
Overview: Climate Crossroads
From “Beyond Kyoto: Advancing the
International Effort Against Climate Change”

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PEW CENTER

Global CLIMATE CHANGE

Think Pieces

6 Core Issues

- Long-Term Climate Target
- Climate Commitments
- Equity and Climate
- Addressing Cost
- Development and Climate
- Trade and Climate

Beyond Kyoto

Common Themes

Key ingredient is political will

- Need a technology revolution
 - Private sector must play key role
 - But will do so only if government demands
- Generating political will
 - Domestic elections, weather
 - But also, resourcefulness in fashioning common approaches
- What types of international approaches best capture and motivate political will?

A question of national interest

- **Climate is a collective challenge....
.....but countries will engage in collective action only if they perceive it to be in their national interest**
- **Not simply an environmental issue, but fundamentally one of economics and development**
- **International strategy must come from “bottom up” as well as “top-down”**

A more flexible architecture

- Kyoto has flexibility but only one type of mitigation commitment
- Accommodating diverse national interests requires a broader range of commitment types and climate strategies
 - Creating a “more variable geometry”
- Greater heterogeneity poses policy challenges
 - Metric to assess relative levels of effort
 - Linkages between different frameworks

Choosing the forum and quorum

- Defining the universe of participation
 - What are the best institutional forums?
 - What countries are needed at what stage?
- A global approach?
 - Strong environmental, economic, equity rationales
- Parallel efforts?
 - Mix of bilateral, regional, multilateral
- Major emitters approach?
 - 12 parties responsible for 80% of CO₂

Targeting Action, Not Only Emissions

- “Activities” focus can bypass uncertainties, help build broader political support
- Long-term “activity target?”
 - Cost-effective sequestration technology by 2025
 - Replace gasoline with hydrogen by 2050
 - Zero net emissions from energy sector by 2060
- “Input” goals for developing countries?
 - Energy, transportation measures can promote climate and development objectives
- Potential tradeoffs
 - Environmental certainty, cost-effectiveness

Avoiding the Minefields

- Focus on issues that are productive to consider
- Long-term target
 - How negotiable?
- Equity essential
 - But is a single criterion of equity
 - negotiable?
 - necessary?

Reaching Beyond the Climate Circle

- Need to engage broader range of ministries and stakeholders
- Domestically
 - Need support of finance, trade, industry ministries – and their constituencies
- Internationally
 - Engaging other institutions and forums:
 - WTO, aid agencies, development banks
- Stronger action requires broader coalitions in and out of government

Framing Future Efforts

- Engages major emitters
- Satisfies collective sense of fairness
- Provides flexibility for different national circumstances, strategies
- Integrates climate and development
- Allows for activities-based approaches
- Couples near-term action, long-term focus
- Addresses adaptation needs

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