

**The 2015 International Climate Change Agreement:
Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020
Consultative Communication
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Question 1:

- 1.1 How can the 2015 Agreement be designed to ensure that countries can pursue sustainable economic development while encouraging them to do their equitable and fair share in reducing global GHG emissions so that global emissions are put on a pathway that allows us to meet the below 2°C objective?
- 1.2 How can we avoid a repeat of the current situation where there is a gap between voluntary pledges and the reductions that are required to keep global temperature increase below 2° C?

Answers

1.1 It will be very difficult to get this goal. Even the top-down Kyoto Protocol (1997) based on Rio Convention (1992) was not accepted globally. Key countries like China or USA simply rejected to follow the limitations and restrictions to produce GHG, because they implies limitation and restriction on their industrial development, especially in China, that has an industry-based economy, while USA has a knowledge-based economy. So the bottom-up approach started at ADP, (Durban Action) the CCPP (Copenhagen-Cancun Pledge Process) and now with the coming the 2015 ICCA (International Climate Change Agreement) as a bridge from 2012 to a future Kyoto Protocol 2020, will hardly get a global support to fight GHG emissions, during this time, most probably each country will follow their own industrial, economy and strategic national interests, rather than a global approach to fight CC (Climate Change)

1.2 Only through a strong political international leadership from the key countries : China and USA. Europe alone cannot force them to adopt their views on CC.... and less with the weakness in their economy in the current and future times.....

Question 2:

How can the 2015 Agreement best ensure the contribution of all major economies and sectors and minimize the potential risk of carbon leakage between highly competitive economies?

Answer 2 :

Only through a binding Agreement within the framework of the UNFCCC. Regretfully some of the major economies like China and USA has other top interests in their policy agendas, different to fight CC.

Question 3:

3.1 How can the 2015 Agreement most effectively encourage the mainstreaming of climate change in all relevant policy areas?

3.2 How can it encourage complementary processes and initiatives, including those carried out by non-state actors?

Answers :

3.1 With a proper cooperation language towards economy. Still there is a perception of divergent goals between ecology and economy. The ecologist approach to these issues is based on a supposed moral superiority position that puts ecology over any other area, and Sustainability, that is embracing ecology, has other two pillars: economy and social sectors. So ecology is one piece of the puzzle, but it is not “the” piece...Not today, at least in Europe, with an economy situation of crisis during the last 5 years, or with the safety and security problems coming from different sides. Hence, if ecology wants to be included in the current mainstream of policy issues, it needs to abandon their messianic position and to establish a dialogue based on facts, not on prophet visions

3.2 With a clear message, proposing a few goals, and measuring its advances at local level. People are not concerned what is happening in the dark side of the moon...only in their backyard....

Question 4:

4.1 What criteria and principles should guide the determination of an equitable distribution of mitigation commitments of Parties to the 2015 Agreement along a spectrum of commitments that reflect national circumstances, are widely perceived as equitable and fair and that are collectively sufficient avoiding any shortfall in ambition?

4.2 How can the 2015 Agreement capture particular opportunities with respect to specific sectors?

Answers :

4.1

Personal taxes are progressive in all the world. The theory is that who is more wealthy should pay more taxes than poor people. Countries efforts in mitigation commitments should follow the same principle. It is not well accepted that Germany and Somalia should reduce their GHG emission at the same rate...So the efforts should be progressive, and directly related to the industrial situation of every country.

4.2 Through a deep and adequate analysis sector by sector and country by country, to duly understand what happens in the pair Sector & Country.

Question 5:

5.1 What should be the role of the 2015 Agreement in addressing the adaptation challenge and how should this build on ongoing work under the Convention?

5.2 How can the 2015 Agreement further incentivize the mainstreaming of adaptation into all relevant policy areas?

Answers :

5.1

Provided that the specific impacts of climate change will vary across countries depending on their geographical, cultural, social and economic situation and their resilience and capacity to adapt, to address properly the 2015-Agreement should take into account the specific features of key Countries in these aspects, to win their support.

Many time, environmental regulation are perceived as constraints to limit or reduce the legitimate ambitions to develop from BRICs and other emerging countries, so they simply reject to adopt these “obligatory” frameworks coming from Europe.

5.2 Same answer than 4.2 : sector by sector and country by country

Question 6:

6.1 What should be the future role of the Convention and specifically the 2015 Agreement in the decade up to 2030 with respect to finance, market-based mechanisms and technology?

6.2 How can existing experience be built upon and frameworks further improved?

Answers:

6.1 2030 is too far away in relation to 2013. Even to produce reasonable forecasting and predictions for 2020 is a risky game, for 2030 ... for many people simply sounds like sci-fi... I don't remember anybody predicting the current economy crisis in the previous years, let say 2000 or 2005.....So, to try to see the future at 17 years deadline for 2030.....

Regarding finances, most probably it will have changed, and following the current trends, Europe will diminish their size in the World GDP from actual 20% to , 15%, 125 maybe?

Due to their stagnation and the growing impulse from BRICS and other emerging countries,... so Europe cannot save the world alone from CC, it needs to cooperate with other economy powers. There are many BRICS with a GDP larger than the most of EU-MS.....

6.2 Only through multilateral dialogue and cooperation. The times of forced impositions dealing with environmental issues has gone....

Question 7:

7.1 How could the 2015 Agreement further improve transparency and accountability of countries internationally?

7.2 To what extent will an accounting system have to be standardized globally?

7.3 How should countries be held accountable when they fail to meet their commitments?

Answers :

7.1 Only through a UN-backed international binding Agreement, establishing a simple and clear system to measure GHG emissions on same basis for everybody, to obtain comparable results. With the current patchwork of different and sometimes divergent national systems it is impossible to obtain credible results.

7.2 being mandatory worldwide, at the same binding level than many others UN directives For instance, MARPOL, or SOLAS in maritime issues.

7.3 A mechanism to deal with this situation should be discussed and negotiated to be integral part of the 2015 Agreement.

Question 8:

How could the UN climate negotiating process be improved to better support reaching an inclusive, ambitious, effective and fair 2015 Agreement and ensuring its implementation?

Answer :

Maybe through a simpler approach. Climate Change can be approached from much different focus with different actors, all of them claiming attention and money. Environment, Biodiversity or Sustainable Development for a, all of them can talk about Climate Change, and the UN is supporting every group putting Climate Change on their webpage.... Inclusive does not means to pay for every initiative launched worldwide other engagement mechanisms should be explored to ensure their commitment .

Question 9:

How can the EU best invest in and support processes and initiatives outside the Convention to pave the way for an ambitious and effective 2015 agreement?

I am not sure what more can be done from EU, who has headed the KP process worldwide during the last 10 years....The scenario for both 2015 Agreement and new KP-2020 will be quite different from 1997, so the only reasonable way for Europe is to cooperate with USA, China, India, BRICs and other regional schemas.

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