



Divided we stand

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), various countries, or Parties as they are called, align themselves under different groups and turn in their submissions that indicate their positions on various issues under negotiations. Among the most active groups include the European Union (EU) with its 27 member states; the Umbrella group, a loose association comprising developed economies such as Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States; the G77 and China, which is a coalition of the developing countries; BASIC, comprising emerging economies such as Brazil, South Africa, India and China; and AOSIS and LDC, which are two separate groups of vulnerable island states and least developed countries. If there is a fallout or difference in opinion within these groups, an individual country has the option to voice its concern.

POSITIONS OF GROUPS

The Umbrella group

The Umbrella group has mostly been known to be the bullies at the negotiations. The implications that any form of emissions constraints would place on their economic growth is their largest concern. Hence, it is not surprising they have long argued that emerging economies such as China, India and others need to take on emissions reductions as well. The US did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol on these grounds. The differentiation between developed and developing countries has been the biggest thorn on their side and they have consistently engaged in political tactics and argued for the differentiation to be removed. Pioneered by the US, they have also long argued that a bottom-up approach where countries decide their own targets is more politically feasible than a formulaic science-based approach to identify the targets for each country.

Submissions

- Meeting the Convention's objective will ultimately depend on ambitious contributions from all countries.
- Our publicly announced fast start commitment exceeds US \$33 billion, as against US \$30 billion

promised. Together, we have met and surpassed the fast start commitment. We are committed to the continuation of climate finance beyond the fast start.

- We are no longer in a world where some countries take action. Obligations need to be applicable to all. But applicable to all does not mean one size fits all or two size fits all approaches. Contributions must be nationally defined. Also, we don't see differentiation as per the Annexes in the Convention. Each party should be able to see their own contribution as fair. Contributions reflected in our agreement should not be conditioned on finance. It will not work for mitigation since everyone has to contribute.
- "Under the Convention" to the US means the agreement should further the Convention's objective. Parties must define their own mitigation contributions, taking into account national circumstances, capacity, and other factors that they consider relevant.
- Mitigation contributions would be expected from all Parties (with the possible exception of the least developed countries), because one cannot otherwise achieve the necessary level of ambition to address climate change.
- If we get differentiation wrong, we will get less participation and an unfair agreement. The world has changed. 700 million people have been lifted out of poverty and this must reflect in the modern day agreement.
- The world of today is very different from that of 1992, when the Convention was first established, and will very likely be even more so in 2020 and beyond. For the Convention principles to be meaningful and relevant, they must be applied in a way that reflects the shifting realities, and more specifically, current and future responsibilities and capabilities.

The European Union (EU)

The EU has tried hard to portray itself as the climate crusader of the world but the political and economic tensions within its member states have made its self-prophesized image a hard one to live up to. The healthier and more progressive western European



economies such as Germany, UK and France face tougher targets while coal-dependent economies on the eastern side such as Poland have faced less stringent targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Still, Poland for instance has long blocked EU's efforts to move to higher targets for the 2020 period; this is despite the fact that the EU has already almost met its 20 per cent target for the said period. Owing to its lack of progress on both increasing its targets and committing to financial support — which it often blames on the economic recession — the EU has been criticized by developing countries for its lack of leadership. Although, it has always called for a legally binding agreement, its more recent submissions and interventions do not strongly support this position.

Submissions

- In Durban, the Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform (ADP) was launched to urgently address the challenge that faces us. We have all made a decisive commitment to work towards a single, fair and comprehensive legally binding agreement under the Convention that is applicable to all Parties.
- We need to tackle mitigation and adaptation and integrate low carbon development and resilience. The 2015 deal should facilitate that kind of transformation.
- We will need to explore how the principles of the Convention can be applied in a way so as to ensure that those commitments are fair and reflect Parties' evolving responsibilities and capabilities in a dynamic way. We would expect those Parties with the greatest responsibilities and capabilities to take on the most ambitious mitigation commitments, in the form of economy wide targets.
- Parties must choose their own commitments. We need a simple and limited range of options. Commitments should be transparent and quantifiable, robust so that they reduce the level of uncertainty and consistent with low emission development strategy and equity.
- Using the expression equity is tricky because we mean different things when we say equity. Use of the word fairness, though, is more appropriate. We propose a stepwise approach, wherein in the first step we define a menu of possible commitments with associated MRV (monitoring, review and verification) without prejudging what parties would do; the second step would define what steps parties would take and the third step would be to discuss the collective effort. The third step could involve indicators and would reconcile

the top-down and bottom-up approach and ensure what is fair and ambitious.

- There is a general agreement among us all that we are not seeking new institutions. Developed countries are committed to provide US \$100 billion by 2020. Beyond 2020, it will depend on how we mobilize all resources of finance in the light of fiscal reality and national sovereignty.

G77 and China

The G-77 was founded in 1964 in the context of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and now functions throughout the UN system. It has over 130 members. Initially formed to unite all non-OECD or developing countries as a single force or voice against the developed countries, the large group has many differences within. They break ranks depending mostly on the issue under consideration or based on other criteria such as size of economies, vulnerability, political leanings or physical relief features. However, when the need arises, all developing countries find common grounding in a position as G77 and China. The blocs within G77 and China include the Arab group, ALBA or the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of America, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, BASIC, Like Minded Developing Countries and LDCs and AOSIS.

Submissions

- Work under Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) is under the Convention and its principles. It must not lead to the reinterpretation of the Convention. We need a balanced, ambitious, fair and equitable outcome under the Convention, one that strengthens the multilateral rule based regime. All principles of the Convention must apply without any renegotiation of Convention or its Annexes.
- If each country will determine its targets with reference to national circumstances, what would be the arrangements to bridge the ambition gap Developing countries are putting in place low carbon strategies. The key barrier is means of implementation (MOI). MOI for adaptation has not been treated as a Convention obligation thus far. Transparency of fast start finance is exemplary of what we should not do. We did not see funding of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) for LDCs.
- The Convention has provisions for everything. Read Article 4.7. The core issues of technology transfer and IPR have not been addressed yet. The 2015 deal must have provision on capacity building to help developing countries.
- There is hardly any movement on finance.



Developing countries are already making a significant effort. Finance and technology transfer can enhance these actions. Attracting private funding in adaptation is difficult. Grant-based funding should be the way.

- We can negotiate forever to set up structures but if support is not forthcoming, all provisions of the Convention will be rendered useless.
- The scope, structure and design of the 2015 deal must take into account application of principles of equity and CBDR; let the Kyoto Protocol serve as an example. In trying to design an outcome, we don't need to make simpler things more complicated; we should just follow what is there and focus on specific actions that would be enhanced from 2020.
- Equity is central. We cannot be treated equal in terms of responsibility.
- You can expect great things from the developing countries, but all solutions won't come from developing countries. Developed world must take the lead. Show us what you are doing.

AOSIS and LDC

AOSIS: The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is a coalition of 43 low-lying and small island countries, most of which are members of the G-77, that are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise. AOSIS countries are united by the threat that climate change poses to their survival and frequently adopt a common stance in negotiations. Barring a few such as Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago and Mauritius, most island states are relatively underdeveloped economies with poorly developed infrastructures that make them the least resilient to impacts such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and storms and hurricanes.

LDC: The 50 countries defined as Least Developed Countries have become increasingly active in the climate change process, often working together to defend their particular interests, for example, with regard to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Submissions

- Failure to close the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap would have profound implications on the scale, scope and nature of the necessary commitment and obligations under the new Protocol.
- The new global agreement should continue to build on the foundations of the Convention, including its principles and provisions.
- The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR

and RC) is at the heart of the Convention. A key for CBDR and RC is the notion of historical responsibilities. Historical emissions by the developed countries are a fact and an important consideration in the new global agreement.

- The goal of the Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) is not to re-write or re-negotiate the Convention or its principles and provisions. In this regard, the Annexes are an integral part of the Framework Convention.
- The Convention recognizes that the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, which includes small island developing states, should be given full consideration.
- The post-2020 regime is not a mitigation regime but a balance regime in which adaptation and long term and predictable finance is key.
- We need continuity in scaling up provisions for means of implementation (MOI) since it is crucial for us. Any funding should be new and additional. MOI cannot be discussed in abstract terms. There should be periodic reviews of climate finance in the new deal. Attracting private funding is difficult and therefore funding should be grant based. The time to act is rapidly slipping away. Failure means death for us.
- Adaptation is crucial. While allocating resources for adaptation and mitigation, balance is needed; loss and damage is equally important.
- Very concerned about finance. Developed countries have committed 100 billion dollars. Need concrete commitment and mid-term target. Green Climate Fund (GCF) should not be an empty shell. GCF must be fully operational.

BASIC

The BASIC group of countries represents the emerging economies such as Brazil, India, South Africa and China. Even though they are under the G77 and China, the group usually comes under attack from the developed countries and even an excuse for their inaction.

Submissions

- There is this accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and developed countries have contributed to it. They have occupied the atmospheric space and earned wealth. According to the Rio principles of 1992, they must support developing countries that have little or no responsibility in contributing to emissions. The principles of the Framework Convention provide the context.



- Equity is a cornerstone of the international efforts at combating climate change.
- Enhanced mitigation and adaptation actions of developing countries should be enabled by the provision of adequate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building support from developed countries.
- The 2015 agreement should address the four pillars: adaptation, mitigation, finance and technology development and transfer in a balanced, comprehensive and holistic manner.
- Parties' efforts should be undertaken on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and should be supported and enabled by finance, technology transfer and capacity building directed towards developing countries and should take into account their imperatives of equitable access.
- Important to achieve the goal of providing US \$100 billion per year by 2020 as committed by developed country Parties and need a clear roadmap on how this will be achieved.
- Global Environment Facility must provide additional financial resources to developing countries, including for preparing National Communications and Biennial Update Reports.