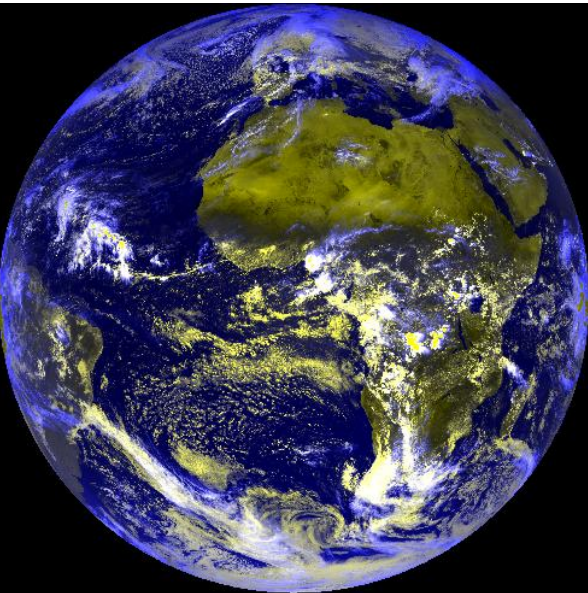




An overview of the international climate change process under the UNFCCC

“On the road to Copenhagen”



Yvo de Boer

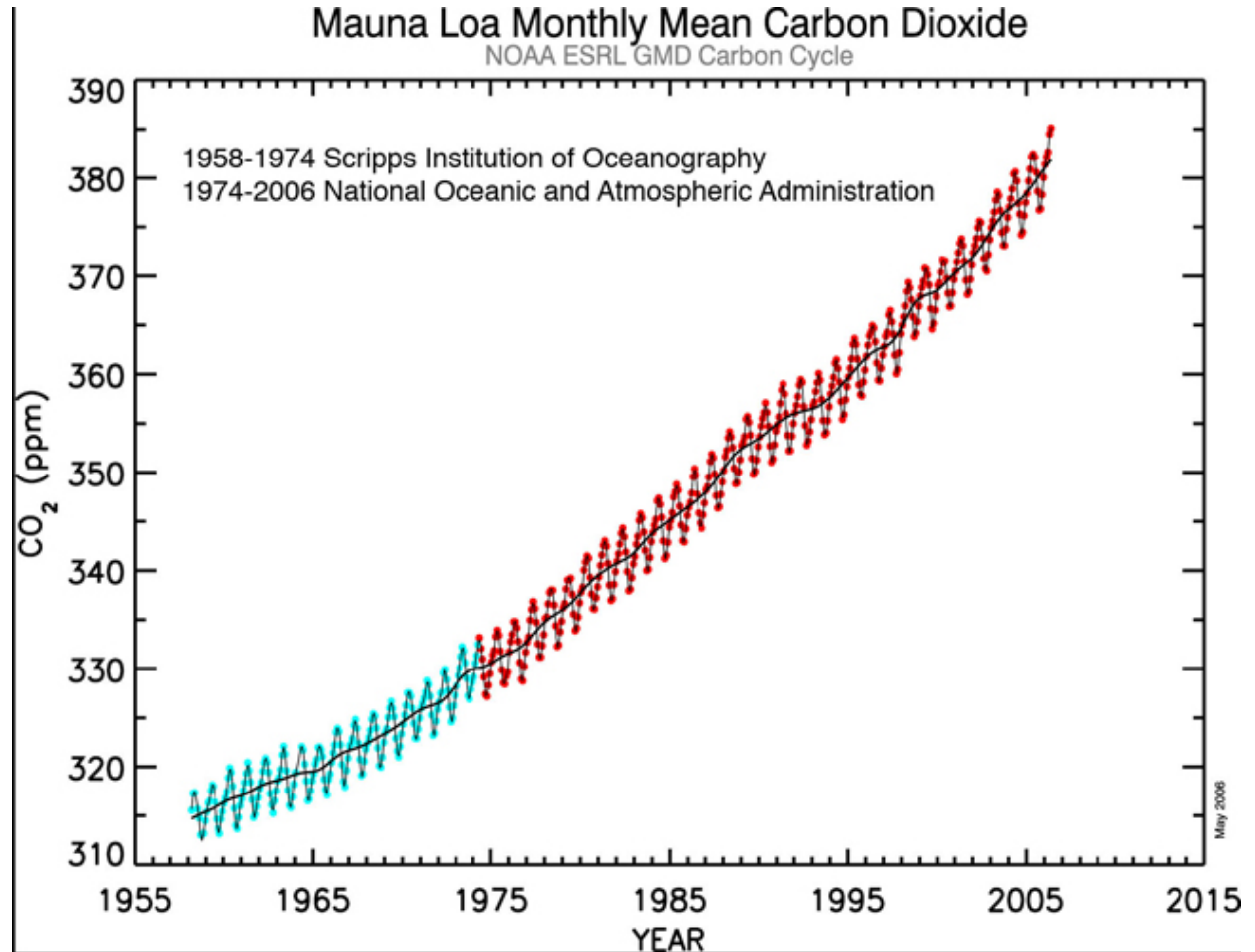
Executive Secretary

UNFCCC



Atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements at Mauna Loa, Hawaii

**February 2008
measurement
at 386 ppm**



Source: NOAA



Effects of climate change according to the IPCC

- In the **21st Century**, the Earth could warm by about **3°C**
- **Diminished food security**
- **Stress on water resources**, e.g. up to 250 million people in **Africa** at increased risk of water stress in 2020
- **Rise in sea levels**, e.g. millions of people in the **Asian mega-deltas** at risk of river flooding and storm surges; **SIDS**
- Increase of **intensity and frequency of extreme events**

Climate change is no longer only “environmental” in nature





What are the two approaches in the international climate change process?

Mitigation

- Involves **human interventions to reduce the sources of GHGs** or enhance their sinks.
- Between **1970 and 2004**, emissions of greenhouse gases have **increased by 70%**, **CO2 by 80%**.
- Emissions need to be reduced by **well over 50% from current levels**.
- **Technology is at the heart of the solution**





What are the two approaches in the international climate change process?

Adaptation

- Coping with climatic change – taking measures to **reduce the negative effects, or exploit the positive ones**, by making appropriate adjustments.
- **Adaptation reduces vulnerability**, e.g. dykes, drought-resistant crops
- Adaptation is **inevitable**
- **All countries** will be affected, **developing countries most**
- Adaptation needs to be **streamlined into development plans**





Achievements to date

- The UNFCCC enjoys **near universal membership**: 192 Parties
- The Kyoto Protocol:
 - First commitment period: 2008-2012
 - Legally binding targets for industrialised countries
 - New **international market-based instruments** creating a new commodity: carbon
 - **E.g. the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM):**
 - Industrialized countries pay for projects that **cut or avoid emissions in poorer nations**
 - **Sustainable development benefits**
 - Has grown: **978 projects** registered; more than **3000** projects in the **pipeline**

What is the Bali Road Map (BRM)?

- A set of **forward-looking decisions** adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference in December.
- **A process to:**
 1. **To strengthen on-going work**
 2. **To enhance climate change action in the future**
 3. Includes negotiations on **further commitments by industrialised countries under the KP**
 4. **Deadline:** the UN Climate Change Conference in **Copenhagen in 2009**



How is adaptation addressed in the BRM?

On-going work, e.g.:

- Adaptation Fund: potential to generate 80 - 300 million USD per year 2008-2012;
 - Up to 1 - 5 billion USD per year (high demand)
- Nairobi Work Programme

Future-related work:

- Adaptation as a **key element of a long-term climate change agreement**
- **International cooperation** on urgent adaptation action
- **Climate-resilient development**
- **Disaster reduction** strategies



How is mitigation addressed in the BRM?

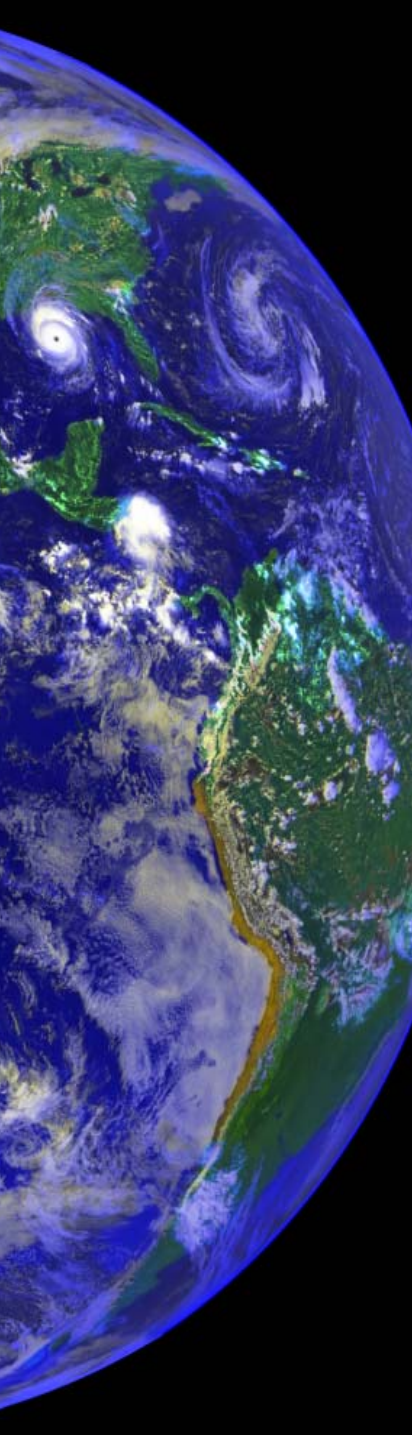
On-going work, e.g.:

- **Technology:** COP-> GEF: strategic programme to increase investments for technology transfer

Future-related work:

- **Developed countries:** measurable, reportable and verifiable mitigation actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives.
- **Developing countries:** nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.





How can strengthened action on adaptation and mitigation be enabled?

- **Finance and technology:** link between developing country engagement and industrialised country action.
- Need for a **clever financial architecture**
- Carbon market is a first step towards a **self-financing climate compact**, but more will be needed
- **Global low-emission development plan** to make green growth economically viable, especially in developing countries
- Sufficient and sustained **funding for adaptation**



Next steps to get to Copenhagen

- Further progress on **on-going work**
- This meeting to agree on the **work programme** for the negotiating process on future work
- At this meeting, work under the KP to **take stock of the tools for reducing emissions**, e.g.:
 - mechanisms such as Emissions Trading and the CDM;
 - emissions from sectors, e.g. energy generation
- Additional meetings to complete the work in 2009



What will we end up with?

- The full and sustained implementation of the Convention, now, up to and beyond 2012 (**long-term global response**)
- A complex **agreement for ratification**, covering adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance, a shared vision and long-term goal
- **Support** for developing countries **to limit their emissions, assistance to adapt**, while safeguarding socio-economic growth and poverty eradication;
- **Deep emission cuts by industrialised countries;**

