



SCOTIA GROUP



PROPOSAL 3.
COMMUNITY ACTION

GLASGOW PROPOSAL FOR A
BOTTOM-UP APPROACH



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We need concrete – and specific and achievable – ideas that move beyond generalised appeals to the ‘how’ this will happen. Attempting to impose legally binding commitments on states will face political hurdles and may be difficult to surmount. Multilateral legal targets for reducing emissions scuppered Kyoto and led to the Paris approach of bottom-up target setting at a national level driven by enlightened self-interest.

It is important not to build a divisive global system for climate action that leads to wider disparities based on the capacities of different countries. We should not build in unfairness to the system but, rather, build on what we know of human behaviours and communities, which is based on the supposition that we care more for those we have ties to (social, cultural, economic). To achieve this, it is suggested that we:

1. Should push national net zero targets into national law (see for example the German court throwing out the current German emission reduction plan as not being sufficiently robust to meet its obligations).
2. Construct ‘a linked arm’ process (the ‘Scotia Process’) which is that actors with greater capacity help those that are willing to take action but lack the ability in two ways:
 - a. For each country with a robust net zero target to support two other countries to meet net zero. i.e. each country supports two other countries with which it has economic, cultural and social ties to get to net zero; and
 - b. Building a network of small collaborations between countries (rich, poor; north, south) which have existing ties, making the whole both more manageable and more politically acceptable.
3. This ‘linked arm’ Scotia process– one country helping two other countries – has the advantage that it avoids the politically difficult proposition (for governments) of putting large amounts of cash/know-how into general multilateral organisations (which are very distant from individuals and communities ‘on the ground’) and ground the conversation in supporting practical action in a country about whom much is known.
4. We need to anchor our efforts by adapting to the existing mechanisms rather than try and build a new international consensus for a new organisation, particularly given today’s geopolitical rivalry:



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- A UN 'global government' seeking to enforce legally binding targets on powerful states may be resisted. This was recognised by the architects of the Policy Proposal 3. Community Action 1 Paris Accord in getting countries to set their own targets rather than have them imposed by a central UN body. i.e. bottom up target setting and seeking to develop a 'race to the top' in pledges, rather than trying to impose by fiat.
 - We should be cognisant of the failures of the Kyoto Protocol and the negotiations through until Paris.
 - We should be alive to the complexities of establishing an international framework for meeting climate targets.
5. We need more concrete proposals which go beyond the Paris Agreement (bottom-up national pledges) such as:
- Focus on the sub-national space, given that many sub-national places are moving faster than their national governments; and
 - That peer-to-peer learning is the only way we will scale our knowledge around the world at the speed and scale required. This finds support on discourse around the just energy transition and scaling the energy revolution.
6. In lieu of a tiered or hierarchical system, we may have a 'partnering' or twinning arrangement, where a leading developed country works to support one developing country with which it has ties. And the developing country itself supports another country etc.
7. We need better ways of monitoring emissions for example though:
- Technologies such as AI), and
 - The power of sharing legal frameworks which have been successful in supporting rapid emission reductions in national countries e.g. through independent climate committees to advise, support and audit governments (like as the UK's Climate Change Committee have done), or the five year carbon budget frameworks;
 - Export these effective national laws, committees, and budget frameworks to other countries.