

# UN Climate Change Conference – Glossary

**atmosphere** noun [countable]

the air around the Earth or around another planet  
*Saturn's moon, Titan, has an atmosphere mainly made of nitrogen.*

**buildup** noun [countable]

a gradual increase in the amount or level of something  
*The "greenhouse effect" is caused by the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.*

**burden** noun [countable]

a serious or difficult responsibility that you have to deal with  
*Unemployment places a heavy burden on the welfare state.*

**cabinet** noun [countable]

a group of advisers chosen by the leader of a government  
*The cabinet met today with the President.*

**call (someone's) attention to** phrasal verb

to make someone notice and think about a person or thing  
*a demonstration that was intended to call attention to the plight of endangered species*

**commitment** noun [countable/uncountable]

a promise to do something  
*He's a man who believes in honoring his commitments.*

**cope** verb

to deal successfully with a difficult situation or job  
*Considering her injuries, she's coping remarkably well.*

**deforestation** noun [uncountable]

the process of removing the trees from an area of land

**emission** noun [countable]

a substance, especially a gas, that goes into the air  
*New regulations are aimed at reducing vehicle emissions.*

**environmental** adjective

relating to the natural world and the effect that human activity has on it  
*Both candidates discussed environmental issues.*

**fossil fuel** noun [countable/uncountable]

a fuel such as coal or oil, made from decayed material from animals or plants that lived many thousands of years ago

**greenhouse gas** noun [countable]

a gas that stops heat from escaping from the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect

**impact** noun [countable]

an effect or influence  
*Her paper discusses the likely impact of global warming.*

**legally binding** adjective

needing to be obeyed according to the law  
*Once you've signed the agreement, it becomes a legally binding document.*

**low-lying** adjective

in a position which is close to the level of the ocean or the ground

**principle** noun [countable]

one of the major ideas or theories that a system of beliefs is based on, for example in religion or politics  
*the principles and ideals that the party stands for*

**publicity stunt** noun [countable]

something unusual that is done to make people notice a person, organization, or product

**reluctant** adjective

not willing to do something  
*She was reluctant to discuss the case in any detail.*

**sea level** noun [uncountable]

the average level of the ocean in relation to the land. The heights of parts of the land are measured from sea level  
*more than 2,000 feet above sea level*

**substantial** adjective

large in amount or degree  
*The study reveals very substantial differences between population groups.*

**undeniable** adjective

certainly correct or true  
*It is undeniable that attitudes towards marriage have been changing.*

