

Alternative Climate Regimes with Participation for Developing Countries

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New ideas are desperately needed for going beyond the commitment period ending in 2012. Assuming that in the very near future, the developed countries will get their act together and undertake drastic reductions, what is the strategy to get the developing countries on board? It appears that strong message must go through that more than 550 ppm can be quite risky for the world but especially for developing countries. This paper suggests that there would have to be several simultaneous approaches for engaging developing countries, as no single criteria works for all. We observe that Co₂ emissions of non-Annex 1 have gone up substantially, for example, South Korea, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE, Malaysia and so on and of late China. In fact, they exceed even the Annex 1 countries in terms of total emissions as well per capita emissions.

Three Tier System

Therefore, we suggest that non-Annex I countries (NAC) be divided in two groups: those with emissions Above Global Average (AGA) in per capita terms, that is 4.2 t/cap, and those non-Annex I countries with below per capita Global Average (BGA). Thus, we have a three tier system: Annex1, AGA and BGA. Each one can take on responsibilities to contain or reduce emissions. Introducing this Three-Tier System:

- Provides a smooth transition into the next tier
- Consistent with UNFCCC fairness principle, equity among the equal emitters in a ruled based manner, common but differentiated responsibility and a rule based system that prepares countries for transition well in time.

The AGA countries do not have to “[Join Annex 1](#)” but could have a *separate programme* for commitment in terms of deliverables and time period. Instead of having a fixed number of countries, we can have a flexible system where countries can move to the next

group according to their position with global average per capita emissions in a structured system that does not have to be negotiated each time. For example, Mexico, Argentina etc will soon cross current global average of 4.2 t/cap benchmark and will join the AGA group automatically without new negotiations. It may be that the global per capita average may start falling also in which case, we have a shifting benchmark but if the global average goes up, the current benchmark should stay. That is, 4.2 t/cap should be treated as the upper limit.

Sectoral Approach

CO₂ per capita emissions approach needs to be complemented by some other approaches. In addition to carry forward the UNFCCC through by distinguishing countries within the non Annex 1 group, a move to bring large non-Annex I countries based on total emissions such as China, Brazil, Indonesia and China is also discussed. There are also other technological alternatives - with and without financial incentives - for different sectors of production e.g. steel, cement, aluminum; and for energy sector that cover coal, petroleum, natural gas. Large countries like India, Brazil with large economies can pursue this.

CO₂ Intensity Approach

CO₂ intensities approach is another approach. It includes CO₂/TOE which is an indicator that says how much CO₂ is emitted by a country for “ton of oil equivalent” energy of different types. The more the renewable energy including biomass and hydropower or nuclear, the less is the carbon intensity. CO₂/GDP intensity that shows how much CO₂ is emitted to produce one dollar of output.

Simultaneous and Parallel Efforts Needed

In conclusion, the UNFCCC needs to be pushed vigorously by Annex 1 and non Annex 1 countries whose total and per capita emissions have become larger since 1992. There is also the need to reduce CO₂ emissions by technology as well as by policies such as prices, carbon taxes or carbon credits. The world will need several alternatives and

different coalitions and country groups simultaneously to address climate change. Even if India may not have much responsibility in the UNFCCC framework, it could do her best in other parallel efforts, some for which incentives of carbon credits need to be available.

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