



World Climate

Negotiating a Global Climate Agreement using the C-ROADS Climate Policy Simulation
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CONFIDENTIAL
Briefing for Upcoming Climate Negotiation

TO: *United States* Negotiators at UN conference on Climate Change
SUBJECT: Our negotiating goals

You head the United States delegation at the upcoming negotiations on climate change.

The best available science shows the risks of climate change are real and serious. The United States seeks to negotiate a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that achieves the best outcome for our economy and vital national interests, as well as for the world. The public in our country generally believes climate change is real, and that human activity contributes significantly to it. Most support agreements to address the climate change issue. However, most oppose higher taxes on energy or other actions that will raise the cost of living. Climate change ranks near the bottom of most people's priorities, far below jobs, the economy, two wars, and terrorism.

Most importantly, the public is strongly opposed to any agreement that does not require mandatory commitments by the developing nations, particularly China and India. With unemployment still high people fear that actions to limit emissions will harm US competitiveness, hurting both businesses and workers as profits and jobs move offshore even faster than they are now. Any agreement that puts the greatest economic burden of limiting climate change on the US is not politically acceptable. After the Kyoto Accord was signed the US senate passed a resolution opposing any agreement limiting US GHG emissions unless there were also mandatory limits for China, India and other developing nations. The resolution passed 95-0, and the Clinton administration never submitted Kyoto for ratification. The Bush administration then formally withdrew from Kyoto. The Obama administration proposed limits on US GHG emissions, but any treaty must be ratified by the US Senate. Cap and trade legislation designed to reduce US emissions died in 2010 without coming up for a vote, and that was before the Republican majority came to power in the House in 2010. Legislation limiting US GHG emissions cannot be passed without significant, binding, and verifiable commitments from China, India and the rest of the world.

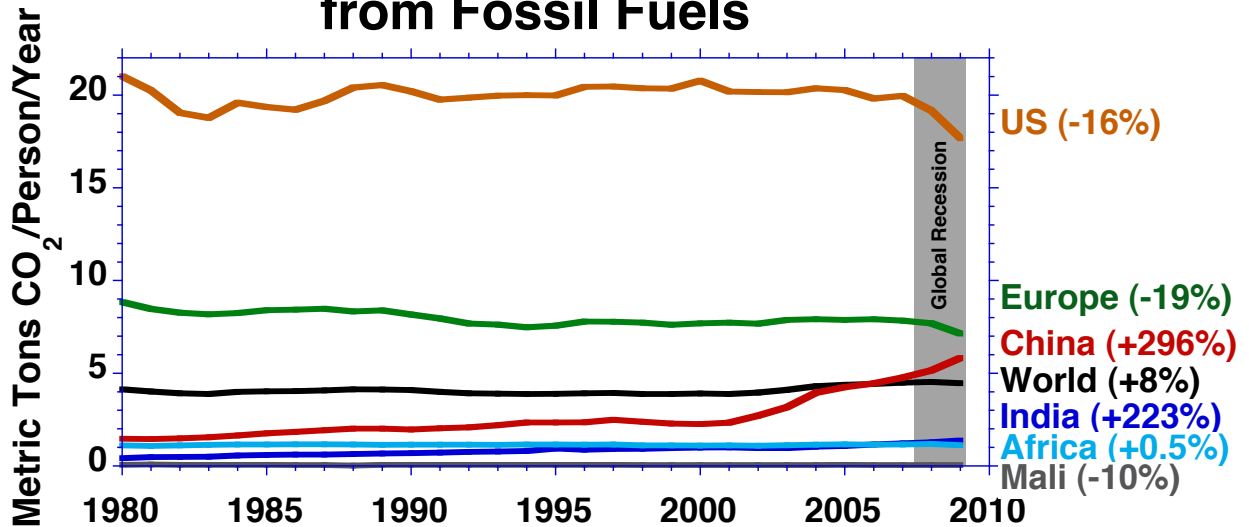
China is now the world's largest emitter of GHGs, and its emissions and economy are growing far faster than ours. Emissions in India and other developing nations are also growing rapidly. The US cannot agree to action unless there are significant, verifiable agreements for emissions reductions from China and the rest of the world. Under the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario (based on the IPCC A1FI case), by 2050, absent an agreement to slow climate change, emissions from the developing nations (primarily China, India, Indonesia, Brasil, Mexico and other rapidly developing nations) will rise more than a factor of four, and those of the less developed nations will rise more than a factor of five, while developed nation emissions will rise only 230% above current rates.

As we learned at the 2009 and 2010 climate conferences in Copenhagen and Cancún, the less developed nations will argue that they can limit their GHG emissions through REDD policies (Reductions in Emissions from Deforestation and land Degradation). While deforestation is a serious problem, we believe this is a ploy to allow them to keep burning fossil fuels while we, who have less potential for REDD because we have been better stewards of our forest resources, must cut our fossil fuel consumption. It is difficult to monitor compliance with programs to cut deforestation, and afforestation programs are only temporary as the wood products grown are eventually cut, through legal or illegal means (poaching), decay, or burn through wildfire. Corruption in many developing nations is rampant. There is no guarantee that any agreements on REDD will be enforceable.

On the reverse of this page you will find some data that may be helpful in your negotiations. Good luck!

The graph below shows per capita CO₂ emissions from energy use (primarily fossil fuels) for the world and selected nations/regions. Percentages are the total change for the period 1980-2009. Since 1980 CO₂ emissions per capita in the US and Europe have fallen 16% and 19%, respectively, while emissions per capita in China and India have risen 296% and 223%, respectively. The growth in emissions in these nations has accelerated rapidly in the last decade. In addition, the populations of the developing and less developed nations are growing far faster than those in the developed nations.

World per Capita Carbon Emissions from Fossil Fuels



Source: DOE/EIA

China is now the world's largest emitter of CO₂, and emissions from China, India and other developing nations, are growing far faster than emissions from the US, EU and other developed nations. Under the BAU (IPCC A1FI) scenario, total CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels (FF) are projected to rise to approximately 415% of current (2005) rates by 2050 in the developing nations, and about 315% of current rates in the less developed economies, with continuing growth to approximately 545% above current rates by 2100 for the developing nations and 415% above current rates for the less developed nations. Emissions from the developed nations are projected to rise much less, only about 230% above current rates by 2050 and 300% above current rates by 2100. Under BAU assumptions, the share of global emissions from the developed nations is projected to fall from 52% in 2005 to 39% by 2050.

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Consumption (GtCO₂/year)

