

Making development cooperation on climate change sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable countries

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In the past five years, climate change has been appearing more and more on the headlines of our news channels. Climate change is the process of our environment changing initially due to rising temperatures. The earth is surrounded by our atmosphere, this atmosphere contains gases such as methane and nitrous oxide. The sun shines onto the earth, emitting heat which keeps us warm. This heat then rebounds from the earth's surface back up to space but is stopped in its path by the atmosphere. Due to these gasses being stored in the atmosphere, some of the heat being rebounded from the earth is forced to stay in the atmosphere. Over time, the amount of gasses in the atmosphere increases due to our constant burning of fossil fuels, in effect, holding back even more heat from leaving the atmosphere. The amount of gasses increases forcing the amount of heat in the atmosphere to also increase. Overall, the temperatures on earth increase forcing ice caps to melt, increasing sea levels, longer droughts, stronger hurricanes and overall changes in the lengths of seasons. Countries all over the world are working together in order to reduce the effects of climate change however it is easier for countries with more money than countries with less. Countries with a struggling economy are also struggling to fight climate change; this makes it close to impossible to change power sources. For countries with the money, their futures can be saved however for countries without the money, their futures may consist of constant floods if nothing is to be done. Therefore when tackling the issue of climate change, it is important to look out for the most vulnerable countries whether their vulnerability is measured on their lack of money or susceptibility to the effects of climate change.

Definition of Key Terms

Mitigation: the action of decreasing the seriousness or severity of something.

Legally binding agreement: An agreement where, if not met, there will be legal action taken against the party in the agreement.

DAC Members (Development Assistance Committee): A group of nations defined as developed. They are expected to help developing countries economically and morally.

Overly

History:

It hasn't even been 100 years since we first realized that the earth's temperatures were increasing. To this day, there are still different perspectives on the topic which does not help in finding a solution. Some people do not believe in climate change

whereas others are constantly working to beat it. This difference in opinion, unfortunately, stops countries from working together.

The idea of climate change has not been around for very long mainly because it only started becoming an issue after the industrial revolution.

In November of 2015, the largest climate change conference was held in Paris. The goal of this conference was to make a resolution that aims at mitigation of climate change using legally binding agreements and non-legally binding agreements.

The most significant fragments of the Paris Agreement is as follows:

- Limit the world's temperature rise to (at maximum) 2 degrees Celsius.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Change to green energy.

However, each country had an individual plan taking into account their current situation in regards to climate change.

A major section of the agreement was related to finance. It stated that developed countries (together) *must* offer at least \$100 billion a year to developing countries in order to help them afford the transition to green growth. The majority of this money going towards mitigation.

Key Issues

A key issue when it comes to battling climate change is the cost. Not only the cost to reduce the climate changing in the future but the cost to repair and prepare ourselves for climate change has to offer (flooding, drought etc.). There is a direct correlation between developed countries and their lack of vulnerability towards climate change. Furthermore, countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change are considered developing nations. This is because these nations are located in places that require money to survive in that climate. The climate affects crops, houses and energy producers, over all negatively affecting the well being of the country. Being vulnerable to climate change results in a large need for economic aid, which makes it hard to tackle climate change.

Moreover, negotiating has always proved to be difficult. But when it comes to donating large sums of money to other nations, negotiating becomes even more difficult. A key issue is the two major perspectives, developing nations want more money whereas developed nations want to keep more money.

Major Parties Involved

- China: Set up a foundation with the aim to help developing countries, offering over \$3.1bn.
- DAC (Development Assistance Committee) members; Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

- Developing countries vulnerable to climate change; Honduras, Myanmar, Haiti, The Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Thailand, The Bahamas. (See appendix I for more information on vulnerable countries).

Evaluation of Previous Attempts

The biggest previous attempt was the Paris Climate Change Conference back in 2015 where it was stated that countries must come up with \$100bn to help developing countries switch to green growth. In hindsight, it is a good idea, for the economically developed countries to help developing countries however when it comes down to it, it is not that simple. The Paris Climate Change conference was not originally supposed to last longer than a week, but due to intense debate and a few disagreements, it lasted for two weeks. A huge disagreement arose when the talk about how much developed countries should be paying in order to help the developing. Of course, countries did not want to spend their money on countries other than them and the developing countries kept wanting more, saying that what they were agreeing on was not nearly enough. It was a difficult situation because developed countries were afraid that their money was going to be wasted, as there would be no advisers watching over it being spent.

Furthermore, because there was such a large disagreement, there was only a basic outline of how much developing countries must contribute together; this leaves too much room for debate. In this state, a developing country could offer half a million whereas another, possibly less economically developed, would offer 3 million. Overall, the guidelines were not clear enough.

In addition, there were requirements from the DAC to offer money seeing as they are 'developed'. However, although all these countries are developed when it comes to quality of life, health care, education and infrastructure, a few of them are not economically developed which makes it unfair and difficult for them to offer money. The two examples are Spain and Greece. Both countries are considered developed despite their struggling economies. It would not make any sense for them to give out money to other countries when they are struggling to support themselves.

Possible Solutions

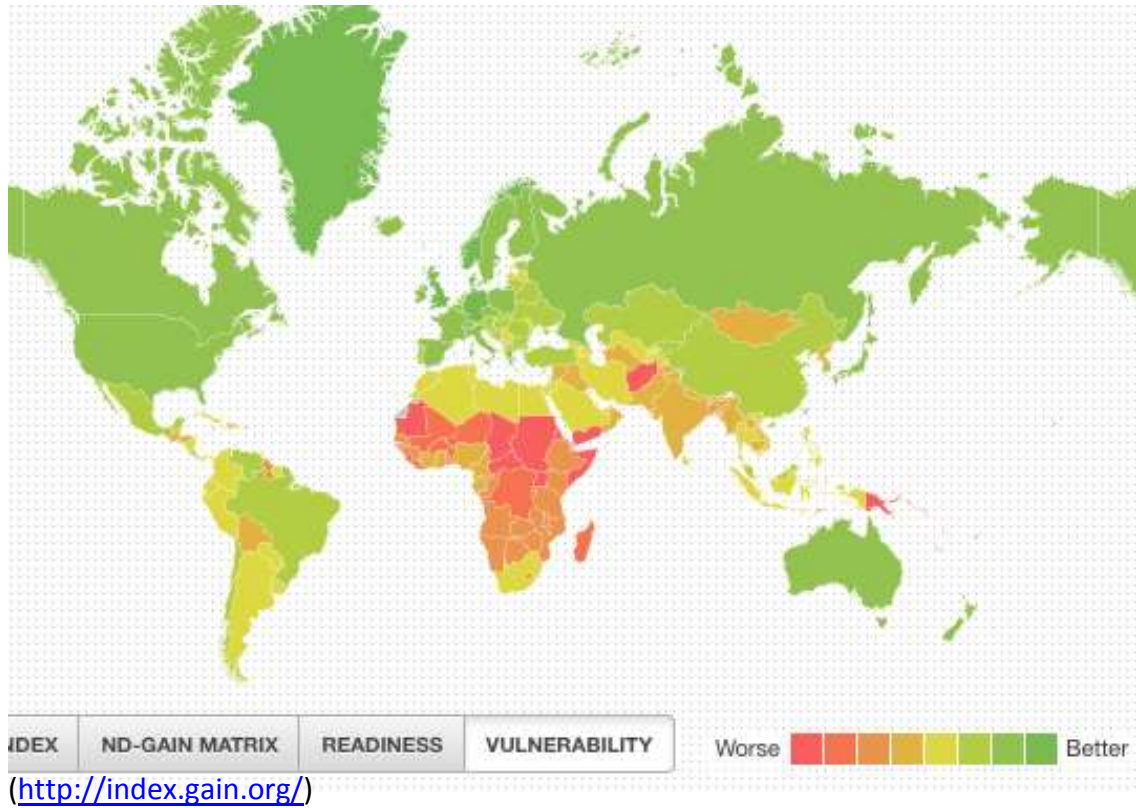
Looking at previous attempts, it seems as if there have been mistakes with the foundations of the plans, like the members of the DAC and their capability to financially aid developing nations. Therefore one possible solution is to re-create the DAC by including nations who pass strict criteria, especially when it comes to their economy. This would allow for a group of nations who are well developed and are able to economically aid other nations without creating such a burden.

Another possible solution would be to set fine guidelines, stating how much each DAC member must contribute to developing countries who are vulnerable to climate change. The amount of money expected by these countries should take into account the GDP, inflation rates, state of the economy etc. Furthermore, independent staff

should oversee the negotiated amount so the amount would not be biased. This would allow for a fair amount to be donated.

In addition, there should be a group of staff who are qualified when it comes to knowledge of turning green and climate change. This group of staff can oversee the donations and make sure that the money is being used correctly and wisely. If needed, these staff members could also provide verbal advice / aid to developing nations.

Appendix I



Map showing the vulnerability of each country to climate change. Countries in red being the most vulnerable, ranging to green being the least vulnerable. Map correct as of 2015.

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