



ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI  
UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET  
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# Obstructionist Oil Giant or Fearing Fossil?

**SAUDI ARABIA'S  
POSITIONS FOR COPENHAGEN**



## OUTLINE

- 1) Saudi Arabia in the G77
- 2) The four Saudi pillars
- 3) Position on four key issues
- 4) Expectations for Copenhagen...
- 5) ... and beyond
- 6) What each side should do



# 1) SAUDI ARABIA IN THE G77

- World's top oil exporter: 13%; 21%
- Highly dependent on oil revenue: 56%
- High GDP per capita: 19,000\$
- Criticism: wealth *and* demands
- BUT major development challenges
- Example of G77 diversity and disunity



## 2) THE FOUR SAUDI PILLARS

- Long-term strategy: *obstructionism*
  - i. Preserving oil revenues
  - ii. Receiving compensation for the adverse impacts of response measures
  - iii. Avoiding commitments
  - iv. Acquiring technology and capacity for adaptation



### 3) POSITION ON KEY ISSUES

- NAMAs: Voluntary, financially supported
- Legal structure: Convention as the main guiding framework, no differentiation, not  
□ killing' Kyoto
- Finance: Only developed countries,  
□ SAM'
- Sinks: Supports LULUCF and REDD



## 4) EXPECTATIONS FOR COPENHAGEN

- Four pillars
- Saudi influence is declining
- Pledges still not high enough to worry
- Might try to complicate
- but will not stay outside alone



## 5) ... AND BEYOND

- When stakes rise, so will Saudi anxiety
- US engagement in the new treaty as key
- Need to maintain stability in the country
- ... hence, engagement instead of isolation



## 6) WHAT EACH SIDE SHOULD DO

- West:
  - Less anti-oil dependency rhetoric
  - Cooperation in CCS, capacity-building for diversification, and solar energy technologies
- Saudi Arabia:
  - Give priority to climate change, not response measures
  - Take a more constructive role in the region
  - Accept partial responsibility for climate change
  - Take ownership of diversification



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