



## The South, Climate Change Negotiations, and the Paris 2015 Outcome



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South Unity, South Progress.

- The Climate Change Negotiations
  - What went before (1990-2010)
  - What is happening now (2011-2014)
  - What this year will see (2015)
  - How this all fits in the broader picture

- What went before (1990-2010)
- 1992 UNFCCC and 1997 Kyoto Protocol multilateral consensus on international cooperation on climate change emerged based on Rio principles including CBDR
  - Developed countries do more on cutting emissions (to 1990 levels by 2000 and 5.2% below 1990 by 2012) and providing finance, technology to developing countries so that developing countries can adapt to climate change and slow down their emissions growth while pursuing sustainable development pathway
- But implementation of both UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol was deficient
  - Developed country (excluding Eastern Europe) emissions were 10% or more above 1990 in 2000; only a few EU countries were below 1990 by 2012, while non-EU developed countries were mostly all still above 1990 emission levels by 2012; low levels of finance (generally limited to seminars and trainings) and virtually no technology transfer to developing countries
  - Due to population and economic growth, plus lack of finance and technology transfer from developed countries, developing country aggregate emissions increased above 1990 levels but adaptation capacity remained deficient even while climate-related disasters and adverse impacts increased → increasing vulnerability of sustainable development processes
- Climate negotiations between 2005-2012 (Kyoto Protocol 2CP) and 2007-2012 (LCA)
  - Attempts to enhance level of implementation of KP and UNFCCC
  - Saw efforts by developed countries to water down CBDR, do away with developed-developing country differentiation in obligations, and non-fulfilment of promises of finance while always promising finance

- What is happening now (2011-2014)
- New negotiating track launched in Durban 2011 to produce an outcome to enhance action under the UNFCCC applicable to all
  - Continuation of efforts by developed countries to eliminate, water down, or reinterpret CBDR («evolving CBDR» concept); do away with developed-developing country differentiation in obligations (i.e. especially all to have same kind of legal commitment to reduce emissions); avoid new commitments to provide finance and technology to developing countries to support their adaptation and mitigation – every country for itself in looking for the resources to cut emissions and adapt to climate change while being bound to cut emissions
  - Developing countries pushing for enhancement and full implementation of UNFCCC on basis of CBDR, including developed countries doing more on cutting their emissions and providing finance and technology to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation; while at the same time, developing countries would do more to cut emissions or slow down growth of emissions while at the same time adapting to climate change, undertaking sustainable development, using support to be provided by developed countries
- COP20 in Lima December 2014 saw a major attempt by developed countries to already lock in the outcome of COP21 Paris to reflect their perspectives.
  - Through pushing for mitigation-only approach to the information to be provided in 2015 for countries' nationally determined contributions; pushing for common review methods, etc.
  - 2014 also saw developed countries continually refusing to talk about technology transfer in UNFCCC and enhancing climate finance (through clear finance pathways and commitments pre- and post-2020) in both Green Climate Fund and UNFCCC negotiations
  - Developing countries, through G77, African Grp, LDC Grp, and other groups such as Like-Minded Group, managed to avoid lock-in and kept door open for continued negotiating space to ensure reflection of CBDR etc. during the 2015 climate negotiations up to Paris

## – What this year will see (2015)

- Crucial year for CBDR in the UNFCCC, including the architecture of international climate cooperation set up under the UNFCCC («make or break»)
  - Will we see real international cooperation that reflects CBDR and the development disparities between North and South? OR will we see burden shifting from North to South on climate change mitigation action and the provision of finance and technology to the South?
  - If burden shifting does occur (in terms of increased mitigation commitments for the South absent increased finance and technology from the North), what will be the impact on developing countries in terms of national resource allocation, domestic policy space, and pursuit of sustainable economic development and poverty eradication? Will this make it harder to meet SDGs and any goals that might be set up under the post-2015 development agenda?



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- How this all fits in the big picture (2015)
- Developed-developing country differentiation (e.g. CBDR, special and differential treatment) is under threat across the board in virtually all forums (UNFCCC, CBD, WHO, WIPO, WTO, FFD, post-2015, DRR, SDGs)
- Developed countries keep on pushing for universal commitments applicable to all countries, but are increasingly downgrading or going away from their long-standing commitments to provide financing (e.g. ODA, climate finance) and other support to developing countries (especially to middle-income countries) on the argument that the world has changed
- But the fundamental development gap that existed in 1992 between North and South continues to exist in 2015. This is the gap that CBDR and SDT were supposed to reflect and address -- 80% of the world's poor (below \$2/day) live in middle income developing countries – 800 million in India, 400 million in China, 650 million in other MICs – while the rest are in LDCs (500 million) (UNU/WIDER study on global poverty)

