

Climate debt: The basis of a fair and effective solution to climate change

Plurinational State of of Bolivia

Presentation to Technical Briefing on Historical Responsibility

The concept of climate debt

- A fair and effective solution to climate change requires a principle-based approach.
- Historical and current responsibilities should be established on the basis of:
 - Latest science
 - Equity and fairness
 - Relevant principles and provisions of the Convention
- Climate debt provides a fair, effective and principle-based approach for addressing climate change.
- Climate debt addresses both adaptation and mitigation aspects of climate change in a holistic manner.

Impacts and costs of climate change on Bolivia

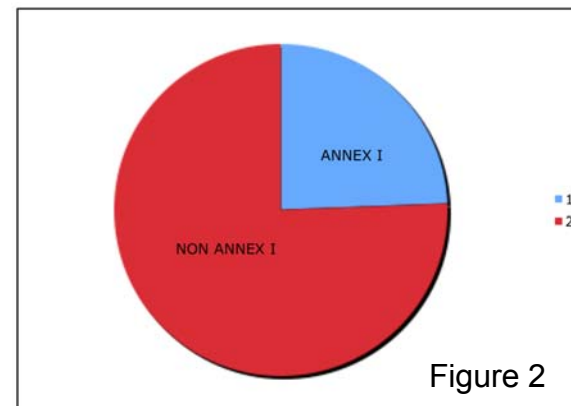
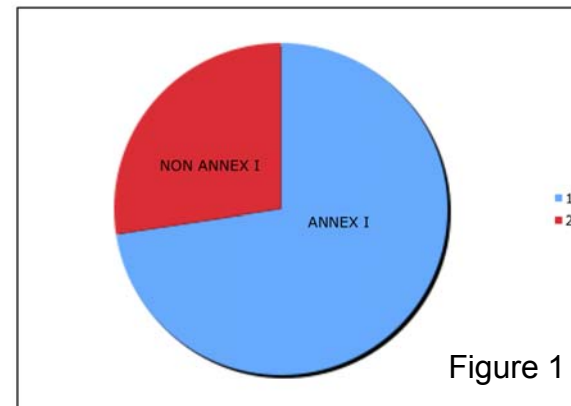
- **Glaciers:** Retreat has accelerated compromising water supplies, food security and potentially hydropower generation.
- **Flood impacts:** Increase in frequency and intensity of precipitations, has increased flood risk. In the low lands areas, during extreme precipitation events, annual average river runoff and water availability has increased by 5-40%.
- **Drought:** Aggravated by climate change, more intense and longer droughts have been observed in around 40% of Bolivian territory, home to 70% of the population and the poorest.
- **Survival of indigenous peoples:** The Uru Chipaya Indigenous Peoples, a 2500 years old culture, is under extreme threat. Arid land now faces increased water shortages, making them among the first internal climate change refugees.
- **Economic and social impacts:** Significant proportion of GDP already lost each year due to climate change.

Impacts and costs climate change: An adaptation debt

- Principal responsibility for the historical emissions contributing to current atmospheric concentrations and to current and committed future warming lies with developed countries.
- Poor countries and people who live daily with rising costs, damages and lost opportunities for development.
- These impacts are the direct result of current atmospheric concentrations, which have been caused predominantly by emissions from developed countries.
- Developed countries are thus responsible for compensating developing countries for their contribution to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Failure to honor payment of financing and compensation constitutes an “adaptation debt” owed by developed countries to developing countries.

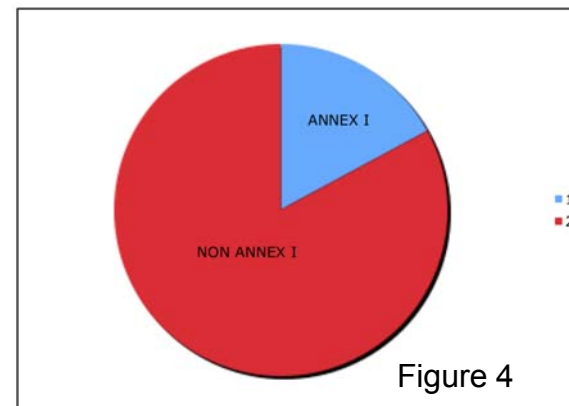
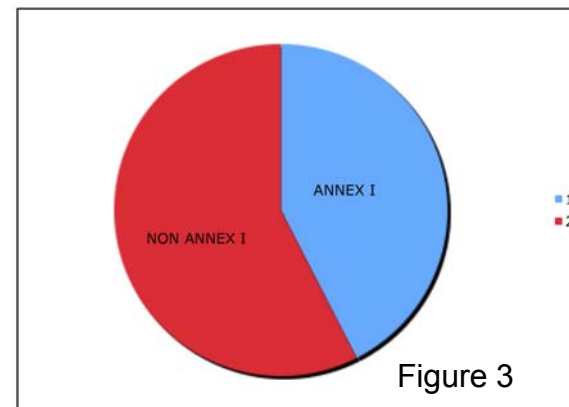
Excessive use of atmospheric space: An emissions debt

- As well as causing adaptation harm, developed countries' historical and current excessive emissions are limiting atmospheric space available to developing countries.
- With less than twenty percent of the world's population, they are responsible for around three quarters of historical emissions (Fig 1).
- This far exceeds their fair share on a per person equal allocation (Fig 2).



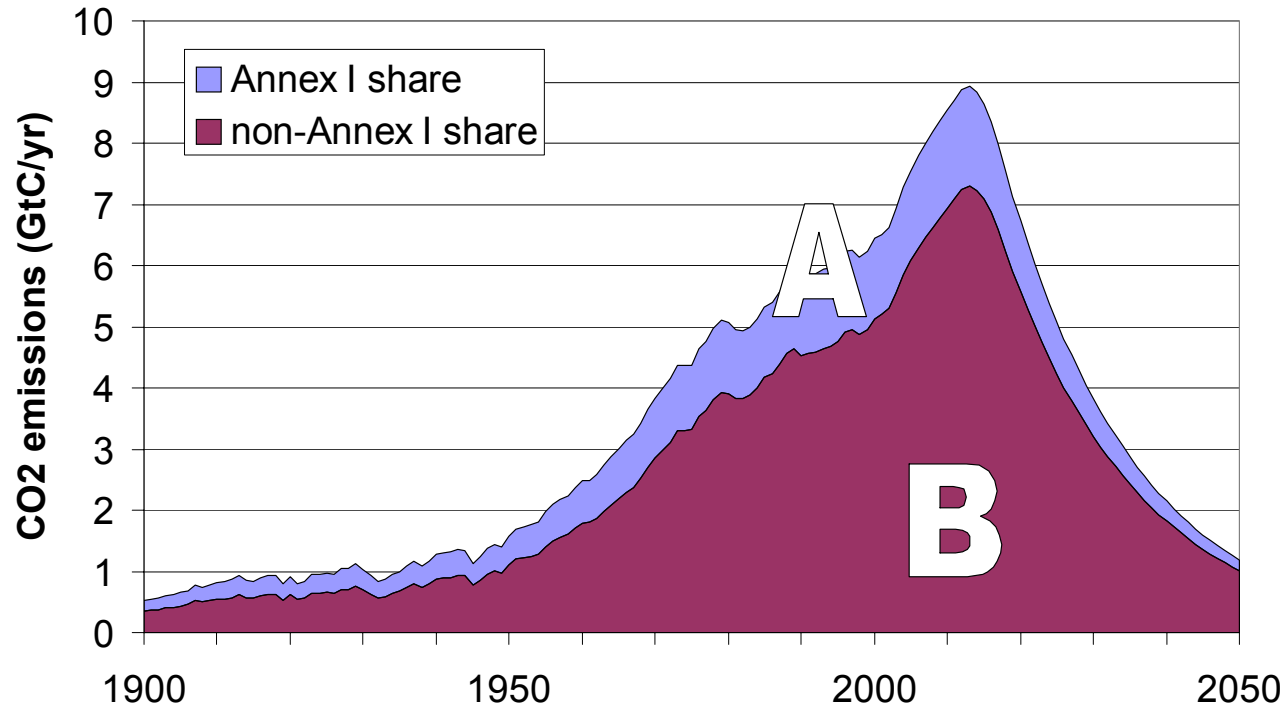
Increasing emission debt

- Developed countries now seek to appropriate a disproportionate share of the Earth's remaining atmospheric space.
- By basing their future emission allowances on their past excessive level of emissions they would deepen their emissions debt.
- A wealthy minority will continue to occupy excessive space through to 2050 denying a shared resource to the poorer majority who needs it in the course of their development.



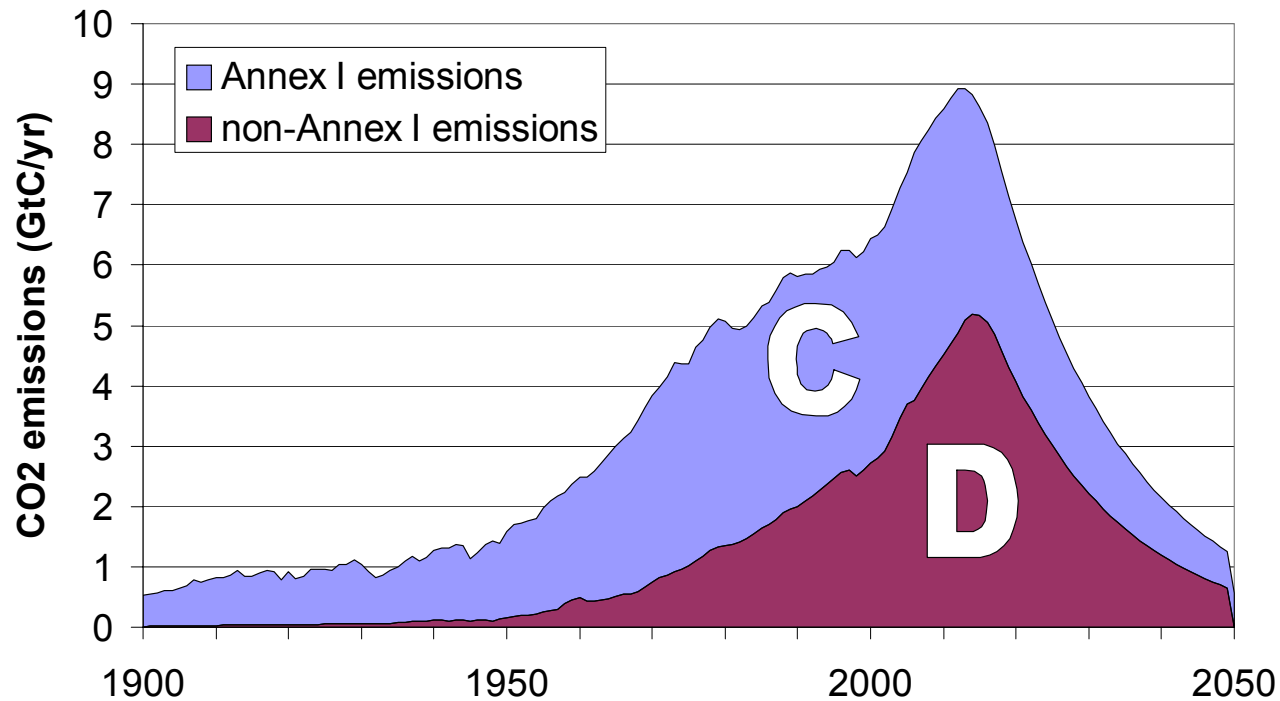
Emission debt: equal per-capita shares

Annual emissions with 80% reductions by 2050
(equal per capita shares)



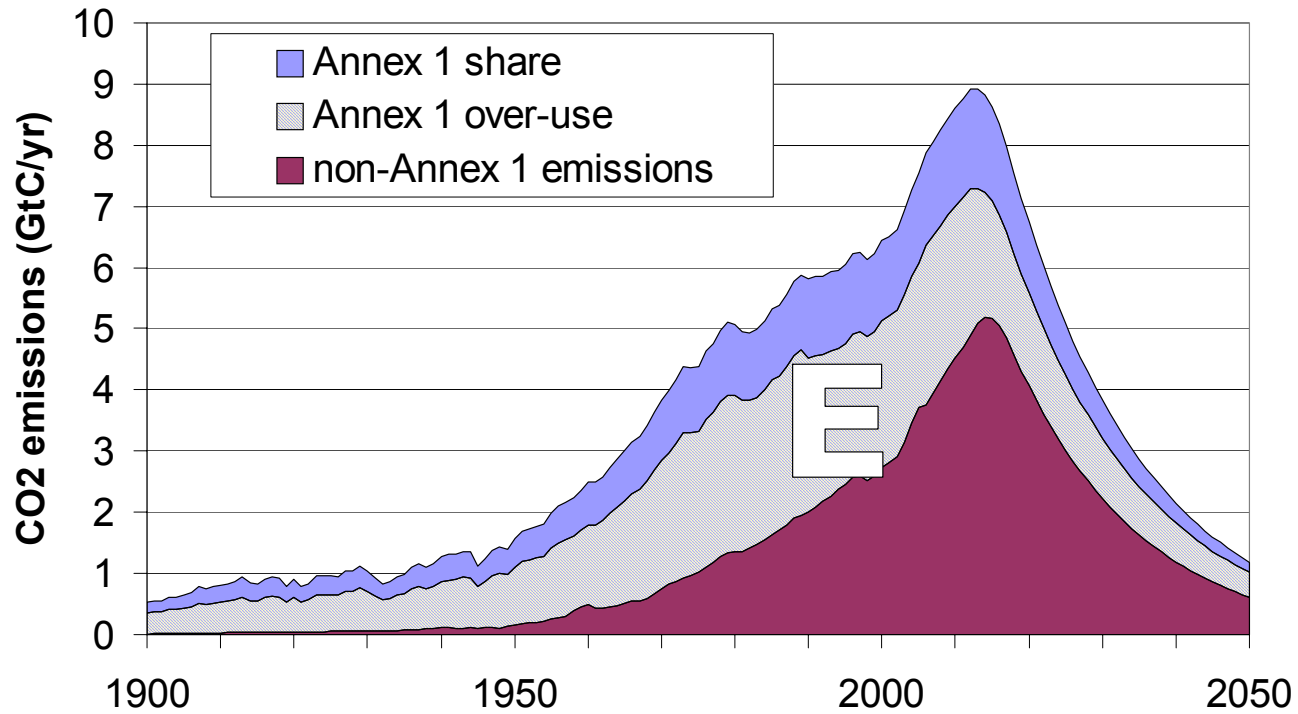
Emission debt: historic and proposed Annex I use

Annual emissions with 80% global reductions by 2050
(historic emissions and 85% reduction by 2050 by Annex 1)



Emission debt: over-use

Annual emissions with 80% global reductions by 2050
(showing Annex 1 over-use)



Climate debt as ecological, social and economic debt

- Climate debt is the sum of:
 - Adaptation debt
 - Emissions debt
- Climate debt as ecological, social and economic debt

A fair and effective solution to climate change: Honoring climate debt

- Towards a fair and effective outcome in Copenhagen
 - Honoring adaptation debt
 - Honoring emissions debt
- The role of effective institutions under the COP
- A Marshal Plan for the Earth
- Repay climate debt: Save Mother Earth!