



Security Council Topic Background Guide
Topic 3: Global Warming as a Security Issue¹

30 September 2011

Until recently, the UN has treated climate change as falling under the organization's goal of achieving "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character." Therefore, the only UN committees that have discussed climate change have been the General Assembly (GA) and its various subcommittees, such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Over time, these committees have given increasing attention to climate change, with the GA holding its first plenary session on the matter in July 2007.² This meeting followed the release of the a report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a network of 2,000 scientists, which concluded that the evidence that significant increases in earth's temperatures are occurring is "unequivocal and that it is due to human activities."³

When Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took office in January 2007, he began to call attention to the implications of climate change for international peace and security. For example, in March 2007, Mr. Ban argued that climate change is of the same importance as war:

Today, war continues to threaten countless men, women and children across the globe. It is the source of untold suffering and loss. And the majority of the UN's work still focuses on preventing and ending conflict. But the danger posed by war to all of humanity – and to our planet – is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming.

The secretary general also argued that there is a strong relationship between climate change and war. Specifically, he said climate change is "likely to become a major driver of war and conflict" as natural disasters, rising ocean levels, droughts, land degradation and other effects of climate change lead to job loss, poverty, decreasing agricultural yields, the spread of disease, and mass migration.⁴

In April 2007, the Security Council held its first-ever discussion of climate change. The United Kingdom (UK), which held the Council presidency at the time, put the issue on the agenda to "highlight 'what a sensitive, difficult issue' climate change is and the importance of addressing its potential security ramifications -- from rising temperatures increasing water levels and swallowing up island nations to possible famine." The UK invited the other Council members to send ministerial representatives to the conference, emphasizing the priority the UK felt the issue deserved. However, the UK's ambassador to the UN emphasized that the purpose of the session was to discuss the security aspects of climate change, not produce a statement or resolution.⁵

¹ This document was written by Karen Ruth Adams, faculty advisor, with contributions from David Knobel (2007) and Aimee Ryan (2008). Copyright 2011 by Karen Ruth Adams.

² UN News Centre, "In first plenary on climate change, General Assembly to seek speedy action," 30 July 2007, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=23364&Cr=climate&Cr1=change> During plenary sessions, each member state's head of state, foreign minister, or UN ambassador addresses the committee.

³ IPCC, "IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group I, Physical Science Basis," 2007, available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

⁴ UN News Centre, "Ban Ki-moon calls on new generation to take better care of Planet Earth than his own," March 1, 2007, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=21720&Cr=global&Cr1=warming>

⁵ Associated Press, "UN to Discuss Climate as Security Issue," April 5, 2007, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/climate/2007/0405climatesecurity.htm>

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In calling this meeting, the United Kingdom exercised the authority of the Security Council to “determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken ... to maintain or restore international peace and security.” However, by limiting the session to debate and discussion, the UK also left open the opportunity for the GA to remain active in the issue. According to the UN Charter, the GA can address any issue related to international peace and security as long as it is not informed by the Security Council that the Council is dealing with the matter.⁶

Reaction to this meeting was mixed, with some states welcoming Security Council concern and calling for resolutions on the matter, and other states arguing that climate change should continue to be dealt with by the full-membership GA instead of by the limited-membership Security Council. Today many questions remain. To what extent is global warming a security issue? How and by whom should it be addressed?

History and Current Events

Global climate change has been on scientists’ minds since the 19th century, when there were several theories about climate change and broad disagreement over it. In 1896, a scientist noted that carbon dioxide levels were increasing in the Earth’s atmosphere.⁷ After that, many scientists speculated on what that might mean for the environment. In 1931, an American physicist named E.O. Hulbert published a paper that linked a rise in carbon dioxide levels with a rise in temperature. Hulbert argued that when humans release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the Earth is warmed because the sun’s rays are reflected back to Earth by the gases. In 1951, by contrast, the American Meteorological Society’s *Compendium of Meteorology* suggested that an increase of carbon dioxide would not increase the Earth’s temperature.⁸

The global environment first got international attention in the 1980s with “the discovery of the ozone hole over Antarctica, the growing evidence of global warming, or climate change, and the accumulating data on loss of biodiversity and depletion of fisheries.”⁹ In response to climate change, in 1988, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In 1990, the IPCC issued its first report, which found that Earth’s temperature had risen 0.5 degrees Celsius in the previous half century.¹⁰ The report did not say that global warming was anthropogenic (man-made), but it did bring the issue to the forefront of international politics.

In 1992, to respond to this issue, the United Nations Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At the Convention, 154 UN member states signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to stabilize

greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.¹¹

⁶ “Charter of the United Nations,” 26 June 1945, Chapter VII, Article 39; and Chapter IV, Article 12, available at <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>.

⁷ Ginger L. Gist, “Global Climate Change; components and consequences,” *Journal of Environmental Health*, 61.5 (Dec 1998), 4(2)

⁸ Janet Conley, “Timeline; a science is born,” *Daily Report*, September 17, 2007.

⁹ Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 3rd edition (Boulder: Westview, 2007), 215.

¹⁰ Conley, “Timeline; a science is born”

¹¹ “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” Article 2, available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/1349.php

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Specifically, state parties to the UNFCCC agreed to monitor and try to reduce their greenhouse emissions, and to cooperate to share information about and technology to address climate change. In addition, developed states (listed by name in Annex I at the end of the Convention) pledged to “aim to” reduce their greenhouse emissions, especially carbon dioxide, “with the aim of returning individually or jointly to their 1990 levels.” Furthermore, the most developed states (a subset of Annex I states, listed in Annex II) agreed to provide financial assistance to help less-developed states reduce their emissions.¹²

The rationale for expecting different levels of commitment from states at different levels of development was that “economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties” and, therefore, that they could not be expected to fulfill their commitments under the UNFCCC without assistance from developed countries.¹³ In addition, in 1992, when the UNFCCC was drafted and signed, the US and other developed countries were the largest national and per capita (per person) emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs). It was not until 2006 that China passed the US to become the single largest emitter. Yet the US continues to emit more GHGs per capita than any other country in the world, even when both GHGs and changes in land use patterns (such as deforestation) are considered.¹⁴

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today 192 countries, including the US, have ratified the Convention.¹⁵ This is an usually high level of support for an international treaty. But the nearly universal ratification is not a good indicator of state commitment to the UNFCCC, which is vague and non-binding.

In 1995, the IPCC issued its second report and concluded that humans were having an effect on climate change. Since then, the evidence for this has become stronger and stronger, and the speed with which climate change is unfolding has exceeded even the most pessimistic scientists’ predictions.¹⁶

In 1997, in response to the failure of UNFCCC signatories to meet the Convention’s non-binding standards, a protocol or extension of the UNFCCC was signed by over 150 states. States that signed this agreement, known as the Kyoto Protocol, agreed to adopt specific national emission targets. Specifically, developed state signatories promised to reduce their GHG emissions to 95 percent of 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. They also agreed to establish a permit market for carbon dioxide emissions. This would enable developed countries that exceed their own emissions targets to purchase from developed states emitting less than their targets the right to emit additional GHGs.¹⁷

¹² “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” Article 4.

¹³ “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” Article 4.

¹⁴ Several excellent maps of national and per capita emissions patterns, based on National Resource Institute data, are available on Wikipedia Commons. This map of GHG emissions by country in 2000 shows total *national* emissions, including land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:GHG_intensity_2000.svg By contrast, this map of GHG *per capita* by country in 2000 shows total emissions per person, including land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:GHG_per_capita_2000.svg Finally, here is map showing per capita contributions to total carbon dioxide emissions from 1950-2000, including effects of land use change, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:CO2_responsibility_1950-2000.svg For additional facts on international emissions, see Pew Center for Global Climate Change, “Global Warming Facts and Figures,” available at http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/facts_and_figures/

¹⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, “Status of Ratification,” 22 August 2007, available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/status_of_ratification/items/2631.php

¹⁶ IPCC, “IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group I, Physical Science Basis.”

¹⁷ “Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” 1998, Article 3 and Article 6, available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

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The Kyoto Protocol applies only to developed states. Although this was also true of the UNFCCC targets, which US President George H.W. Bush accepted and the US Senate ratified in 1994, the more specific and binding nature of the Kyoto Protocol has meant that, although President Clinton signed the Protocol, he did not send it to the Senate for ratification. It was clear from a 1997 “sense of the Senate” resolution that the ratification would fail.¹⁸ President George W. Bush also refused to send the Protocol to the Senate. According to him:

I oppose the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts 80 percent of the world, including major population centers such as China and India, from compliance, and would cause serious harm to the U.S. economy. The Senate’s vote, 95-0, shows that there is a clear consensus that the Kyoto Protocol is an unfair and ineffective means of addressing global climate change concerns.¹⁹

The Kyoto Protocol entered into force in February 2005. Like other international treaties, it binds only states that have ratified it. As of September 2011, 184 of 193 UN member states have signed and ratified the Protocol. Of the permanent-five members of the Security Council, only the US has not ratified it.²⁰ According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, from 1990 to 2004, US GHG emissions increased 16%.²¹

According to the most recent (2007) IPCC report, the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol provide the foundation for future international cooperation on climate change. Moreover, in some sectors and in certain countries, these agreements have stimulated national policies that been effective in reducing GHG emissions. But “the scale of such measures ... has not yet been large enough to counteract the global growth in emissions.” As a result,

With current climate change mitigation policies and related sustainable development practices, global GHG emissions will continue to grow over the next few decades. ...CO₂ emissions between 2000 and 2030 from energy use are projected to grow 40 to 110% over that period. Two thirds to three quarters of this increase in energy CO₂ emissions is projected to come from non-Annex I regions.²²

Because of this pessimistic outlook, the bulk of the latest IPCC report offers suggestions to further reduce emissions and deal with the anticipated effects of global warming, including desertification, drought, severe weather patterns, and rising sea levels. The IPCC’s data on adaptive challenges and capabilities indicate that most parts of the world will be negatively affected by climate change. They also emphasize that developing countries will face many of the gravest challenges although they have the least capability to adapt. For example,

Many millions more people are projected to be flooded every year due to sea-level rise by the 2080s. Those densely-populated and low-lying areas where adaptive capacity is relatively low, and which already face other challenges such as tropical storms or local coastal subsidence, are especially at risk. The numbers affected will be largest in the mega-deltas of Asia and Africa while small islands are especially vulnerable.

¹⁸ U.S. Senate Resolution S.RES.98.IS, June 12, 1997, available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-105sres98rs/pdf/BILLS-105sres98rs.pdf>

¹⁹ George W. Bush, “Text of a Letter from the President to Senators Hagel, Helms, Craig, and Roberts,” March 13, 2001, available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/03/20010314.html>

²⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), “Kyoto Protocol: Status of Ratification,” 13 May 2008, available at http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/status_of_ratification/application/pdf/kp_ratification.pdf

²¹ Pew Center on Global Climate Change, “US Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2004,” available at http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/facts_and_figures/us_ghgemissions90_04.cfm

²² IPCC, “IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group III, Mitigation of Climate Change,” 2007, pp. 3, 4, 21, available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

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Adaptation for coasts will be more challenging in developing countries than in developed countries, due to constraints on adaptive capacity.²³

More than two-thirds of the world's largest cities and 634 million people are in coastal regions that could be inundated. Some of the cities threatened include Tokyo; New York; Mumbai, India; Shanghai, China; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Dhaka, Bangladesh. A number of small island nations would also be affected. The president of Kiribati (a small island nation in the South Pacific) said recently that within the next sixty years his country might no longer exist, "and that Kiribati's population of 900,000 may have to move earlier than within the 60 year time frame in order to survive."²⁴

Previous Committee Work on This Topic

On April 17, 2007, the Security Council held a one-day discussion on climate change. Representatives from more than 50 UN member states spoke at the meeting. According to the official summary of the session, "While some speakers praised the initiative, there were reservations from developing countries, which saw climate change as a socio-economic development issue to be dealt with by the more widely representative General Assembly. Many delegations also called for the United Nations to urgently consider convening a global summit on the issue."²⁵

Among those objecting to Security Council consideration of the issue were the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77, two groups that represent developing countries. Each of these groups wrote a letter "accusing the Security Council of 'ever-increasing encroachment' on the role and responsibility of other UN entities" and arguing that "climate change and energy are issues for the General Assembly, where all 192 UN member states are represented, and the Economic and Social Council, not the Security Council."²⁶

Unlike most other international treaties, the Kyoto Protocol's commitments extend only a certain period of time, through December 2012. After that, it must be renewed or renegotiated.²⁷ With each year that passes, the sense of urgency increases, yet little progress has been made at the UNFCCC review conferences in Copenhagen (2009)²⁸ and Cancun (2010),²⁹ where world leaders tried to hammer out a new, binding treaty that would apply to both developed and developing countries.

²³ IPCC, "IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group II, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability," 2007, p. 12, available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

²⁴ Thomas Wagner, "Cities at Risk of Rising Sea Levels," Associated Press, March 28, 2007, available at http://www.livescience.com/environment/070328_ap_sea_rise.html See also Henk Luf, "Global Warming- Small island nations to disappear within years," *The Cheers Magazine*, June 18, 2008.

²⁵ United Nations Department of Public Information, "Security Council Holds First-Ever Debate on Impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 Speakers," Security Council 5663rd Meeting, April 17, 2007, available at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9000.doc.htm>

²⁶ Associated Press, "UN Attacks Climate Change as Threat to Peace," April 17, 2007, available at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/climate/2007/0417climatethreat.htm>

²⁷ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), "Kyoto Protocol," http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

²⁸ John M. Broder, "Many Goals Remain Unmet in 5 Nations' Climate Deal," *New York Times*, 18 December 2009, available at www.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/science/earth/19climate.html

²⁹ Juliet Eilperin and William Booth, "Cancun Agreements put 193 nations on track to deal with climate change," *Washington Post*, 11 December 2010, available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/11/AR2010121102308.html>

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Since President Obama took office in 2009, the US has become more supportive of and active in climate change negotiations. But neither it nor any other party has made any major concessions. Thus the strict GHG reductions called for by the IPCC seem unlikely to be implemented.

In June 2009, at the request of the small-island developing states of the Pacific Ocean, the General Assembly held a debate on the possible security implications of climate change and passed a resolution calling for all relevant UN committees to discuss the matter, and for the UN Secretary-General to issue a report. In September 2009, Secretary-General Ban presented his report to the General Assembly. The report:

identified climate change as a “threat multiplier” that exacerbates existing threats, such as persistent poverty, weak institutions for resource management and mistrust between communities. It identified five further ways in which climate change might affect security:

- climate change could threaten food security and human health and increase exposure to extreme events;
- it could undermine the stability of states by slowing or reversing development;
- it could increase the likelihood of domestic conflict due to migration and depleting resources, with possible international ramifications;
- disappearance of territory might raise issues of sovereignty, rights and security; and
- international conflict might be a result of climate change’s impact on shared or demarcated international resources.³⁰

On 20 July 2011, when Germany was serving as president of the Security Council, the Council once again held a meeting on climate change. This time, it was a high-level meeting attended by each state’s foreign minister or ambassador to the UN. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the impact of climate change on the maintenance of international peace and security. Among the issues considered was developing a new group of UN “green helmet” peacekeeping forces to help countries deal with environmental crises such as rising sea levels and food insecurity so they do not fall into conflict with one another. According to the *Guardian* newspaper, “In an official ‘Concept Note’ ahead of the meeting, Germany said the [S]ecurity [C]ouncil needed to draw up scenarios for dealing with the [e]ffects of extreme temperatures and rising seas. How would the UN deal with climate refugees? How would it prevent conflicts in those parts of Africa and Asia which could face food shortages?”³¹

According to Security Council Report, a non-governmental organization affiliated with Columbia University that monitors the Security Council, this year’s meeting was better received than the one in 2007 because “more scientific evidence has been produced on the long-term ramifications of climate change and some have linked recent conflicts to the rising prices of basic foodstuffs and diminishing water resources.”³²

Secretary-General Ban addressed the meeting and called for an end to “gamesmanship” and a serious attempt for developed and emerging countries to take the lead.³³ The head of the UNDP and the President of Tuvalu, which is threatened with extinction as seawaters rise, also made impassioned pleas for cooperation and foresight. Yet the meeting was marked by strong disagreements between the US, UK, and France, on the one hand, which wish to use the Council as a forum to discuss climate change, and Russia and China, on the other, which

³⁰ Security Council Report, “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Impact of Climate Change,” July 2011, available at <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/pp.aspx?c=glKWLeMTIsG&b=7535735&printmode=1>

³¹ Suzanne Goldenberg, “UN security council to consider climate change peacekeeping,” *Guardian*, 20 July 2011, available at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/20/un-climate-change-peacekeeping>

³² Security Council Report, “Maintenance of International Peace and Security.”

³³ “Warning of climate change’s threat to global security, Ban urges concerted action,” UN News Centre, 20 July 2011, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39093>

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continue to insist that the matter should be dealt with by the entire membership of the UN through the annual UNFCCC negotiations. No resolution was passed.³⁴

In late November 2011, the next round of UNFCCC negotiations will be held in Durban, South Africa.³⁵ The IPCC's next set of reports will not be released until September 2013.³⁶

Conclusion

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the IPCC, the United Kingdom, and are not alone in seeing climate change as a threat to international peace and security. A recent NASA study found that "the effects of global warming could lead to large scale migration, increased border tensions, the spread of disease and conflicts over food and water." One of the authors of the report cited Somalia in the 1990s as an example of such a crisis. "You have a disruption driven by drought, leading to the collapse of a society, humanitarian relief efforts, then disastrous... military intervention. That event is prototypical of the future."³⁷ Another recent report by the US National Intelligence Council found that climate change "will aggravate existing problems such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership and weak political institutions. ...People are likely to flee destabilized countries, and some may turn to terrorism."³⁸

Responses to climate change can be divided into two types: reactive and preventative. Reactive measures respond to the disasters spawned by climate change. For example, in September 2008, the UN "appealed for nearly \$108 million for an estimated 800,000 people in Haiti in need of humanitarian aid, to deal with a series of devastating tropical storms and hurricanes."³⁹ The UN's work to negotiate and implement the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol are examples of preventative measures. To date, according to the IPCC, these have had some effect in some sectors and countries, but the climate is likely to continue to warm for many decades, especially if a new, binding UNFCCC is not negotiated, ratified, and adhered to by the major GHG emitters.

In considering your country's position on this issue, consider the following questions:

- Is your state a developed country or a developing country?
- What are its current and historical greenhouse gas emissions?
- Has your state signed and ratified the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol? Why or why not? If so, has it met its emissions targets? What is your country's position on the current UNFCCC talks?
- Is your country suffering from problems related to climate change? How has it dealt with these problems? Has it received any international assistance?
- Is climate change a threat to international peace and security? If so, what can and should your country do to reduce the threat?
- What can and should the UN and the Security Council do to mitigate climate change and/or adapt to its effects? Should their actions be primarily reactive or preventative?

³⁴ Neil MacFarquhar, "U.N. Deadlock on Addressing Climate Shift," *New York Times*, July 20, 2011, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/21/world/21nations.html>

³⁵ The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, COP 17/CMP 7, website, 28 November - 9 December 2011, available at http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_17/items/6070.php

³⁶ IPCC, <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

³⁷ Andrew Revkin and Timothy Williams, "Global warming called security threat," *The New York Times*, April 15, 2007.

³⁸ Statement to Congress by Dr. Thomas Fingar, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis, summarized at <http://www.globalsecuritychallenge.com/2008/07/global-warming-as-security-iss.html>, July 8, 2008.

³⁹ "UN seeks almost \$108 million for Haiti floods," *USA Today*, September 11, 2008

Recommended Reading

Meeks, Gregory and Michael Shank. "Security Council Must Act Preemptively on Climate Change." *Christian Science Monitor* 100:82, 24 March 2008. Available at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/soecon/envronmt/climate/2008/0324preempt.htm>

This editorial, co-written by a US Congressman and a US academic, argues that strong action by the Security Council is needed and lays out some possible measures for the Council to take.

Security Council Report. "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Impact of Climate Change." July 2011. Available at <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/pp.aspx?c=glKWLeMTIsG&b=7535735&printmode=1>

Security Council Report is a think tank affiliated with Columbia University. It monitors and publishes analyses of Security Council debates and resolutions. This recent article lays out the short and contentious history of Security Council work on the issue of climate and security. It is an excellent place to begin your research on this topic.

United Nations Department of Public Information, "Security Council Holds First-Ever Debate on Impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 Speakers," Security Council 5663rd Meeting, April 17, 2007, available at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9000.doc.htm>

This article provides a detailed summary of member state remarks at the 2007 Security Council session on climate change. Over 50 member states addressed the Council.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Essential Background: The Convention and the Protocol." Website. Available at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/2877.php

This website provides access to background information and the texts of the FCCC and Kyoto Protocol, as well as lists of signatory states.

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "IPPC Fourth Assessment Report 2007." Available at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

This is the most detailed, documented, and up-to-date statement of the climate change problem and possible policy responses.

"Warning of climate change's threat to global security, Ban urges concerted action." UN News Centre. 20 July 2011. Available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39093>

This article summarizes Secretary Ban's recent speech to the Security Council on the question of climate change and security. According to him, the situation is so serious that states can no longer afford to engage in "gamesmanship." In the speech, he laid out goals for the upcoming Durban UNFCCC conference.