

The Road to Paris: A Timeline

The world's march toward collective and affirmative international action on climate change has picked up urgency and pace in recent years. The timeline below maps the evolution of the world's response to climate change since the first World Climate Conference in 1979.

1988: Jim Hansen (NASA) and Bill Moomaw (World Resources Institute; The Fletcher School) testify on climate change before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

1995: IPCC Second Assessment Report issues first definitive statement linking climate change to human activity

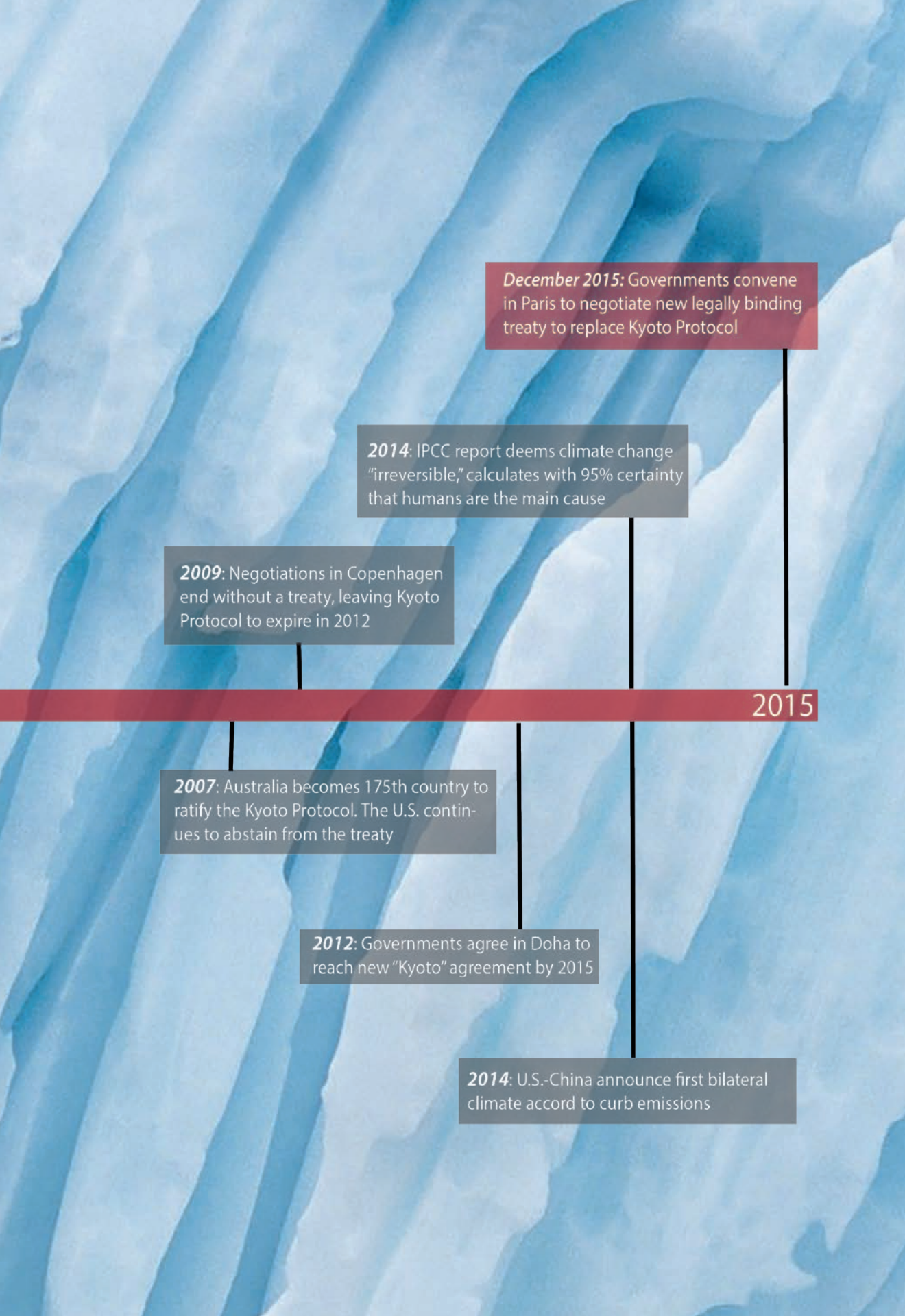
2001: U.S. withdraws from Kyoto Protocol

1970

1997: Kyoto Protocol binds industrialized countries to reduce emissions by an average of 5% by 2012

1992: Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro leads to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and states commit to stabilizing CO₂

1979: World Climate Conference, the first UN conference specifically on climate change



December 2015: Governments convene in Paris to negotiate new legally binding treaty to replace Kyoto Protocol

A vertical timeline is set against a background of blue and white icebergs. A central red horizontal bar spans the width of the image, with the year '2015' written in white on its right side. Six black vertical lines of varying lengths extend from this bar to text boxes. The boxes are arranged in a staggered fashion, alternating above and below the red bar. The text boxes are: a red box at the top right, a grey box below it, a grey box to the left, a grey box below that, a grey box further left, and a grey box at the bottom right.

2014: IPCC report deems climate change "irreversible," calculates with 95% certainty that humans are the main cause

2009: Negotiations in Copenhagen end without a treaty, leaving Kyoto Protocol to expire in 2012

2015

2007: Australia becomes 175th country to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. The U.S. continues to abstain from the treaty

2012: Governments agree in Doha to reach new "Kyoto" agreement by 2015

2014: U.S.-China announce first bilateral climate accord to curb emissions