

# What actions are appropriate for developing countries?

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Addressing climate change demands unprecedented leadership by developed countries. They must create trust and *demonstrate* their leadership by both committing to deep emissions reductions domestically and committing to a substantial amount of financing and technology for developing country mitigation and adaptation.

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

## 1. Deviation from business-as-usual

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

Developing countries must contribute their own fair share to the climate negotiations and must work towards decoupling CO<sub>2</sub> emissions growth with economic development and leapfrog towards a low carbon sustainable development path. To do this, developing countries, as a group, must reduce their fossil emissions 15-30%<sup>1</sup> from business-as-usual by 2020, supported by finance, technology and capacity building from industrialised countries.

## 2. Different levels of action and support

***Different levels of financial and technological support should be based on a developing country's responsibility, capacity and potential to mitigate.***

*A least developed country (LDC) like Cambodia cannot be expected to take on similar action as a newly-industrialised country like, for example, Singapore. Nor should it be expected that these countries have similar needs for finance.*

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 developed (Annex 1) countries. At the other end of the spectrum, the G77 and China also includes large numbers of countries who 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 mitigation action 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*. To do this, these three concrete indicators should be used to quantitatively capture each country's national situation:

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

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

These criteria should be applied as a basis for defining the level of financial support for developing country mitigation action.

Based on these criteria, Greenpeace believes that there are a number of newly-industrialised countries within G77 and China such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, South Korea and Singapore that should commit to economy wide carbon emissions caps in the second commitment period (2013-2017).

Other developing countries (excluding the LDCs) must chart their mid-term nationally appropriate mitigation actions to deviate from business as usual. These developing countries must develop Action Plans consistent with a -15-30% deviation from business as usual 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 deviate from the business-as-usual trajectory of its emissions, while ensuring economic growth. It could be a collection of nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

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 emissions from business as usual.

These plans should include actions to cut emissions that they fund themselves – such as energy efficiency measures that would make economic sense. They should also make efforts to cut emissions through other measures that work for them (so-called Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions – or NAMAs), but which would require financial and or technological support by industrialised countries. The Plans should be developed bottom-up and be in line with each government's national circumstances and development priorities.

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>

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