

Other Developing Nations



To: Negotiators for Other Developing Nations at UN World Climate Summit
Subject: Briefing on Negotiating Goals
Includes: Africa, Central and South America, South and Southeast Asia, most of the Middle East, and the island nations of the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean

Goals

Our governments seek to negotiate a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that achieves the best outcome for our economies and vital national interests, as well as for the world. 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 the following:

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 are highly vulnerable to the drought, disease, flooding, declining agricultural productivity, and ecological disruption caused by climate change. Our survival is at stake and, though other nations may forget, the agreement in Paris sets out a goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C, which we worked hard to ensure was included. As some of the poorest nations of the world, we do not have the resources to fund the needed investments in clean energy technology to reduce our emissions or even to adapt to climate change right now. Therefore, taking bold action is hard to imagine.

Public Opinion

There is rising public concern about climate change as people witness its effects first hand. We know that without action we will be most adversely affected by climate change: sea level rise will displace hundreds of millions of our people, and some nations, such as low-lying islands, will be lost entirely. Our people want to live in a healthy environment where they are able to feed, clothe, and house their families, have a chance for a decent job, and have access to the healthcare the rich nations enjoy.

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.

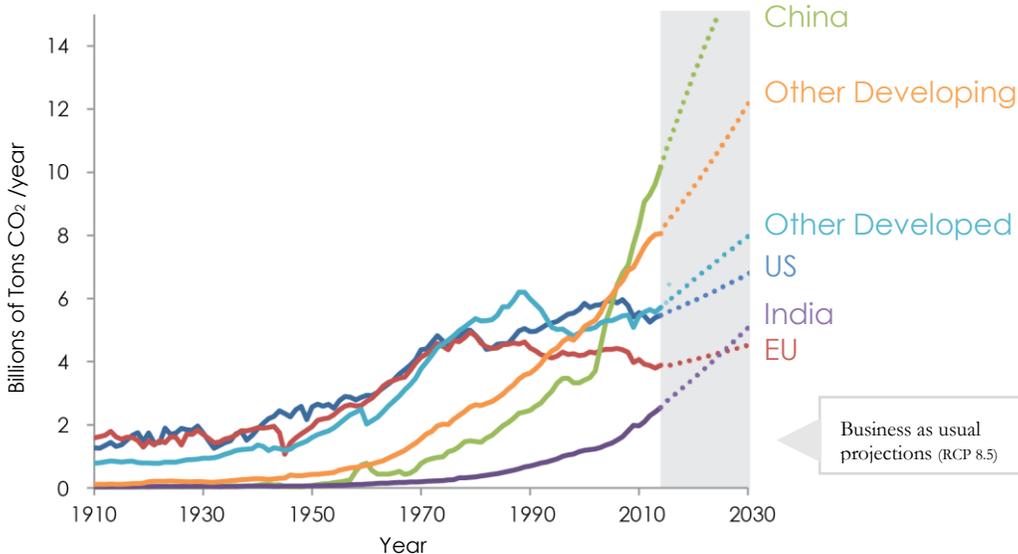
National Action

Above all we must defend our ability to develop and lift our people out of poverty. We are prepared to do what we can to cut our greenhouse gas emissions and all but a few countries have made pledges to the UN to address climate change. Most of these pledges do not include a plan to peak emissions yet, but are offers to grow our greenhouse gas emissions at a slower rate until 2030. The rich nations of the world must agree to more significant action, commensurate with their past contributions to the problem. We will not continue to pay the price for their past emissions.

Global Landscape

- The developed nations will pressure us to reduce our emissions, which are growing faster than theirs. However, their emissions per person are far higher than ours. For example, US emissions per person are an astounding 400 times higher than those in Mali.
- The developed nations of the world created the climate crisis and must take responsibility for their past actions. They used fossil fuels 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 the chance to reach anything close to the level of economic development they now enjoy.

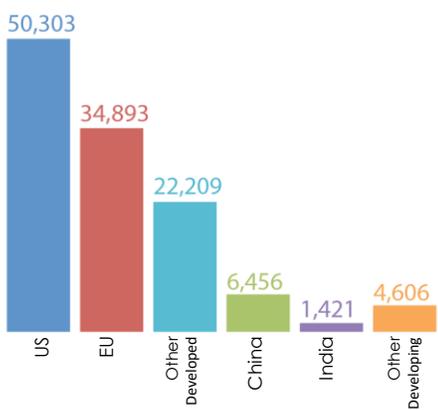
CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuels and Cement



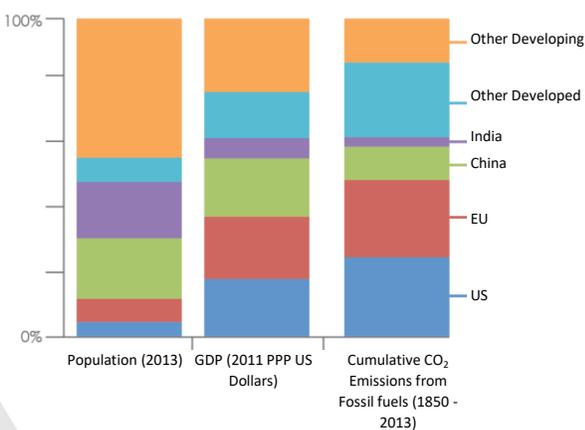
China is the world's largest emitter of CO₂. Without action, developing countries' emissions from fossil fuels are projected to more than triple by 2100.

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.

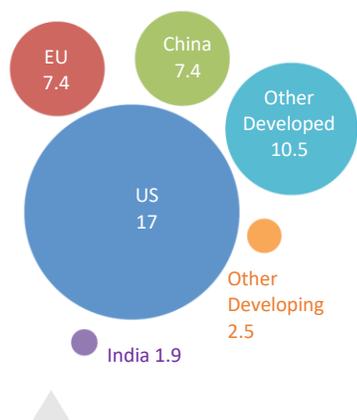
GDP per person (2011 PPP US Dollars)



Population Wealth and Cumulative Emissions



Emissions per person 2013 (tons CO₂ per year)



While cumulative emissions so far have been higher in the developed countries (i.e., the **US**, **EU**, and **other developed countries**), the growth of population, GDP per person, and emissions in the developing nations far outpaces growth in the developed countries. Under business-as-usual assumptions, cumulative emissions of all developed countries (**US**, **EU**, and **other developed**) are expected to fall to 37% of total by 2100.

Since 1980, emissions per person have risen dramatically in **China** and **India** (by 391% and 285%, respectively) but have fallen in the **US** and **Europe** (by 20% and 26%, respectively).