

Other Developed Nations



To: Negotiators for Other Developed Nations at UN World Climate Summit
Subject: Briefing on Negotiating Goals
Includes: Australia, United Kingdom, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and other former Soviet Republics.

Goals

The Other Developed Nations seek to negotiate a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that achieves the best outcome for our economies and 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 greenhouse gas emissions, if any. Without action, your emissions are expected to grow slightly over time. You can decide what year emissions will peak, when they will begin declining, and at what annual rate emissions decline, if at all. *See the gray boxes on the next page for additional guidance.*
2. Whether to make commitments to reduce deforestation or plant new forest area.
3. How much you will contribute, if at all, to a global climate fund, which is intended to provide at least \$100 billion/year for developing countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change.

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. Many developed countries are feeling the effects right now, from rising sea levels to prolonged droughts.

Public Opinion

A majority of the public in our countries believe climate change is real and that human activity contributes significantly to it. Most support policies that could be implemented to address climate change but oppose those actions that raise the cost of living. Climate change ranks near the bottom of most people’s priorities, far below national security, the economy and jobs. The public is strongly opposed to any agreement that does not require commitments by the US and developing nations.

Opportunities

Fortunately, especially as renewable energy becomes more affordable, reducing emissions could improve public health, create jobs, and improve energy security.

Forests and Land Use

Though we can pledge reductions in emissions from deforestation and land degradation within our bloc, doing so would only address a small portion of our emissions.

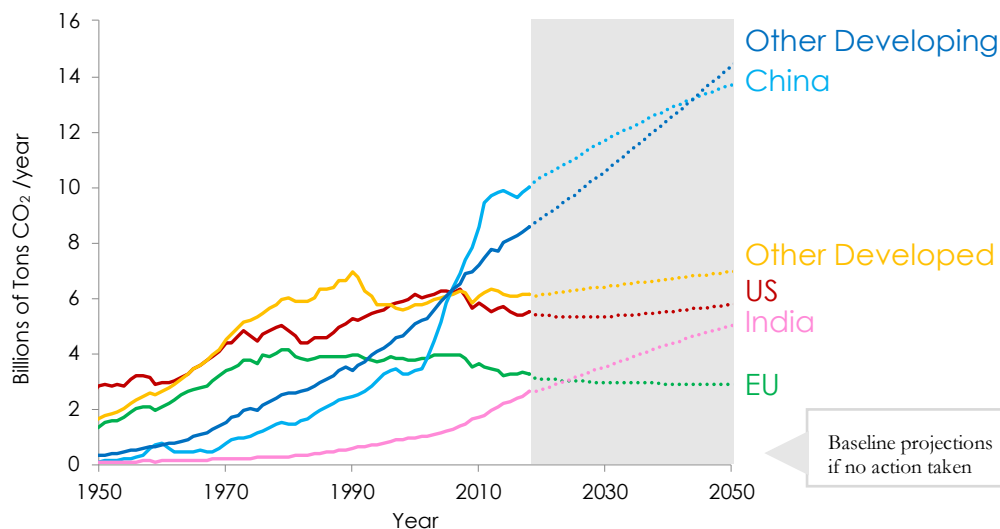
National Action

In Paris, our countries made commitments to address climate change that, when combined, would stop the growth in emissions and then reduce emissions slightly. From Canada’s tar sands to Australia’s coal and Russia’s oil and gas, many of our economies depend on fossil fuels for revenue and jobs. Canada withdrew from the last major climate agreement, the Kyoto Protocol. Australia had a carbon tax policy, but repealed it. However, with awareness about climate change spreading and the costs of renewable energy declining, action on climate change is accelerating in many places. Any agreement that puts the greatest economic burden of limiting climate change on us is not politically acceptable. The rest of the world must agree to significant action if there is to be an effective international agreement.

Global Landscape

- Emissions in China, India and other developing nations are growing rapidly. China alone is now responsible for over one quarter of global CO₂ emissions. Total emissions from the developing countries will soon overwhelm emissions from all developed nations.
- The US has more than double the per capita emissions of the EU and had pledged to reduce their emissions by only 26-28% by 2025 from 2005 levels. Additionally, this pledge faces strong political opposition from members of the US Congress and business interests with a stake in continued fossil fuel consumption. In spite of these challenges, US research shows that the costs of delay are high while most states and regions in the US will benefit from policies that reduce emissions.
- The less developed nations continue to emphasize that reductions in their emissions would require extensive financial assistance from developed countries, but corruption pervades many of these countries and financial assistance often fails to reach its intended use. They may also emphasize forestry policy over cutting fossil fuel emissions, which, while important, is insufficient for meeting the climate challenge.

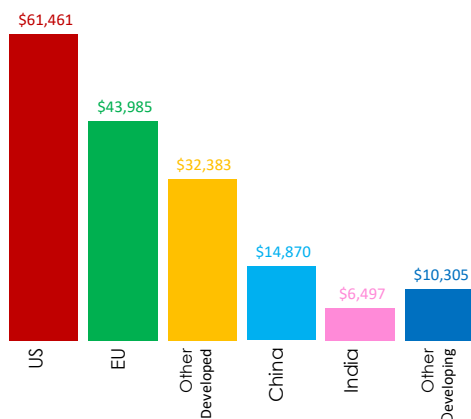
CO₂ Emissions from Energy Use



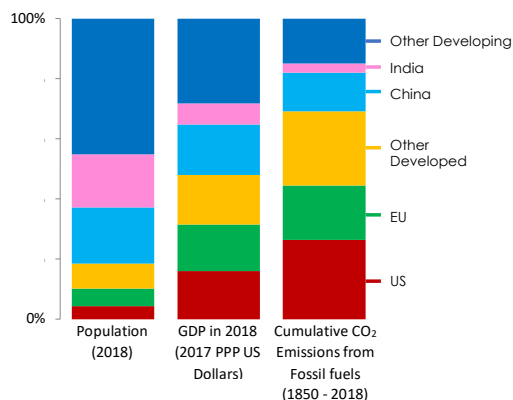
China is the world's largest emitter of CO₂. Without action, developing countries' emissions from fossil fuels are projected to double by 2100.

Sweden sustained annual CO₂ 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. More recently, the UK reduced emissions by an average 3.5% annually between 2007-2017.

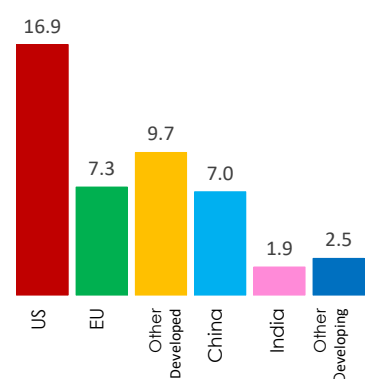
GDP per person in 2018 (2017 PPP US Dollars)



Population Wealth and Cumulative Emissions



Emissions from energy per person 2018 (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. If no action is taken, cumulative emissions of all developed countries (**US**, **EU**, and **other developed**) are expected to fall to 42% of total by 2100.

Since 1980, emissions from energy per person have risen dramatically in **China** and **India** (by 380% and 360%, respectively) but have fallen in the **US** and **Europe** (by 20% and 28% respectively).