

# The Climate Threat: Responses

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# The Gravest Threat to Humanity: Climate Crisis

- First decade of the 21st century -3,496 natural disasters from floods, storms, droughts and heat waves
- Most disastrous have been storms and flooding
- June 2015 - Lethal Heat waves – more than 700 dead in Karachi in jus the last 3 days;
- 2014 – Europe Floods
- 2013: Typhoon Haiyan – more than 12 million people affected
- 2010 - Pakistan Super Floods –



# Climate Change Policy Arena

From the Earth Summit 1992 – UNFCCC

Parties to the Conference (196) have met annually – from 1992 to 2014 –

KYOTO PROTOCOL: adopted 1997 - implemented 2005

2014 - COP 20 in Peru: to finalize the new climate agreement for COP 21

COP 21 – Dec 2015 : a new climate agreement to be signed in Paris in 2015 and come into effect in 2020 to replace the Kyoto Protocol

# NEW COMMITMENTS

- Commitments in 2015:
- EU – cut GHG emission by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030;
- USA – cut 26-28% below 2005 by 2025
- *Are these commitments binding?*

# Mandatory Commitments or Promises?

- These individual promises are called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDCs.
- voluntary and non-binding
- ***If the world wants to stay below 2°C of global warming — which is considered minimum —the pledges are not enough***

# Negotiations: The Weight of Policy Options

## ADVANCED CAPITALIST NATIONS :

- INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) – non-binding
- Financing – private sector pivotal
- Implementing strategies - Market-based (eg carbon pricing)
- Shifting responsibility to Third World Nations
- On Mitigation Policies/Climate Resilience -Emphasis on Green Technologies
- Trust in Multilateral Financial Institutions

# EU's Position: Climate Finance

- The EU and its Member States see ***private finance as key*** to scaling up levels of climate finance
- ***Private finance and investment will be pivotal*** to achieving long-term transformation of developing countries into low-carbon, sustainable, and climate- resilient economies
- The GCF - new solar or wind power projects in developing nations
- Welcome Carbon Trading (potential source of finance)

# EU Position on Climate Finance

- EU remains fully committed to mobilise climate finance of \$100 billion a year by 2020
- This money should come from a wide variety of sources and ***depends on meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation by developing countries***

# European Union: Climate Finance and Third World Countries

- STRESSES the need for fair burden sharing amongst developed countries and
- REITERATES its call for emerging economies to contribute to financing adaptation and mitigation of climate change in line with their respective capabilities and responsibilities.
- *What happened to CBDR?* (Common but Differentiated Responsibilities)

# EU Climate Strategy

## **TWO MAIN STRESSES:**

**Mitigation**

**Climate Resilience**

## **Framework: Neoliberal Globalization**

- Both Emphasize:
  - Alternate Energy
  - Market Interventions - Carbon Trading

# Energy Focus: Adaptation and Mitigation

- EU SET-Plan Technologies  
(Strategic Energy Technology Plans)  
Low-carbon Energy Technologies
- Wind, Solar, Electricity Grids, Bioenergy, CCS,  
Nuclear Fission
- Corporate R&D is 76% of all R&D investments  
in wind energy

# The Impact of Low-Carbon Technologies in the Third World

## *Do they Deliver Development Justice?*

- ◆ Economic and Social Justice
- ◆ Gender Justice
- ◆ Climate Justice
- ◆ Accountability to the People

# Increasing Biofuel Production

	2005 (Mill Litres)	2010 (Mill Litres)	2015 (Mill Litres)
• EU	2940	6230	11450.2
• Pakistan	143.65	263.2	321.8
• <i>Majority of Ethanol from Pakistan is exported to Europe</i>			

# Sugar Cane Production for Bio-ethanol

## Pakistan: Immense increase in Sugar Cane

- Decrease in food and fodder crops
- Decreased need for farm labor
- Very high profit margins for big landlords –especially sugar cane barons – many own land + mills;
- Immensely low paid labor – women and men paid (Rs 17/for cutting and loading one maund) 0.13 Euros

## Sugar Mill Owners have end products

- Sugar
- Molasses
- Ethanol
- Other byproducts

# Solar Panels/Wind Farms

- **Economic Justice:**

- Installation of solar panels - for one acre of land (USD7,000 )
- Big landlords and farmers installing solar panel tubewells;
- Corporate Agriculture -
- Export-led growth in agriculture

*Technologies result further increasing the gap between the rich and the poor;*

- Food scarcity;                      – land scarcity;
- Water Scarcity

# Green Technologies

- All these technologies take up scarce agricultural land (Solar, Wind, Bioenergy);

## *Results*

- Large Scale Land Grab
- Cutting up forests for acquiring additional land
- Providing land in virgin areas –Cholistan desert
- Forcible eviction from so called government land
- Criminalization of farmers – terming them as ‘robbers, land mafia,’ false police reports/criminal cases -

# Green Technologies

## *Results*

- Further economic disparity
- Increased political clout of big landlords/corporate sector
- Social fragmentation – increased poverty of small farmers/land evictions/
- Women at greater risk – violence/ag workers
- Decreased space for genuine democracy

- Environmental Costs:
  - Sustainable Agriculture?
  - – very high extraction of water from Solar Panel tube wells;
  - Export led model – increased carbone emissions?
  - Corporate Agriculture
  - Genetically Modified Plantations/Forestation
  - Hybrid seeds/GM seeds

# Further Issues

- Intellectual Property Rights on Renewable Energy Technologies
- Public Private Partnership

# The People Demand: Climate Justice

- peoples' demands for climate justice in agreeing on a ***legally-binding global climate agreement***
- that is founded on the ***principles of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and genuine sustainable development***

People Demands

*for an Equitable Climate Agreement in COP 21*

# Demands . . .

- Comprehensive and concerted but differentiated and equitable global effort to ***limit global average temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius;***

- A major component to be incorporated in the 2015 agreement:
  - Means of implementation (MOI),
  - strict monitoring, review, and verification (MRV) processes, and adaptation ;

- ***Clear, transparent, and measurable – INDCs***
- must be ***legally binding***;
- must cover a ***wide range of climate measures***,  
and ***based on the principle of CBDR***;

- Legally binding pre-2020 financial commitments from developed countries providing developing countries with USD 50 billion in climate finance by 2015, increasing annually by increments of USD 10 billion, until it reaches USD 100 billion by 2020 to enhance climate finance support for the post-2020 period;

- Institutional mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), and the COP's Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) - anchored on the principles of democratic governance and development effectiveness.

In Essence:

***Climate Justice and Development Justice***