



**Mary Robinson
Foundation**
Climate Justice



WORLD
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Perspectives on Equity

Applying principles and embracing action

Why is equity important?

Closing the emissions gap: The UNFCCC cannot raise ambition without tackling equity. The Durban Platform provides an opportunity to do both. Equity cannot be about "sharing failure".

To engage all countries: the 2015 agreement needs to be judged fair by all to achieve a universal agreement.

To protect the most vulnerable: The new agreement must protect the most vulnerable – by addressing the causes of climate change and taking action to address the unavoidable impacts.

To avoid injustice: equity is an important principle in addressing past and present injustices and in avoiding any future injustice.

For future generations: Acting now for the benefit of present and future generations is the basis of equity



Justice and Equity

Seeking fairness.....

- All people share an interest in “fairness”
- There are countless ways of looking at "justice" and "equity".
- All of these competing views of "justice" and "equity" are legitimate and contestable. No single person, theory or country has a monopoly on either.
- They are all visible to one extent or another within the climate regime and across the full range of multilateral processes.



Equity in the UNFCCC

Essential elements of the new agreement

- "Widest possible cooperation" – all countries contribute.
- How they contribute can be different – in terms of actions or effort, in terms of timing or in terms of the support needed to enable action.
- Trade offs across the climate building blocks could allow countries to contribute in a way which they judge to be fair.
- The cumulative effort would have to meet the long-term temperature goal.
- Ways of demonstrating effort are important 'so I know you are doing your fair share'.



Fictional countries

Country A

- Wealthy country with an economy based on fossil fuels
- High adaptive capacity
- Low levels of poverty

- Leading the transition to LCD
- Emissions reductions in line with commitments as per science
- Provider of climate finance
 - Domestic adaptation planning operational

Country B

- Highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change
 - High levels of poverty
 - Low greenhouse gas emissions

- Adaptation to CC a priority : well developed Adaptation Plan
 - Eager to engage in low carbon development
 - Investing finance in climate action:
 - > international and
 - < domestic

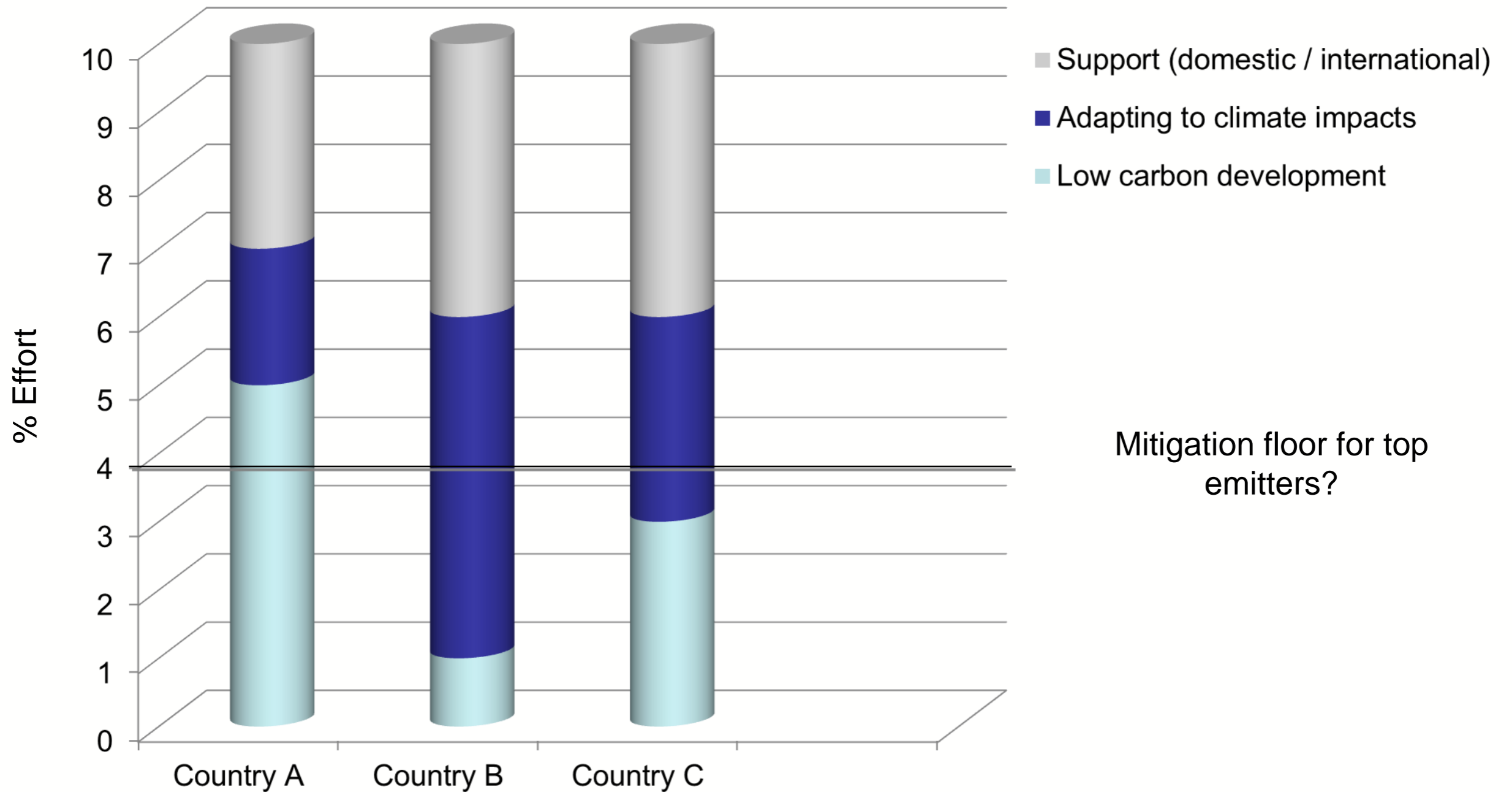
Country C

- Rapidly growing economy and rising emissions
- Significant levels of poverty
 - Heavily impacted by climate change
- Investing in low carbon development and infrastructure

- Adaptation projects under implementation
- Low carbon development strategy operational
- Investing finance in climate action:
 - > domestic &
 - < international

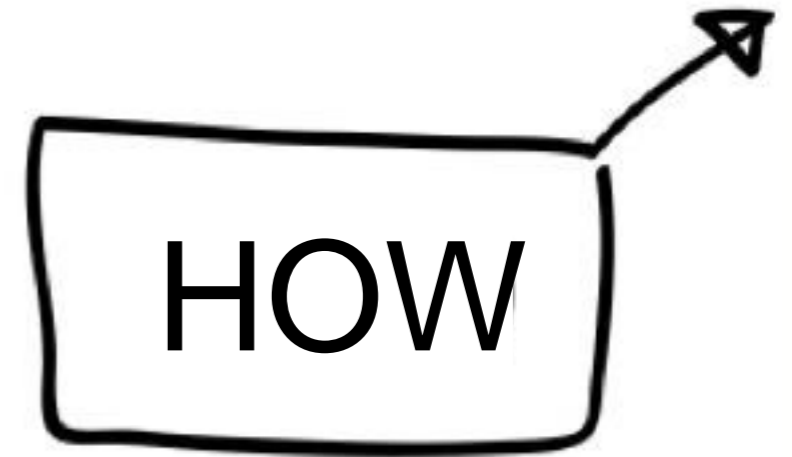
Looking for Fairness

Across the range of climate actions



Equity in practice

A work in progress



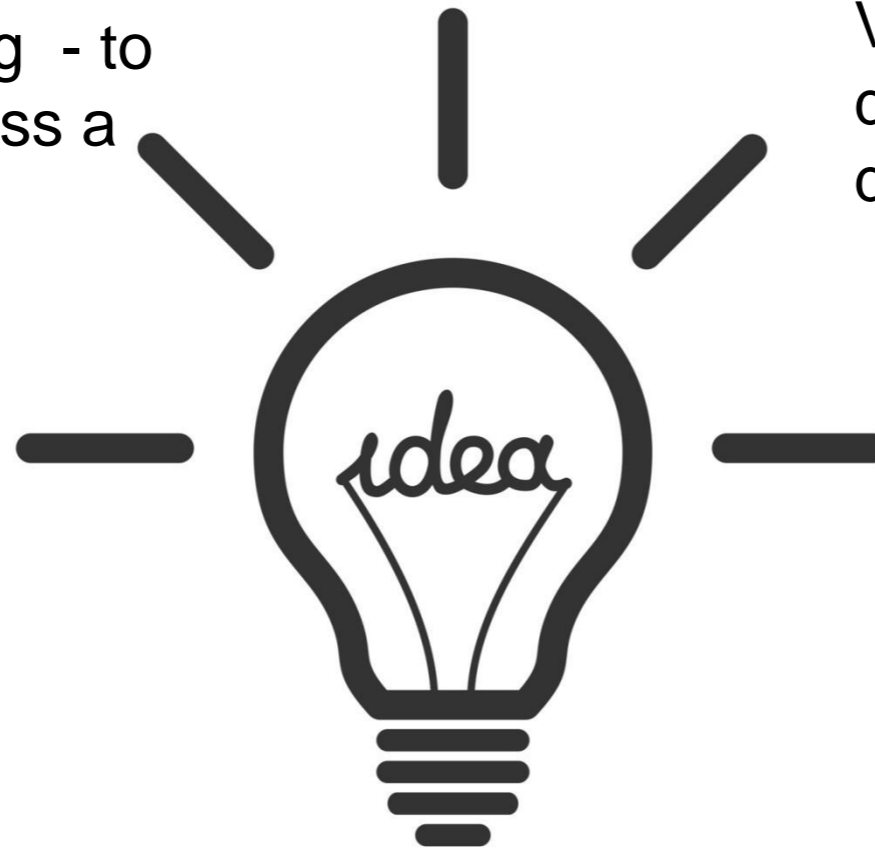
Dynamic approaches

Political balancing - to find fairness across a range of actions

Variable Geometry – different actions by different actors

Measuring, reporting and transparency

Timing – move at different speeds from different starting points



And room for Justice?

Injustice



Fossil fuels

Historical responsibility



Irreversible impacts
Loss and damage

Just transition
Right to development
2°C Goal
Protect the vulnerable

Acknowledge
the past and
look to the
future

Deliver commitments:
Climate finance
Access to technology
Capacity building

Justice



Low carbon society

Future generations



Resilience

Continuing work under the *Climate Justice Dialogue*

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