

# Appropriate actions for developing countries?

Addressing climate change demands unprecedented leadership from industrialised countries. During the Copenhagen Climate Summit, they must create trust and *demonstrate* their leadership by both committing to deep emissions reductions and providing a substantial amount of financing and technology for developing country mitigation, adaptation and forest protection.

However, addressing climate change requires a global effort. Developing countries cannot continue with business-as-usual.

## 1. Significant deviation from business-as-usual

***Developing countries cannot continue with business-as-usual: they must leapfrog dirty technology and move towards a sustainable low-carbon development path, avoiding anything like the current industrialised country development path.***

Developing countries must contribute their fair share to the climate negotiations and must work towards decoupling CO<sub>2</sub> emissions growth from economic development and move towards a low carbon sustainable development path. To do this, developing countries, as a group, must reduce their projected growth in fossil fuel

emissions 15-30%<sup>1</sup> by 2020, supported by finance, technology and capacity building from industrialised countries.

## 2. Different levels of action and support

***The level of financial and technological support provided should be based on a developing country's responsibility, capacity and potential to reduce emissions.***

*A least developed country (LDC) like Cambodia cannot be expected to take action similar to that of a newly-industrialised country like Singapore. Nor should it be expected that these countries financial needs will be similar*

As a group under the UNFCCC, the G77 and China is highly diverse. At one end of the spectrum, it contains countries that have a higher GDP per capita – and/or a higher emissions per capita than some of the current industrialised countries. At the other end of the spectrum, the G77 and China also includes a large number of countries that are both very poor and extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts and yet their emissions are very low.

It is clear that all developing countries cannot be treated in the same way in the context of action to reduce emissions and the corresponding support. In order to be fair, equitable and to truly reflect national circumstances, the level of action and support should be based on a country's *responsibility, capability and potential to mitigate*. These three indicators should be used to measure each country's national situation and define the level of financial support for developing country actions.

- **Responsibility:** historical emissions since 1990
- **Capability:** GDP per capita/human development index
- **Potential:** emissions intensity, emissions per capita and emissions growth rate.

On this basis, Greenpeace believes that there are a number of newly-industrialised countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, South Korea and Singapore that should commit to economy wide absolute carbon emissions reductions during the next commitment period (2013-2017).

Other developing countries (excluding the LDCs) must chart their mid-term emissions reductions actions towards a low carbon economy. They must develop Action Plans consistent with a -15-30% reduction in projected emissions growth and identify the finance and technology they need to implement these plans.

## 3. Low-Carbon Action Plans

***Developing countries must map out their carbon emissions trajectory in line with their development plans.***

A Low-Carbon Action Plan would outline the plans of a developing country to reduce projected emissions growth while ensuring economic growth. It could be a collection of actions that are appropriate for its national circumstances.

Developing countries (excluding LDCs), particularly the key countries such as India, China, Brazil and South Africa, should produce detailed plans of action as to how they propose reduce their future emissions below business as usual projections.

These plans should include actions that they fund themselves – such as energy efficiency measures that would make economic sense. They should also make efforts to cut emissions through other

---

<sup>1</sup> IPCC Fourth Assessment Report

measures which would require financial and or technological support from industrialised countries. The Plans should be developed bottom-up and be in line with each government's national circumstances and development priorities.

In Copenhagen a process should be set up to match the needs of developing countries with the support to be provided by industrialized countries. Agreed actions and support would then be entered into an Action and Support Registry. A robust system to measure, report and verify such actions should be included.

In summary, Greenpeace demands:

- In the spirit of a gradual widening, deepening and strengthening of the contributions from members of the UNFCCC, developing countries must achieve a 15-30% deviation from business-as-usual growth by 2020.
- Of these emissions reductions, developing countries would unilaterally implement those negative and zero-cost ('no regret') measures that can be achieved without external assistance, with industrialised countries supporting the rest.
- The higher the level of economic development, emissions per capita and carbon intensity of economy, the greater the domestic effort of a country should be to reduce them and finance action.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Copenhagen Climate Summit, Greenpeace Demands