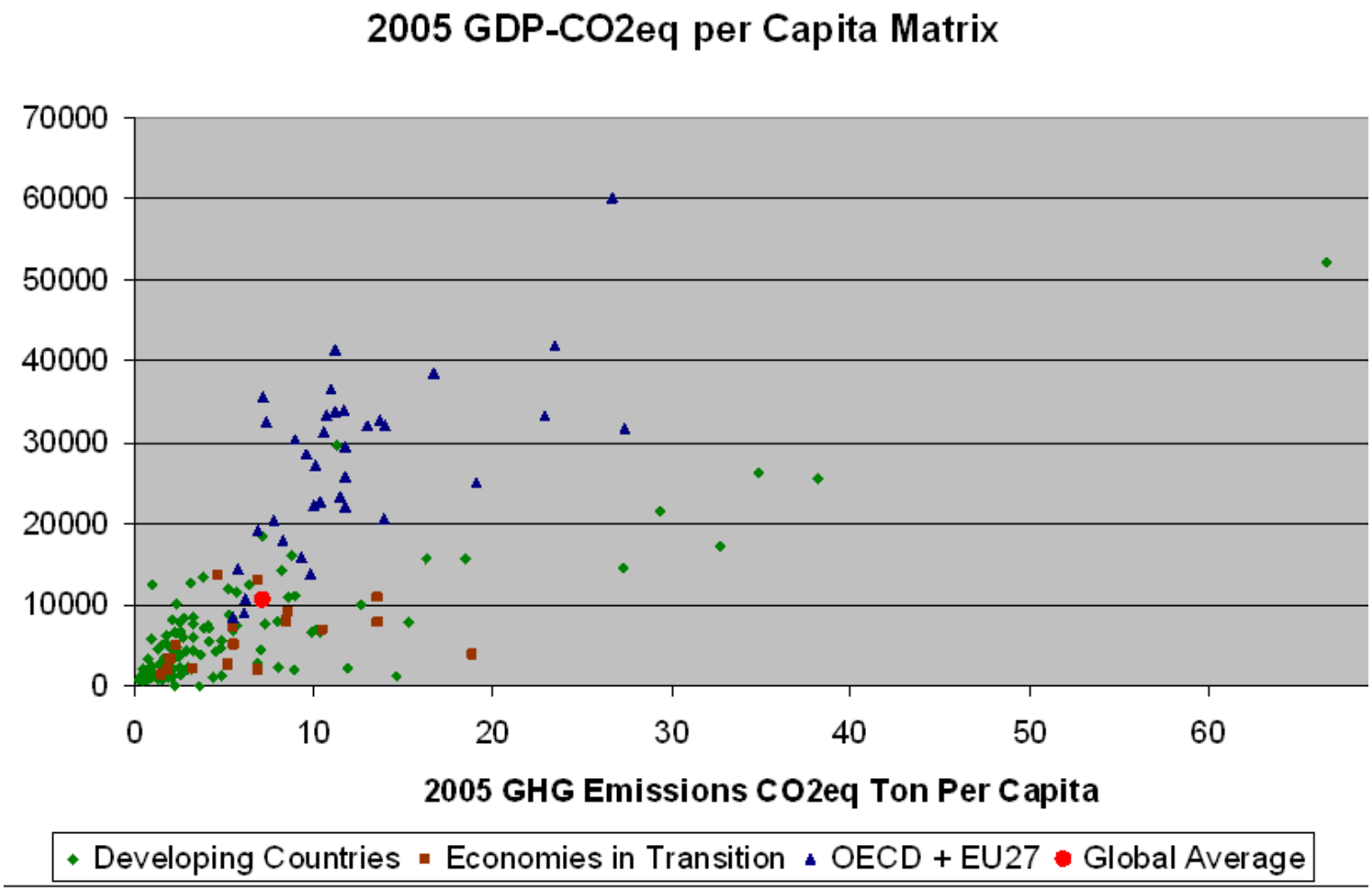
The Results of UNFCCC COP17: Issues and Implications

Vicente Paolo Yu III
South Centre
3 February 2012
Geneva

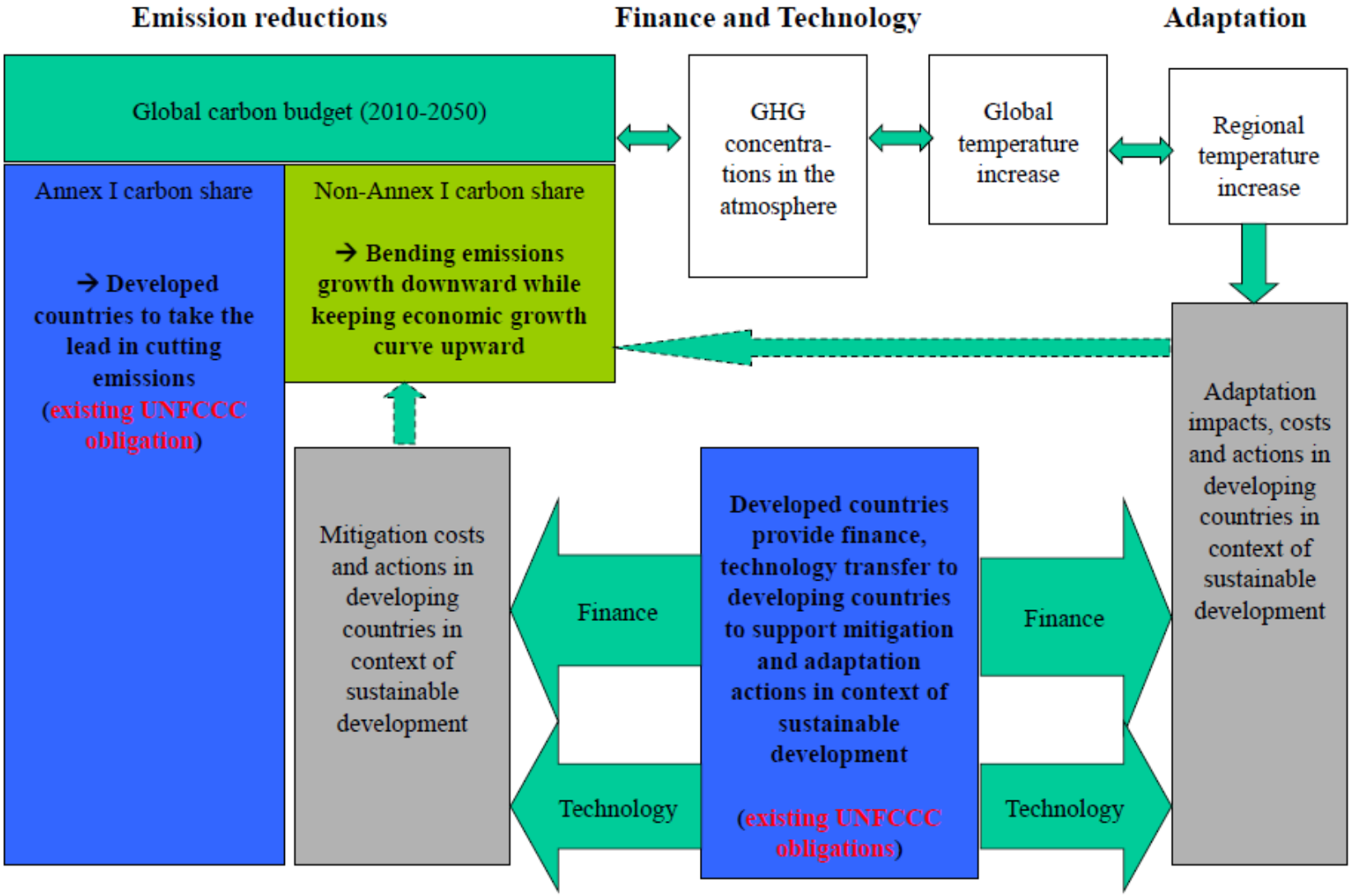
Two Key Political Decisions on the UNFCCC Legal Regime

Kyoto Protocol Decision	Durban Platform Decision
Leaves duration of 2CP (5 or 8 years, ending in 2017 or 2020) still subject to negotiations at CMP7 Doha No assurance that Annex 1 KP parties (A1KP) will take place by 1 Jan 2013 with sufficient mitigation ambition because: •A1KP emission target numbers are still to be submitted by May 2012, but with no certainty that they will do so (CA has pulled out of KP, RF and JP has no intention to commit to 2CP, US not KP, AU, NZ, CH, EU all have political conditions, only NO has no conditions), for adoption in CMP7 Doha •No certainty that A1KP numbers will have sufficient ambition (Cancun pledges range of 11-16% below 1990 by 2020 compared to 25-40% below 1990 by 2020 recommended by IPCC or minimum of 40-50% below 1990 by 2020 demanded by G77). A1KP likely to reiterate only their Cancun pledges, so there will be emissions gap of around 9 GTCO2eq that non-A1KP are expected to cover •If CMP7 Doha adopts A1KP targets as KP amendments, there will be a legal gap between end of 1CP and start of 2CP because amendments will not yet be ratified and cannot enter into force. There is also no provisional application clause to allow application of targets by 1 Jan 2013. This opens possibility that 2CP will be over by 2017 or 2020 even before it has entered into force Could lead to a situation in which, between 1 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2019, A1KP will have no treaty binding commitment to reduce emissions, due to non-entry into force of 2CP	Extends LCA for 1 more year Launches new "round" of negotiations, to have outcome of "protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the UNFCCC applicable to all Parties" – e.g. result in a ratifiable treaty instrument like protocol, amendment, or annex under the UNFCCC or an non-treaty implementing instrument like COP decision under the UNFCCC (these are the only instruments allowed under the UNFCCC Art. 7, 15, 16, 17) No detailed negotiating terms of reference specified, leaving it up to negotiations. Scope is defined as including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, transparency, support and CB (para 5), BUT workplan suggests that focus of negotiating process would be on mitigation (paras 6-8) Issue of inclusion of equity and CBDR as principles to be reflected in the negotiations will be a major one due to the "huddle" discussion at last night of COP17 – US did not want mention of equity or CBDR, India and others wanted it in. Final decision does not explicitly refer to equity or CBDR but does state that the result would be "under the UNFCC applicable to all Parties." * This can be interpreted as meaning that the outcome must be consistent with and reflect existing UNFCC provisions, including Art. 3.1 which references equity and CBDR and Art. 4 which provides structure reflecting equity and CBDR

Why Equity and CBDR are Important in Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Development



Equity and Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change



NA1 Per Capita Emission Cuts

Unit	NAI Per Capita Emissions 1990	NAI Per Capita Emissions Budget 2050	% Deviation from BAU Per Capita 1990	% Deviation from BAU Per Capita IPCC A1B	% Deviation from BAU Per Capita IPCC A2	% Deviation from BAU Per Capita IPCC B1	% Deviation from BAU Per Capita IPCC B2
Ton C	0.71	0.34	**-52.2%**	**-77.33%**	**-75.71%**	**-69.10%**	**-59.03%**
Ton CO2	2.62	1.25					

Assumes:

- 50% global cut and 80% Annex 1 cut by 2050 relative to 1990
- Population growth to 2050
- Using IPCC SRES 2000 emission projections to 2050

Economic Implications of Per Capita Emission Cuts

Historically, in period 1990 to 2005, per capita GDP-emissions correlation for NA1 was 0.74

1% GDP per capita growth = 0.74% emissions per capita growth

Assume:

•Historical per capita GDP and emission growth rates from 1990 to 2005 and correlation

•Current levels of energy technology in NA1

•High financing requirements of NA1 for mitigation and adaptation, but without technology transfer and financing being provided to developing countries (as is currently the case and seems likely to be the case despite Cancun and Durban decisions re technology transfer and GCF)

Imposing limits to NA1 per capita emissions growth = imposing limits to GDP per capita growth

NA1 Aggregate Emission Cuts by 2050 Relative to IPCC SRES 2000 as BAU Projections

Unit	NAI Aggregate Emissions Budget 2050 (50% Global less 80% Annex I)	NAI Aggregate Emissions 1990		IPCC SRES 2000 Emission Scenarios for 2050							
				A1B		A2		B1		B2	
		Difference from 1990	% Deviation from 1990	Difference from BAU	% Deviation from BAU	Difference from BAU	% Deviation from BAU	Difference from BAU	% Deviation from BAU	Difference from BAU	% Deviation from BAU
GTC	2.72	-0.25	**-8.4**	-9.25	**-77.28**	-8.44	**-75.63**	-6.12	**-69.23**	-3.88	**-58.79**
GTCO2	9.97	-0.92		-33.92		-30.95		-22.45		-14.23	

NA1 Aggregate Emission Cuts by 2050 Relative to Other BAU Projections

Global and Annex I Reductions for 2050		Non-Annex I Emissions Budget 2050	1990		IEA BAU 2.8%/yr		Garnaut BAU 1 4%/yr		South Centre 4.745%		Garnaut BAU 2 5%/yr	
			Diffe-rence	% Deviation	Diffe-rence	% Deviation	Diffe-rence	% Deviation	Diffe-rence	% Deviation	Diffe-rence	% Deviation
50% Global less 80% Annex I	Ex-LULUCF	11.43	-0.54	**-4.51**	-56	**-83**	-98.63	**-86.8**	-145.29	**-92.71**	-163.41	**-94**
	In-LULUCF	14.43	-2.81	**-16.3**	-70.32	**-83**	-124.83	**-87.37**	-182.56	**-92.67**	-205.34	**-93.43**

Note:

Non-Annex I emissions	Proj Agg Emissions	1990	IEA BAU	Garnaut BAU 1	South Centre BAU	Garnaut BAU 2
	Ex-LULUCF	11.97	67.42	113.66	156.72	174.84
	In-LULUCF	17.24	84.75	142.87	196.99	219.77

Three global peaking paths

	Peak in 2015	Peak in 2017	Peak in 2020
2020 emissions (GtCO2eq)	50	53	56
Budget (2000-2050) (GtCO2eq)	1,790	1,960	2,170
Budget (2011-2050) (GtCO2eq)	1,310	1,490	1,690
% reduction by 2050 vs 1990	-68%	-60%	-48%
Chance of exceeding 2C	39%	49%	61%
(Range of probabilities)	(20% - 57%)	(28% - 68%)	(39% - 79%)

- The most ambitious path peaks in 2015, and has a 61% chance of keeping warming below 2°C.

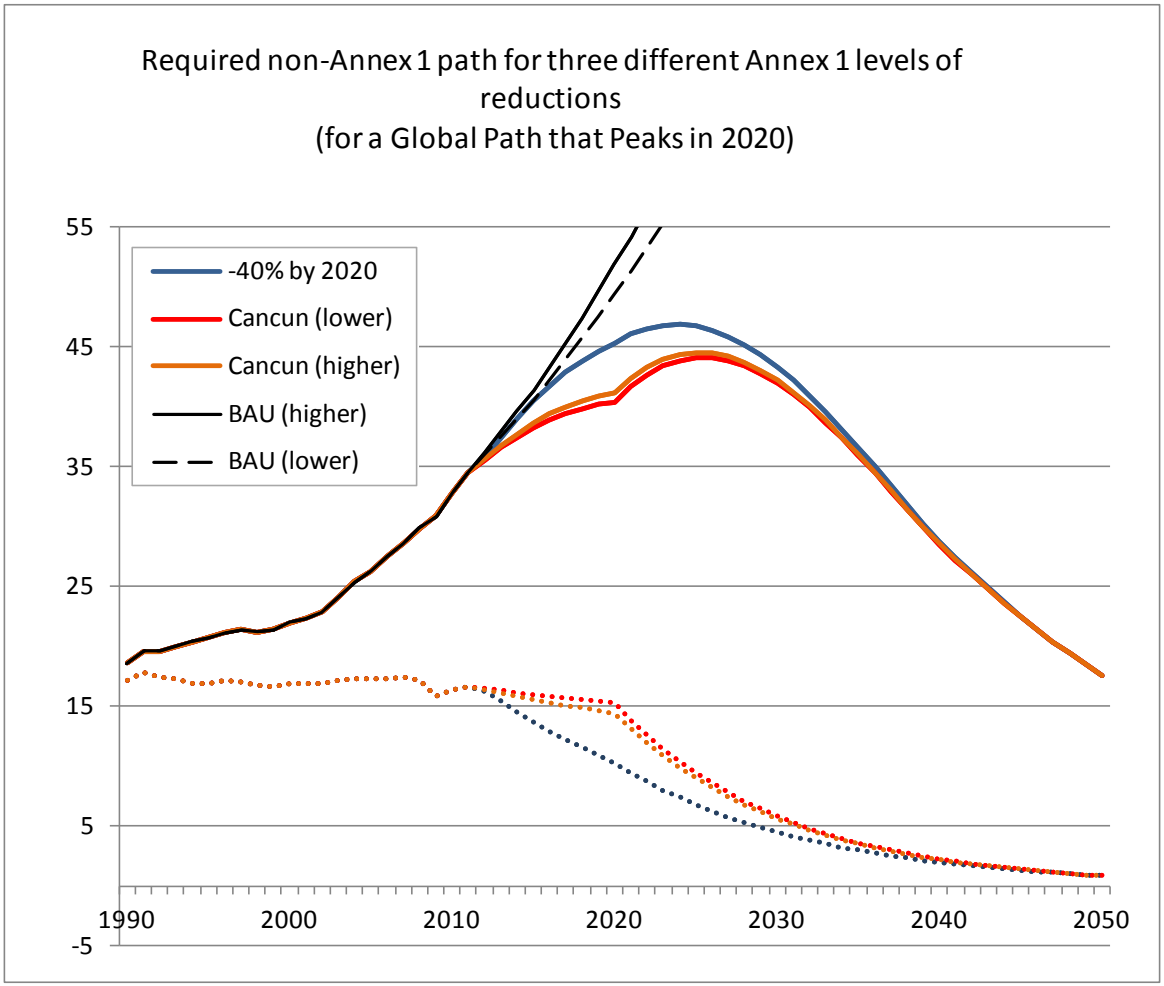
(According to IPCC, it is “likely” but not “very likely” to keep warming below 2°C.)

- The least ambitious path peaks in 2020, and has less than 40% chance of keeping warming below 2°C.

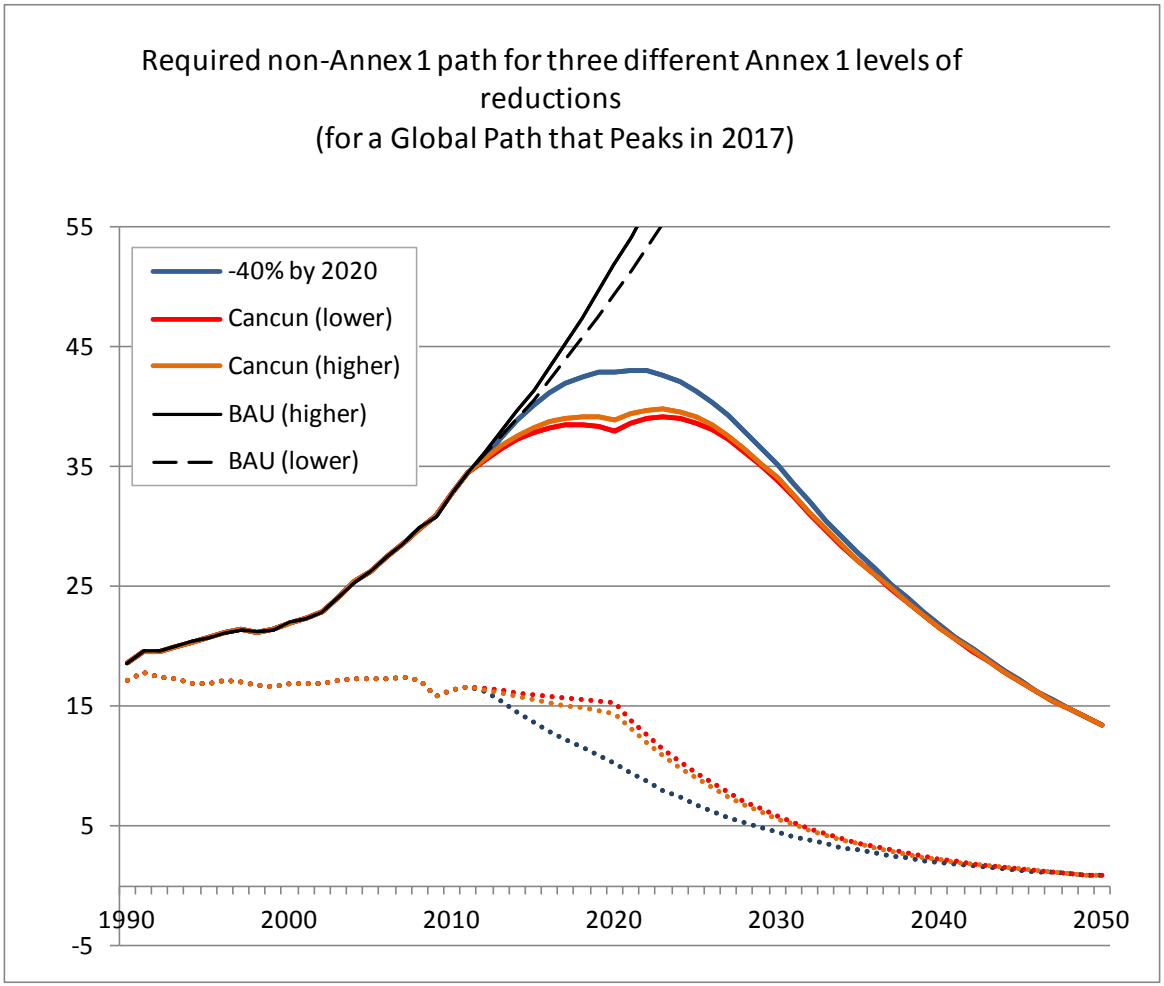
(It also has a significant chance of warming exceeding 3°C.)

2 °C risk figures based on analysis from Meinshausen et al, 2009, *Nature.*

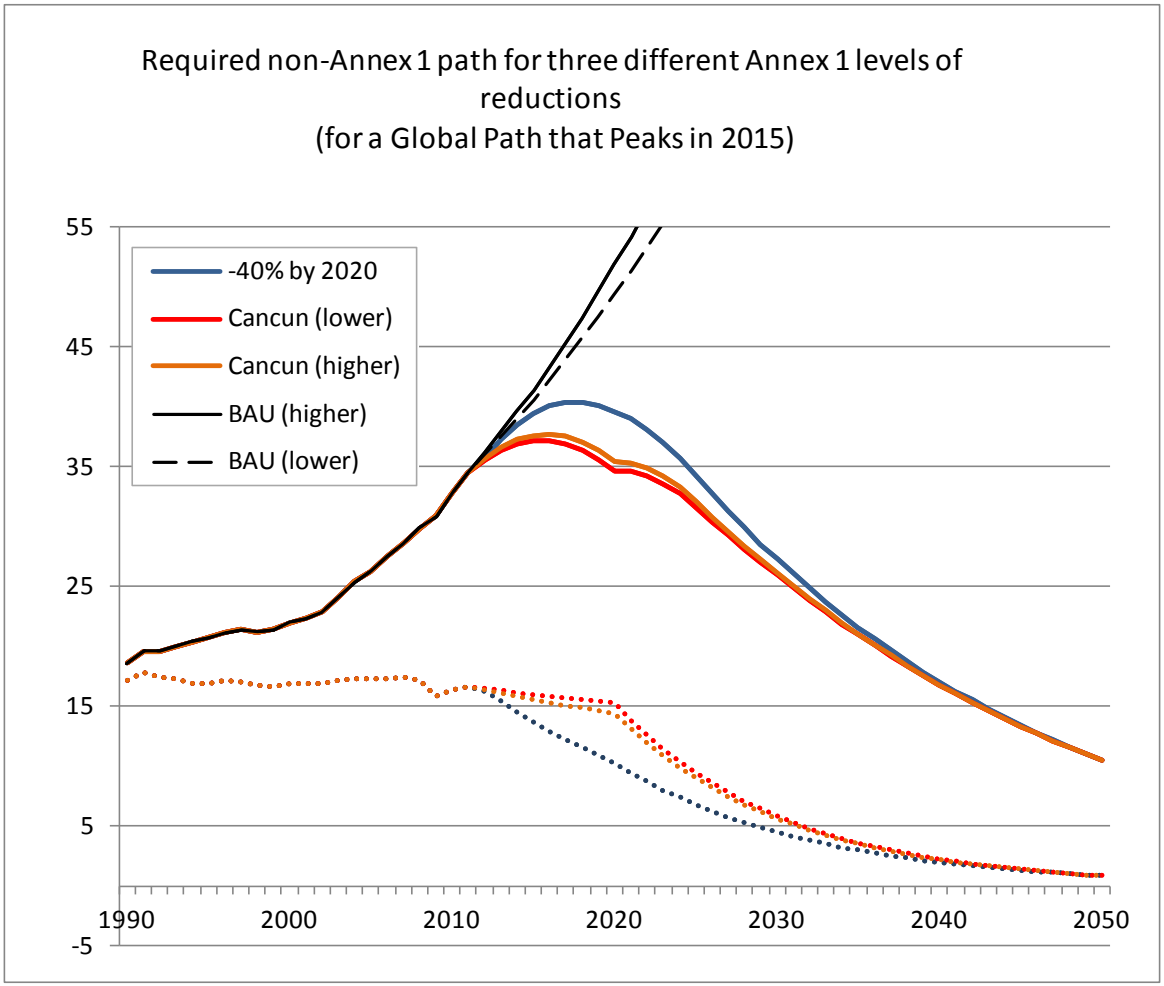
non-Annex 1 paths for three Annex 1 reduction levels (for 2020 global peak)



non-Annex 1 paths for three Annex 1 reduction levels (for 2017 global peak)



non-Annex 1 paths for three Annex 1 reduction levels (for 2015 global peak)



Peaking: Global Peak Year Defines Non-Annex 1 Peak Year

Global Peak Year	Annex 1 Reduction Level by 2020	Projected Non-Annex 1 Peak Year
2015	Cancun lower (11% below 1990)	**2015**
	Cancun higher (16% below 1990)	**2016**
	G77 minimum demand (40% below 1990)	**2018**
2017	Cancun lower (11% below 1990)	**2023**
	Cancun higher (16% below 1990)	**2023**
	G77 minimum demand (40% below 1990)	**2021**
2020	Cancun lower (11% below 1990)	**2025**
	Cancun higher (16% below 1990)	**2025**
	G77 minimum demand (40% below 1990)	**2024**

UNFCCC Durban Platform: Key Issues

•Remain consistent with UNFCCC – how reflect equity and CBDR?

•Given scale AND cost of mitigation expected or being sought from NA1 so as to fit within ecological limits/carbon budget, but without damaging sustainable development and growth of NA1, what should be done internationally and domestically?

•There is continuing need for:

- A1 higher mitigation ambition → particularly through changes in patterns of A1 production and consumption of GHGs arising from changes in domestic economies
- Climate financing at scales more than $100B
- Technology transfer, including more IPR flexibilities for developing countries and non-market-based transfer modalities in support of endogenous technology development in developing countries
- Prohibition on climate-related trade protectionism against developing countries
- Adaptation support for developing countries linked to development objectives
- Support to adoption and implementation of national sustainable development policy and strategy components. Need to link to sustainable macroeconomic development and industrial policy goals and objectives

Thank you

Email: yu@southcentre.org
Phone: +41 22 7918050
Fax: +41 22 7988531
Website: www.southcentre.org