

## Week 4 Assignment: Roles of Developed and Developing Countries

*due in section: Thursday, April 23 OR Friday, April 24, 2009*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Kyoto Protocol was originally negotiated in 1997 as a first international effort to control greenhouse gas emissions. The Protocol set standards for developed countries (so-called Annex B countries, such as the US, the European Union member states, and Japan) to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by about 6 to 8% relative to 1990 levels, depending on the country. However, the treaty set no greenhouse emissions requirements for developing countries (such as China and India, termed non-Annex B countries). In response, the US Senate passed the “Byrd-Hagel Resolution”, which effectively drew a line in the sand, stating that the US would not adopt any climate treaty that exempted developing nations. As a result, the US became the only major country not to ratify the treaty.

The Senate may have had a point. Since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions by developing countries have risen substantially, and they now represent more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions. (See the report by the Global Carbon Project, referenced on the web site for this assignment, for details.)

Now the nations of the world are entering negotiations for an update to the Kyoto Protocol. The scientific consensus (articulated in the Bali Declaration) suggests that atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> should be stabilized at 450 ppm, and emissions should be targeted to be 50% below 1990 levels.

Write a careful discussion (in no more than 250 words) explaining how developed and developing nations might move forward together to meet more stringent greenhouse gas emissions requirements advocated by scientists. Please also come prepared to discuss this topic.