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# Developing countries and the future of the kyoto protocol

Frank lotzo \*

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## Communication

# Developing Countries and the Future of the Kyoto Protocol

Frank Jotzo\*

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#### **Fundamental Dilemmas**

Developing countries are home to five out of the six billion people, but historically have contributed only around one-quarter of the greenhouse gases from energy consumption now accumulated in the atmosphere. Energy use and emissions per person in developing countries on average are still only around one-quarter of those in industrialized countries. Resources for economic restructuring are much more limited in developing countries, with average per capita incomes less than one-quarter of those in the industrialized world. Moreover, adverse impacts of climate change are likely to affect developing countries particularly badly.

A compelling ethical case can thus be made that poorer countries should be free to develop economically without greenhouse gas constraints, while rich countries—which after all have built much of their wealth through energy-intensive industrialization—should go ahead and reduce their emissions in the global interest. Poorer countries insist on their 'right to develop', and greenhouse gas constraints (along with other environmental policies) are often seen as obstacles to development. As Adil Najam observed,

The principal and unchanged interest of the South has remained *development* and a better quality of life for its people; its principal fear, that the North is using environmental issues as an excuse to pull up the development ladder behind it.<sup>2</sup>



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remaining errors in fact or interpretation are mine.

# Notes

Comparing GNP adjusted for purchasing power. The difference is even greater when comparing GNP at exchange rates. Data from World Resources Institute (WRI), Climate Analysis Indicator Tool (Washington, 2003).

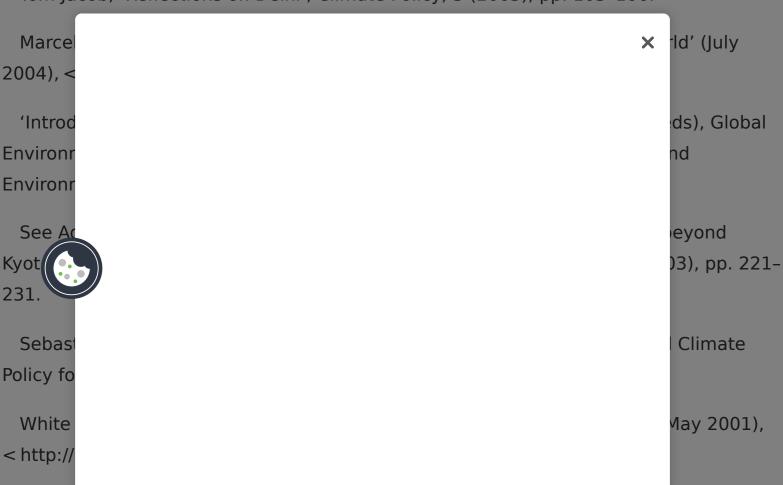
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The UK and Swedish governments have called for EU commitments to cut emissions by 60 pe t proposed a X cut of 40 er cent by 2020 ca See Ro aty', in Christian bridge Universi See A and house Gas Conv ide Climate Emissio 999). See Changealso the ld regions: See th H. E. Ott A. P. Sari, J. Pan, Y. S n, South-

North Dialogue on Equity in the Greenhouse. A Proposal for an Adequate and Equitable

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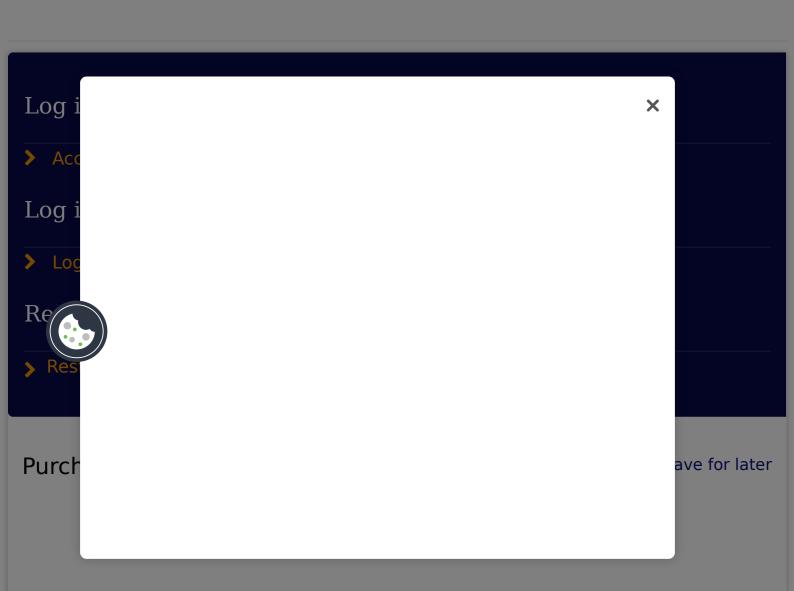
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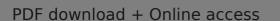
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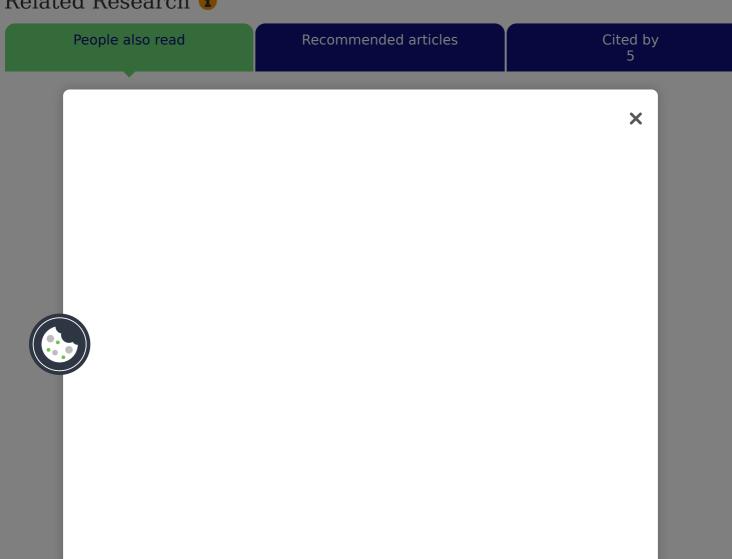
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