
Reporting on Climate Change

UNFCCC / COM Plus Media Workshop

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UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme



Climate Change Problematique

Climate Change has become THE defining issue for the international community – it is not any more a matter for just those specializing in climate change, nor the processes established under UNFCCC, nor for UNEP as the environmental policy pillar of the UN system, nor even for the entire UN system but for everyone ever interested in addressing any of the global issues. Likewise, it is not only an issue for environmental governance but for the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire UN system and has become the central piece of UN reform and a test case for multilateralism.



What to expect from the current process?

- **Effectiveness**
- **Urgency (no gap and strong effective action)**
- **Equity**
- **Transparency**
- **Accountability**
- **Resilience/Durability**
- **Avoid backsliding on existing commitments**
- **Include incentives for early entry into force, avoid gaming, and full participation**



Process Expectations Contd.

- **Comparable emission reductions and compliance among Annex 1**
- **Positive incentives for action and implementation**
- **MRV criteria for Annex 1 support and non Annex 1 actions should respect common but differentiated responsibilities**
- **Incentives for compliance among all parties**
 - **strong enforcement triggers and consequences for non-compliance for Annex 1**
- **Flexibility to strengthen - robust review mechanism**
- **Note: These principles were developed by an ad hoc group in Bonn I.**



Commitments Vs Pledges

- Important because Parties need to decide how to enshrine the outcomes
- Traditionally, a treaty is considered the ultimate binding instrument
- But recently, COP decisions have played a role in binding rule-making



Commitments Vs Pledges cont'd

- In the negotiations, major split in views regarding COP authority to deal with certain things, i.e. financial commitments, compliance, US mitigation commitment
- Some national systems pose problems for COP Decisions being binding on them

Way Forward?

- Amend Kyoto and COP Decisions
 - Maintain Kyoto as the sole treaty-level instrument
 - COP Decisions for LCA track, but with comparable commitments for the US (as with other A1 Parties)

- Two Protocols
 - Amended Kyoto Protocol and Protocol for LCA Outcome
 - Additional COP Decisions as necessary

- Single Protocol
 - Merge the two tracks and bring all Parties into a single architecture



Way Forward Contd.

- An Interim Arrangement
- Agree to a short KP commitment period (i.e. 3 years) and joint COP/CMP Decisions to begin a post-2012 work programme with a view to finalizing the legal form at a later date (somewhere between 2011 and 2013)

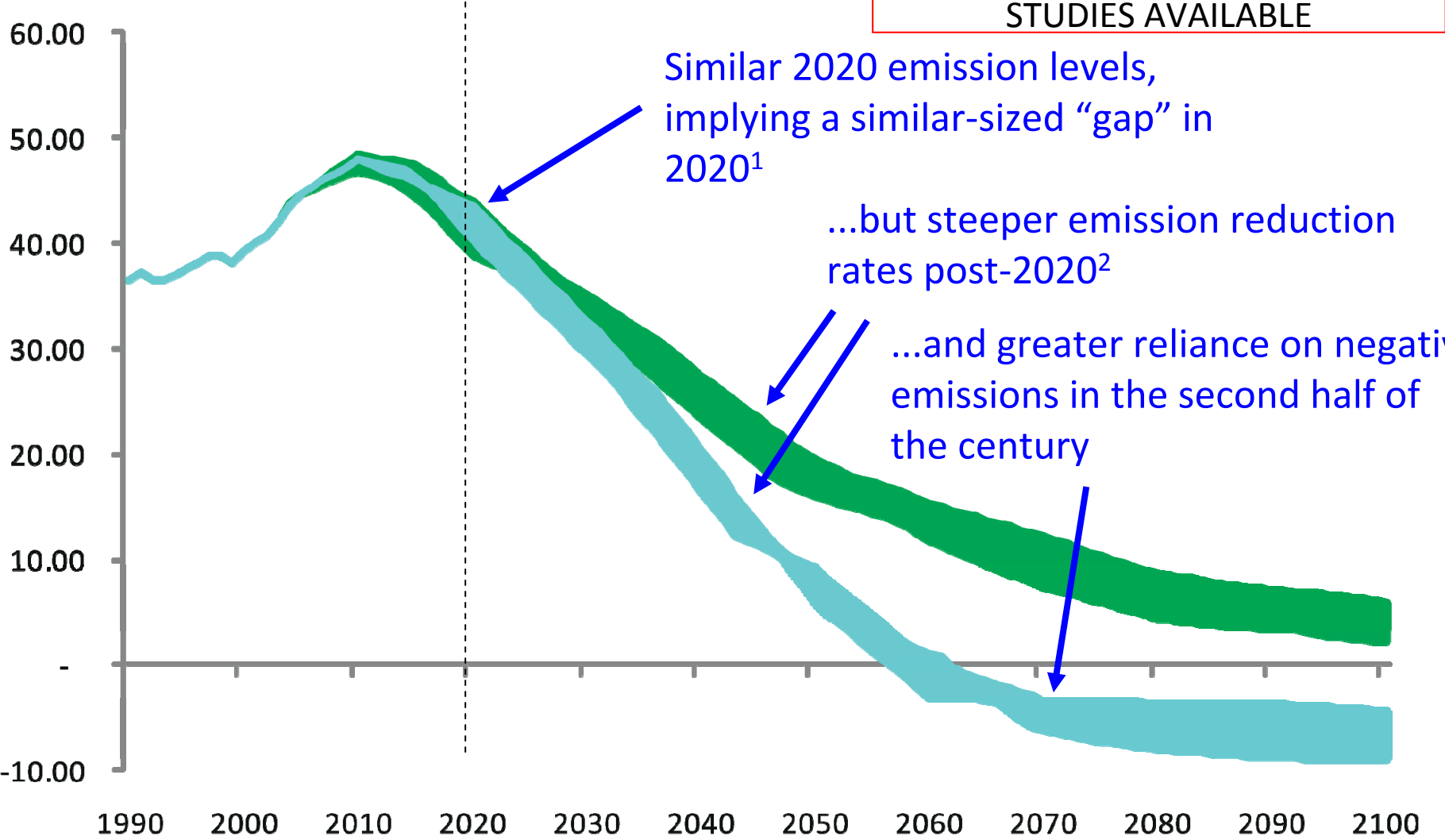
UNEP Emissions Gap Analysis, November 2010

- There is a gap between where we would like to be and where we are heading
- The size of the gap depends on what happens in the negotiations
- The options on the table now in the negotiations have the potential to reduce emissions by 7 GtCO₂e versus what would have happened otherwise (business-as-usual)
- This can be achieved by realising countries' highest ambitions and ensuring "strict" rules result from the negotiations
- It is feasible to bridge the remaining gap through more ambitious domestic actions, some of which could be supported by international climate finance
- With or without a gap, current studies indicate that steep emission reductions are needed post-2020 to meet temperature targets

What about 1.5 degrees? Findings from Chapter 2

Global emissions, GtCO₂e

PRELIMINARY RESULTS – FEW STUDIES AVAILABLE



UNEP thanks Joeri Rogelj (ETHZ) and the European Climate Foundation for graphics

¹ Specifically, this shows the 20-80th percentile range of the "stylized" pathways that have a "likely" (>66%) chance of limiting temperature increase to 1.5° C by 2100

² Specifically, energy and industry CO₂ reduction rates of 3-5% per year compared with 2-3% for a "likely" chance of 2 degrees

Source: Adapted from The Emissions Gap report, UNEP, 2010



What is a gigatonne?

1 GtCO₂e = 1 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent¹

=~ the annual emissions of a country like Germany or Japan

=~ the annual emissions from international shipping and aviation

5 GtCO₂e = the size of the “gap” in the most ambitious case assessed in this report

=~ the annual emissions of the European Union

=~ the annual emissions from all the world’s road transport in 2005
(all the cars, vans, buses and trucks in the world)

¹ For the purpose of this report, greenhouse gas emissions are the sum of the basket of greenhouse gases listed in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent. The carbon dioxide equivalent of the various gases is computed by using the global warming potentials published in the Second IPCC Assessment Report