



To: Negotiators for India at United Nations World Climate Summit
Subject: Briefing on Negotiating Goals

Goals

India seeks to negotiate a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can limit climate risks but also seeks the best outcome for our economy and development. 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 India’s greenhouse gas emissions, if any. Without action, India’s emissions are expected to grow significantly by 2100. You can decide what year your emissions will peak, when they will begin declining, 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 funding to demand from the developed nations, who have pledged to create a global climate fund that will provide \$300 billion/year until 2035 for developing countries to cut 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.¹ Our top priority is to raise India’s standard of living, which is far less than that in the developed nations and even China.

Public Opinion

Our people, like people everywhere, want to live in a healthy environment but also improve their standard of living, including decent jobs, housing, food, healthcare, and national security. Most people in our country are worried about climate change, but fewer understand its causes or prioritize climate action.² Economic growth and overcoming poverty are our top priorities.

Opportunities

India is emerging as the second-largest renewables growth market after China.³ International support can speed the transition, improve health, and cut reliance on fossil imports.

Forests and Land Use

We can reduce emissions from deforestation and land degradation. Most remaining tropical forests are in developing countries, where, unfortunately, deforestation remains high. Global emissions could fall through forest protection programs financed by wealthy nations.

National Action

In 2015 we pledged to the UN to increase our carbon-free power capacity to 40% by 2030, assuming international help. While we recently surpassed that target, we have simultaneously increased power generation from coal and other fossil fuels. Our emissions are expected to continue to rise through 2030. We have yet to commit to meaningful reductions in emissions and are concerned about pressure to do so given our need to raise a significant portion of our population out of poverty. Clean energy development to reduce emissions would offer co-benefits like improving air quality and providing electricity in areas inaccessible to electric grids but cannot come at the expense of economic development. The rich nations of the world must agree to significant action, in proportion to their past contributions to the problem. We will not pay the price for their past emissions.

¹ <https://skepticalscience.com/global-warming-scientific-consensus.htm>

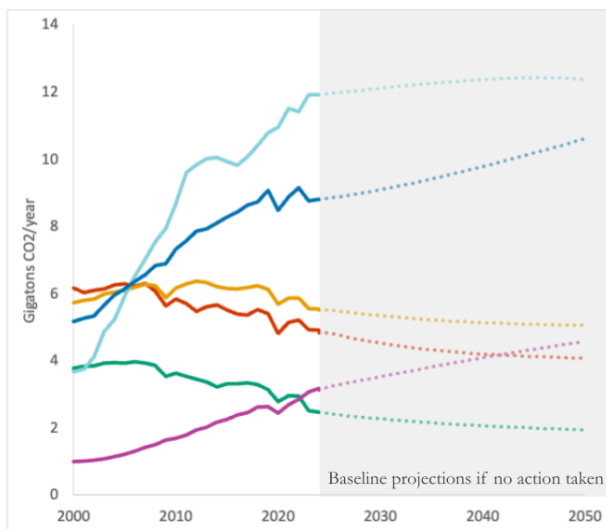
² <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-indian-mind-spring-2025/>

³ <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/energy/india-to-become-second-largest-renewable-market-as-global-growth-doubles-ica>

Global Landscape

- The developed nations will pressure us to reduce emissions because our population exceeds one billion and our economy and carbon emissions are growing faster than theirs. However, emissions per capita in developed nations are far higher than ours (US emissions per capita are an astounding 7 times higher than India's). Any agreement that puts an unfair burden of limiting climate change on us is not acceptable.
- The developed nations are threatened by the rapid economic development we are now, finally, beginning to enjoy, and may use a global climate agreement to slow our growth, limit markets for our products, and constrain our growing diplomatic and military influence around the world.
- The developed nations of the world created the climate crisis and must take responsibility for their past actions. These nations used fossil fuels to build their economies and enrich their populations, often by exploiting our natural resources. The developed nations will demand that we cut our emissions before our people have the chance to reach the level of economic development now enjoyed in the West.

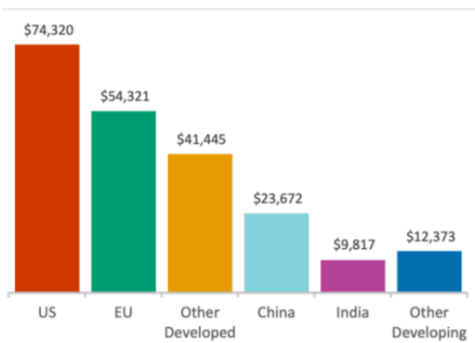
CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuels



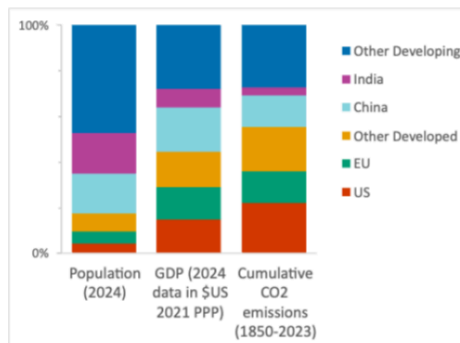
China is the world's largest emitter of CO₂. Without action, developing countries' emissions from fossil fuels are projected to increase about 21% by 2050.

Sweden sustained annual CO₂ 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.

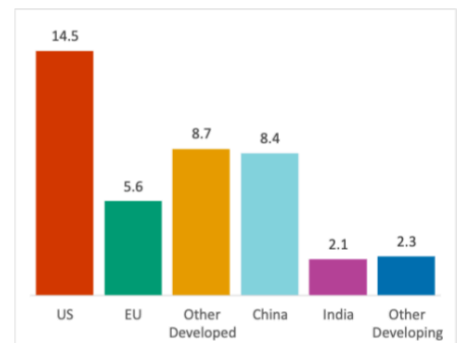
GDP per Person in 2024 (2021 \$US PPP)



Population, Wealth, and Cumulative CO₂ Emissions



Emissions from Fossil Fuels per Person in 2023 (tons CO₂ per year)



While cumulative emissions so far have been higher in the developed countries (i.e., the **US**, **EU**, and **other developed** countries), the growth of population, GDP per person, and emissions in the **developing nations** far outpaces growth in the **developed countries**.

Since 1980, emissions from energy per person have risen dramatically in **China** and **India** but have fallen in the **US** and **Europe**.

Graphs source: C-ROADS v.25.10