parties;
  - Adaptation Fund
  - CDM reforms
  - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation
  - Technology





# Political essentials to be resolved to make Copenhagen 2009 work

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## 1. The nature of commitments

- Level of ambition by developed countries
- Nature of mitigation by developing countries

## 2. Financial resources

- Financial architecture to enable action on adaptation and mitigation

## 3. Institutional framework

- A framework that holds everything together and delivers



# Political essentials: the nature of commitments

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- **Developed country ambition:**
  - Or else developing countries will not see why they should mitigate
- **Developing country engagement:**
  - Or else not all industrialised countries are willing to show ambition
  - Industrialised country **ambition** will trigger **more financial and technological support.**
  - More support will trigger **more engagement by developing countries.**
  - More engagement will trigger **more industrialised country ambition**

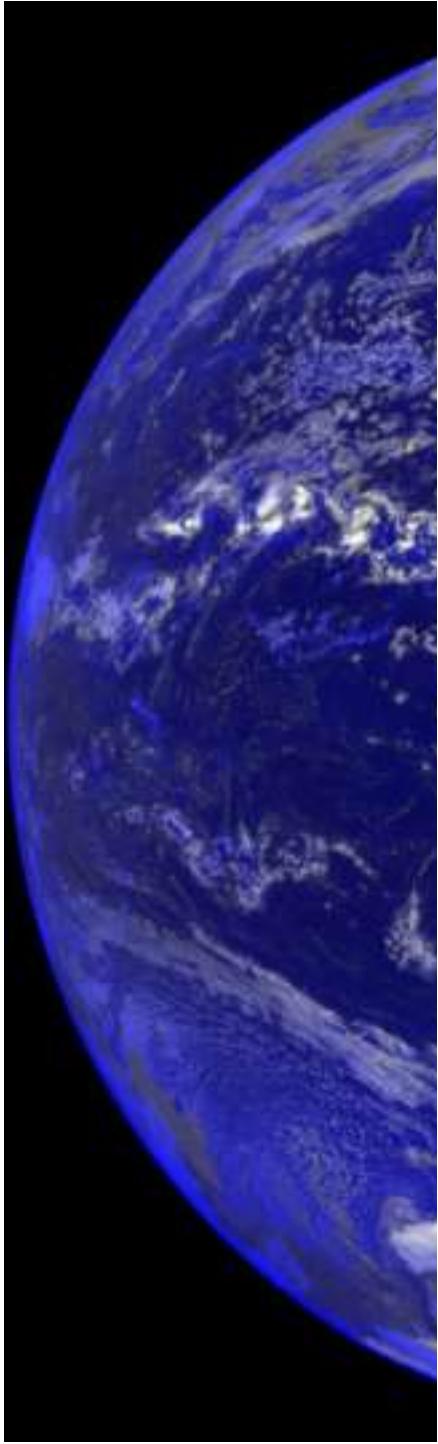




# Political essentials: financial resources

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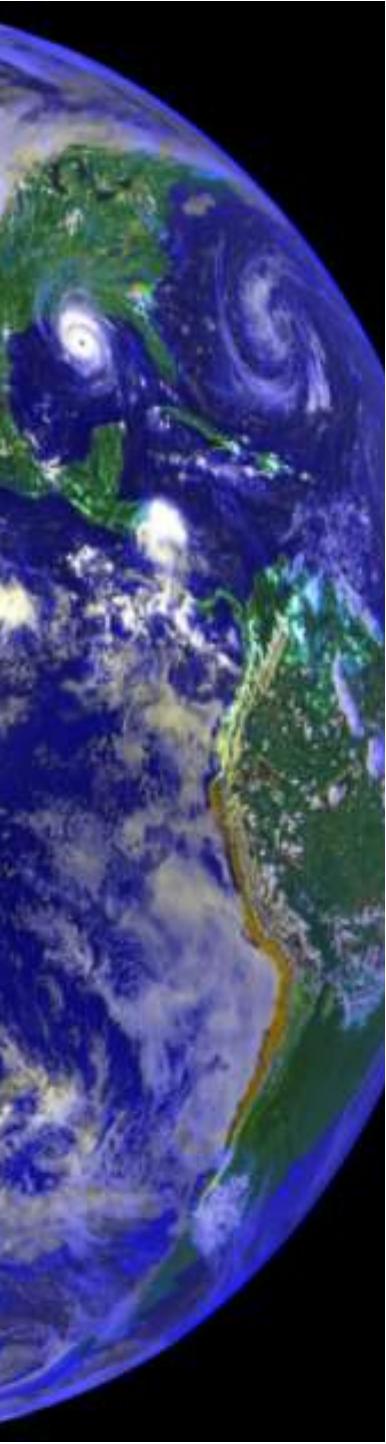
- Need to generate **significant** financial and technological support to **enable meaningful action by developing countries**.
- Current **carbon market** is a first step, but is insufficient:
  - doesn't generate enough
  - How could the **carbon market** structure be **expanded?**
  - Can **other mechanisms** be developed?
  - Financial crisis
    - **Self-financing Climate Compact**



# Political essentials: institutional framework

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- Parties want to **be in control** of the financial institution
- An institution that **holds everything together**



# Climate change needs an economic solution

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- Some businesses see economic opportunity in climate change abatement, while others fear huge losses: **some are calling for clarity, while others don't want to be engaged**
- The **private sector needs to be involved** since the largest share of finances and environmentally sound technologies lie in their hands.
- A solution to climate change **can only work** if it is **economically viable**
- **Citizens expect solid political solutions from their governments**



# Copenhagen 2009

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- Copenhagen 2009: transforming the global economy to a low-emissions economy.
- Copenhagen 2009 needs to ensure that all countries can participate in green growth and boost resilience.
- Copenhagen 2009 is about:
  - creating value for change
  - creating new investment opportunities
  - creating rewards for change
  - generating funding for adaptation
- Copenhagen 2009 needs to ring in the era of green global economic growth

