



Developed Nations



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

Goals

The 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. Developed nations have seen slight reductions in emissions since 2007 and without continued action, your emissions are expected to stay flat over time. You can decide whether your emissions will maintain this peak (if so, name the current year as your Peak Year), when they will decline, 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 along coasts to heatwaves and prolonged droughts in agricultural regions.

Public Opinion

The public in our countries generally believes climate change is real and that human activity contributes significantly to it. Most support policies to address climate change. However, there are fossil fuel interests that are actively working to stall action, and climate change ranks near the bottom of most people’s priorities, far below security, the economy, and jobs. The vast majority of our people are opposed to actions that place undue burden on our own economies, while developing nations continue to grow their emissions.

Opportunities

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

National Action

At the climate negotiations in Paris, our nations pledged to begin reducing emissions. These pledges are ambitious but will be challenging to implement. For example, in the US, many policies that were helping to reduce emissions have been repealed. Meanwhile, Australia, with large coal reserves, repealed its carbon emissions tax, and Russia and other former Soviet nations show little signs of moving away from their dependence on fossil fuels for government revenue.

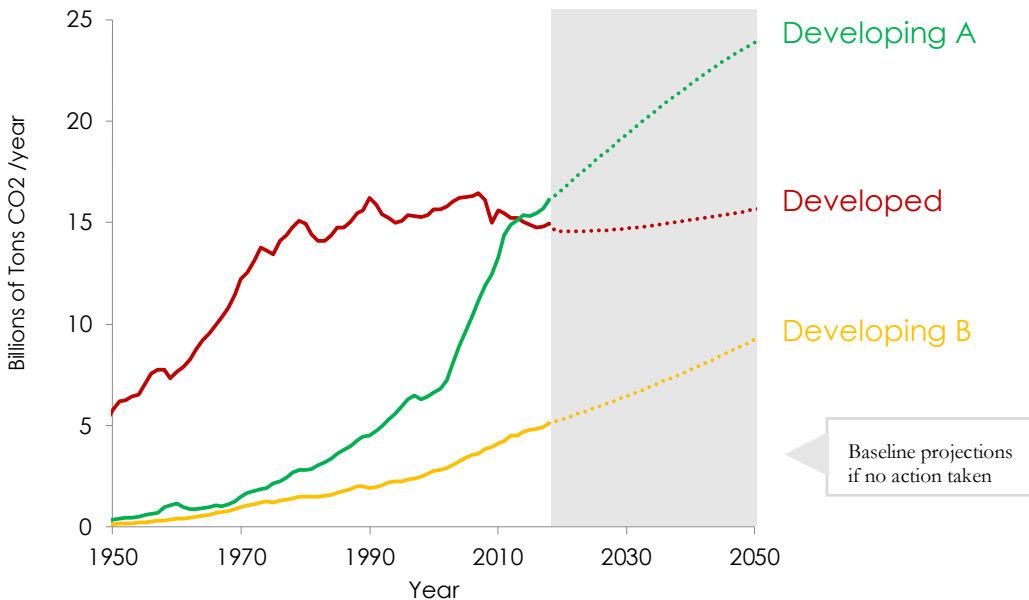
Forests and Land Use

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

Global Landscape

- China now emits over one quarter of global CO₂ emissions, more than the US, Mexico, and Canada combined, and has become the second largest economy. Emissions in India and other developing nations are also growing rapidly. Worse, the emissions of the developing nations have been growing faster than the rates assumed by climate scientists.
- 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.

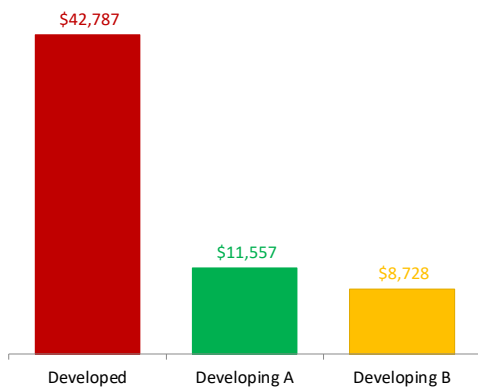
CO₂ Emissions from Energy Use



Approximately two-thirds of the total CO₂ released by burning fossil fuels since the start of the Industrial Revolution came from the developed nations.

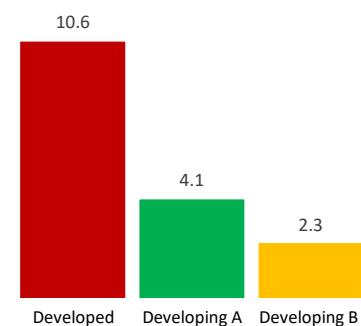
Sweden sustained annual emissions reductions of 4.5% to reduce their dependence on oil (1976-1986). France and Belgium saw similar reductions around this time. Otherwise, most significant historical emission reductions have come from financial or political crises. More recently, the UK reduced emissions by an average 3.5% annually between 2007-2017.

GDP per person in 2018 (2017 PPP US Dollars)



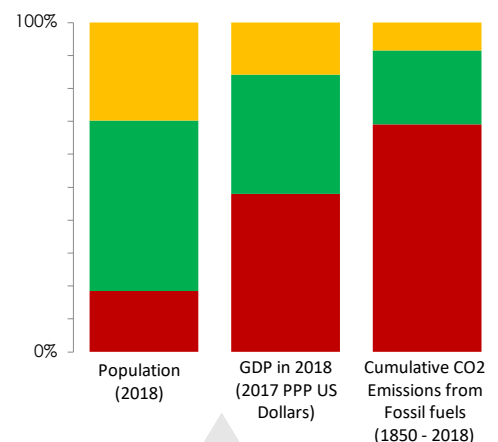
GDP per person in the developed countries is more than 4 times higher than in developing countries.

Emissions from energy use per person 2018 (tons CO₂ per year)



CO₂ emissions per capita from energy in the US, EU, and other developed countries are far higher than emissions in the developing countries.

Population Wealth and Cumulative Emissions



China, India, and other developing countries are home to over 80% of the world's population, but only 52% of the world's wealth and 31% of the world's cumulative emissions.