

DEBAT

Jean-David Levitte, Distinguished fellow, Brookings Institution ; ancien conseiller diplomatique et sherpa du Président Nicolas Sarkozy

I listened very carefully to what Anil said. May I share with you my worst memory in 42 years? It was the Copenhagen Summit. I think that the COP18, 19 and 20 are doomed to fail, because it is very difficult to obtain a good agreement with 193 countries around the table. My recommendation would be to give a boost to what existed and has been forgotten for some time, that is, the Major Economies Forum, with 17 countries which are at the same time the major emitters. I agree with Anil that we must apply the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities.

Having said that, these 17 countries together represent 17% of the total emissions of the planet, if they can agree on something, then we have a solution. I would add that, in parallel, I would recommend a discussion with the major companies in charge of energy, cement, the transport sector and the constructions sector, so that they could work together and try to provide new solutions in terms of technology. Then we could see the possibilities of financing the transfer of these new technologies to those in need. You have these two aspects in parallel, and then you just have to add the deforestation problem, which is responsible for 20% of the global warming problem, and we are already working quite well on deforestation.

Therefore, my recommendation would be to leave the COP process as it is, or continue if you want, but please think of parallel negotiations that will produce results.

Jean-Michel Severino, Gérant de Investisseurs et Partenaires

I was struck by the last comment on urbanisation. Most of our energy consumption patterns are actually defined by collective decisions, and if we take urbanisation, we will probably have about four billion additional people living in cities in the coming 30 years. When you are dealing with developing or emerging countries, the quality of urbanisation policy is probably one of the softest points in government policy, because there are huge institutional problems behind the capacity of cities to manage themselves or to be empowered to develop urbanisation policies. The responsibility is spread between many government departments.

Therefore, there is a lot of hope that the quality of urbanisation policies will increase in the coming decades. I would be very interested to understand how the quality of the urbanisation process in a major economy like India could be improved, and whether lessons could be shared, especially with the emerging economies and the developing world, to address that huge challenge, which is probably the most important one when we talk about energy efficiency patterns in the coming decades.

Fareed Yasseen, Ambassadeur de la République d'Irak en France

I was at COP2, 3 and 4, and the same things being talked about now were talked about then. The issue of equity has always been here and always will, and I do not know if we will find a way of resolving it. The real resolution to this problem for me will come from a change in technology, and that implies that we need to boost our funding for fundamental research and applied research by a significant order.

Anil Razdan, ancien ministre de l'Énergie de l'Inde

I purposely made the point about urbanisation, because we have recently crossed the critical point in terms of world population, when more people are living in cities than in villages across the world, and I think this trend will grow very rapidly, particularly in developing countries. What unfortunately happens is that the pressure on land, particularly in

developing countries, is so great that governments are ineffective in the face of the moneybags of real estate developers, who cash in on huge opportunities.

You cannot prevent new urbanisation, but providing the network for mass rapid transport as a prerequisite for these new clusters has to be a development prerogative. Unless that happens, they will again fall into the old methods of private car ownership, and once you have a private vehicle you will not use public transport so readily. Therefore, this has to be a precondition from the very beginning.

Secondly, we will need smart grids in the cities if we are going to have more and more renewables; if 15-20% of the new electricity coming in will be through renewables, which can fluctuate, you will need smart grids. For example, in India we recently did a study which said we needed USD10 billion just to strengthen the grid to make it more stable. That is the kind of finance that is needed.

We talked about investment; I think it is required urgently. The mitigation cost in developing countries according to the McKinsey survey was USD140-175 billion annually by 2030, and the financing cost was about USD565 billion. Adaptation cost was about USD30 billion to USD100 billion annually in developing countries alone. But, what has been put on the table is just USD9 billion so far on both counts.

Therefore, we know the solutions, but we need to act now. You rightly mentioned R&D costs. I have the figures; it is just a single-digit percentage in terms of the R&D cost that is required for all this work. The Energy Technology Perspectives of the IEA, which was done way back in 2008, is a good document. It tells you what the low-hanging fruit are. One is energy efficiency; first of all, go and handle that. What is happening in energy efficiency? You are creating more energy efficient and star labelled products, more consumer awareness, etc., but you are not stopping second hand energy intensive products from re-circulating into the market. These need to be pulled out; otherwise, at the very low cost at which they are available, whether electric gadgets or automobiles, they are a game spoiler, and unless we take these decisions, we will be where we are.

William Ramsay, conseiller du centre Energie, Ifri ; ancien directeur exécutif adjoint, Agence internationale de l'énergie (AIE), ancien ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Brazzaville

I would only add one thing. Using this Major Economies Forum is interesting, but given yesterday's discussion of the G2, we do not necessarily need a comprehensive G2; we could have a selective G2, and if China and the United States do not begin to agree on core issue of equity, you cannot even look at the math.