Supporting HMG’s Climate Change Ambitions
(...or, “A GCO’s tales from Cancun”)
27 November – 10 December 2010
Background

- International Treaty opened for signature in 1992 as the UNFCCC
- Kyoto Protocol agreed in 1997
- Defined first commitment period for certain ‘developed’ countries (2008-12)
  - It agreed GHG emissions reductions by % of 1990 levels
- Second commitment period needed to include commitments for ‘developing’ countries (a ‘KP2’)
- 192 countries now party to UNFCCC
Why include Developing Countries?

In 2010......

Top 10 economies (by GDP):
1. USA
2. China
3. Japan
4. India
5. Germany
6. UK
7. Russia
8. France
9. Brazil
10. Italy

Top 10 CO₂ emitters
(one unit = 1,000 tonnes)
The Players

- UK – negotiates as part of EU and plays a leading role
- Major developed countries e.g. USA and Canada
- Major developing countries – BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China)
- COP hosts (Mexico)
- Vulnerable countries – AOSIS, G77
- Other influencers e.g. OPEC
Opposing views and Sticking Points

- Historic responsibility of developed countries
- Emissions reductions seen as a way of slowing growth of emerging powers
- Money and technology for developing nations for clean energy, adaptation and mitigation (the Green Fund or „Fast-Start“)
- Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)
- An agreement binding developed and developing countries
The road to Cancun

- 2007 COP13, Bali: the first time that climate change became a serious intelligence priority – COP13 has to work!
- Spring MEF meeting in Paris: our first GCO climate change deployment
  Some lessons learned!
- 2008 COP14, Poznan: not expected to be a significant gathering
- 2009 COP15, Copenhagen or bust (it bust!)
  “The Copenhagen Accord”
  Our first COP climate change GCO deployment
  …a success
- 2010 COP16, low ambition, low expectation, but hugely important
  The talks must get back on track
What’s the role for intelligence?

Political decisions often made in advance

• What do governments want?
• What will they sign up to?
• What are the negotiating positions on broad or specific issues?
• What are their red lines?
• Views about other countries
• Who is aligning with who?
• Who is lobbying who?
• Who are the spoilers?
• **Are delegates reporting back and getting fresh instructions?**
• What are they?
Customers

- No.10 and Cabinet Office
- Department for Energy and Climate Change
- FCO
  - Diplomats
  - SOSFCA"s Special Representative
- Department for International Development
- Treasury
- G20 representatives
Now…where did I put my sombrero?

• Why did we decide to send someone to Cancun?
  – Customers wanted us to be there
  – High likelihood of relevant, time-sensitive intelligence
  – First opportunity to show a new ministerial team what we can do

• Preparations
  – Suitable cover within UK delegation
  – Logistics (kit, rooms, passes, delegate lists, etc)
  – Introductions with customers
  – Intelligence requirements
  – Coordination in HQ
    • With other teams and SIS
    • Methodology for delivery
    • Working patterns
    • Policy clearance
Behind the scenes at COP16
Oficinas de Delegaciones
Delegations Offices

Sombrero

1244 - 1255  1243 - 1200
1144 - 1155  1143 - 1100
1044 - 1055  1043 - 1000

China
Why was Cancun a success?

- The talks didn't fail and...
- Agreed that emissions should peak at 2°C
- Anchored emissions reduction pledges from the Copenhagen Accord
- Agreed a system of MRV
- Green Fund established
- Agreed to reduce emissions from deforestation
- Set up mechanisms for developed countries to access low carbon technology
The future

• Continue to support negotiations, but…
  – How are South Africa approaching COP17?
  – Who is backing Qatar and South Korea in their bids for COP18?
  – A KP2 is looking unlikely, but…
  – …some kind of multi-stage, bolt on agreement is probably achievable
  – A low carbon economy through efficiency and new technology could help achieve climate change goals…good for the economy and probably trade
UK Customers

- Department for Energy and Climate Change
  - International negotiations
  - Domestic and European policies (energy efficiency, achieving a low-carbon economy; meeting 2020 obligations)

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
  - International diplomacy
  - Secretary of State’s Special Envoy

- Ministry of Defence
  - Regional instability
  - Resource security (water, food, land)

- Department for International Development
  - Overseas aid
  - Emergency relief

- Her Majesty’s Treasury
  - The Green Fund

- Department for Business Innovation & Skills
  - Supporting UK inward/outward investment and international trade
  - Developing low carbon technologies
  - Protecting intellectual property
New challenges for intelligence

• Policy questions
  Fewer disputing science – climate change happening and almost certainly man-made, so…
  – Is low carbon ambition driving government and investor decisions in economies?
  – Is UNFCCC still important or is private capital shifting to low carbon because costs and scarcity of resource make sense?
  – Are governments making the link between extreme weather and high commodity prices?
  – Are governments planning for instability or mass migrations caused by water/food scarcity, lack of natural resources and land-use change?

• Competing intelligence priorities
Questions?