

India



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” compared to preindustrial levels. You must now decide on the following:

1. Actions to reduce carbon emissions, if any. Without action, India’s emissions are expected to grow significantly by 2100. You can decide when your emissions will stop growing, when they will begin declining, and at what annual rate emissions decline, if at all.
2. Whether to make a commitment to reduce deforestation or to increase reforestation or afforestation.
3. How much funding to demand from the developed nations, who have pledged to create the Green Climate Fund that will provide \$100 billion/year by 2020 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. 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 they also want to increase their standard of living; this includes decent jobs, housing, food, healthcare, mobility and national security. Many people in our country believe climate change is real, though fewer support agreements to address the climate change issue. Overcoming poverty is our top priority.

Forests and land use

We have an opportunity to make reductions in emissions from deforestation and land degradation (REDD). Most of the world’s remaining tropical forests are in developing countries, where, unfortunately, there is substantial deforestation occurring. Programs to protect forests can reduce global emissions and could be paid for by wealthy nations.

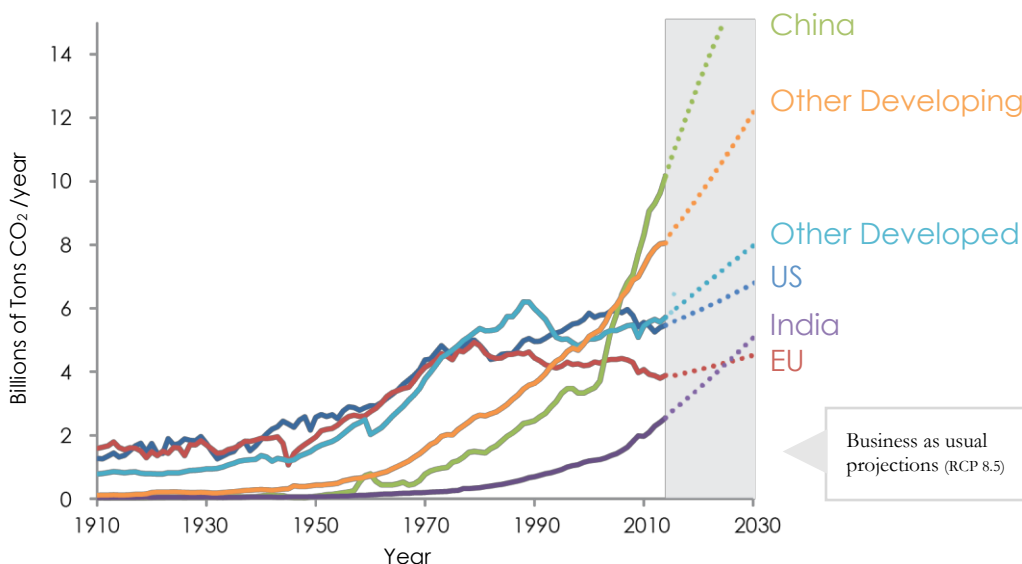
National Action

In 2015 we pledged to the UN to increase our carbon-free power capacity from 30% to 40% by 2030, assuming international help. We are 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. Taking more leadership in addressing climate change could have some political benefits for India. However, we must defend our right to develop and lift our people out of poverty. We are prepared to do what we can, but the rich nations of the world must agree to significant action, commensurate with their past contributions the problem. We will not pay the price for their past emissions.

Global Landscape

- The developed nations will pressure us to reduce emissions because our population exceeds one billion, and because 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 9 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 even the level of economic development now enjoyed in the West while many Indians continue to live in poverty.

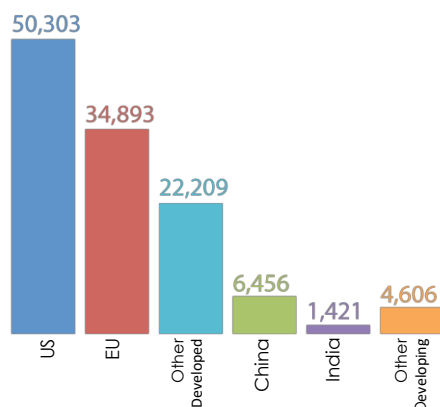
CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuels and Cement



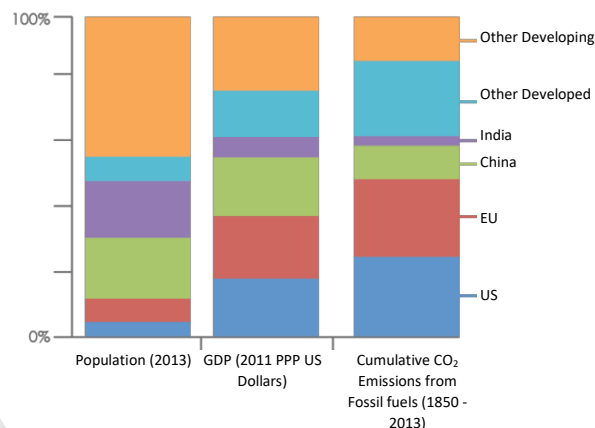
China is the world's largest emitter of CO₂. Without action, developing countries' emissions from fossil fuels are projected to more than triple by 2100.

Sweden sustained annual 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. According to UNEP, a 3.5% annual reduction rate is extremely ambitious.

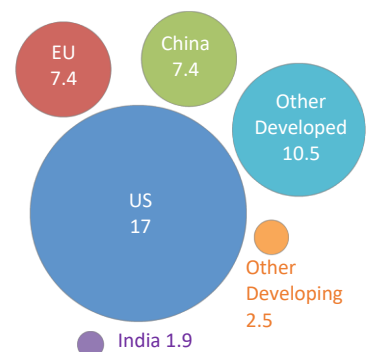
GDP per person (2011 PPP US Dollars)



Population Wealth and Cumulative Emissions



Emissions per person 2013 (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. Under business-as-usual assumptions, cumulative emissions of all developed countries (**US**, **EU**, and **other developed**) are expected to fall to 37% of total by 2100.

Since 1980, emissions per person have risen dramatically in **China** and **India** (by 391% and 285%, respectively) but have fallen in the **US** and **Europe** (by 20% and 26%, respectively).