



Exploring India's Perspective on Burden-sharing in the International Climate Change Order

Lavanya Rajamani
Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

What India does not want in the burden-sharing arrangement : GHG mitigation targets

- It has a limited role in contributing to climate change [4.6% cumulative; 1.2 metric tons per capita]
- Historical responsibility of industrialized countries
- It has overriding development needs [44% without access to electricity; 34% living on less than 1 USD a day]
- Even a 9.7% reduction in GHG by 2036 would cost 2.5 trillion USD

India's vision on burden-sharing

- Equal per capita rights to global environmental resources, and convergence of per capita emissions over time
- A Clean Technology Acquisition Fund
- A realistic course of action on climate change based on science [climate change cannot be treated as a “post-modernist religion”]

What India is willing to do

- Commit that its per capita emissions will not exceed OECD levels [India's per capita emissions are 1.2 metric tons; OECD average is 13.2]
- Take voluntary actions to decarbonize. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, June 2008 focuses on mitigation actions that are “co-benefits” of development actions, and adaptation
- Engage in bilateral and multilateral partnerships with industrialized countries [E.g.: Asia Pacific Partnership, Major Economies Meetings, India-US Nuclear deal]

Bali Climate Negotiations, 2007

- India's goal
 - to ensure that the process launched would not open the door for GHG mitigation targets for developing countries
 - to retain and strengthen the differential treatment in the climate treaties between developing and industrialized countries
- US' goal
 - to ensure parity in treatment between all “major emitters” with due regard to common but differentiated responsibility

India's Fingerprints on the Bali Action Plan

1 (b) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of:

(ii) Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner;

[India (with G-77) insisted that this phrase be placed at the end of the paragraph rather than at the beginning]

Developing Country Mitigation Actions: Measurable Reportable and Verifiable?

- MRV applies to **both** nationally appropriate mitigation actions and to the provision of technology, financing and capacity-building?
- MRV applies **only to** the provision of technology, financing and capacity-building?
- MRV applies only to those nationally appropriate mitigation actions that have been supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building?

India and the missing reference to GHG mitigation targets in the Bali Action Plan

- In early drafts industrialized countries were required “as a group to reduce emissions in a range of 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020” [targets did not survive the final round of negotiations]
- Several industrialized countries - targets too prescriptive and/or ambitious
- India - targets too modest [this indicative range of GHG targets is based on the assumption that developing country emissions will deviate below their projected baseline emissions in decades to come; but, developing countries need room to grow]

Revisiting India's Climate Stance

- Thinking of rather than “hiding behind the poor”
- Stepping back from the blame game/ Pehle Aap strategy
- Catalyzing action rather than perpetuating inaction
- Mainstreaming climate and adaptation activities into development planning

Mainstreaming climate and adaptation concerns

- Top-down national level goals, supported and complemented by bottom up policies and measures, to, for instance:
 - temper the growth of GHG emissions against the predicted increases under business-as-usual scenario
 - reduce the energy intensity in major sectors (e.g. electricity, cement, iron and steel, transport etc) against sectoral baselines
 - avoid or reduce the rate of forest degradation, and
 - increase the share of modern renewable energy in the energy mix