



Count down to Copenhagen: international climate acronyms (ICAs!?!?)

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CANA International Climate Summary Sheet #7

The international climate talks are replete with acronyms. Below is an introductory list.¹

AAUs: Assigned Amount Unit. This is a Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent. Each Annex I Party issues AAUs up to the level of its assigned amount, established pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, of the Kyoto Protocol. Assigned amount units may be exchanged through emissions trading.

AR5: The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, due in 2014.

AWGKP: Ad hoc Working Group on further commitments for Annex 1 parties under the Kyoto Protocol. The AWGKP was established by Parties to the Protocol in Montreal in 2005 to consider further commitments of industrialised countries under the Kyoto Protocol for the period beyond 2012, and is set to complete its work in Copenhagen in 2009.

AWGLCA: Ad hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action. The AWGLCA was established in Bali in 2007 to conduct negotiations on a strengthened international deal on climate change, set to be concluded in Copenhagen in 2009.

AOSIS: Alliance of Small Island States. This is an ad hoc coalition of 43 low-lying and island countries.

A1: Annex 1 parties. The industrialised countries listed in this Annex to the Convention were committed to returning their greenhouse-gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 as per Article 4.2 (a) and (b).

CAN: Climate Action Network. The international NGO body of which CANA is a regional node for Australia. CAN speaks of behalf of the non-government community at the UNFCCC negotiations.

CCS: Carbon Capture and Storage. This is also known as geosequestration and "clean coal".

CER: Certified Emission Reduction. This is a Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent. CERs are issued for emission reductions from CDM project activities.

CDM: Clean Development Mechanism. This is a flexible mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol through which developed countries may finance greenhouse-gas emission reduction or removal projects in developing countries, and receive credits for doing so which they may apply towards meeting mandatory limits on their own emissions.

COP: Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. This occurs once a year in December and is the decision-making body for the Convention.

CMP: Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, also known as the "COP-MOP."

EIT: Economies in Transition.

¹ Some definitions courtesy of the UNFCCC: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php

- ERU:** Emissions Reduction Unit. This is a Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of CO2 equivalent. ERUs are generated for emission reductions or emission removals from Joint Implementation projects.
- G77:** A large negotiating alliance of developing countries, formerly with 77, and now 131, member countries. This group often joins with China to form the "G77 and China."
- GEF:** Global Environment Facility. This facility auspices the Adaptation Fund and other UNFCCC funding mechanisms.
- LULUCF:** Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. This is a greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities.
- LDCs:** Least Developed countries. There are 50 such countries designated by the UN.
- MEF:** Major Economies Forum. The Forum brings together the seventeen largest emitting countries, including Australia.
- MRV:** Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable
- NA1:** Non-Annex 1 countries.
- NAPAs:** National Adaptation Programs of Action.
- NAMAs:** Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions.
- OPEC:** Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.
- QELROs:** Quantified Emissions Limitation and Reduction Objectives. These are legally binding targets and timetables under the Kyoto Protocol for the limitation or reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions by developed countries.
- REDD:** Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in developing countries.
- RMU:** Removal Unit. This is a Kyoto Protocol unit equal to 1 metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent. RMUs are generated in Annex I Parties by LULUCF activities that absorb carbon dioxide.
- SIDS:** Small Island Developing States.

Further information:

See the other 'Count down to Copenhagen' summary sheets in CANA's international climate series:

- Summary Sheet #1 What to look for, What to expect
- Summary Sheet #2 International finance for climate mitigation and adaptation
- Summary Sheet #3 Global adaptation to climate change
- Summary Sheet #4 Legal architecture
- Summary Sheet #5 Mitigation
- Summary Sheet #6 LULUCF and REDD
- Summary Sheet #7 International climate acronyms

For additional information, contact Georgina Woods at CANA : 0407 227 633 g.woods@cana.net.au.