

Developing A countries



To: Negotiators for Developing A Nations at UN World Climate Summit
Subject: Briefing on Negotiating Goals
Includes: China, India, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, and Indonesia.

Goals

Your goal is to negotiate a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that achieves the best outcome for our economic development and national interests. At the 2015 UN climate negotiations in Paris, nations agreed to a goal of limiting global warming to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” You must now decide on:

1. Actions to reduce carbon emissions, if any. Without action, our emissions are expected to continue growing dramatically. You can decide when our emissions will stop growing, when they will begin declining, and at what annual rate emissions decline, if at all.
2. Whether to make a commitment to reduce deforestation or to increase reforestation or afforestation.
3. How much funding to demand from the developed nations, who have pledged to create the Green Climate Fund to provide at least \$100 billion/year by 2020 for developing countries to cut emissions and adapt.

Context

The scientific consensus on climate is clear: over 97% of climate scientists agree that climate change is happening, that it is caused primarily by use of fossil fuels, and that the impacts could be devastating. We understand the importance of addressing climate change, but our top priority is to raise the average standard of living, which is far less than that in developed nations. Our economies are growing fast, and we are becoming more powerful

Public Opinion

Public opinion about climate change in our countries is mixed, with climate change ranking very low as a concern in China, but much higher in India, Brazil, and elsewhere. Generally, however, the public in our countries believes climate change is real and that human activity contributes significantly to it.

Opportunities

A shift away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy would improve air quality, which in some regions is affecting public health and even creating political unrest. Our rapid economic growth may enable us to build clean energy infrastructure and leverage clean energy business opportunities.

National Action

We are finding ways to make some contributions to addressing climate change. China is exploring carbon markets and recently pledged to peak its emissions by around 2030. Meanwhile, Mexico has also made a commitment to reduce emissions by 25% below their baseline emissions in 2030. Other countries are developing plans, but our priority must be to lift our people out of poverty. We are prepared to do what we can, but the rich nations must agree to significant action, commensurate with their past contributions to this problem. We will not pay the price for their past emissions.

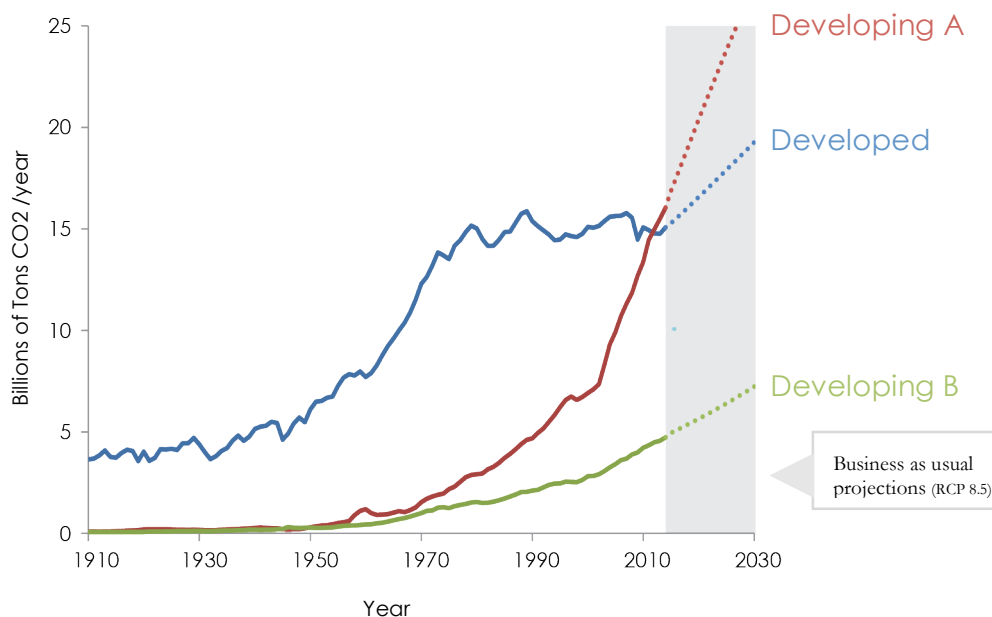
Forests and land use

We have an opportunity to make reductions in emissions from deforestation and land degradation (REDD). Most of the world's remaining tropical forests are in developing countries, where, unfortunately, there is substantial deforestation occurring. Programs to protect forests can reduce global emissions and could be paid for by wealthy nations. On the reverse of this page you will find some data that may be helpful in your negotiations.

Global Landscape

- The developed nations fear that our economic development and growth will make climate and environmental problems worse and threaten their prosperity. Expect them to use a climate agreement to slow our growth, limit markets for our products, and constrain our growing influence around the world.
- The developed nations created the climate crisis and must take responsibility for their past actions. They used cheap fossil fuel energy to build their economies and enrich their populations, often by exploiting our people and natural resources. They will demand that we cut our emissions before we have had the chance to reach the level of economic development they now enjoy. We will do our share, but the rich nations must agree to stronger action, commensurate with their past contribution to the problem. They must provide the financing and technology we need to develop our economies with cleaner energy.
- Point out that climate change will hurt developed nations, so they should see it in their self-interest to do more. For example, the US National Climate Assessment shows that climate change is harming all 50 states today, and without large emissions reductions, the damage will become far more severe.

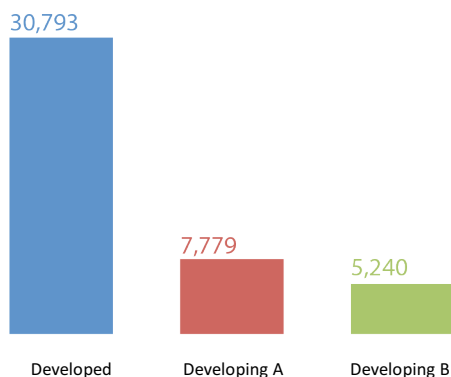
CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuels and Cement



Approximately three-quarters of the total CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels since the start of the Industrial Revolution came from the developed nations.

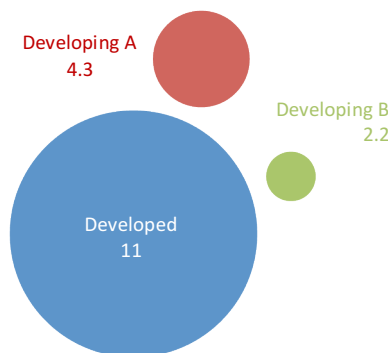
Sweden sustained annual emissions reductions of 4.5% to reduce their dependence on oil (1976-1986). France and Belgium saw similar reductions around this time. Otherwise, most significant historical emission reductions have come from financial or political crises. According to UNEP, a 3.5% annual reduction rate is extremely ambitious.

GDP per person (2011 PPP US Dollars)



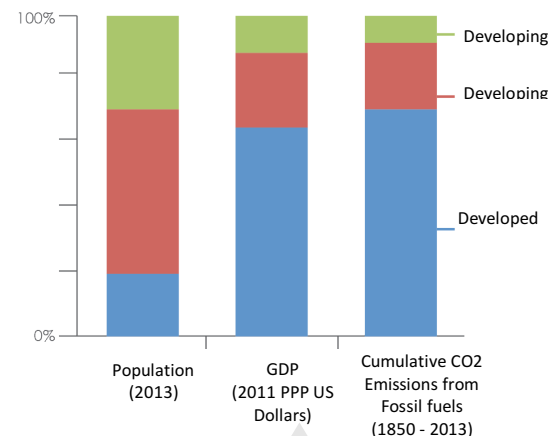
GDP per person in the developed countries is more than seven times higher than in developing countries.

Emissions per person 2013 (tons of CO₂ per year)



CO₂ emissions per capita in the US, EU, and other developed countries are far higher than emissions in the developing countries.

Population Wealth and Cumulative Emissions



China, India, and other developing countries are home to 81% of the world's population, but only 35% of the world's wealth and 29% of the world's cumulative emissions.