



CAN's Proposal for an International Framework for Future Efforts to Fight Climate Change

The Climate Action Network has long campaigned for a strong international agreement to achieve real cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The key elements of the Kyoto Protocol are the quantitative limitation and reduction commitments for industrialised countries with clear targets and timetables and this should also form the backbone of a future international climate regime.

CAN is convinced that a viable international system for achieving this objective must reflect the moral responsibility of those who have benefited the most from the use of the global commons to reduce their emissions first and to compensate the victims of climate change. Main elements of a viable regime must be built on core principles of equity and fairness and include an appropriate balance of rights and obligations. The scientifically backed maximum temperature raise of 2°C should guide target setting.

CAN argues in favour of a multi stage approach operating on the same or a very similar timetable divided in three tracks: a Kyoto track for developed countries, a Greening (decarbonisation) track for developing countries and an Adaptation Track for those countries worst affected by climate change.

The Kyoto track builds upon the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol approach, with its system of legally binding absolute emission reductions and compliance regime. This track, with its legally binding tradable emission obligations provides the core of a system that will drive rapid technological development and diffusion, and provide the technological basis for win-win solutions to climate and sustainable development objectives.

The 'Greening' (decarbonisation) track would drive the rapid introduction of clean technologies that can reduce emissions and meet sustainable development objectives in developing countries. The industrialized countries should provide resources and technology for this track but should do this in partnership with the developing countries and not conditioned on other policies in a carrot and stick way as seen in all too many other policy fields.

The Adaptation track provides the resources to the most vulnerable regions (especially small island states, least developed countries) to deal with unavoidable climate changes. Least Developed Countries will quite appropriately focus on adaptation for some time to come, since they are the most vulnerable to climate change impacts and their contribution to emissions is tiny compared to their population and development needs.¹ Countries receiving support under the Adaptation track could also operate in the Greening (decarbonisation) track.

The level and the character of the mitigation actions within this framework would be determined by reference to agreed level of per capita emissions, ability or capacity to act and historical responsibility.

¹ 49 LDCs together add 2.2% percent of annual global CO₂ from energy and forestry; but account for 10.7% of global population, producing 1.8% of world GDP (WRI 2003).