

# AT STAKE AT DOHA

## A RULES BASED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE REGIME

Doha, November 2012

*Throughout the world people are experiencing impacts and extreme weather exacerbated by more heat in the climate system. Yet the world is on track for a disastrous 6°C of warming by the end of the century.*

### The need for rules

To get off this track the world needs strong, internationally agreed rules, that share the costs and benefits of transforming to a safe-climate economy. The UN Climate Convention, represent the best shot we have at agreeing to fair, science-based targets and rules.

But, at the Doha conference, rich industrialized countries are systematically working toward the deregulation of the international system of climate controls.

They seek a new climate architecture comprising of a narrow mitigation-focused instrument that is weaker than the Kyoto Protocol, shifts the burden to developing countries, removes equity and the differentiation of responsibilities based on historical responsibility, and evades commitments on adaptation, finance, technology and capacity.

### De-regulating the international climate regime

- » Some countries, such as the United States, intend to dismantle the Convention's distinction between developed and developing countries, the principle of equity on which the Convention is founded, and the commitment to finance action by developed countries.
- » They hope to terminate the Kyoto Protocol after a "political" (no legal amendment) second commitment period that avoids multilateral agreement on a collective target, on individual targets for each country, and on closure of loopholes. They hope to do this while keeping carbon markets available to those who "jump ship" from the Kyoto Protocol.
- » They aim to terminate the working group on Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) without fulfilling its mandate, and, erase the requirement that developed countries take "comparable" commitments between themselves, and limit future discussions on adaptation, finance,

technology and capacity without honoring existing commitments or agreeing new ones.

### A pledge-and-review architecture

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- » A "pledge-and-review based" approach to mitigation in which targets are not negotiated but rather are "communicated" by Parties.
- » Weaker provisions for developed countries on monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) than what is in the Kyoto Protocol, including no compliance mechanism.
- » Stronger requirements for developing countries on obligations and reporting than exists under the Convention.
- » "New market mechanisms", despite the failure of the clean development mechanism (CDM); enabling developed countries to shift the burden of mitigation further to developing countries with no guarantee that emissions will actually be reduced.

### The problem with the pledge and review approach

Developed countries are pursuing this strategy, while at the same time framing developing countries as 'blockers' of higher ambition. In fact, developing countries' mitigation pledges exceed developed countries', who may offer no net reduction in emissions by 2020 due to loopholes (offsetting and carrying over allowances from the previous commitment period).

This effort to dismantle the climate architecture as it applies to rich industrialized nations, to avoid existing commitments and to shift the burden to developing countries threatens a "lost decade" of inaction setting the world on course for a 6°C temperature rise and catastrophic climate impacts.

### A rules-based system

Instead of a 'business as usual' approach what is needed is a strong-rules based system, building on the Convention and Kyoto Protocol including:

- Negotiating commitments in line with what science requires and that reflect

historical responsibility, per-capita contributions, and capabilities to act.

- A collective target agreed through a science-based principled approach.
- Individual targets that are comparable between developed countries that share similar levels of historical responsibility.

- Commitments that are binding in international not merely domestic law.
- Robust rules for accounting, reporting and review of efforts to fulfill commitments including the provision of finance.
- A compliance mechanism for holding Parties to account.