



Equity in climate change mitigation A South African approach

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Principles, from the UNFCCC

- 3.1 – “The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.”
- 3.4 – “The Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.”

Translating this into burden-sharing

- Dealing with the climate crisis needs to be combined with the need to develop, sustainably.
- The key problem is the transition – who should use how much of the carbon space we have left, in the transition to a low-carbon global economy
- Responsibility – cumulative emissions
- Capability – should be broadly conceived in development terms
- Any equitable outcome should combine the above with a requirement to address the problem of the transition – developed countries should lead

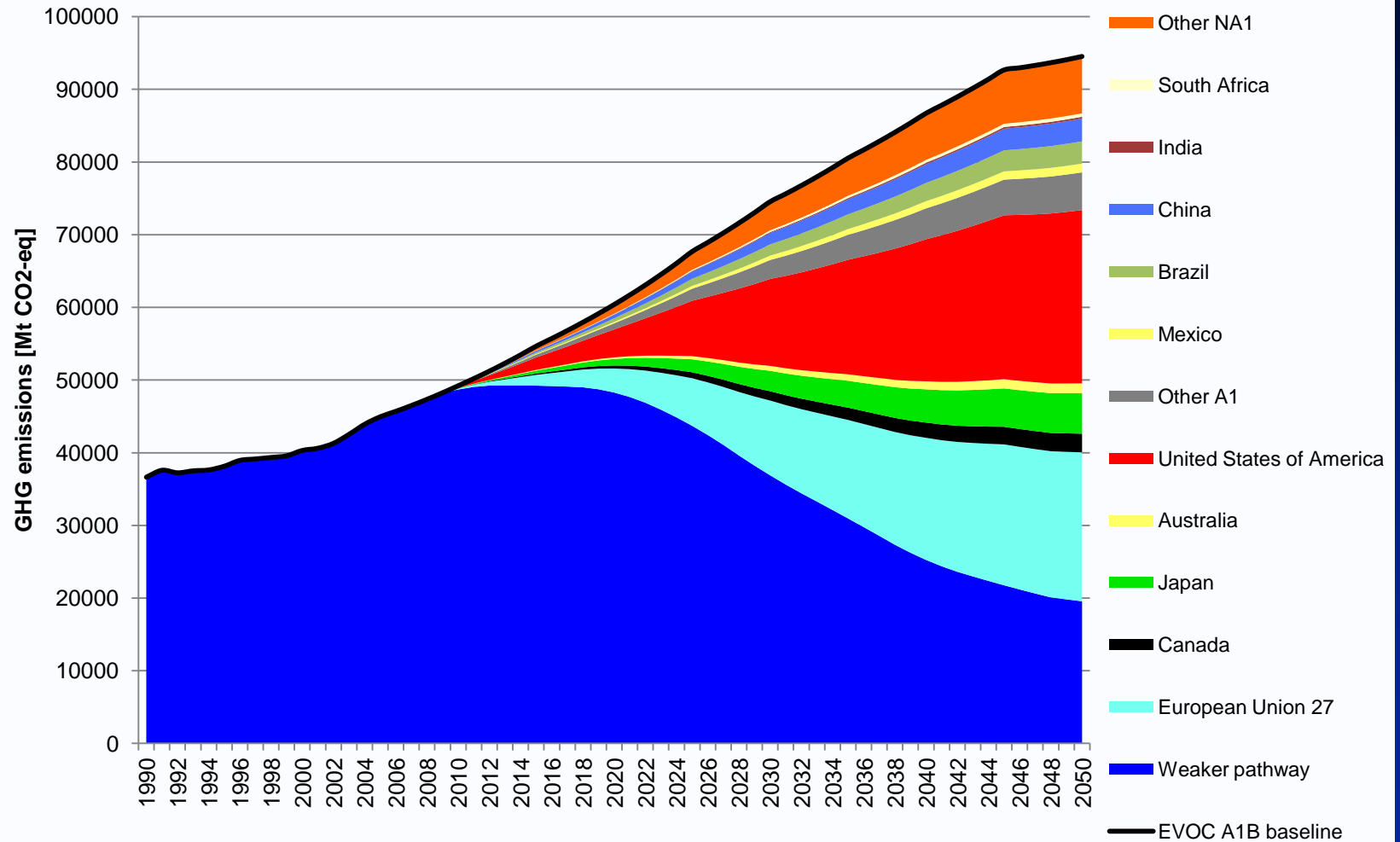
Development space and mitigation

- The South African approach is an effort-sharing approach, not a budget approach
- Very much inspired by the Greenhouse Development Rights approach
- Begins with considering what carbon space is still safely available
- Projects a global baseline
- The difference is the global mitigation burden
- The burden is then divided between countries according to their responsibility, capability and level of development

Quantifying Responsibility and Capability

- Responsibility – share of cumulative emissions, 1850-the present
- Capability defined more broadly, both in terms of access to resources / wealth, and also in terms of development requirements – use of the UNDP's Human Development Index
- Indicators are combined, weighting responsibility 60/40, to determine each country's share of the global mitigation effort.
- Each country's carbon space to 2050 would then be that country's baseline emissions to 2050, minus that country's share of the global effort. This could be negative.

Outcomes



THANK YOU