

## A Crunch Issue in Lima: Equity & Differentiation

### What is the background?

Principles of equity and differentiation have been at the center of climate negotiations since the beginning. Historically, the issue of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities” has focused on the divide between Annex 1 (Developed) and Non-Annex I (Developing) countries. At its core, these principles have recognized that those countries that have historically contributed the most to the problem, and have the greatest financial and technological resources at their disposal, should commit the most to the solution. Division over this issue has been one of the most difficult issues in reaching agreement on a new global climate deal.

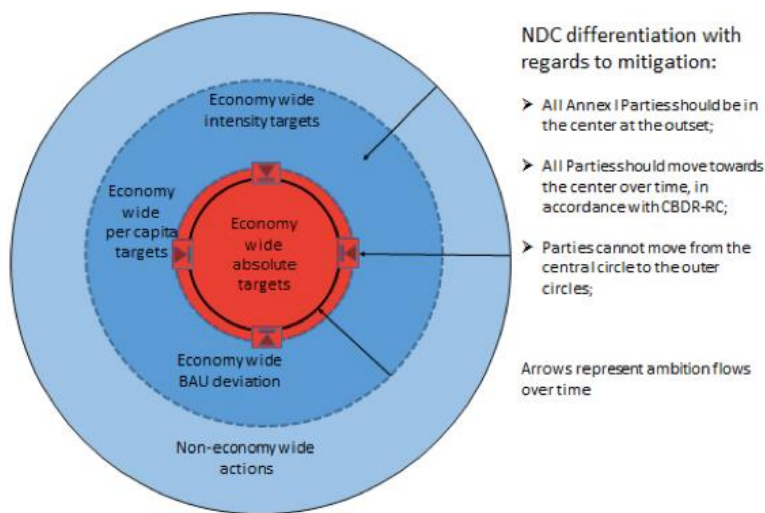
### What is the current state of the negotiations on issues of equity and differentiation?

Already, in the lead up to the negotiations at COP13 in Bali, a number of developed countries who believe the rigid division between developed and developing countries under the Convention as embodied in the Annexes is outdated and have sought to redefine this issue. From their perspective, as many developing countries have grown economically, they believe the Convention should evolve to reflect that changing reality. On the other hand, many developing countries have argued that Annex 1 countries continue to have very high responsibility and capability, and have yet to live up to their original commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention. Due to this lack of trust, they also have taken a strong position against what they see as an attempt to re-negotiate the Convention and its principles.

Interestingly, since the COP 17 negotiations in Durban, there has been a growing sense that we cannot have these absolute polarized positions, and there is a need for flexibility in the approach to differentiation.

To that end, a number of proposals have been developed. Brazil, for example, has presented an option (see diagram below) called “Concentric Differentiation, that would create a tiered system with varying levels of responsibility. It includes differentiation within the group of developing countries, and the ability to “graduate” from one level to the next based on the responsibilities and capabilities of a given country. Other proposals for new arrangements for recognizing differences between countries have been tabled, some building on the existing Annexes, and others starting from a blank slate.

While there is a growing middle ground on this crunch issue, ultimately how that conversation moves forward depends on gaining trust that countries, particularly developed countries, will fulfill their obligations.



**Figure 1: NDC differentiation with regards to mitigation**

### WWF's Take:

- Parties must apply a science and equity approach to mitigation responsibilities that would, in effect, lead to the maximum efforts from all countries, while recognizing that countries have very different levels of responsibility, capabilities and development, through a flexible and evolving approach to differentiation;
- Parties must agree on criteria to guide countries in identifying their appropriate level of effort, so that countries with capacity to do more, are required to do more;
- Brazil's proposal is a good start to open the conversation. WWF believes that it could be strengthened through establishment of criteria, and also build in differentiation in information requirements and timing of submission of country commitments and reporting requirements for various levels of responsibility/capability.