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Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

Equity Lessons

*From Multilateral Regimes for
the 2015 Climate Agreement*

Regimes Reviewed

- Montreal Protocol on Ozone-Depleting Substances
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
- European Union climate policy
- International trade regime (WTO)
- International aid
- Human rights regime

What did we consider as equity?

- **Operational** notion of equity:
Ways in which various aspects of a regime may be designed to achieve the goals of the regime in ways that are fair
- How equity was handled and important lessons, both **positive and negative**, from its handling of equity
- Focus on equity **among nations** rather than intranational or subnational equity

Major dimensions of equity considered

- **Differentiation of commitments**
 - How was differentiation among countries addressed?
 - How were fair commitments developed?
- **Institutions, support and procedures**
 - Are institutions and procedures fair in the way they treat different countries?
 - Are countries supported fairly in achieving key objectives?

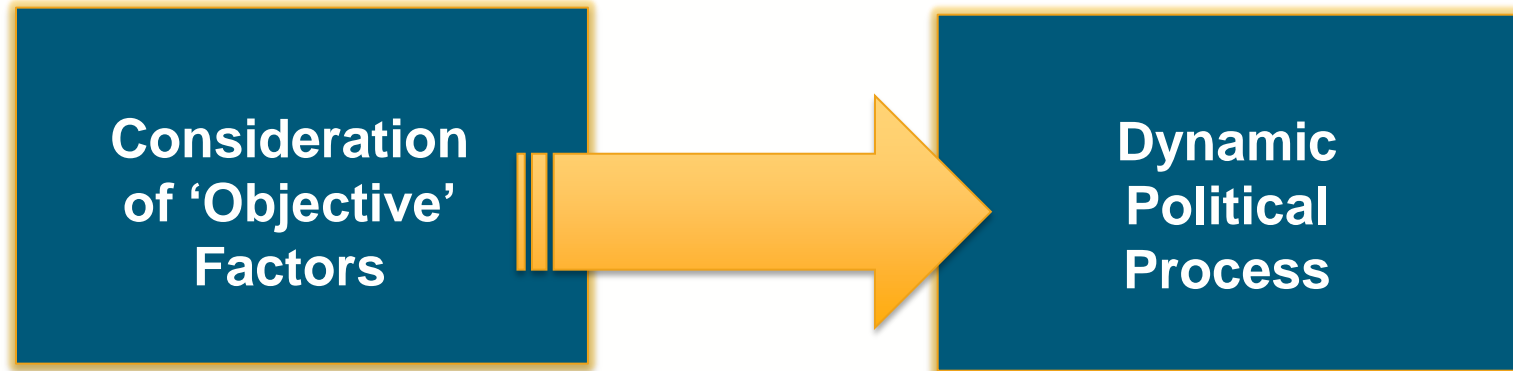
Differentiation of Commitments

Types of Differentiation

Lesson for UNFCCC: A variety of modes of differentiation will be useful for the UNFCCC to consider, including differences in timing of commitments.

| | Country groupings | Spectrum of countries | All countries but with support |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Obligations at same time for all parties | | EU climate LRTAP | POPs Mercury |
| Time delay for some parties | Montreal Trade | Human Rights | |

Differentiation through a process



Evolving and Flexible Differentiation



- Timing and pace for participation in regime clearly key
- Variable structure can allow some parties to go farther faster

Institutions, Support and Procedures

Finance and Technology

- Finance and support to enhance **access to specific technologies and capacity** can be key
- Access to technology and capacity enables shifts from sharing burdens to galvanizing opportunity



Equity in institutions and procedures

- **Facilitative modes** of promoting action and compliance
- **Country ownership** of strategies and plans



Further Research

- **Vulnerability and impacts**
- **Technology cooperation**, including cooperation involving patents
- Equitable contributions to and allocation of **financial resources**
- Equity at the **intranational and subnational** level

Lessons for UNFCCC process

- **Multi-dimensional** approach to equity
- Robust **offer and review process** considering equity factors
- Focus on **specific technology, capacity and policies**
- UNFCCC can use lessons from other regimes but also has **specific challenges**

