

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT



ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2020

ANNUAL MEDIA CONCLAVE ON THE STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT

**Developing Countries and Climate
Negotiations: The Road to Glasgow**

1.5 °C or 2 °C?

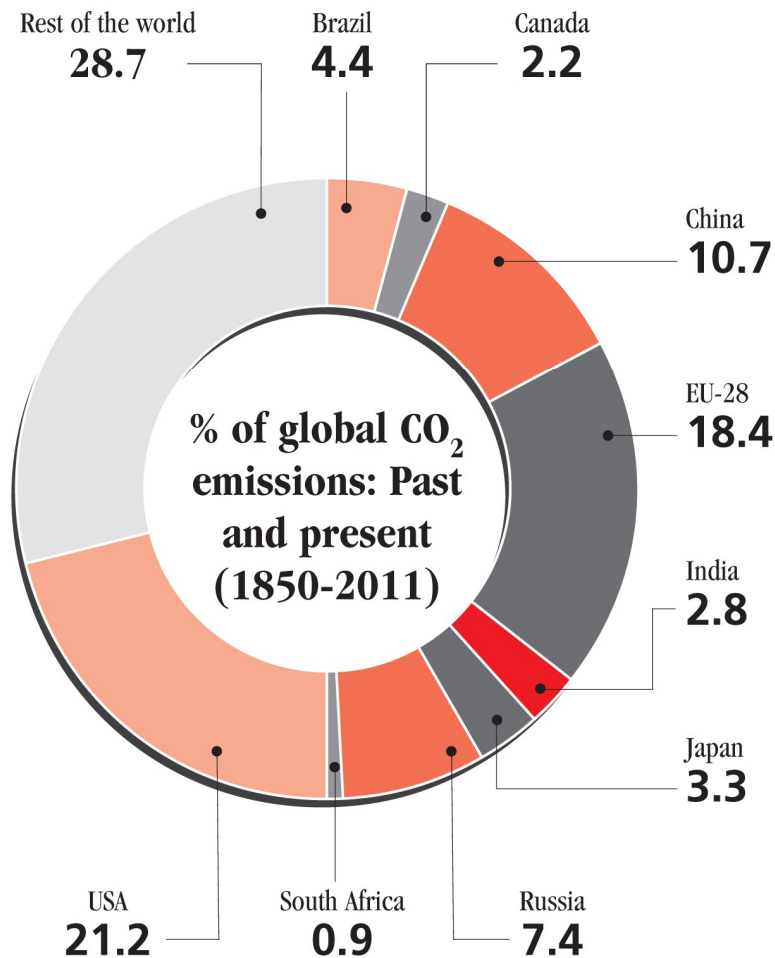
- 2°C target is favoured by developed countries and large developing countries.
- LDCs and SIDs fought for 1.5°C target at Paris.
- Paris Agreement's **compromise language**,
*[Hold] the increase in the global average temperature to **well below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels and **pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels*
- The Paris Decision commissioned **IPCC's special report on *Global Warming of 1.5 °C***, published in 2018.
- **A game-changer- Excellent science, but also used to push-back on equity and ambition.**

The 1.5 °C carbon budget

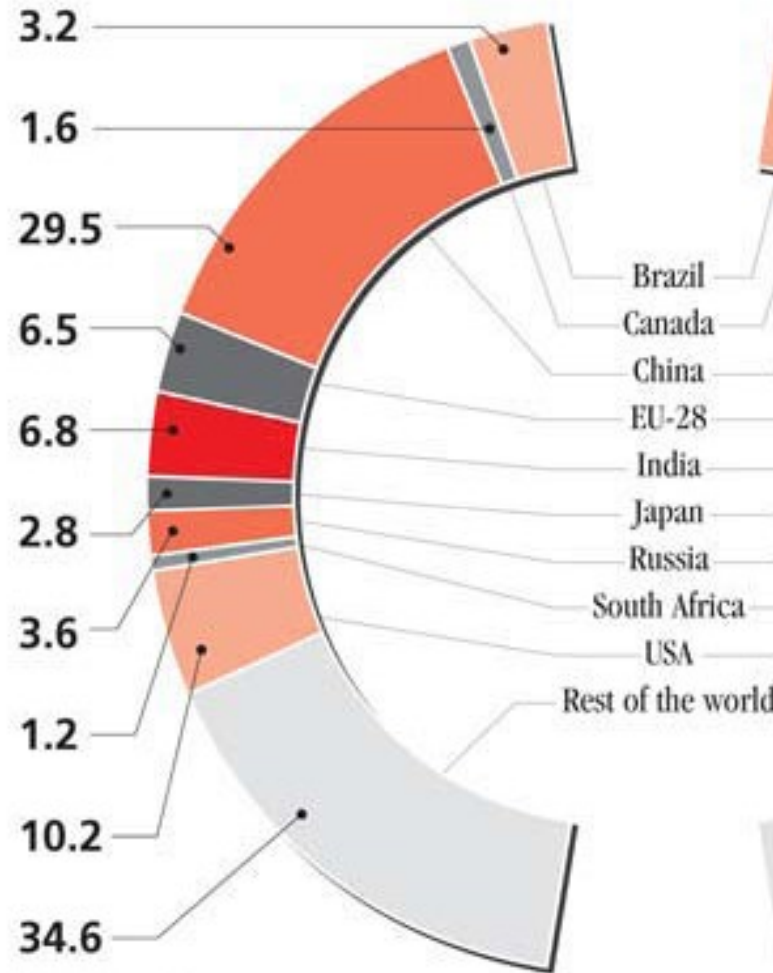
The IPCC' *1.5 °C Report* estimates a **carbon budget**: The total global emissions permitted from dawn of industrial revolution till 2100 for 66% chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Of the total carbon budget, over 80% had been emitted by 2017.

Past consumption of carbon budget reflects the iniquities of the past.

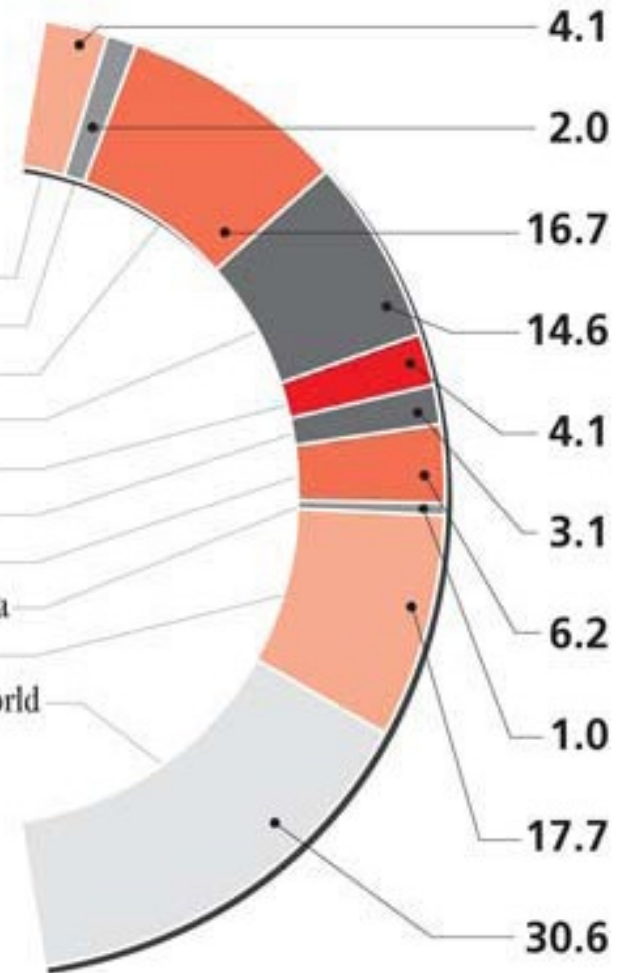


% of global CO₂ emissions: Future
2012-2030



Source: IPCC, AR5

% of global CO₂ emissions:
Past, present and future
1850-2030



China too becomes a **disproportionate polluter**.

Future consumption will merely add new dimensions past inequality.

What the *1.5 °C Report* really means

- The challenges of a 1.5 °C carbon budget **require developed countries to decarbonize rapidly** and vacate carbon space for the world's poor.
- This is in accordance with equity and *Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities*, enshrined in UNFCCC (Rio, 1992) and the Paris Agreement.
- **But a new inequity perpetuating mantra emerges: “net zero by 2050”.**

Net zero by 2050

- To limit warming to 1.5 °C, *world as a whole* needs achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; 2070 for 2 °C: *1.5 °C Report*.
- Britain, France, Denmark and New Zealand have passed 2050 net zero laws, claiming this as their fair share of 1.5 °C burden. Sweden 2045.
- But equity means developed countries must actually get there by 2030 at the latest.

Net zero by 2050

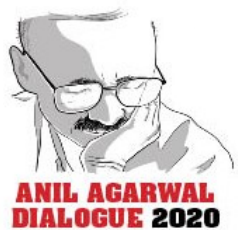
- **Distracts from drastic emissions cuts needed in the next decade.**
- 60 countries have submitted “long-term plans” to UNFCCC.
- 2050 well beyond commitment period of 2020 Paris targets-**current net zero pledges have no standing in international law.**
- Thus **Net-zero must be pledged in developed countries’ NDCs.**
- Developing countries must be helped to rapidly attain net zero through **finance and technology transfer.**

How developed countries plan to achieve net zero

- Carbon emissions must merely be balanced by carbon withdrawals:
no incentive to decarbonize economy.
- Technological means: **IPCC ambiguous on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).**
- Market mechanisms: **Buying carbon credits from poor countries.**

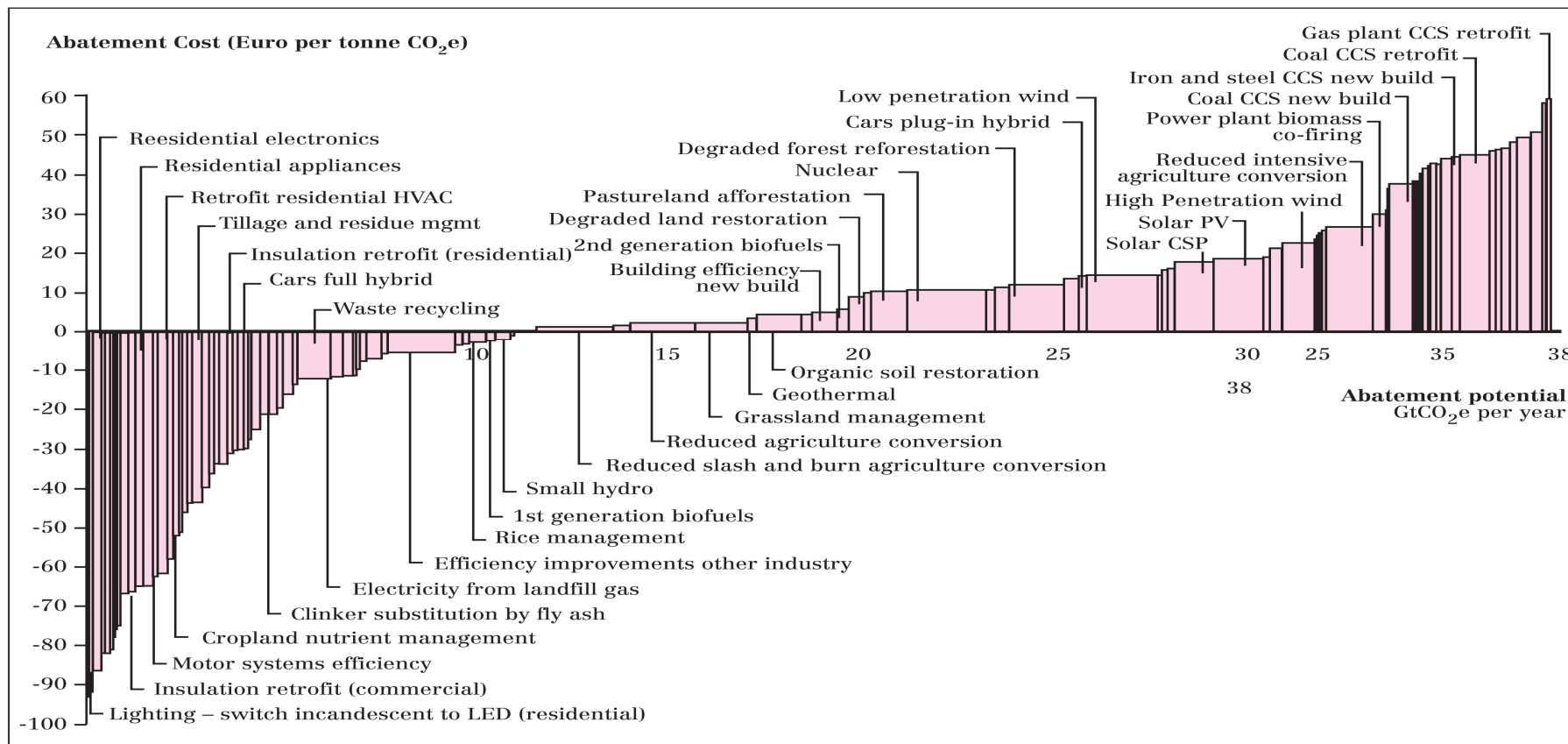
Conflicts over markets

- The rulebook for carbon markets has spilled over from Katowice (2018) to Madrid (2019) to the agenda for Glasgow (2019).
- Market perversities precipitated net *rise* in global emissions under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- This was due to cheap credits from projects in the poor world.



The rise of “Nature-based solutions”

Figure 1: McKinsey's global GHG abatement cost curve

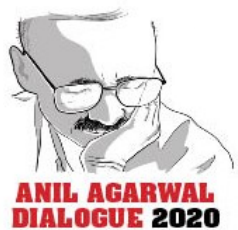


Nature-based solutions

- IPCC's special report on *Climate Change and Land* (2019) estimates **mitigation potential of forestry is barely a sixth of energy sector emissions.**
- Sequestration ceases to zero with time.
- Risk of fire, flood and poor management- Australia, Brazil.
- A “**Nature Exchange**”: Cheap forestry credits will continue **to undermine mitigation strategy.**

What Glasgow should really be about -NDCs

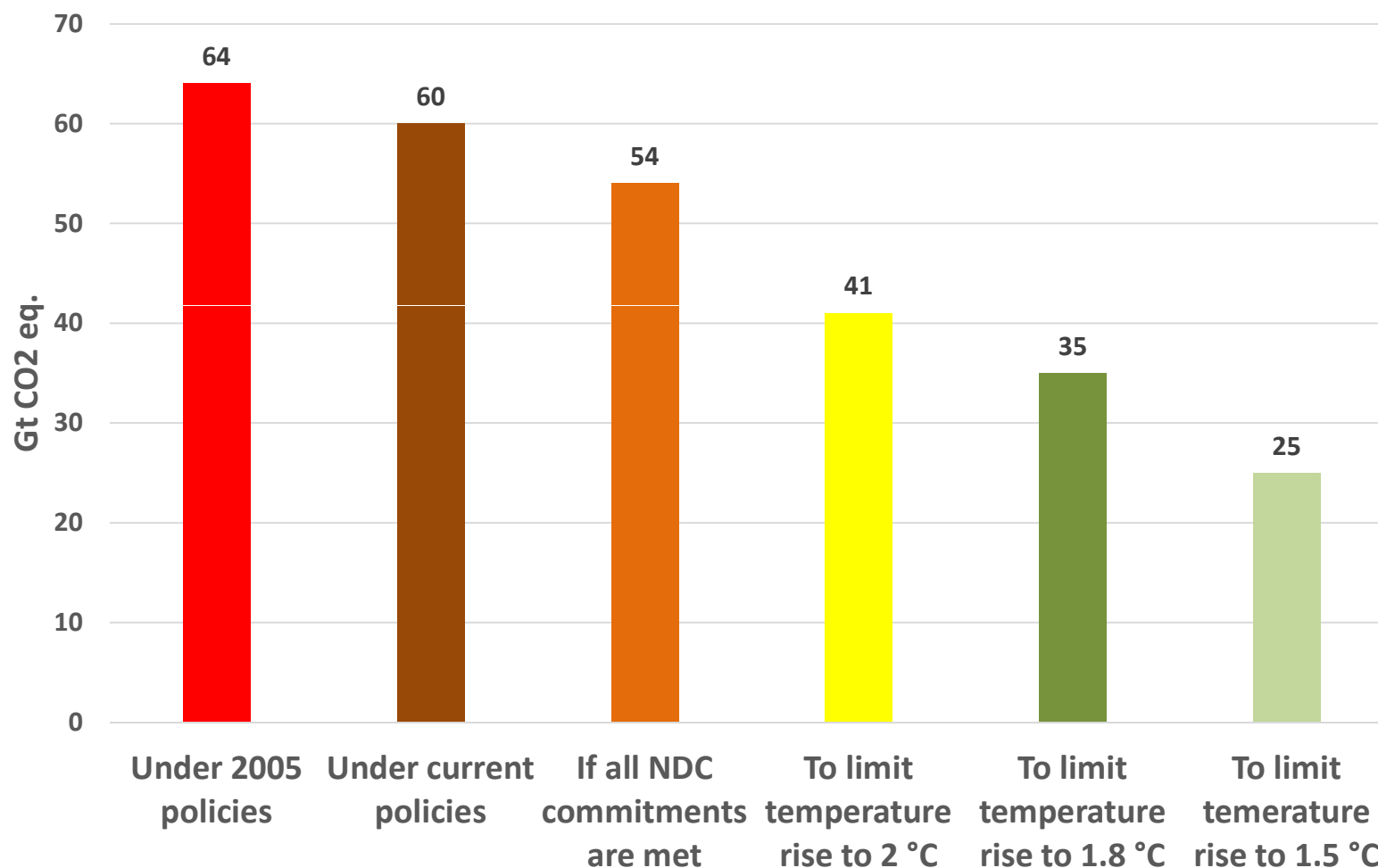
- Voluntarily agreed ***Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*** or Paris Targets.
- The **Second Round of Paris Targets** is due this year. Most present targets have 2030 as terminal year.
- **Each NDC must be more ambitious than the last, and compliant with equity.**



Despite Paris, we're still on track to a 3.2 °C warmer world.

Global emissions in 2030 under various scenarios

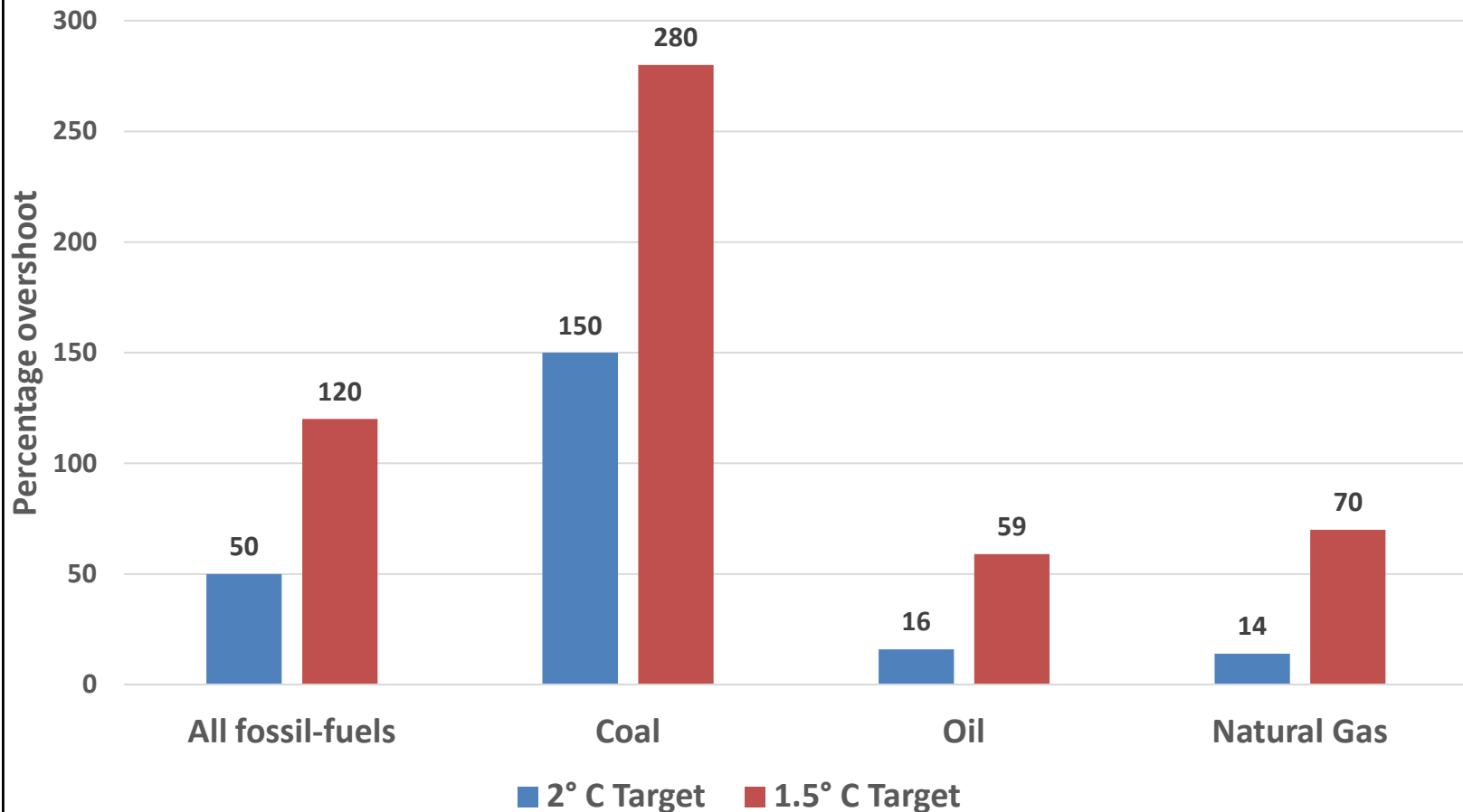
Source: CSE, based on UNEP (2019), Emissions Gap Report



'Production gap' worse than the emissions gap

Overshoot of planned 2030 fossil fuel production beyond levels commensurate with the Paris targets.

Source: CSE, based on UNEP (2019), *The Production Gap Report: The discrepancy between countries' planned fossil fuel production and global production level*



Potential regression on targets

- **“The Paris Agreement is dead.”**
- **Equity- India’s bold post-Madrid stand.**
- **A need to distinguish green-washing from transformational action.**



Measuring targets equitably

AI **DI** How ambitious are G20 climate targets?

Rating of G20 countries' climate targets and actions based on their fair share of the burden. The EU's "Insufficient" rating for example implies that if all countries acted like the EU, global mean temperature would rise by 2-3 degrees by 2100.



2 DEGREE COMPATIBLE
India



INSUFFICIENT (2-3 DEGREE RISE)
EU, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Mexico



HIGHLY INSUFFICIENT (3-4 DEGREE RISE)
Argentina, South Korea, South Africa, China, Japan, Indonesia



CRITICALLY INSUFFICIENT (MORE THAN 4 DEGREE RISE)
Saudi Arabia, the US, Russia, Turkey

Activate Window
Go to Settings to act

Source: Climate Action tracker



Climate Action Tracker uses 40 IPCC-cited studies to estimate a **fair share** of the global 1.5 °C or 2°C mitigation burden.

India only G20 economy rated 2 °C compatible. No major economy rated 1.5 °C compliant.

Performance on targets

Big economies, big emissions

Most G20 nations are unlikely to meet their Paris Agreement targets



UNLIKELY TO MEET TARGETS

Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and the US



ON TRACK TO MEET TARGETS

EU28, China and Mexico



ON TRACK TO EXCEED TARGETS BY AT LEAST 15%

India, Russia* and Turkey*

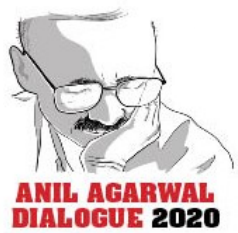


PERFORMANCE UNCERTAIN

Argentina, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia

*Russia and Turkey might meet their climate action targets, but the targets themselves are "Critically Insufficient", as per Germany's Climate Action Tracker

Source: UNEP 2019, Emission Gap Report

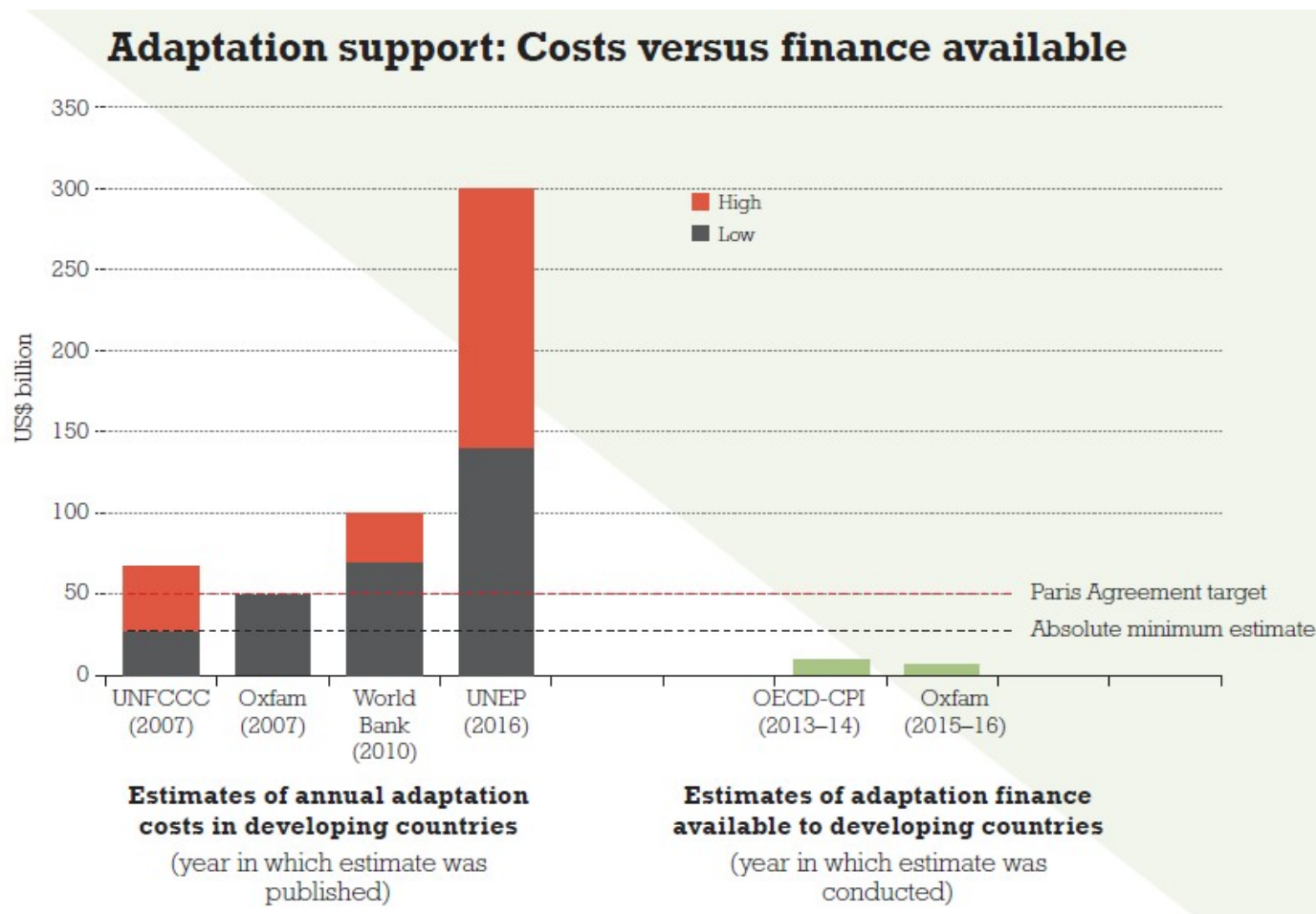


What Glasgow should be really about- Climate Finance

- Mitigation alone costs developing countries \$ 600 billion annually.
- At Copenhagen (2009), **developed countries promised \$ 100 billion annually**- In Madrid, Javadekar claimed **only 2% delivered**.
- Only \$34 billion raised: *UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance 2018*.
- But more even more crucial to the agenda for survival: **adaptation and resilience finance lags well behind mitigation**- A key African concern.
- Agenda of finance for ***Loss and Damage*** must be revived.
- **Finance, must be a headline pledge in developed countries' NDCs**



Finance commitments undermined

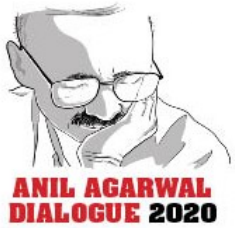




But zero political appetite for transformational action

- **US elections** days before Glasgow- **Can Paris withstand any more of Trump?**
- **Rise of right across the EU** defeating target attainment, ambition enhancement and net-zero.
- Will Chinese economy fire up on coal again?
- **Climate skeptics elsewhere** in the world- **Bolsnaro, Morrison, Putin and Abe.**





Hence “Non-state action”

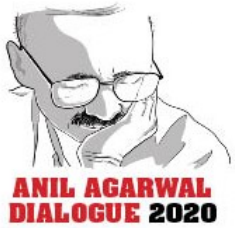
- Action by cities, states and businesses- a supplement, **not a substitute to national action** (UNEP).
- Bloomberg raising hopes that US can meet international commitments despite federal withdrawal from Paris.
- Non-estimable and **legally non-tenable: A “fraud”** criticized by developing countries and UNEP.
- But still being pushed by the British CoP presidency, **distracting from more crucial national targets.**
- Nevertheless potential to **deepen democracy: Locally Determined Contributions.**



Key take-ways

- Developed country **climate ambition numbers are not adding up-** We are on track to a 3.2 degree warmer world.
- The numbers are inequitable- **developing countries shouldering unfair share.**
- Given political hostility to climate action, **developed countries pushing obfuscating new mantras-** net zero, non-state action and nature-based solutions.
- **But the agenda needs to be brought back to equitable ambition enhancement and climate finance.**

**Reflection: Is framing the grave crisis
the world face as a “Climate
Emergency” productive? May it in
fact be regressive?**



Keywords to watch out for this year

- **Targets:** Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Paris Targets, Ambition, Equity
- **Markets:** Carbon Markets, Nature Exchange, Sustainable Development Mechanism, Clean Development Mechanism.
- **New Mitigation Mantras:** Net zero, Non-State Action (“cities, states and businesses”), Nature-Based solutions.
- **Agenda for Survival:** Climate Finance, Adaptation, Resilience, Loss and Damage.





DownToEarth Climate Weekly

*A weekly digest on impacts, politics and science of the climate emergency; from the Global South perspective. **Access our extensive coverage on climate.** You can find this newsletter in the [web here](#).*

Nov 26 – Dec 2, 2019

Dear friends,



Climate emergency is staring in our face. For close to 30 years, we at CSE have researched and reported on climate change, with a perspective from the Global South. We remain unconvinced that the world is indeed moving towards combating climate change at the scale and speed needed and with the concerns of equity so that the rights of development of vast numbers of people are secured.

We have started a weekly newsletter, Climate Weekly, to inform you about the politics and facts of what is happening in our world, including the science of impacts -- extreme rain and other havoc that is destroying

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change>

