

Outcomes of the Doha COP18 Climate Conference: Low Ambition Multilateralism

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South Conference on the Global Economic Crisis and Reviewing Multilateral Negotiations



Common Ground for Developing Countries

Developing countries' common ground in the UNFCCC:

•Reaffirm the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular that Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities

- •All actions or measures related to climate change must be in full conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention
- •The UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change
- •Preserve and build on the architecture of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol

•Need for urgent action on climate change, particularly in the pre-2020 period

•Ensure a clear, global, and equitable legal regime that builds on the UNFCCC and further strengthens it



1.a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol starting on 1 January 2013 for mitigation commitments from KP Annex I Parties of at least 40-50% below 1990 levels by 2017-2020;

2.a set of balanced outcomes under the AWG-LCA regarding various important elements for an agreed outcome on long-term cooperative action to enhance the implementation of the Convention, so as to terminate the AWG-LCA;

- a) Developed countries commit to financing for developing countries, particularly to close the finance gap between 2013 and 2020, for mitigation and adaptation, and to measurement, reporting and verification of such support;
- b) Increased, adequate and comparable mitigation efforts in aggregate and individual terms for developed countries under the UNFCCC (LCA pledge and review system), particularly to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap, amounting to at least 40-50% below 1990 levels by 2017 to 2020;
- c) Developed countries commit to technology support and transfer to developing countries pursuant to the Convention, including reference to IP and removal of barriers to technology transfer;
- d) Establishing a loss and damage mechanism;
- e) Enhancing operational action on capacity building for developing countries

3.Ensuring that the work plan for the new negotiations under the Durban Platform would be based on equity and CBDR as the underlying principles and framework for any outcome.



1.a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol starting on 1 January 2013 for mitigation commitments from KP Annex I Parties of at least 40-50% below 1990 levels by 2017-2020;



Partly achieved with low ambition result.

Only Europe, Australia, and some EITs joining = 15% of global emissions, with aggregate target of 18% below 1990 levels by 2020, plus possibility of increase of ambition by 2014

US, Canada, Japan, Russia, NZ = 32% of global emissions not joining; no targets other than voluntary targets under Cancun pledge-review system

Developing countries = 53% of global emissions; already covered by Cancun voluntary NAMA MRV system for developing countries, with more mitigation ambition than developed countries



2.a) Developed countries commit to financing for developing countries, particularly to close the finance gap between 2013 and 2020, for mitigation and adaptation, and to measurement, reporting and verification of such support



No new firm commitment to provide new and additional climate financing to developing countries beyond US\$100B by 2020 (from public and private sources) already pledged on best endeavour basis in Cancun 2010 by developed countries.

No concrete funding for adaptation (non-compliance with Art. 4.4 UNFCCC); continued preference for financing for mitigation for Cancun finance pledges.

MRV of financing delayed until the Standing Committee (on climate finance) can discuss this

Non-compliance with climate finance obligation under Art. 4.3 UNFCCC



2.b) Increased, adequate and comparable mitigation efforts in aggregate and individual terms for developed countries under the UNFCCC (LCA pledge and review system), particularly to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap, amounting to at least 40-50% below 1990 levels by 2017 to 2020



No commitment from any developed country to increase their emission reduction pledges beyond what they had already pledged under the Cancun pledge-review system = reductions of between 12-18% below 1990 levels by 2020; not even sufficient to meet 25-40% range of IPCCAR4 or the 40-50% range called for by developing countries

No attempt by US to provide comparable mitigation pledge

Burden shifting taking place, on basis of shifting discourse from recognition of historical responsibility for global warming to addressing future responsibility for global emissions (same storyline emerging in IPCCAR5) Monday, February 04, 2013



2.c) Developed countries commit to technology support and transfer to developing countries pursuant to the Convention, including reference to IP and removal of barriers to technology transfer;



Not achieved.

No commitment from any developed country to operationalize technology transfer pursuant to Art. 4.5 UNFCCC

Only vague and indirect reference to addressing IP as barrier to technology transfer as part of the work of the Technology Executive Committee

US expressed strong reservation to Doha tech transfer language



2.d) Establishing a loss and damage mechanism to address the adverse effects of climate change

Conceived in Doha but may be stillborn in Warsaw.

Agreement to establish by November 2013 at Warsaw COP19 an "international mechanism" to help developing countries deal with loss and damage from climate change

Loss and damage mechanism intended to provide financial resources, through insurance or compensation fund, for countries affected by climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts and sea level rises.

Continues to be strongly opposed by US, Japan, and other developed countries against any kind of liability or compensation mechanism for loss and damage to developing countries



2.e) Operational action on capacity building for developing countries, including MRV effect of capacity building



Weak language only on capacity building; no commitments, continued "exploration" at SBI on how to enhance implementation of capacity building at the national level



3. Ensuring that the work plan for the new negotiations under the Durban Platform would be based on equity and CBDR as the underlying principles and framework for any outcome.



Partly achieved.

Inclusion of reference to the work of the AWG-DP being "guided by the principles of" the UNFCCC as implicit reference to principles of equity and CBDR as being applicable to the work of the AWG-DP

Strongly opposed by US with reservation that this does not change its understanding of the basis of the AWG-DP negotiations as being "under the Convention" and "applicable to all" as stated in the Durban Platform decision

Implications for Developing Countries in the UNFCCC Negotiations

1.Burden shifting from developed to developing countries taking place despite UNFCCC obligation for developed countries to take the lead in mitigation in recognition of historical responsibility for global warming

- a) Downshift to insufficient ambition KP commitments for EU and Australia, and low ambition Cancun mitigation pledges for non-KP developed countries, consolidates shift to Cancun pledge-review system that makes it more difficult to correspond to scientifically assessed mitigation requirement
- b) Developing countries now taking the mitigation lead in terms of pledged MRVable NAMAs under Cancun
- c) Shifting of discourse away from recognition of historical responsibility to addressing of projected future responsibility (disregarding the fact that 70% of anthropogenic emissions from 1850-2008 that resulted in today's global warming came from developed countries by focusing on projections that 90% of growth of post-2010 to 2050 emissions will come from today's developing countries)

2.Virtual abandonment or renunciation by developed countries of UNFCCC obligations to provide adequate climate financing and technology transfer for both mitigation and adaptation to developing countries, leaving developing countries to bear the financial and technological burden of mitigation and adaptation mostly if not solely using their own resources

3.Shifting the focus of UNFCCC negotiations in AWG-DP away from implementing current provisions to effectively rewriting current regime, which could result in weakening of long-standing principles of equity and CBDR which allows for differentiated treatment of developing countries from developed countries arising from historical responsibility and reflecting inequities of development status and resource availability \rightarrow i.e. treating developed and developing countries in the same way

Implications for Developing Countries in the UNFCCC Negotiations

For developing countries, achieving sustainable development objectives in the context of climate change requires the application of both equity and CBDR as part of any multilateral climate regime to:

•Provide policy space to design and implement national climate actions and national development policies that are consistent and complement each other

•Provide sufficient development space within a global emissions budget for industrialization and development-related emissions

•Provide sufficient international support through financing and technology transfer from developed countries to:

- support rapid shifts in developing countries to nationally appropriate lowemissions development pathways
- Address and compensate for loss and damage incurred by developing countries arising from climate-related disasters





Underlying Concerns that Shape the Negotiations

- Adaptation to adverse effects of climate change
- Reduce emissions and emissions growth
- Economic growth and development
- Poverty eradication
- Competitiveness
- Standards of living



Differing Priorities as Seen in Narratives

Developing countries – how to adapt to climate change in a manner that will grow and develop economies, eradicate poverty, achieve competitiveness, increase standards of living, while appropriately reducing emissions and emissions growth (developed countries to take the lead and to provide support (finance and technology) to developing countries for adaptation and emission reduction)

SIDS – how to adapt to climate change in a manner that will ensure territorial integrity and national survival, grow and develop economies, eradicate poverty, achieve competitiveness, increase standards of living, while appropriately reducing emissions and emissions growth (developed countries and other emitters with big aggregate emissions to take the lead, developed countries to provide support (finance and technology) to developing countries for adaptation and emission reduction)



Differing Priorities as Seen in Narratives

US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand – how to maintain standard of living, economic growth and development, and competitiveness (particularly against China), while adapting to climate change and appropriately reducing emissions and emissions growth if needed (all emitters, particularly developed countries and developing countries with big aggregate emissions, to do so)

Europe – how to appropriately reduce emissions and emissions growth (all emitters, particularly developed countries and developing countries with big aggregate emissions, to do so) and adapt to climate change in a manner that will result in maintaining standard of living, economic growth, and competitiveness (particularly against China)

Economies in transition – how to grow and develop economies, achieve competitiveness, increase standards of living, while adapting to climate change and limiting the need to reduce their emissions due to "hot air" space (while having all other emitters, particularly developed countries and developing countries with big aggregate emissions, to take the lead in reducing emissions)



Questions:

In the face of differing priorities among States, what is the future of the multilateral climate regime? Where are we going with it?

What are the alternatives for developing countries?

What are the implications of each alternative for developing countries?



Guiding Principles for Developing Countries:

- Development Space
- Policy Space
- Equity
- Common but Differentiated Responsibility



Thank you

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