Let's get serious about change

The imperative of **equity** for an **effective** climate agreement

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Imperative of climate action

- Clear; unequivocal and grim.
- Current level of ambition is abysmal.
- Threat of climate change impacts us all.

- But cannot have ambition without equity.

- This is the pre-requisite for effective action.
Ist approach
Right to pollute

• Current and future action on domestic pledge, action and review
• Leads to inadequate action – US pledge of 17% below 2005 level is meaningless
• Race to the bottom
• Countries come together to legitimize ‘right to pollute’ of all
• Takes us all to hell – common hell
Right to pollute

- **Gigatonne gap** – Pledges do not add up to effective action – even **without** double-counting; leakages and loopholes – 2.5°C to 5°C increase expected

- **Cost and burden shifted** – will lead to even less action as countries will argue they have done what they can
Shifts the burden of transition

- SEI assessment of UNEP report on ‘emission gap’ makes clear ‘gap is growing’ – between rich and poor
2nd approach: Right to development

- Will involve all countries
- All will live within limits set by the planet
- Emission cuts will be based on science; ambition to cut drastically to stay within at least 2°C
- Limits will be for all; based on equitable sharing of common atmospheric space
1992-2012: World changed yes but no

• 1992 Climate Convention: agreed countries created problem would cut emissions first. Polluter pays Principle
• Historical emissions set the principle of emission reduction
• Agreement rich countries would cut; make space for rest to increase
• Finance and technology would provide options to avoid pollution in all
1992-2012: Failed convention principles

- Operational agreement:
  - “You cut; make space; rest grow differently; world avoids worst impacts of climate change”
- But agreement reneged
- Emissions have increased; baselines have been changed to fiddle with truth: inconvenient truth
2012: Inconvenient truth

- No space made; but economic growth needs space for emissions
- No country has **de-coupled growth** with carbon dioxide emissions
- In 2012: New claimants for same space
1990, Annex 1 countries = 70 per cent of annual emissions
2010 Annex 1 countries = 43 per cent of annual emissions
They did not decrease; make space; developing world had no option but to fill up remaining space
Inconvenient truth. But truth
Equity: pre-requisite for new global deal

World running out of space and time
- Must raise ambition
- Must create framework for all to reduce; based on limits for all

Based on equity, fairness and justice
- No effective global deal without equity
- Will not derail process; will strengthen it
Uses of the [Method]

ADP is real opportunity

• Do not junk principles of Convention
• Instead build on them
• Create conditions so that world can move towards transition to low-carbon
• Create conditions so that we can leapfrog to clean technologies today and not wait to first pollute and then clean up
ADP and equity

• Keep it simple
• Historical, current and future emissions
• All emissions are important – stock and flow all add up to climate change

• Those who forget history cannot write a safe future
Cannot make a ‘deal’ on only remaining space

Historical emissions are part of the future

Graph 2: Cumulative CO2 emissions, 1950-2007, without land use

Source: Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) Version 8.0. (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2011)
ADP: equity approach

Many formulae on table:

• GDR; Per capita; Contraction and Convergence; BASIC proposal

**Same beginning and same ending**

• Choose simple approach that operationalizes the principles of convention

• Not rocket science. But needs collective will
ADP: work plan 1 and 2 enjoined

• Ambition must be based on equity

• The principle of equity will establish the road map for now and future. Cannot wait for 2020 to act.

• Without equity ADP is and will remain inadequate
Equity: transition to low carbon

- Deep emission targets will lead to high price of carbon; build effective market for transition
- Do not want cheap development mechanism
- Want real change
- Change we can believe in
• Secure our right to survival

• Secure our right to development