

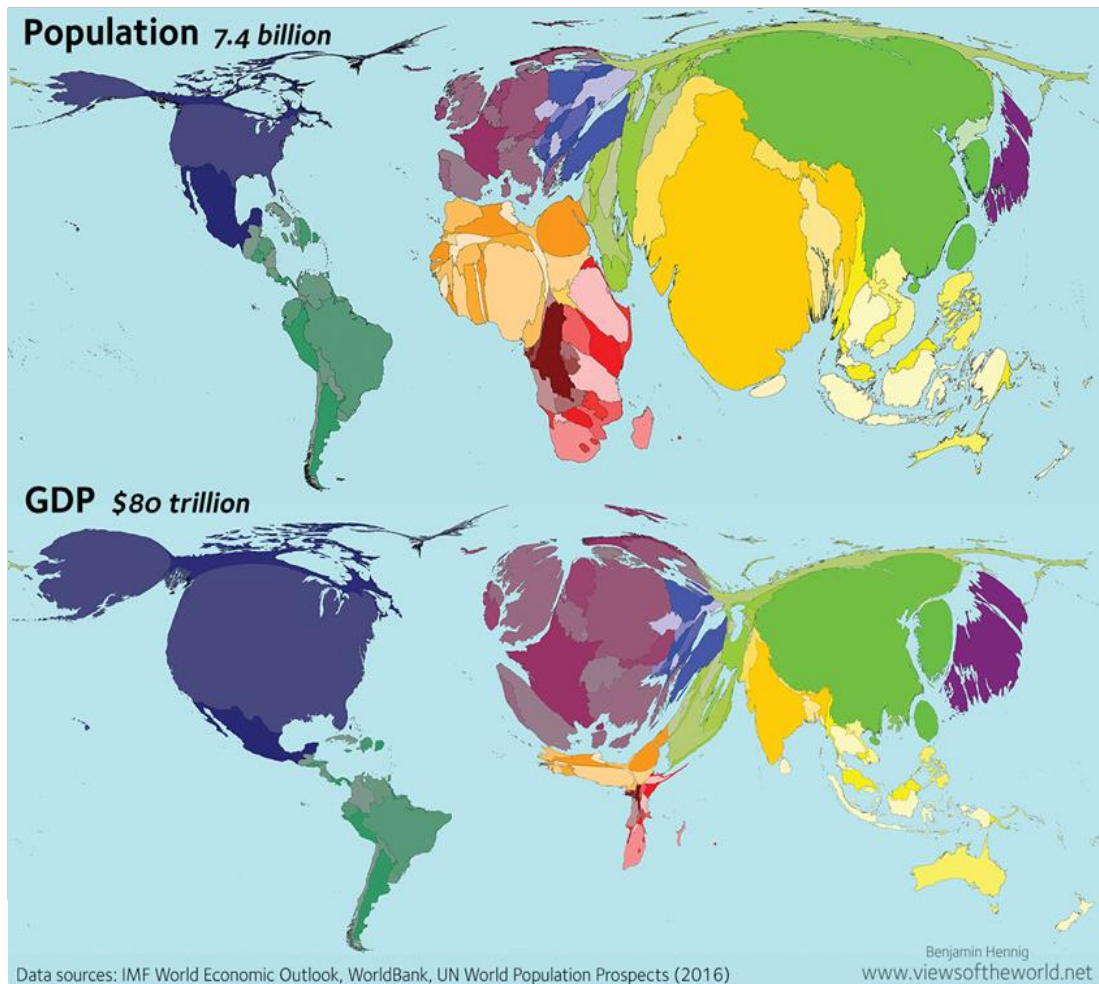


ADDRESSING THE SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Vicente Paolo Yu, UNRISD Visiting Research Fellow

MJDA 2020

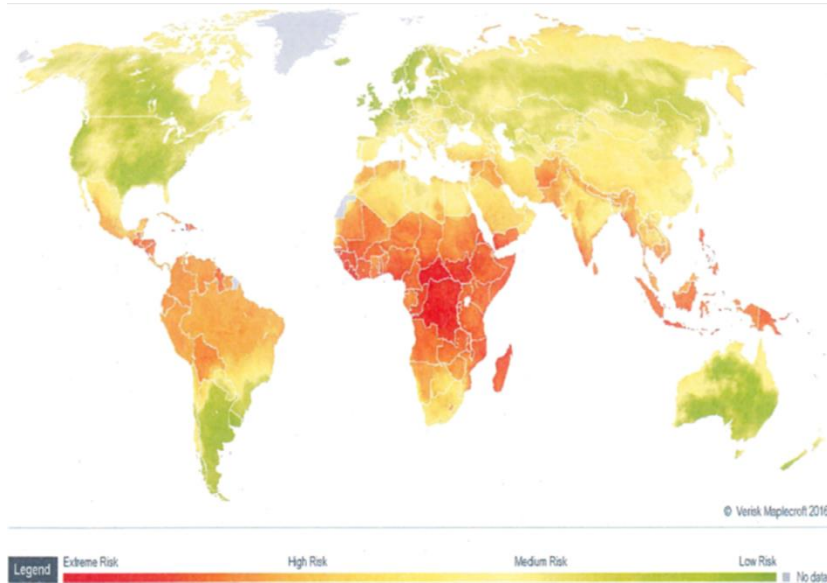
15 October 2020



- No major convergence: growth in developing countries not expected to pick up relative to developed countries in the coming years, particularly in light of global recession and impact of pandemic, climate change, biodiversity loss. North-South development gap remains.
- Developing countries have become highly vulnerable to external financial shocks because of their deepened integration into the global financial system and the ultra easy monetary policy pursued by reserve currency countries in the past decade.

**Global inequality: shaping
global economic, environmental
and social realities**

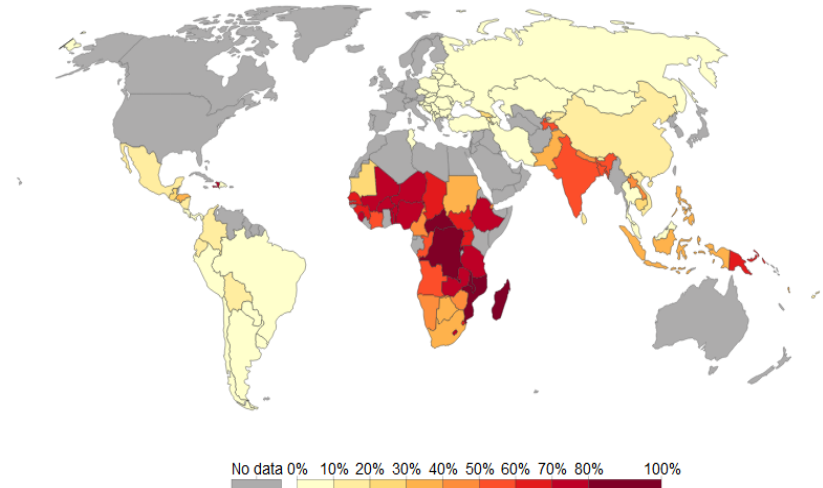
Climate Vulnerability Index 2017



Share of population living with less than 3.10 int.-\$ per day, 2014

Share of population living with per capita household consumption below 3.10 international dollars per day (in 2011 PPP prices). International dollars are adjusted for inflation and for price differences across countries.

Our World
in Data

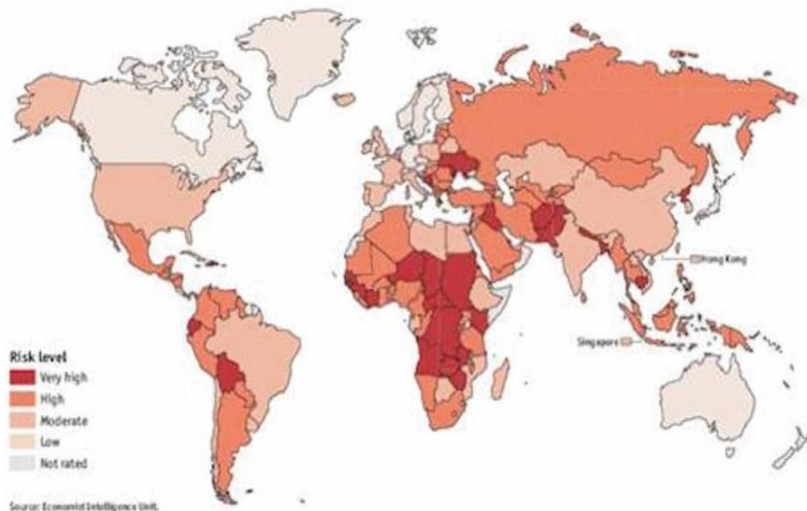


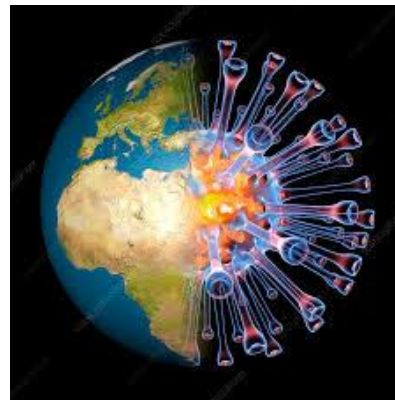
Source: World Bank – WDI

OurWorldInData.org/extreme-poverty/ • CC BY-SA

Note: Consumption per capita is the preferred welfare indicator for the World Bank's analysis of global poverty. However, for about 25% of the countries, estimates correspond to income, rather than consumption.

Political Instability Index







Global Cooperation Challenges

Institutional turf fights

Short-termism in planning and policy
implementation (national, international)

Unilateralism in international affairs

Poverty and economic inequality (global
and national)

Racism and xenophobia

Money

Public vs. private sector
dynamic

Narrative control

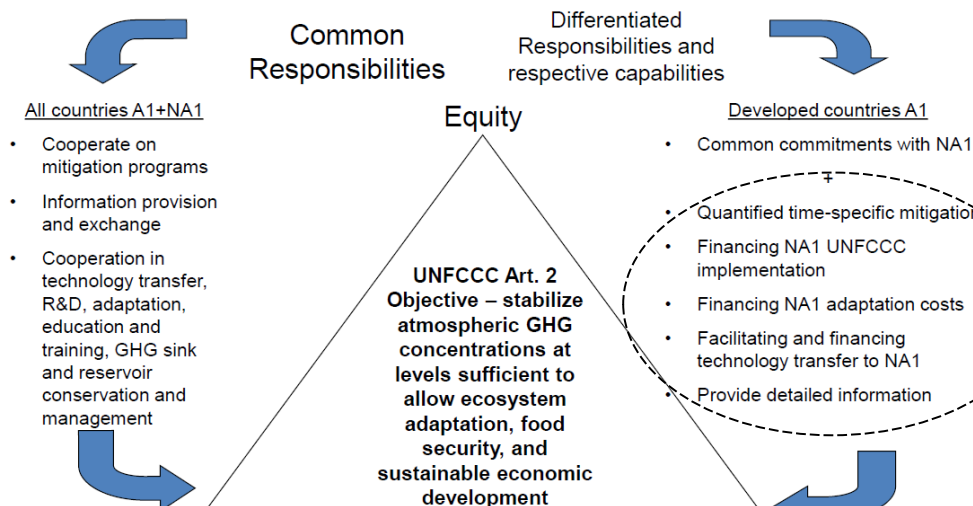
Technology development and transfer

Capacity building

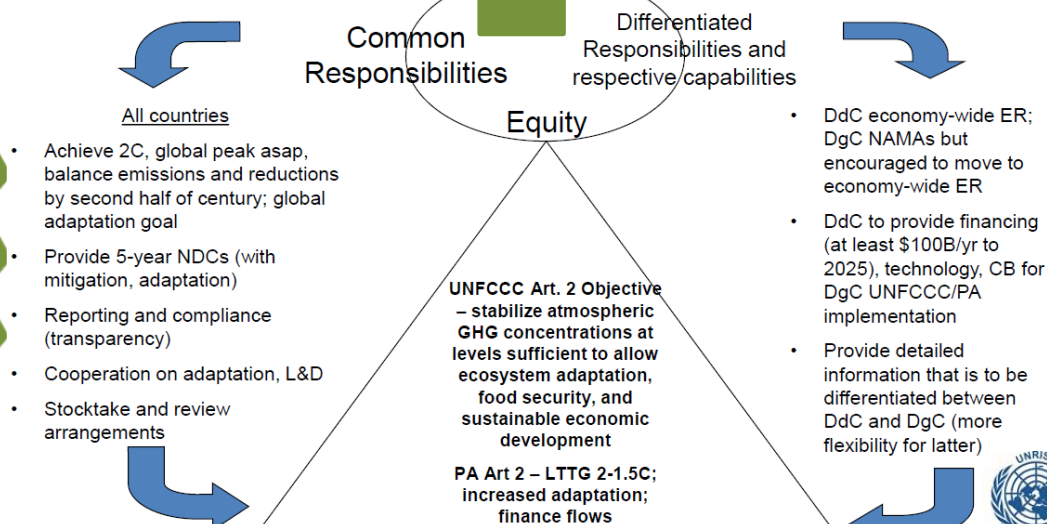
Business as usual

The Paris Agreement as a subsidiary related legal instrument of the UNFCCC (Art. 7.2 and 17)

**UNFCCC
1992
(eif 1994)**



**Kyoto Protocol
1997
(eif 2008)**

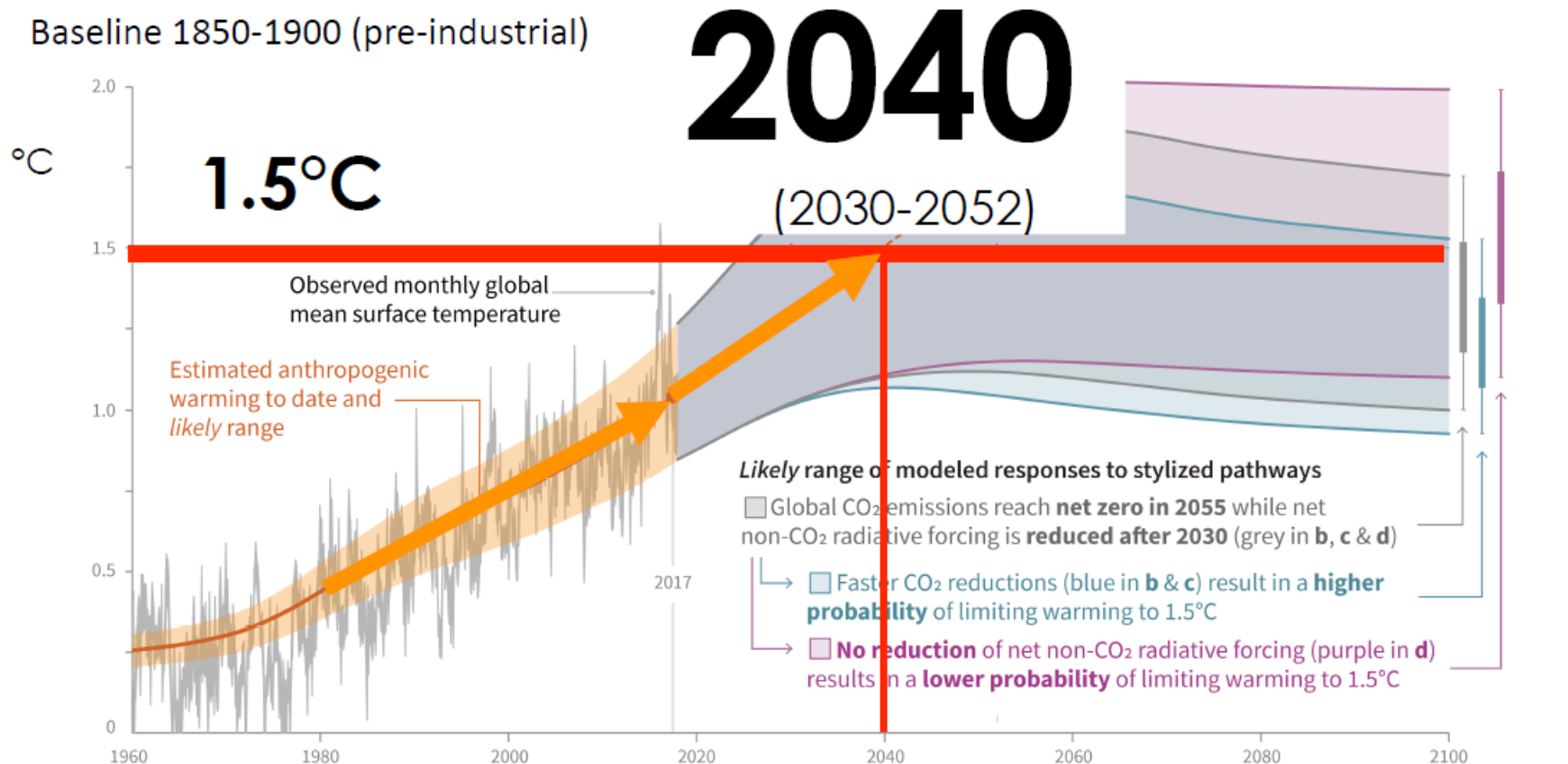


**Paris Agreement
2015
(eif 2016)**



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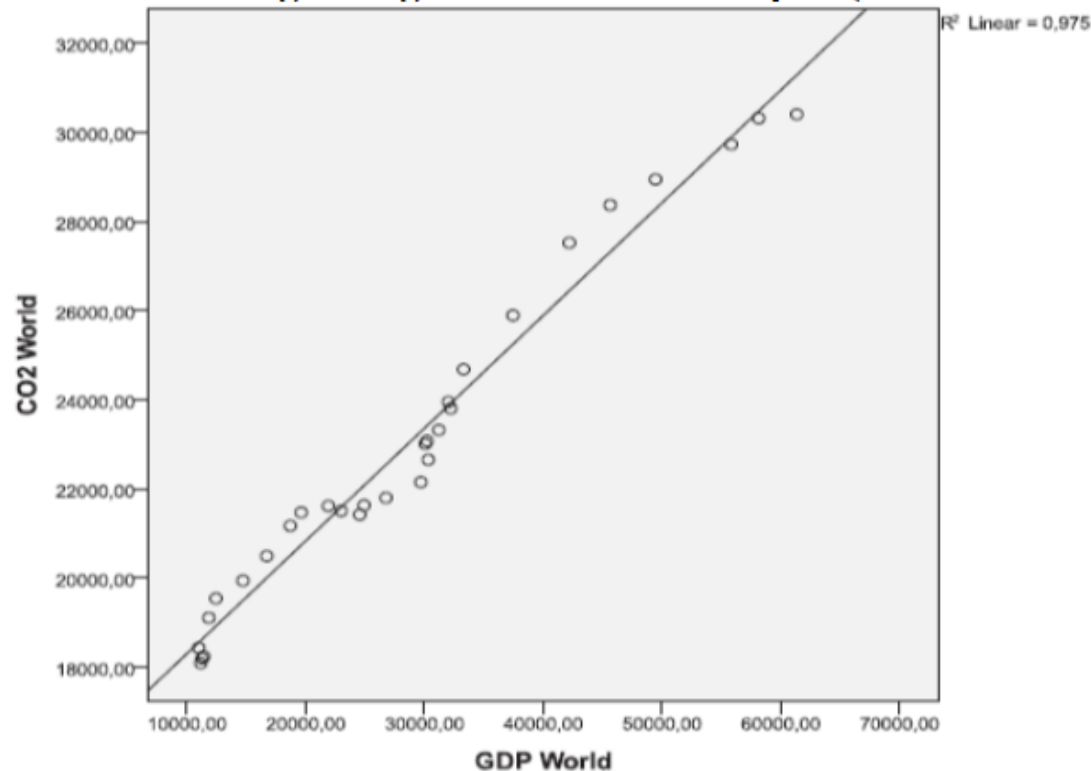
1.5°C, at current rates of global GHG emissions (around 55 billion tons CO₂eq annually, increasing around 1% a year)), will be reached between 2030 to 2052 – i.e. around 2040



IPCC, Special Report on 1.5C

- Emissions, energy, and development are linked, given current technologies and patterns of production and consumption

Total emissions 1980-2008 against global economic output (Million tons and billions)



Source: CO2 emissions + Population: EIA (2011) International Energy Statistics; data available from:
<http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/IEDIndex3.cfm>;
GDP data: World Bank (2011) World Development Indicators; data available from
<http://databank.worldbank.org/ddp/home.do>

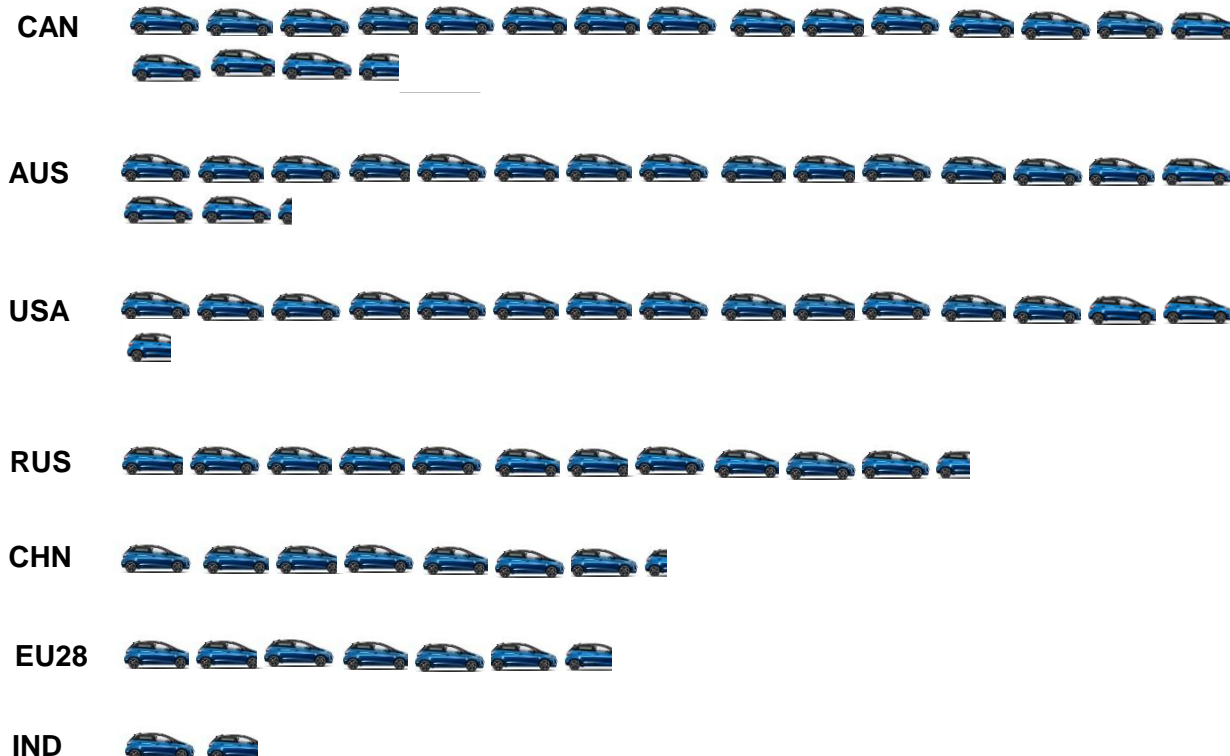


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CO2 emissions per capita: 2016 (metric ton of CO2 per person)

2016	Region
7.43	China
15.56	USA
6.75	EU28
5.12	France
9.47	Germany
6.03	Italy
9.62	Netherlands
7.76	Poland
5.43	Spain
5.59	United Kingdom
1.91	India
11.54	Russian Federation
9.70	Japan
6.90	Other OECD G20
17.20	Australia
18.63	Canada
3.46	Mexico
11.89	South Korea
4.63	Turkey
3.47	Other G20 countries
4.58	Argentina
2.23	Brazil
2.03	Indonesia
16.02	Saudi Arabia
6.97	South Africa
6.03	G20
4.06	Other big countries
2.29	Egypt
8.00	Iran
12.89	Kazakhstan
8.54	Malaysia
0.44	Nigeria
11.75	Taiwan
3.94	Thailand
5.25	Ukraine
1.61	Remaining countries
	International transport
4.79	Total

1 metric ton = 1,000
kilograms =



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Key questions underlying the climate change negotiations

- Systemic change or technology-driven solutions?
- Mitigation, adaptation, or mitigation and adaptation?
- Role of the State (policy, regulation), capital (markets, technology, finance), and people (labour, innovation)?
- Role of international cooperation arrangements (re international and domestic policy, technology, finance, innovation)?
- Equity and burden-sharing (nationally and internationally)
- Cross-issue integration and coherence (climate, biodiv, land, oceans, pollution, etc.)
- How to ensure social resilience through the transition

Climate Change and its Social Impacts and Dimensions: Key Take-Aways from UNRISD Research

- Climate change–related risks increase as a function of both the increasing number and intensity of environmental hazards and levels of socioeconomic vulnerability and exposure.
 - Climate change is fundamentally a social and political issue. Social dimensions, including the politics of transformative change, are crucial for understanding both the drivers of climate change and its impacts, as well as necessary responses to address the problem in an equitable way
 - The risks and social costs associated with environmental and climate change are very unevenly distributed and closely linked to structural inequalities which leave disadvantaged people and communities more exposed and vulnerable to climate impacts
 - Avoiding multiple injustices and adverse impacts on poor and vulnerable groups associated with climate change and green economy approaches requires applying a social lens, implementing comprehensive social policies and creating strong public institutions
- ☐ • Climate change needs to be framed as a social and political issue.
 - ☐ • Policies that engage beneficiaries actively in planning and implementation yield better results.
 - ☐ • Using an eco-social lens in policy integration can overcome tensions between different goals and actors and promote equality, redistribution and empowerment as well as environmental protection.
 - ☐ • The transition to sustainability will depend to a large extent on getting energy provision right.
 - ☐ • Transformative change will require inclusive institutions and an enabling environment for social innovation.

UNRISD Flagship Report 2016, Chapter 5 – Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change, at

<https://www.unrisd.org/flagship2016-chapter5>

Climate Change and its Social Impacts and Dimensions: Key Take-Aways from UNRISD Research

- Social-ecological resilience → People and communities will have to adapt to protect lives and livelihoods from the emerging, unavoidable impacts of climate change. Societies more generally will have to undergo transformations to overcome patterns and processes of stratification (related, for example, to class, gender, ethnicity, religion and location) that perpetuate vulnerabilities and structural inequalities. People and enterprises will also have to improve ecological resilience by, for example, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and overcoming unsustainable practices of production and consumption that push ecosystems toward catastrophic shifts and intolerable environmental and climate change impacts
- Social dimensions of climate change have been more clearly linked to the concept of adaptation to climate change rather than to mitigating its effects. Adaptation is considered most effective when it “offer[s] development benefits in the relatively near term, as well as reductions in vulnerability over the longer term.”
- Adaptation, for example, through the expansion of social protection and climate risk insurance schemes, is therefore intrinsically linked to social development and can contribute to social inclusion.
- An “eco-social” perspective for transformative change → fair and green development, for example, through addressing distributional consequences of climate change mitigation (related to energy prices, industrial restructuring and changes in the job market), promoting participation and inclusive governance for a just transition, as well as rights-based sustainable development that protects the rights of individuals and communities in the context of market-based mechanisms and green economy policies.

UNRISD Flagship Report 2016, Chapter 5 – Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change, at <https://www.unrisd.org/flagship2016-chapter5>

Key Messages

1

A new political imaginary, a clear vision of a world beyond capitalism, moving beyond asking “what is the problem and why” to asking “what do we want and how to get it”

2

“Eco-social policies” aim to shift behaviours or provide incentives for more sustainable environmental management or resource use, strengthening the resilience or adaptive capacities of individuals and communities while also achieving social goals.

■ Social policy as a driver of transformation ■ Equality of opportunity and of outcomes ■ Employment-centred economic policy ■ Social and solidarity economy ■ Just transition for social resilience ■ Empowerment, effective participation and accountability

3

Innovative leadership, participation and recognition of marginalized voices are key components of successful policy interventions that lead to socially just change

UNRISD, Flagship Report 2016, Chapter 5 – Sustainable Development in Times of Climate Change, <https://www.unrisd.org/flagship2016-chapter5>

UNRISD, Transforming Coastal City Adaptation: From Idea to Practice, Research Policy Brief 27 (June 2019), [https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=E8E113C602F9CB51C1258423004A68B9&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/E8E113C602F9CB51C1258423004A68B9/\\$file/RPB27---Coastal-City-Adaptation.pdf](https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=E8E113C602F9CB51C1258423004A68B9&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/E8E113C602F9CB51C1258423004A68B9/$file/RPB27---Coastal-City-Adaptation.pdf)

UNRISD, Social Drivers of Sustainable Development, “Beyond 2015” Brief 4 (February 2014), [https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpAuxPages\)/BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415/\\$file/04%20-%20Social%20Drivers%20of%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf](https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/httpNetITFramePDF?ReadForm&parentunid=BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415&parentdoctype=brief&netitpath=80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/BC60903DE0BEA0B8C1257C78004C8415/$file/04%20-%20Social%20Drivers%20of%20Sustainable%20Development.pdf)

Jacklyn Cock, Contesting the Colour of a Just Transition in South Africa, <https://medium.com/just-transitions/cock-eb6bcb0686b5>

**Some resources for further
reading**



Thank you

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Research for Social Change



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