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POSITIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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India

As pointed out in the fact-sheet of CSE, “policy makers in India either do not know about, or do not take seriously, the economic, health-related and environmental impacts of climate change. This is largely because they feel no pressure from the public to deal with the problem. It is therefore important to make sure that your local government representatives understand this threat and feel pressure from you to take action.”¹

India won't accept binding caps on its emissions of greenhouse gases. Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh officially affirmed that “India will not accept any emission reduction target-period. This is a non-negotiable stand.”² India must reconcile its own goals with an effective global climate deal and maintain its stand based on the “polluter pays” principle. The primary concern of India remains the removal of poverty and freedom from hunger and disease, despite some problems caused by the lack of financial resources. India is calling for the right to development which is inalienable and intended to provide all human beings with higher living standards and good quality of life.

¹ CSE: Impacts of climate change. Western and Central India, factsheet, Global and Environmental Negotiation, 2002, p. 3

² Jenkins, J.: Road to Copenhagen: Th Need for a New Framework, WattHead, July 6, 2009

(available online: <http://watthead.blogspot.com/2009/07/road-to-copenhagen-need-for-new.html>, last access: 19.7.2009)

India's position at Copenhagen according to the Government is as follows:³

- The UNFCCC is the legally binding, multilateral instrument on the basis of which international community will deal with climate change. Its principles and objectives continue to be fully valid and will govern all of India's future activities on the subject
- Kyoto Protocol will remain in force post 2012, only new emission reduction targets for developed countries is being discusses and a second commitment period to achieve these post 2012. The Protocol does not expire in 2012, nor are developing countries expected to take on reduction commitments post 2012
- The responsibility of developed countries to support sustainable development in developing countries through transfer of financial resources and technology is not linked to any conditionalities
- There cannot be an imposition of industry-wide norms on a global basis with regards to sectoral approaches to reduce emissions

Shyam Saran, PM's Special Envoy on Climate Change said that "therefore whatever action we take domestically to pursue sustainable development, let it be clearly understood that there is no legal obligation on the part of India, under existing international instruments, to take on binding emissions reduction obligations, now or in the post 2012 period."⁴

Position of other countries

As posted by cop15.dk, the UN climate talks in Bonn are checkmated at the moment. The rich countries have still not come up with any concrete commitments to green house gas emissions reduction as they promised to do few months ago. They even failed to agree on the level of support needed to help poor countries suffering adverse climate impacts. "This leads the developing countries into a locked position. They seem unwilling to report their views before the end of the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, and if it actually happens that late, the Cop15 conference will find it difficult to reach an agreement," states Troels Dam Christensen, a coordinator for twenty-

³ Climate Leaders: India at Copenhagen, 2009

(available online: <http://www.climate-leaders.org/climate-change-resources/india-at-cop-15/india-at-copenhagen>, last access: 19.7.2009)

⁴ Shyam Saran, 'Climate Change: From Back Room to Board Room – What Indian Business Needs to Know About India's Approach to Multilateral Negotiations on Climate Change', 21 April 2008

two Danish NGOs in the 92 Group, and continues: “The reality is that nothing is really happening, mostly because Japan and Canada are unwilling to mention any numbers. They want the developing countries to commit themselves to reductions first.”⁵

The G-77 (Group of 77), a group of developing nations including China, India, Brazil, Bangladesh, Uganda, Tobago etc., tried to reject the draft negotiating text on developing countries’ commitments. In their opinion, developing countries should not have any measurable commitments and would only take action on technology transfer and other measures funded by developed nations.

China, India, and Brazil - Climate Targets Still Developing

The developing nations have so far refused to set any emissions reduction targets, and for pretty good reason.

Though India has repeatedly said that it'd be willing to do so if rich nations would agree to cut emissions by 25-40% by 2020.

China, as the world’s largest emitter of climate-warming carbon dioxide stays out against to take action. It hasn't set any concrete climate targets. Though it refused to accept binding emissions targets, China presents its efforts to reduce energy intensity 20% by 2010 in its five-year plan; to increase the share of renewable energy in the primary energy supply to 15% by 2020⁶ and to increase stringent auto emissions standards. China has also created a domestic package containing substantial clean energy investments.

China and India focus on another approach to addressing climate change: investment. The Indian government plans to invest \$100 billion in solar energy production over the next decade, with a target of 20 GW by 2020. In China, officials are preparing massive ten-year renewable energy investment plan on the order of \$440-660 billion.

Brazil hasn't set any targets either, but all three have agreed to set greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2050 by December, when nations around the world gather in Copenhagen.

⁵ Bom, M.: Slow – or no- motion in Bonn negotiation, COP15 View News, 8.6.2009

(available online: <http://en.cop15.dk/news/view+news?newsid=1448>, last access: 12.6.2009)

⁶ “We can be sure we will exceed the (present) 15% target. We will at least reach 18 percent. Personally, I think we could reach the target of having renewables provide 20% of total energy consumption (by 2020),” Zhang Xiaoqiang, Vice-Chairman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission, tells the Guardian (Andersen, M. and von Bülow,2009)

The U.S. Climate Target

U.S. set out to reduce emissions by 17% by 2020, important to say - from 2005 levels. The widely accepted international standard is reductions from 1990 levels - take that into account, the reduction fall down to 4% by 2020.⁷

The U.S. wants to work up a partnership with China to address climate change. Todd Stern, the U.S. special envoy for climate change said that "the vision that we have is of a clean energy and climate partnership bilaterally with the Chinese."⁸

China as the world's biggest emitter of CO₂ emissions and the United States as the second together account for 40% of all global carbon emissions.⁹

The European Union's Climate Commitment

The EU has agreed to cut emissions 20% across the board by 2020 - from 1990 levels. The EU would toughen up its reduction target to 30% if there was international consensus.

Australia's Flagging Emission Reduction Plans

The Australian government says it will cut emissions by 5 - 25% by 2020 compared to 2000 levels depending on what other countries agree, and by 60% by 2050. They've also got a cap and trade system in the works, but its passage is looking grimmer and grimmer.

Japan announcement

Japan announced to the Japanese press their incredibly low targets – a 15% reduction from 2005 levels (they're using the same trick the US is), equivalent to 8% reductions from 1990 levels. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the climate talks, reacted to this information with following comment: "For the first time in two and a half years in this job I just don't know what to say."¹⁰ It's a bit less of a commitment.

⁷ Merchand, B.: What's your country's climate target?, article on Business&Policy, New York, 10.7.2009 (available online: <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2009/07/countries-climate-targets.php>, last access: 19.7.2009)

⁸ Zabarenko, D.: U.S. Envoy Sees Climate Partnership With China, Reuters, 4.6.2009 (available online: <http://planetark.org/wen/53236>, last access: 12.6.2009)

⁹ While China is reducing its carbon intensity (it means the measure of greenhouse emissions as related to economic output), its absolute emissions are still high. China emits almost four times as much carbon as the United States does for every unit of GDP, as Stern states (Zabarenko,2009).

¹⁰ Japan – 8 percent???, Friends of the Earth international blog, June 11, 2009 (available online: <http://www.foei.org/en/blog>, last access 12.6.2009)

Mexican Proposal

Mexico has proposed to raise climate change adaptation funds. The proposal includes special formula for calculating contributions based on the size of each state's gross domestic product, greenhouse gas emissions and population.¹¹ The size of the fund has still being discussed. One report suggested \$10 billion a year, another said \$100 billion a year to help developing nations by transition from fossil fuels to clean energy resources.

Delegation of Micronesia

Within the Kyoto Protocol Working Group development, the Micronesian delegate called for 45% emissions reductions by 2020, compared to the EU's target of 30% reductions. This figure would keep carbon dioxide below 350 ppm and global temperature increase below 1,5°C, but at the same time it would ensure survival for many islands in Micronesian area of the South Pacific.

Other important groups:

G5 developing nations, the group of five most important developing countries China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa, placed targets for the developed countries, calling for quantified emission targets for these countries under the Kyoto Protocol after 2012, of at least 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and by 2050, by between 80 and 95% below those levels, with comparability of efforts among them.¹²

The G5 put the accent on the need to enhance financial support, mentioning new financial mechanisms without diverting financial and ODA resources from development. The G5 leaders called for a strengthened scheme for technology transfer and a comprehensive review of the intellectual property rights regime for such technologies in order to strike an adequate balance between reward for innovators and the global public good.¹³

The **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** is a coalition of 43 small island countries (most of them are members of the G-77) that are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise because of their low

¹¹ The plan got praise during the [Major Economies Forum](#) last week.

¹² TWN (Third World Network): Climate: G8 and G5 leaders issue different climate messages, SUNS #6515, July 2008
(available online: <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/climate/info.service/climate.change.20080702.htm>, last access 16.6.2009)

¹³ TWN (Third World Network): Climate: G8 and G5 leaders issue different climate messages, SUNS #6515, July 2008
(available online: <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/climate/info.service/climate.change.20080702.htm>, last access 16.6.2009)

position. AOSIS countries were the first ones that propose a draft text during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations calling for cuts in carbon dioxide emissions of 20% from 1990 levels by 2005.

Another group called **LDC - Least Developed Countries** consists of 49 countries which work in the wider UN system. They are working together to defend their own interests, especially with regard to vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The **Umbrella Group** is a coalition of non-EU developed countries which formed following the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol. This group usually include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the US. There is no formal list of parties. The Umbrella Group evolved from the **JUSSCANNZ** group, which was active during the Kyoto Protocol negotiations (JUSSCANNZ is an acronym for Japan, the USA, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand).

The **Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)** is recently formed coalition comprising Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

Position of some organisations

CSE (Centre for Science and Environment)

CSE suggests 30-40% reduction over 1990 levels by the year 2020.

CSE has prepared a detailed brief¹⁴ negotiators on the negotiating positions of countries present at the COP14 in Poznan, Poland.

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is calling on developed countries to agree to an aggregate emissions reduction target of 40% by 2020 and provide \$140 billion annually to assist the developing world tackle climate change.

“Governments at the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December 2009 must reach agreement on a deal that sets robust and ambitious targets for emissions reductions and provides financial and other support to enable developing countries to take a low carbon development pathway and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.”¹⁵

¹⁴ Available online: <http://www.cseindia.org/equitywatch/pdf/pressure.pdf>

¹⁵ Greenpeace Position: Equity and Climate Action, Briefing, May 2009

Srinivas Krishnaswamy, policy adviser to Greenpeace India, told IANS:

“Developing countries are bound to get irritated if mandatory reduction targets are suggested in this manner, but just a little deviation from business as usual will achieve a 15% reduction in emissions. All you have to do, for example, is to reduce coal-based power generation by about 15,000 megawatts a year, and make this up through solar power and energy efficiency measures. In the process, you are also improving your own energy economy in the long run.”¹⁶

(FOE) FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Friends of the Earth is calling on the EU to:

- increase its targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.
- The EU target of a 20% carbon dioxide cut by 2020 is in violation of the UN Climate agreement signed in Bali last month. This recognised that developed countries are required to reduce emissions by 25-40% by 2020 in order to avoid dangerous climate change.
- abandon plans to allow companies from different countries to trade renewable energy certificates as a way of meeting targets.
- abandon damaging plans to encourage a huge expansion in biofuels as part of the EU drive for an increase in renewables (there are increasing warnings about the social and environmental impacts of biofuels).

FOE also call on the UK Government to amend its Energy white Paper

IFPRI (The International Food Policy Research Institute)

The sharp increase in food prices over the past few years has led to increased concern about the food and nutrition situation of people around the world, especially the poor in developing countries. The relative influence of various factors on global food price inflation remains open to discussion. These causes should be well understood and noted at the highest policymaking levels. IFPRI drew attention to the problem early on and identified the main actions needed to prevent and mitigate the emerging crisis.

(available online: <http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/equity-and-climate-action.pdf>, last access 15.6.2009)

¹⁶ Gupta, J.: India asked to cut greenhouse gas emissions 15-30%, online article.

(available online: <http://www.jansamachar.net/display.php3?id=&num=44501&lang=English>, last access: 15.6.2009)

As IFPRI appeals in its Agenda for Negotiation in Copenhagen, agriculture has to be fully included in the international climate change negotiations leading up to the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009. The policies could also impede the ability of smallholders to partake in new economic opportunities that might arise from the negotiations.¹⁷



¹⁷ IFPRI: Agriculture and Climate Change, An Agenda for Negotiation in Copenhagen, 2020 Focus No.16, May 2009