Feasibility of Enhancing India’s Nationally Determined Contribution

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Background

- Evaluate the political feasibility to implement and enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) such that the rise of global temperature is limited to 2°C above pre-industrial levels (or less).
- Apply the KAPSARC Toolkit for Behavioral Analysis (KTAB) to simulate the domestic collective decision-making processes (CDMP) within each of the top 5 emitters, as well as the global CDMP among Paris Agreement signatories. Six independent, but related studies:
  - India
  - China
  - European Union (EU)
  - US
  - Russia
  - KTAB is a platform to build models of CDMPs.
  - e.g. bargaining, generalized voting models, political decision making, and more.
  - The KTAB model used in this study simulates how actors strategically attempt to influence each other to obtain the best possible outcome, from their perspective.
  - Actors include political leaders, advocacy groups, and all relevant stakeholders.
  - The simulation utilizes game theoretic and decision theoretic principles to capture the “bargaining” process, i.e. the evolution of advocacy over time with respect to some issue.
  - Data are collected through structured interviews with subject matter experts.

Introduction

Factors affecting India climate change policy

- Ranks 3rd in total GHG emissions
- Large population and high rate of poverty, India is among the countries with the lowest per capita emissions
- Among the most vulnerable countries to climate impacts
- Indian government must also consider improved energy access and sustained economic growth.

Climate Actions in India

- 2008 National Action Plan on Climate Change (8 National Missions)
- 2009 Copenhagen Pledge: to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25 % by 2020 compared to the 2005 level
- 2015-33 states introduced state action plan for climate change.
- 2015: India introduced its first NDC and committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 compared to the 2005 level and with 7 other commitments.

Process for Developing NDC by India

- Multiple consultations with Ministries, NITI Aayog, State governments, Industry Associations, Civil Society Groups, Academic Institutions and Think tanks
- Complex GHG emission modelling studies carried out by India
- Consultations with members of PM Council on Climate Change
- Prime Minister level consultation with Ministries
- Based on existing & contemplated plans, policies & programs
- National & State Action Plans for Climate Change lay the foundation
- Planning ahead over a 15 year frame – instead of 5 year

Conclusions

- Coal India position remains conservative towards increasing the energy intensity target.
- Energy PSUs and energy-intensive sectors initially advocate limited enhancement of the target, but they soon join the consensus with influential actors. (Ministries)
- Think Tanks involved in modeling of energy intensity targets argue for a more achievable target. The Prime Minister builds consensus for a more aggressive target because of political ambitions.
- As a less influential actor in the policy framework with high salience, CSE remains an advocate for a substantially larger reduction target.

This desire for geopolitical positioning is balanced against the primary policy objectives: energy access to the entire population while guaranteeing economic growth. As a result, climate change is a secondary objective.

Although India’s plans and policies on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency are commendable, a strong institutional framework is needed to implement these policies while at the same time building up capacity and raising awareness of the risks posed by climate change. Furthermore, the active participation of Indian states is needed in order to achieve India’s climate targets.

Independent organizations play a crucial role in shaping climate policy, and their efforts have led to more progressive climate change policies. Nevertheless, the challenge remains for India to develop policies that truly have the necessary development while at the same time addressing the climate.

References

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