

# **Global climate negotiations (preparation for group work)**

**ERASMUS ClimEd Blended Learning for Climate Change  
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If ALL ice would melt (~5000 years from now?)...



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/rising-seas-ice-melt-new-shoreline-maps>

# Plan until lunch

- Background presentation to explain topic for groupwork
- Groupwork
- *Coffee break*
- Groupwork continues
- Debriefing
- Presentation to explain the method used for groupwork

# **Climate agreements**

# Legal framework for climate protection, 1/4

- 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- 1997 Kyoto Protocol (agreed at COP3 negotiations)
- 2015 Paris Agreement (agreed at COP21 negotiations)

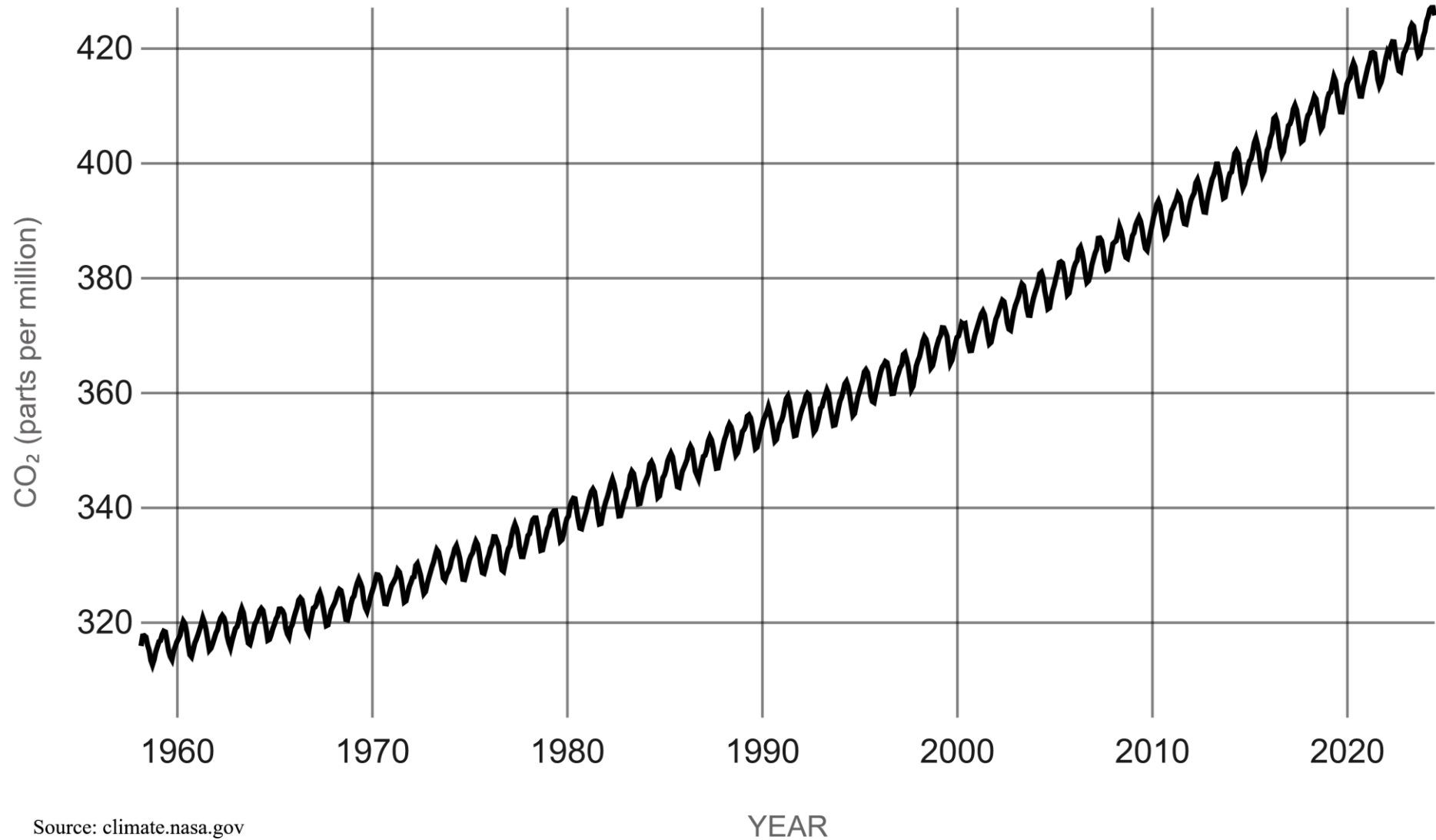
# Legal framework for climate protection, 2/4

## 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

A central global framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation

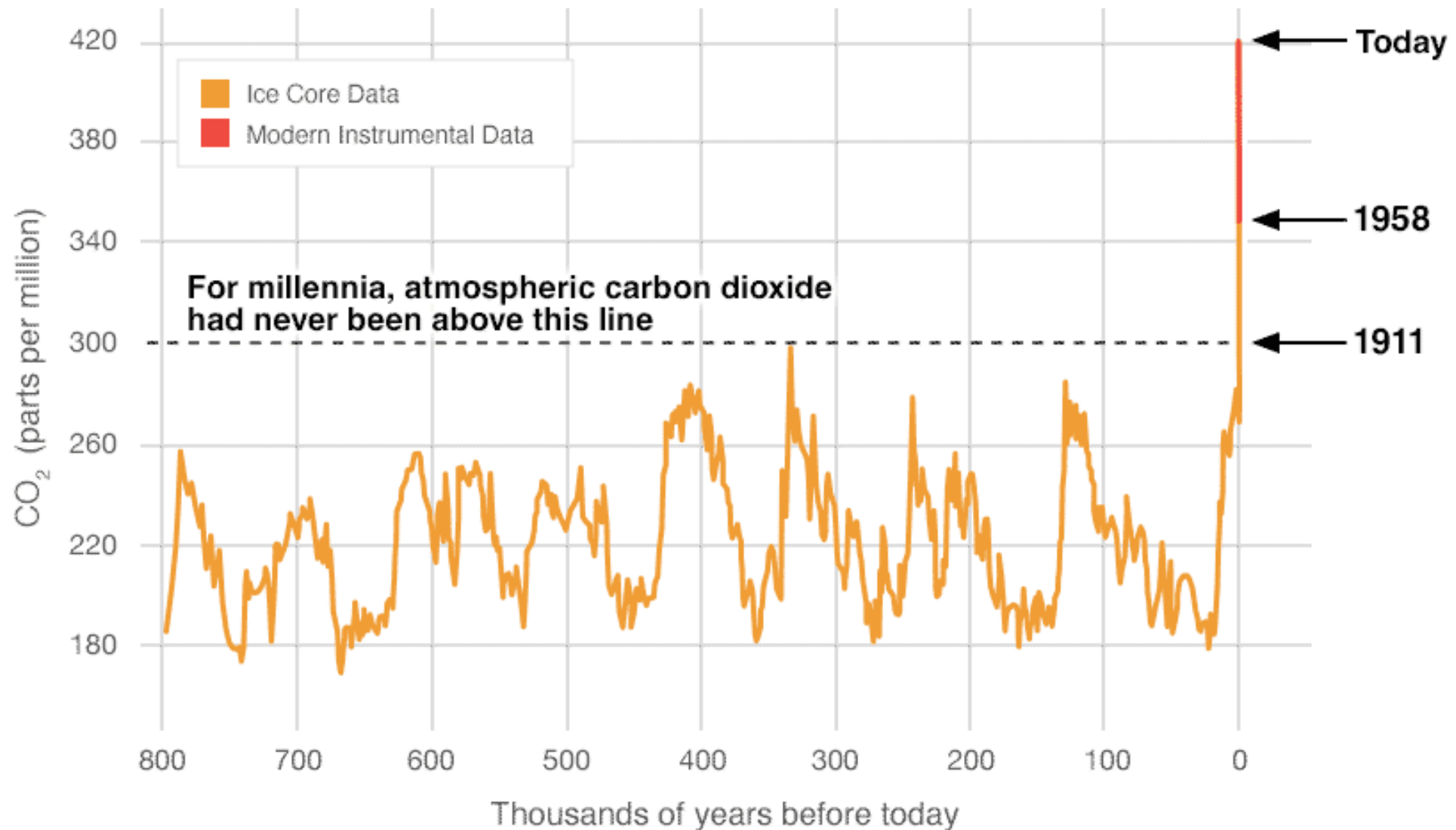
- **Objective** (Article 2): "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."
- **Time frame** (Article 2): "/.../ achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change."
- **Who must act?** (Article 3, 4): "/.../ Developed country Parties should take the lead /.../ by limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, return to 1990 level on emissions by the end of the decade (1990s) /.../ The specific needs and special circumstances of /.../ developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration."

# *...stabilisation of concentration...*



Source: climate.nasa.gov

# *...stabilisation of concentration...*





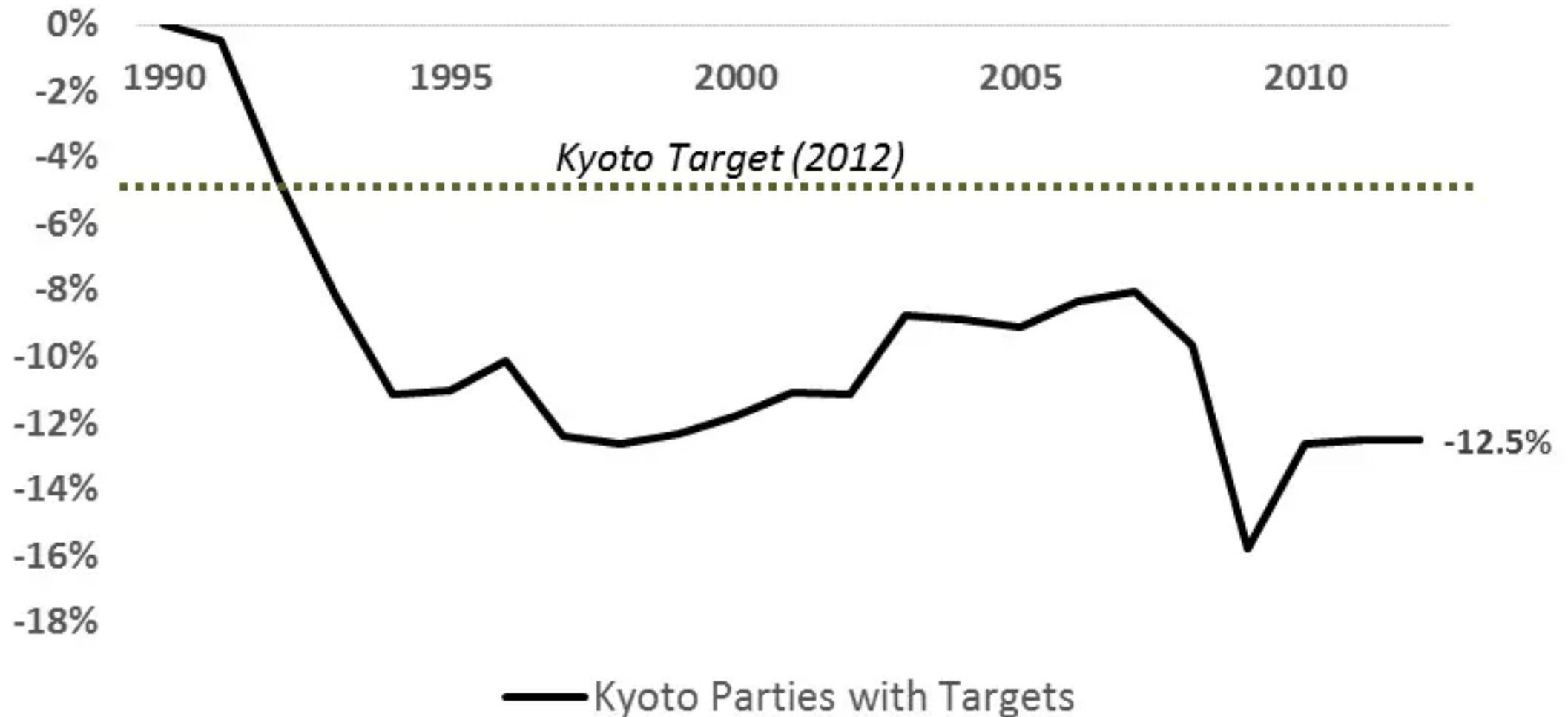
# Legal framework for climate protection, 3/4

## 1997 Kyoto Protocol to climate convention

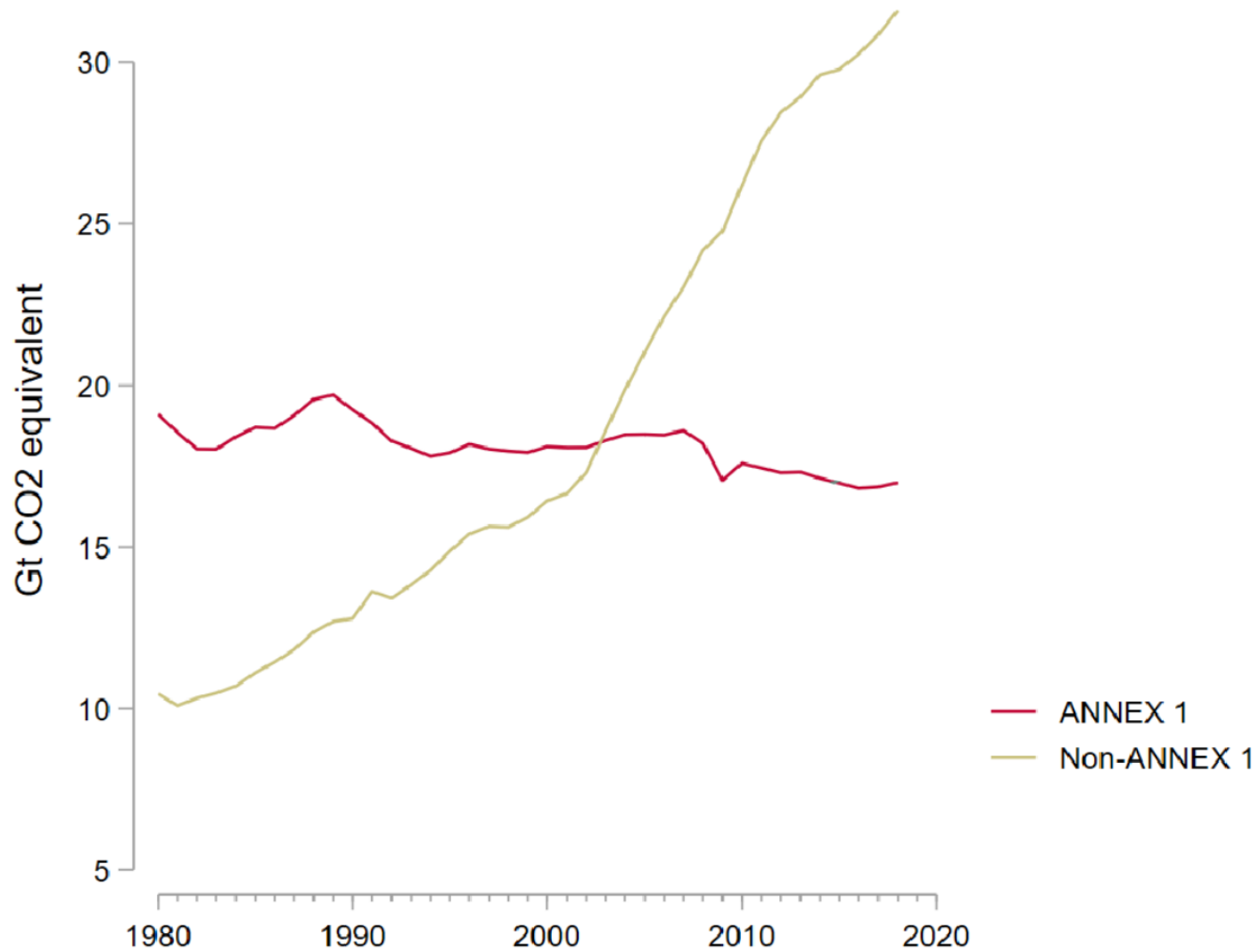
New binding agreement which clarifies climate goals

- **Goal** (Article 3):
  - Rich countries (Annex I Parties) reduce their overall greenhouse gas emissions by
    - at least 5% below 1990 levels (by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> commitment period 2008-2012)
    - at least 18% below 1990 levels (by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> commitment period 2013-2020)
  - Poor countries (incl. China) don't have any binding commitments

## Kyoto Protocol Carbon Emissions, 1990-2012



# *...Annex I ... return to 1990 level...*



# Legal framework for climate protection, 4/4

## 2015 Paris Agreement at COP15

New binding agreement which clarifies climate goals

- **Overarching goal** is to "hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

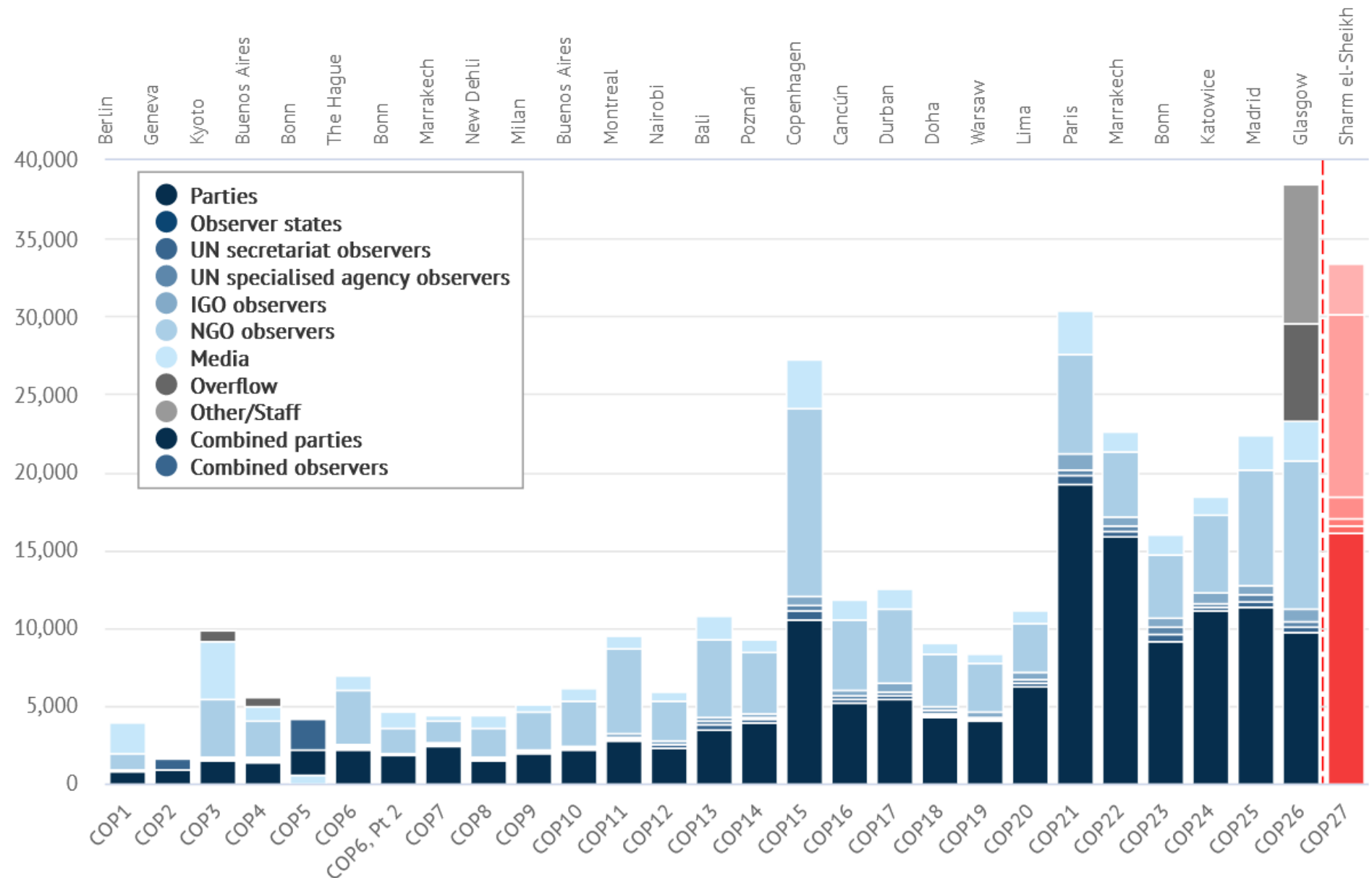
# **Climate negotiations**

# Conference of Parties (COP), 1/4

- Parties (=signatories of convention) start to meet once a year to discuss
  - progress made
  - potential new agreements
- Annual meeting is called Conference of Parties (COP)
- Meeting lasts around 2 weeks
- 198 countries with total around 2000 negotiators
- Over 20,000 additional delegates (observers, NGOs, media, etc.)
- COP (if successful) ends with a voluminous agreed text (*Accord, Agreement, Declaration*), which specifies new goals, requirements for countries, financing, reporting, etc.
- Next: COP29 in Baku/Azerbaijan, 11-22 November 2024

# COP attendance

Total attendance at COPs through the years



# Conference of Parties (COP), 2/4

- Negotiations between 198 countries/representatives are logistically impossible, therefore countries find likeminded allies and group to have more influence
- G77. Across UN system, biggest umbrella of developing countries. Diverse and does not always speak with one voice, sometimes separate views by China, African countries, small islands (136 countries)
- European Union (27 countries)
- African Group (54 countries)
- Least Developed Countries. Across UN system, umbrella group (46 countries)
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Key player in climate policy (40 countries)
- Umbrella group. 10 countries, incl. US, Australia, Japan, **Ukraine**, Kazakhstan
- Environmental Integrity Group (EIG). Established in 2000 – Mexico, Liechtenstein, Monaco, South Korea, Switzerland, Georgia (6 countries)
- Various *ad hoc* groups – OPEC, Like Minded Group (China, India, ...) etc.

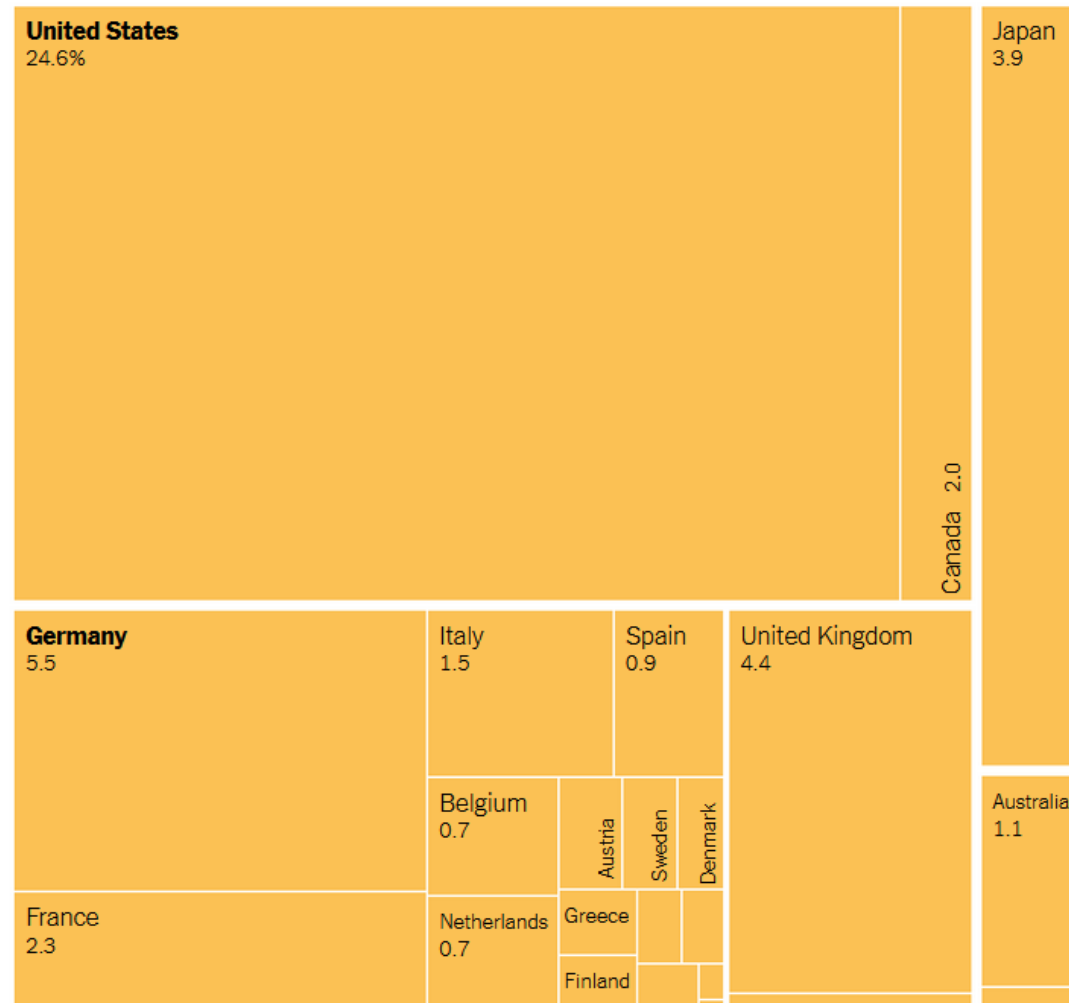


# Conference of Parties (COP), 3/4

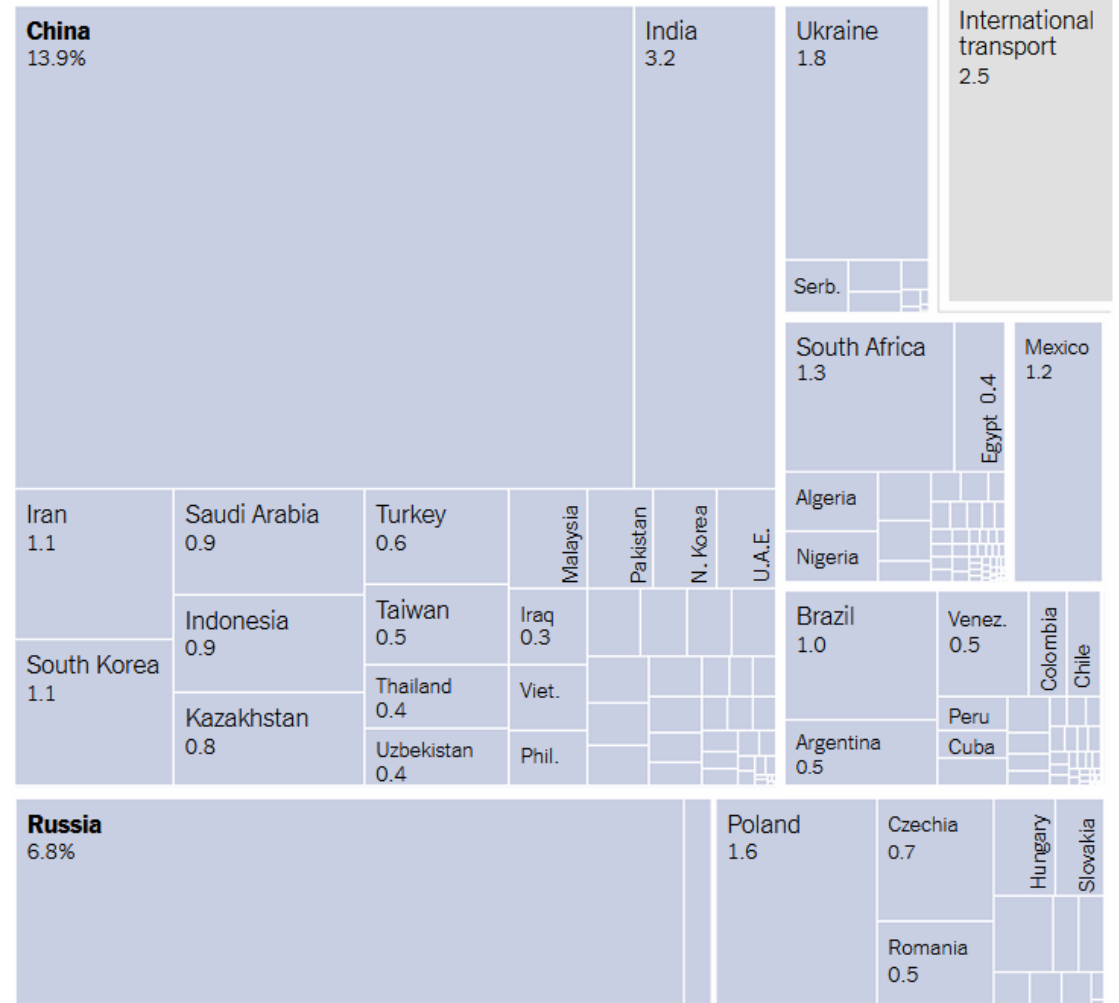
## Biggest typical discussions at COPs

- Climate justice: compensation (=massive climate financing) from those who caused climate change (Europe, USA, ...) to those who suffer most (poor countries, small island states, ...)
- Binding targets to all polluters (role of China, Saudi Arabia, ...)
- Limits to fossil fuel use (gradual reduction vs end?)
- Overall goal: keeping temperature rise 1.5°C or 2°C above pre-industrial levels

**23 rich, developed countries** are responsible for half of all historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

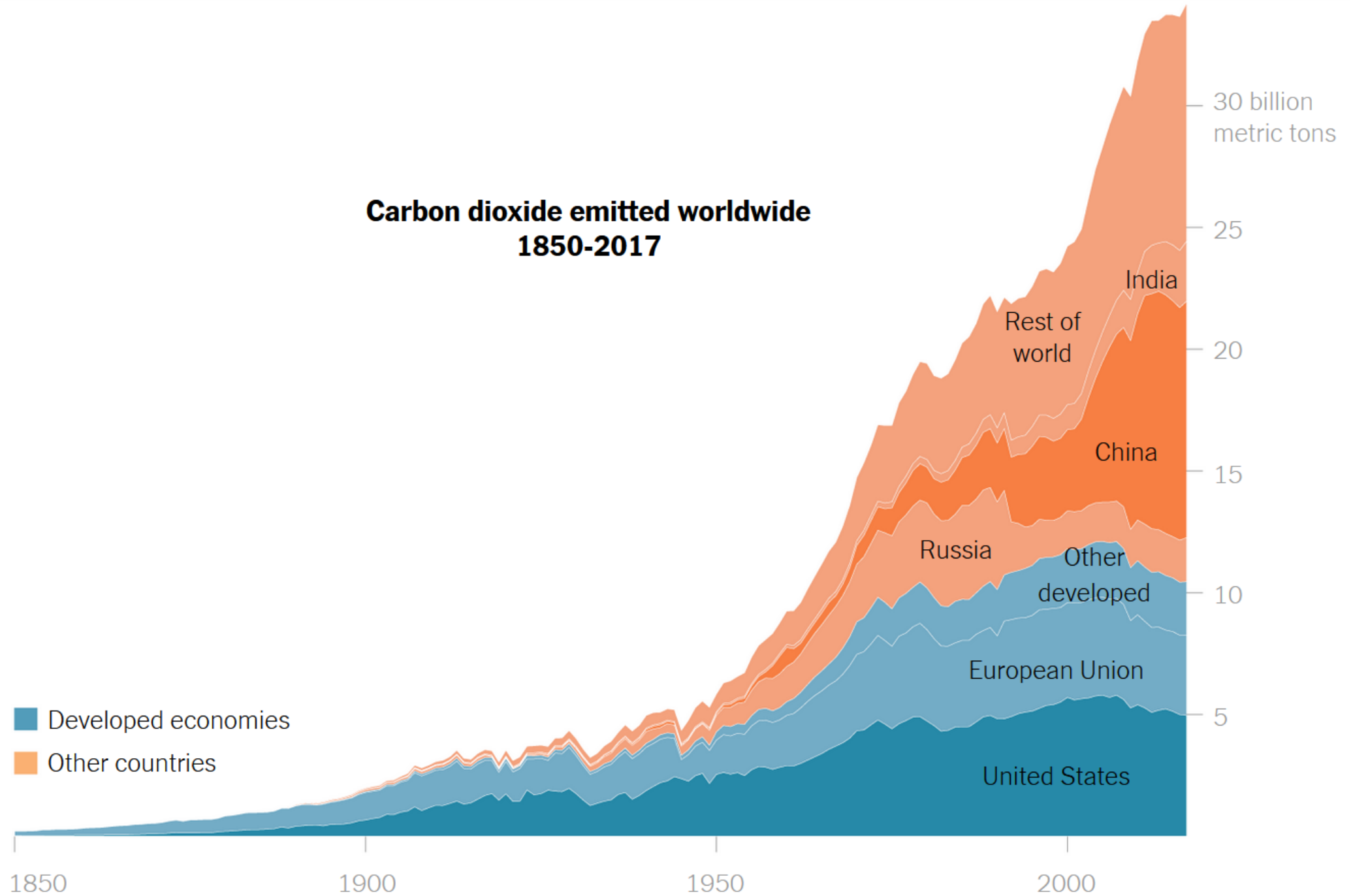


**More than 150 countries** are responsible for the other half.



Source: [Global Carbon Project](#) - Note: The rich, developed countries group is based on the [United Nations' Annex II definition](#). International transport is not counted as part of either group's total emissions. The data reflects territory-based carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels and cement, but does not include land-use and forestry. The graphic shows emissions from countries and territories.

## Carbon dioxide emitted worldwide 1850-2017



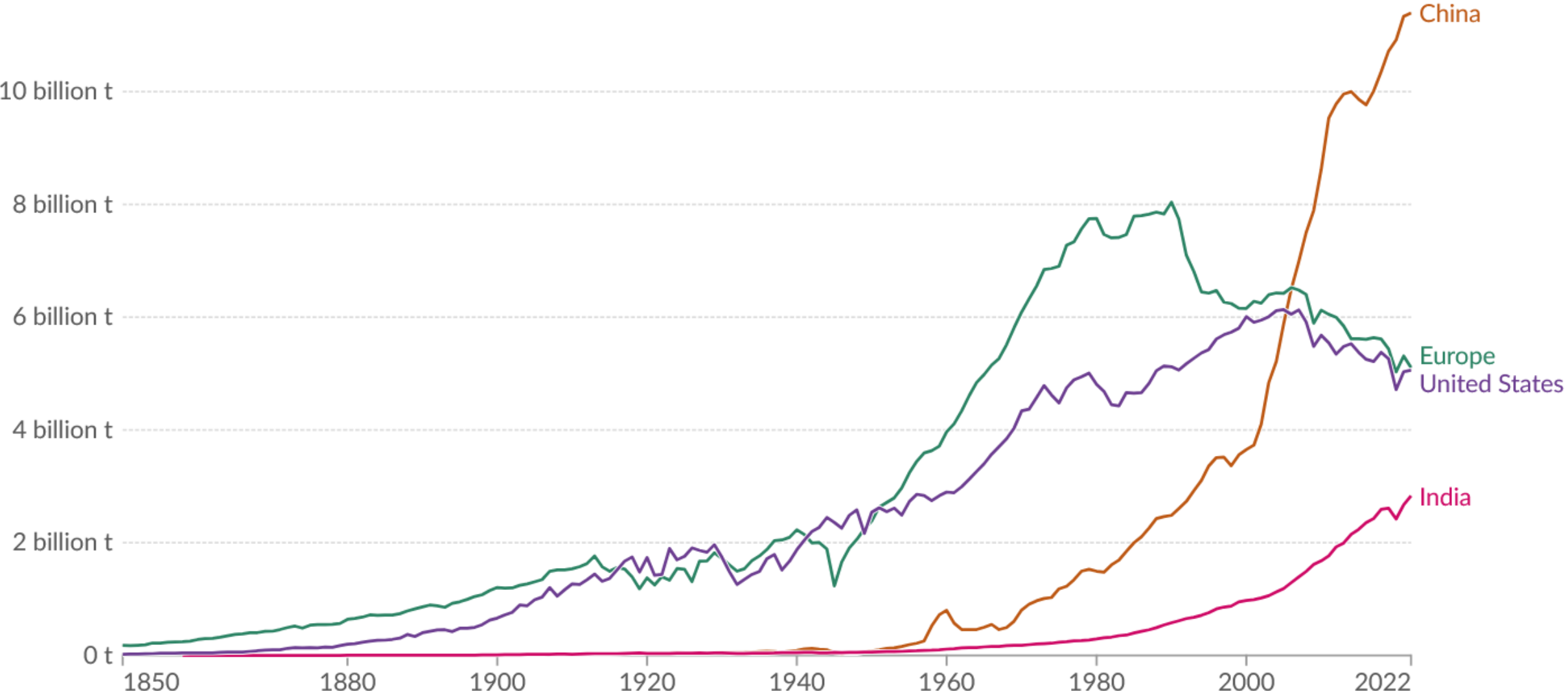
# Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuels and industry. Land-use change is not included.

[Table](#) | [Map](#) | [Chart](#)

[Edit countries and regions](#)

[Settings](#)



# Conference of Parties (COP), 4/4

- Draft COP agreements are negotiated, based on written draft texts, sentence-by-sentence
- Aim is to reach a compromise text which is OK for all countries
- Drafts are prepared with many competing options in the text (sentence from Article 4 of 2015 draft Paris Agreement):

Parties hereby [establish][share] the [global goal][long-term vision] of enhancing adaptive capacity, ~~strengthening resilience~~ and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to [[enabling][contributing to] [climate-resilient] sustainable development] [and] ensuring adaptation in the context of the goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature [below 2 °C][below [2 or] 1.5 °C] referred to in Article 2].

# Some further reading

## Official sites:

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

- <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>

### Kyoto protocol of UNFCCC:

- [https://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol)

### Conferences of Parties (COP):

- COP26: <https://unfccc.int/cop26> (UNFCCC), <https://ukcop26.org> (UK)
- COP27: <https://unfccc.int/cop27> (UNFCCC), <https://cop27.eg> (Egypt)
- COP28: <https://unfccc.int/cop28> (UNFCCC), <https://www.cop28.com> (UAE)
- COP29: <https://unfccc.int/cop29> (UNFCCC), <https://cop29.az> (Azerbaijan)

# Some further reading

## Research articles:

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

- Kuh, K.F., 2018. The Law of Climate Change Mitigation: An Overview. - Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene. Volume 2, 2018, Pages 505-510 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-809665-9.10027-8>)
- Kuyper, J. et al, 2023. The UNFCCC. Environmental Policy and Law. 53(5-6):1-15. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-102017-030119>)

### Kyoto protocol of UNFCCC:

- Almer, C., Winkler, R., 2017. Analyzing the effectiveness of international environmental policies: The case of the Kyoto Protocol. Environmental Economics and Management, 82, 125–151. ([10.1016/j.jeem.2016.11.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeem.2016.11.003))
- Barrett, S., 1998. Political economy of the Kyoto Protocol. Oxford Review of Economic Policy, 14(4), 20–39 (<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/14.4.20>).

# Some further reading

- Grunewald, N., Martinez-Zarzoso, I., 2015. Did the Kyoto Protocol fail? An evaluation of the effect of the Kyoto Protocol on CO2 emissions. Environment and Development Economics / Volume 21 / Issue 01 / February 2016, pp 1 – 22 (10.1017/S1355770X15000091)

## Conferences of Parties (COP):

- Xie, J., et al, 2024 (forthcoming). Tracing procedural justice at UNFCCC conferences through side events and interest group dynamics. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-4396332/v1>)



# Groupwork

- Timeline ~ 10:00-12:00 (*coffee break in middle*)
- You will work in 3 groups
- Everybody will get written guidance

**What you will do?**

**→ negotiate global climate agreement**