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# Ambition

Summer School  
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic  
4 September 2014

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# Context for ambitious INDCs

**Q: Why do we need ambition?**

**Our common goal:**

- Reach **objective of the Convention**, the *stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*, in a manner consistent with its **principles**
- **Cancun Agreements** - Deep cuts are needed to hold increase in global average temperature to **below 2°C** above preindustrial levels.

# Context for ambitious INDCs

## **Efforts under the Convention to meet our common goal:**

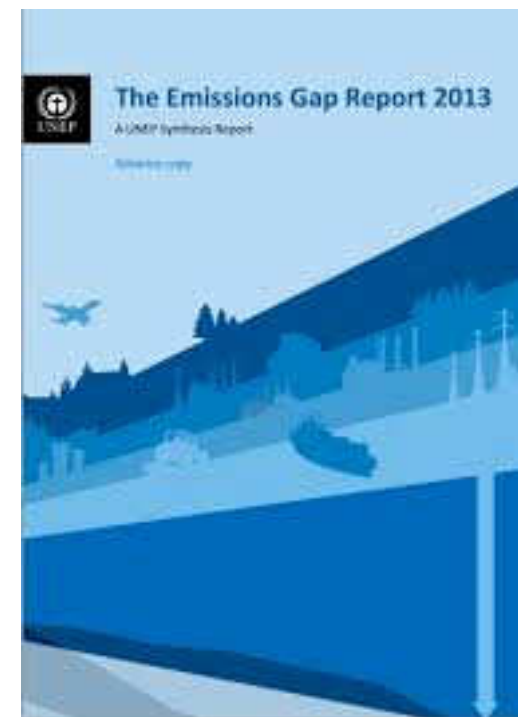
- **Convention:** All Parties shall formulate and implement programmes containing measures to mitigate CC. AI Parties shall adopt national PAMs.
- **Kyoto Protocol:** QELRC for AI Parties to reduce overall emissions by at least 5% below 1990 levels in CP1
- **Cancun Agreements:**
  - Nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions by developed
  - Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing
- **Doha Amendment** to the Kyoto Protocol

**A: For the last 20 years, our mitigation efforts have not been enough to reach our goal, and we are out of time.**



# The UNEP Emissions Gap Report

- Today developing and developed countries are responsible for roughly equal shares of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1850-2010.
- Current global GHG emission levels are considerably higher than the levels in 2020 that are in line with meeting the 1.5° C or 2° C targets, and are still increasing.
- Global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 are estimated at 59 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year under a business-as-usual scenario. If implemented fully, pledges and commitments would reduce this by 3–7 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year => only a few are on track.
- **Even if pledges are fully implemented, the emissions gap in 2020 will be 8–12 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.**



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

# Closing the Gap

- **It is still technically possible to close the gap** between business-as-usual emission levels and levels that meet the 2°C target.

## How?

- The application of strict **accounting rules** for national mitigation action could narrow the gap by 1–2 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- In addition, moving from **unconditional to conditional pledges** could narrow the gap by 2–3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e, and **increasing the scope of current pledges** could further narrow the gap by 1.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- These three steps can bring us halfway to bridging the gap. The **remaining gap can be bridged through further national and international action:**
  - EE, fossil fuel subsidy reform, methane and other short-lived climate pollutants, renewable energy
- ❖ Work stream 2 of the ADP is working to close the gap pre 2020

# UNEP Emissions Gap Report

- **Postponing decisive mitigation efforts has several implications:**
  - Higher risk of overshooting the 2°C goal.
  - The financial costs of mitigation and adaptation
  - The level of technology lock-in
  - Exhausting the remaining global CO<sub>2</sub> budget, leading to the dependence on negative emissions in the second half of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# IPCC – AR5

- At current rates, we will exhaust the carbon budget to limit warming to below 2°C degrees within the next 20 to 30 years.
- Need to emit *half* as much GHGs up to 2100 as we have already emitted over past 250 years.
- To limit increase to below 2°C , deep cuts of between 40 to 70 are needed between 2010 and 2050, with emissions falling “*towards zero or below*” by 2100.

# The case for ambitious INDCs

- Need *all* countries to act ambitiously in order to reach the 2° C goal and to avoid higher long-term adaptation costs and irreversible effects of climate change.
- By acting ambitiously, countries can take advantage of opportunities from low-emissions development
  - Economic gains from negative cost options
  - Energy security and associated economic benefits
  - Social, economic and local environmental benefits (create employment, reduce local air pollution, water quality improvements, etc.)
- Ambitious/transformational action is more likely to receive support => NAMA Facility, CGF



# Challenges

- Difficult to drive mitigation ambition from the “bottom-up”
  - Technical analysis as part of INDC preparation for identifying and prioritizing mitigation potential
  - Have countries tell their story of ambition as part of UFI – how does it contribute to objective of the Convention and align with the principles of the Convention?
- Is ambition compatible with equity and CBDR-RC?
  - Differentiated ambition – depends on economic baseline and level of development
- How can finance promote ambitious mitigation? How to capture this in INDCs?
- Many countries will include adaptation in their INDCs
  - What does ambitious adaptation look like?