



**Internationales Symposium zu den Auswirkungen des
Klimawandels auf den Süden
Freitag, 20. Juni 2008, 8.45 – 16.15 Uhr
Hotel Bern, Zeughausgasse 9, 3011 Bern**

Ecumenical Advocacy on Climate Justice: EQUITY, POVERTY AND THE BALI PROCESS/ROAD TO COPENHAGEN

*Building on
Greenhouse Development Rights*

christian
aid

The triple crisis

- **Poverty:** 2.6 billion people living on less than \$2 per day; 1.5 billion without electricity
- **Impact of climate change:** Disasters, erosion of livelihoods, disease, conflict
- **Emissions constraint:** Lack of atmospheric space for fossil fuel-based development.

The challenge of development

- Less about what the south is consuming today; more about what it might consume
- Focus on cumulative emissions; A1's historical burden vs. the south's 'needs'
- Tackling climate change is of common interest, but must safeguard development

Climate Policy Challenge

A viable climate regime must...

- Ensure mitigation consistent with an **emergency climate stabilization program globally**
- Enable the depth and extent of adaptation **inevitably needed**
- While at the same time safeguarding the ***right to development***

The UNFCCC Process (BAP)

- ➡ AWG-KP continues, with focus on a second commitment period
- ➡ Bali Action Plan opens up a new front; developing countries expected to contribute
- ➡ Finance and technology transfer from rich to poor is the key.

How might GDRs help?

- A fair means of **sharing the burden** of tackling climate change in line with UNFCCC principles
- Operationalizes key UNFCCC equity principles of common but differentiated responsibilities
- Indexes countries according to '**responsibility**' based on cumulative emissions since 1990 ...
- ... and '**capability**', using per capita income, adjusted for PPP and inequality (using Gini).
- Deals in a fresh and robust way with the tricky issue of the A1/non-A1 division

UNFCCC: The preamble:

“Acknowledging the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, ...in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”

Al Gore:

‘Countries will be asked to meet different requirements based upon their historical share or contribution to the problem and their relative ability to carry the burden of change. This precedent is well established in international law, and there is no other way to do it.’

A “Greenhouse Development Rights” approach to a global climate accord...

- Defines and calculates national obligations with respect to a *development threshold*
- Excludes incomes / emissions below that threshold from calculations of capacity / responsibility – thus allowing people with incomes *below* the threshold to *prioritize development*
- Obliges people with incomes and emissions *above* the threshold (in both the North and South) to *pay the global costs* of an emergency climate program

Development threshold?

What should a “Right to Development” preserve?

Traditional poverty line: \$1/day? ...\$2/day?

(World Bank’s “destitution line” and “extreme poverty line”)

Empirical analysis: \$16/day

(“Global poverty line,” after Pritchett/WB (2006))

For indicative calculations, consider development threshold of 125% × global poverty line

⇒ **About \$21/day** (\$7,500/yr) PPP-adjusted

Estimating National Obligations

Define National Obligation (national share of global mitigation and adaptation costs) based on:

Capacity: resources to pay w/o sacrificing necessities

We use income (PPP), **excluding** income below the \$7,500 development threshold

Responsibility: contribution to the climate problem

We use cumulative CO₂ emissions, **excluding** “subsistence” emissions (i.e., emissions to consumption below the development threshold)

What does this mean?

- This is a reference framework. Not on directly on the agenda , of course. **But...**
- There needs to be a transparent and 'fair' means of sharing out the burden (there is in the EU)
- Differentiating between countries according to **responsibility** and **capability** is a way of doing this
- The objective must be to safeguard both the climate and poor people's development.

Ecumenical Advocacy Initiative

- Comprehensive and holistic with southern and northern component.
- Collaborative ecumenical advocacy (polling and prioritization of resources, focusing of energies, linking up northern advocacy, cooperative of programme advocacy work)
- Build movement and facilitate strong southern popular and negotiating voice (outreach on equity principles – GDRs, capacity development)
- Galvanising the support of other ecumenical, environment and development CSO groups
- As well as exerting direct pressure characterised by rooted^[1], intense and sustained lobbying of the official negotiators
- Matched by immense communication and international popular campaigning action effectively **mounting pressure on timid and reluctant industrialized countries that will not be bold enough to undertake commensurate action to combat climate change.**

How can we link this to the process?

- ➡ We can use GDRs RCI to produce indicative targets for our domestic campaigns (80 + international)
- ➡ Similarly, our southern partners can use the RCI to show their relatively small domestic obligations
- ➡ There is scope within the RCI for a serious proposal on differentiation from a G77 government
- ➡ We have clear benchmarks for the discussion about what is 'nationally appropriate'

Benchmarks/Principles

- ➡ 1. **Big cuts fast in the rich world.** Industrialised countries, especially those in Europe and North America, must lead the way. National legislation, emissions reduction targets in excess of 40 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 against 1990 levels,
- ➡ 2. **No offsetting of rich world cuts.** These reductions should be made at home. We should not ask other, poorer countries to make our reductions for us.
- ➡ 3. **Binding cuts for the rich world on top of their domestic obligations.** According to the principles of responsibility and capability quantified in Greenhouse Development Rights, countries should pay for *international* cuts in addition to domestic action. These payments should be obligatory rather than made on an ad-hoc, voluntary basis.

- **4. Sharing important technology.** All countries must be prepared to share the technology that will play an important part in ensuring emissions are reduced without undermining people's opportunities to develop.
- **5. Adapting to climate change.** According to the same principles of responsibility and capability, countries must ensure that poor and vulnerable communities are supported. Adaptation to climate change must not fail for want of money or other resources.
- **6. Measurable cuts in poorer countries.** For their part, developing countries must put regulations in place to improve the efficiency of their development and, depending on their responsibility and capability to pay, will have to fund some of their own reductions – ensuring that the rich in the south do not hide behind the poor.

Greenhouse Development Rights

www.ecoequity.org/GDRs/

<http://gdrs.sourceforge.net>