

A VISION FOR EQUITY

Warsaw, November 2013

The world and its people face an intersecting series of crises driven by a system that puts unsustainable pressure on nature whilst impoverishing billions of people in order to serve an elite few. Climate change is one of these crises and it is a symptom of this system. To stop climate change we must transform the system to ensure that all people can live well, without endangering the Earth. This transformation is possible. Although the existing balance of power and interests works against such a transformation, we have the knowledge, vision and popular support to realise it.

1. Among the many things we must do to transform the system, to prevent run-away climate change and to limit global average temperature rise to the safest levels still possible, we must **set a limit on global GHG emissions**, including historical and future emissions. This limit defines the maximum tolerable '**global emissions budget**'
2. Due to the already locked-in warming caused by historical emissions, and the threat of catastrophic damage and tipping points at higher levels of warming, the global emissions budget should provide a strong probability of limiting warming to **well below 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels.
3. Even if temperature rise is limited to below 1.5°C there will be **considerable costs associated with adaptation, as well as loss and damage**. The obligation to meet these costs must be determined based on the principles of fairness outlined below.
4. Taking into account historical emissions, the **remaining global emissions budget** associated with limiting warming to below 1.5°C is **below 630 Gigatonnes of CO₂**. Achieving this will be incredibly difficult, yet still imposes a significant risk of exceeding 1.5°C.
5. The remaining global emissions budget and the effort to remain within it must now be **divided fairly amongst all people**.
6. The **historical use** of the emissions budget since the beginning of industrialisation has not been fair. Some countries have used more than their fair share of the limited budget, leading to warming and depriving other countries of their fair share, if we are to stay within our emissions budget. This **inequitable historical overconsumption** of the global emissions budget has also **contributed to disparities in countries' broader capacities**, and will continue to undermine the right to sustainable development.
7. In order to be **fair**, the effort to share the remaining emissions budget must be based on a consideration of countries' **historical use of the budget** (historical responsibility) and their **capacities**.
8. A key **indicator** of a country's **historical responsibility** is the **cumulative per capita GHG emissions** of a country since 1850, with acknowledgement of emissions that allow people to live a decent and dignified life.
9. Key **indicators** of a country's **capacities** are the **size and spread of its wealth and national income**, which are highly correlated with the financial and technological resources it commands.¹
10. Using a methodology based on the above principles we can determine a **fair share of effort** for each country in order for the world to stay within the remaining emissions budget.
11. **All countries** should be responsible for meeting their own fair share of this effort.
12. Due to their higher levels of historical responsibility and associated capacities, **developed countries' fair share** of the effort is **very large**. Even with extremely ambitious domestic action to reduce emissions they **may not be able to fulfil their fair share** of the effort through **domestic action alone**.
13. Therefore, in order to fulfil their fair shares of effort, **developed countries** must reduce their emissions by **as much as is possible domestically** and also provide resources such as finance and technology, as well as supporting institutions and international rules, to **ensure the balance of their effort can be fulfilled internationally**.
14. Due to developed countries' historical overconsumption of the emissions budget, if we are to fit within the remaining budget, then **developing countries** must be **enabled** to do **more** than their fair share of effort. They are to be enabled to do so through the provision of **finance, technology and capacity** by developed countries.²
15. **Developed countries'** historical overconsumption has **locked in warming and associated impacts**. Therefore, based on their historical responsibility and higher capacities, they are **responsible for providing resources** to developing countries to enable them to **adapt** to locked-in warming and to address **loss and damage**.

1. An appropriate methodology would be one that reflects national income per capita, as a proxy for wealth, but with consideration of the lack of capacities of the poorest (e.g. by including a threshold under which income is excluded) and drastically higher capacities as wealth increases (e.g. by progressively accounting for capacity as income rises).

2. There are a few countries that are 'outliers' to the general experience of developed and developing countries. For those few developing countries whose historical responsibility and capacities indicate that their fair-share of effort may not feasibly be addressed domestically, they should enable other developing countries to cover the balance through South-South solidarity. For those few developed countries that may need to take more efforts domestically than their fair share, in order for the world to stay within the emissions budget, they should be enabled by other developed countries as a part of achieving their fair share of effort. Similar provisions should apply for enabling adaptation and responding to loss and damage.