



**Lets get serious about change**

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**The imperative of **equity**  
for an **effective** climate  
agreement**

**Sunita Narain, director-general, CSE**

# Imperative of climate action

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- Clear; unequivocal and grim.
- Current level of ambition is abysmal
- Threat of climate change impacts us all
- **But cannot have ambition without equity**
- This is the pre-requisite for effective action

# Ist approach

## **Right to pollute**

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- Current and future action on domestic **pledge, action and review**
- Leads to inadequate action – US pledge of 17% below 2005 level is **meaningless**
- Race to the bottom
- Countries come together to legitimize ‘right to pollute’ of all
- Takes us all to hell – **common hell**

# Right to pollute

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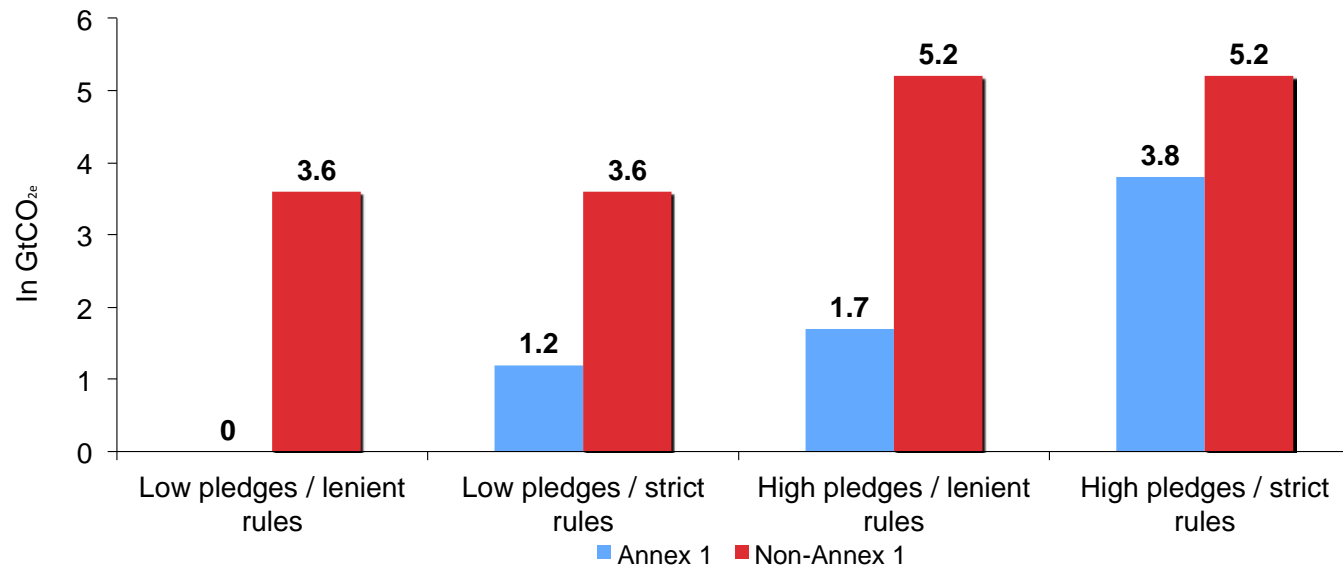


- **Gigatonne gap** – Pledges do not add up to effective action – even **without** double-counting; leakages and loopholes – 2.5° C to 5° C increase expected
- **Cost and burden shifted** – will lead to even less action as countries will argue they have done what they can
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# Shifts the burden of transition



- SEI assessment of UNEP report on 'emission gap' makes clear '**gap is growing**' – between rich and poor



# 2<sup>nd</sup> approach: **Right to development**

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- Will involve all countries
- All will live within limits set by the planet
- Emission cuts will be based on science; ambition to cut drastically to stay within **at least 2° C**
- **Limits will be for all**; based on equitable sharing of common atmospheric space

# 1992-2012: World changed **yes** but **no**

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- 1992 Climate Convention: agreed countries created problem would cut emissions first.  
**Polluter pays Principle**
- Historical emissions set the principle of emission reduction
- Agreement rich countries would cut; make space for rest to increase
- Finance and technology would provide options to **avoid** pollution **in all**

# 1992-2012: Failed convention principles

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- **Operational agreement:**
- “You cut; make space; rest grow differently; world avoids worst impacts of climate change”
- But agreement **renege**d
- Emissions have increased; baselines have been changed to fiddle with truth:  
**inconvenient truth**



# 2012: Inconvenient truth

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- No space made; but economic growth needs space for emissions
- No country has **de-coupled growth** with carbon dioxide emissions
- **In 2012: New claimants for same space**



## New claimants/no space

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- 1990, Annex 1 countries = 70 per cent of annual emissions
- 2010 Annex 1 countries = 43 per cent of annual emissions

They did not decrease; make space; developing world had no option but to fill up remaining space

**Inconvenient truth. But truth**

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# Equity:

pre-requisite for new global deal

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## World running out of space and time

- Must raise ambition
- Must create framework for all to reduce; based on limits for all

## Based on equity, fairness and justice

- No effective global deal without equity
- Will not derail process; will strengthen it

# How?

## ADP is real opportunity

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- Do not junk principles of Convention
- Instead build on them
- Create conditions so that world can move towards transition to low-carbon
- Create conditions so that we can leapfrog to clean technologies today and not wait to **first pollute and then clean up**

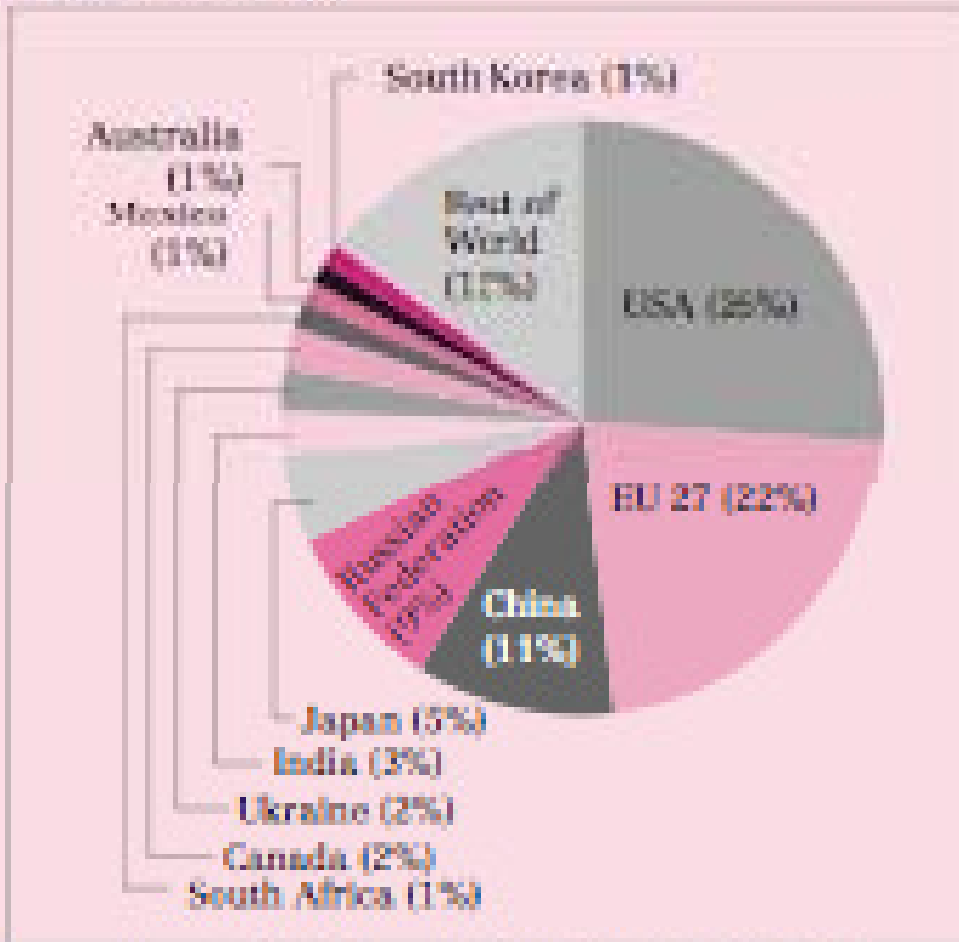
# ADP and equity

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- Keep it simple
- Historical, current and future emissions
- All emissions are important – stock and flow all add up to climate change
- Those who forget history cannot write a safe future

Graph 2: Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 1950-2007, without land use



Source: Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) Version 8.0. (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2011)

Cannot make a 'deal' on only remaining space

Historical emissions are part of the future



# ADP: equity approach

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Many formulae on table:

- GDR; Per capita; Contraction and Convergence; BASIC proposal

**Same beginning** and **same ending**

- Choose simple approach that operationalizes the principles of convention
- Not rocket science. But needs collective will

# ADP: work plan 1 and 2 enjoined

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- Ambition must be based on equity
- The principle of equity will establish the road map for now and future. Cannot wait for 2020 to act.
- Without equity ADP **is** and **will remain inadequate**



# Equity: transition to low carbon

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- Deep emission targets will lead to high price of carbon; build effective market for transition
- Do not want **cheap development mechanism**
- Want real change
- **Change we can believe in**



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- **Secure our right to survival**
  - **Secure our right to development**