Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

ZHANG Xiaohua
QI Yue
National Center for Climate Change and International Cooperation
CBDR is a fundamental principle in the context of multilateral environmental agreements

- 1972 Stockholm, 1st UNCED, Declaration on the Human Environment
- 1987 Montreal Protocol
- 1992 Rio, 3rd UNCED, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- 1994 UNFCCC
- 1997 Kyoto Protocol
- 2012 Rio+20
Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

It is also founding principle of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol

Article 4
Developed countries:
Annex I Party:
take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof;
Annex II Party:

Annex B of Kyoto Protocol
Why the principle CBDR is so important?

- Reflecting equity which is crucial for international cooperation
- It considers the various factors:
  - Historical responsibilities
  - Development stages and respective capacities;
  - Needs for future development;
  - Others…
World has been changing in last several decades

**Common responsibility** — Still facing the challenges of combating climate change;

---

**IPCC AR5 WGI Chapter2 Figure 2.20.** Annual Global Mean Surface Temperature (GMST) anomalies relative to a 1961–1990 climatology from the latest version of the three combined Land-Surface Air Temperature (LSAT) and Sea Surface Temperature (SST) datasets (HadCRUT4, GISS and NCDC MLOST)
Will the principle CBDR still applicable in the context of addressing climate change?

The COP also decides to launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties, through a subsidiary body under the Convention hereby established and to be known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.
Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

Differentiated responsibilities —— reflect the changing world and how?

Historical responsibilities

IPCC AR5 WGIII Chapter 5 Figure 5.3 (a). Historic fossil CO₂ emissions per region (territorial, (Boden et al., 2012)).
(b). cumulative emissions over selected time periods by region
## Development stages and respective capacities

All Annex II countries and 85.7% of Annex I countries are of high income and very high human development level; 76.6% of the VHHD countries and about half of the HICs are Annex I countries. That means among the non-Annex I countries only 7.2% are in the group of VHHD and 25.4% are HICs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annex I or II in HIC</th>
<th>Annex I or II as HIC</th>
<th>Annex I or II in VHHD</th>
<th>Annex I or II as VHHD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annex I countries</strong></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annex II countries</strong></td>
<td>30.70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>51.10%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


IPCC AR5 WGIII Chapter 5 Figure 5.14. Territorial (blue dotted lines) versus consumption-based (red lines) emissions in five world regions, from 1990 to 2010. The left panel presents total emissions, while the right panel presents per capita emissions. The red areas indicate that a region is a net importer of embedded CO₂ emissions. The blue area indicates a region is a net exporter of embedded CO₂.
Is the basis of the binary division still valid?

- Needs for future development
  - For the developed countries, the general strategy is to gradually moving from high carbon locked-in situation and maintain their living standard and level of development;
  - As for developing countries, the challenge is quite complicated. Development is still the top priority objective for both middle-income and low-income developing countries. However, it is also true that the traditional development pattern will not be suitable for developing countries due to the resources limitations. An innovative pathway that no one have experiences before is needed.
  - To address climate change in future, the developing countries and developed countries actually faced a development context with significant difference.
Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

Other influencing factors

- Globalization
- Culture
- Geographical locations
- Trading
- Political positions
- ……

➢ Significant changes have happened in the last 20 years, however the division of the developing countries and developed countries is still the key feature in defining country groups in dealing with climate change issue.
Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

How to operationalize the CBDR is in the core the 2015 agreement.

There are the two most important aspects of the 2015 agreement:

- One is how to make sure the collective efforts of each country could meet the requirement to achieve the Convention objectives as laid out in the Article 2 of the Convention or more specifically the 2 degree target.
- Another one is what exactly the contributions of each country will be.
Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

Common vs. Differentiated

All Parties

Developed country Parties

- Individual Party

Developing country Parties

- Capable Developing Countries
  - Individual Parties
- Others
  - Individual Parties

Individual Party

Individual Party
### Reflection of the CBDR in the 2015 Agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Developed Countries</th>
<th>Developing countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Capable Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation</td>
<td>Economy-wide ER target</td>
<td>Emission control target in line with SD goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptation</td>
<td>National NAP and contribution to the global adaptation goal</td>
<td>National NAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Technology and Capacity Building</td>
<td>Provision of FTC supports to developing countries</td>
<td>South-South and triangular cooperation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRV</td>
<td>Continuation of current approach with common accounting rules. Enhance MRV on support</td>
<td>Gradually move to common approach while less strict on accuracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal form</td>
<td>Same legal nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MANY THANKS!