Equitable access to sustainable development: Contribution to the body of scientific knowledge

COP-17 / CMP-7 Durban – South Africa

The importance of Historical Responsibility in the context of International Regime on Climate Change

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Cancun Decision (Dec. 1/CP.16)

- The COP recognized
 - that deep cuts in GHG emissions are required according to:
 - science;
 - as documented in the IPCC 4AR;
 - holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 °C above pre industrial levels;
 - that action should be taken to meet this long-term goal, consistent with science and on the basis of equity.



Opportunity to restart the consideration of global mean surface temperature as a proxy for global warming.

Contributions to temperature Increase		
	1850/2005	1850/1990
	CO ₂ (energy)	CO ₂ (energy+cement)
Country	WRI/CAIT %	Brazilian proposal %
China	8.39	3.05
India	2.22	0.90
South Africa	1.10	0.21
Brazil	0.80	0.32
BASIC	12.51	4.48
Non Annex I	26.48	10.35
Annex I	73.52	89.65



Quantifying the relative responsibility of developed countries in relation to developing countries based on their contribution to the increase in global mean surface temperature must be part of the equation.