

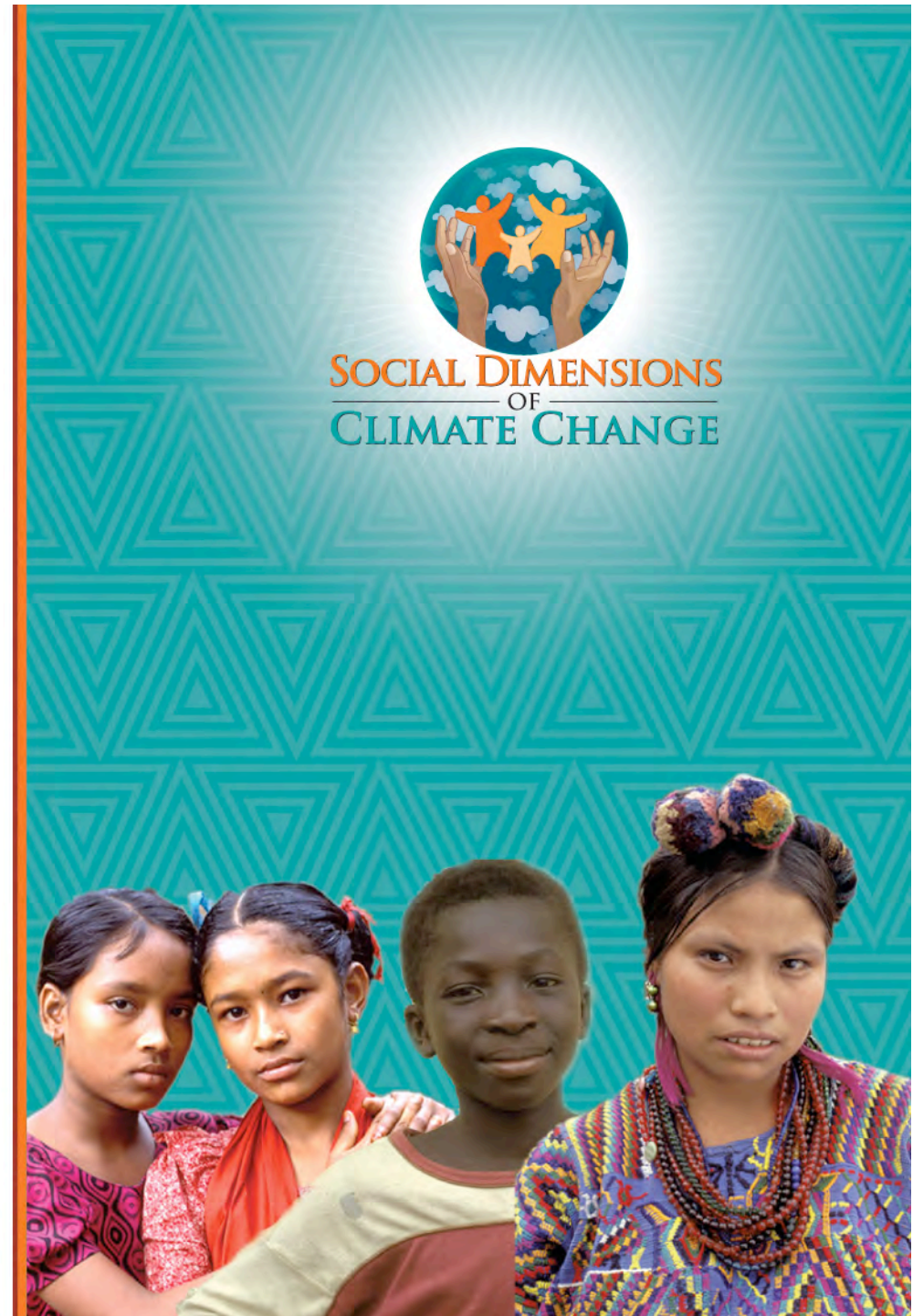
Equity and Social Justice in Responses to Climate Change in Developing Countries

*Presentation to the 7th International
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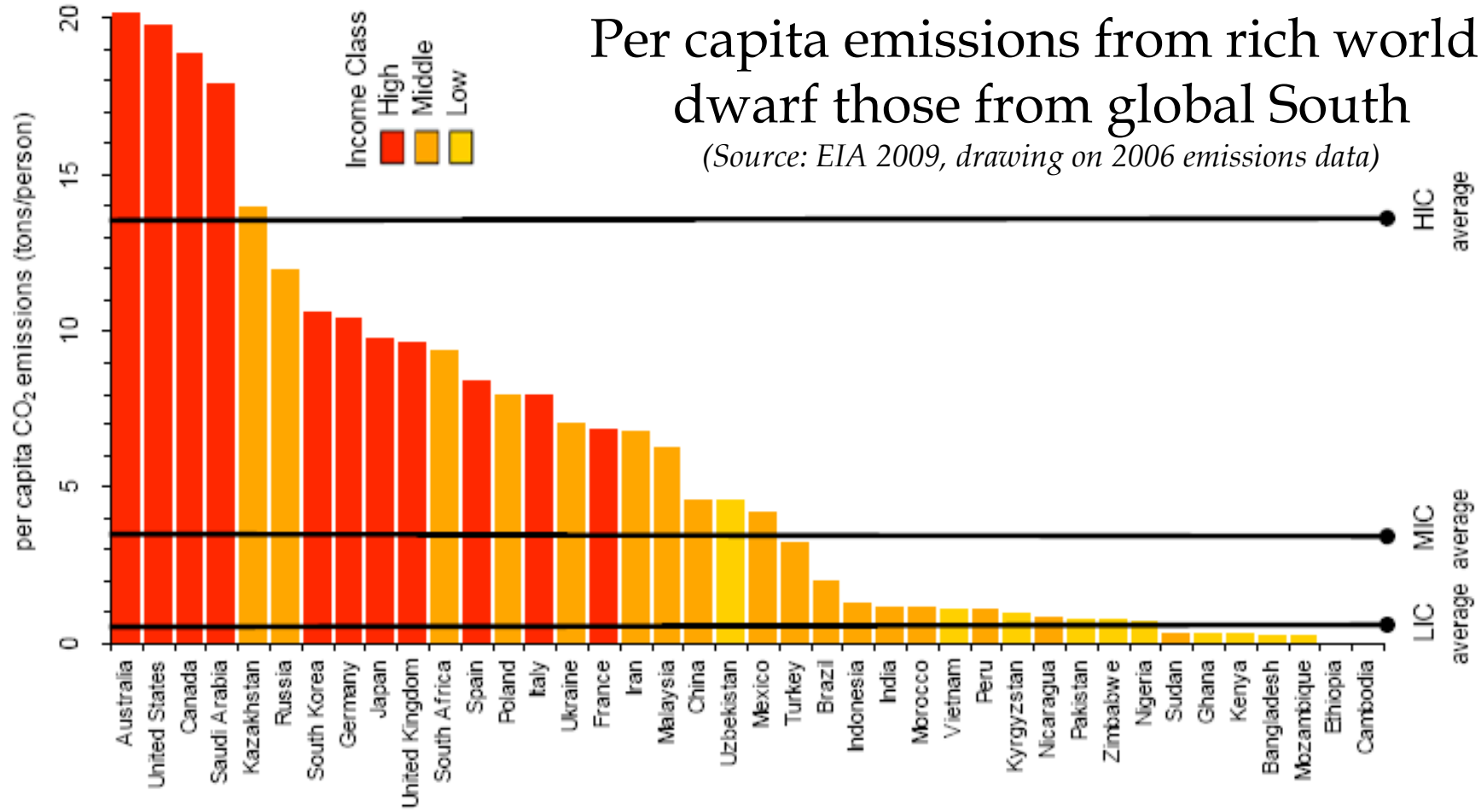
Climate change is an issue of social justice

- Causes & consequences of climate change deeply intertwined with global patterns of inequality
- Acts as a multiplier of existing vulnerabilities in a warming and transforming world
- Threatens to reverse hard-earned development gains
- Dual-track approach needed: both aggressive mitigation and pro-poor adaptation
- Importance of governance, institutions and social accountability in climate action and response measures
- Profound implications for the practice of development



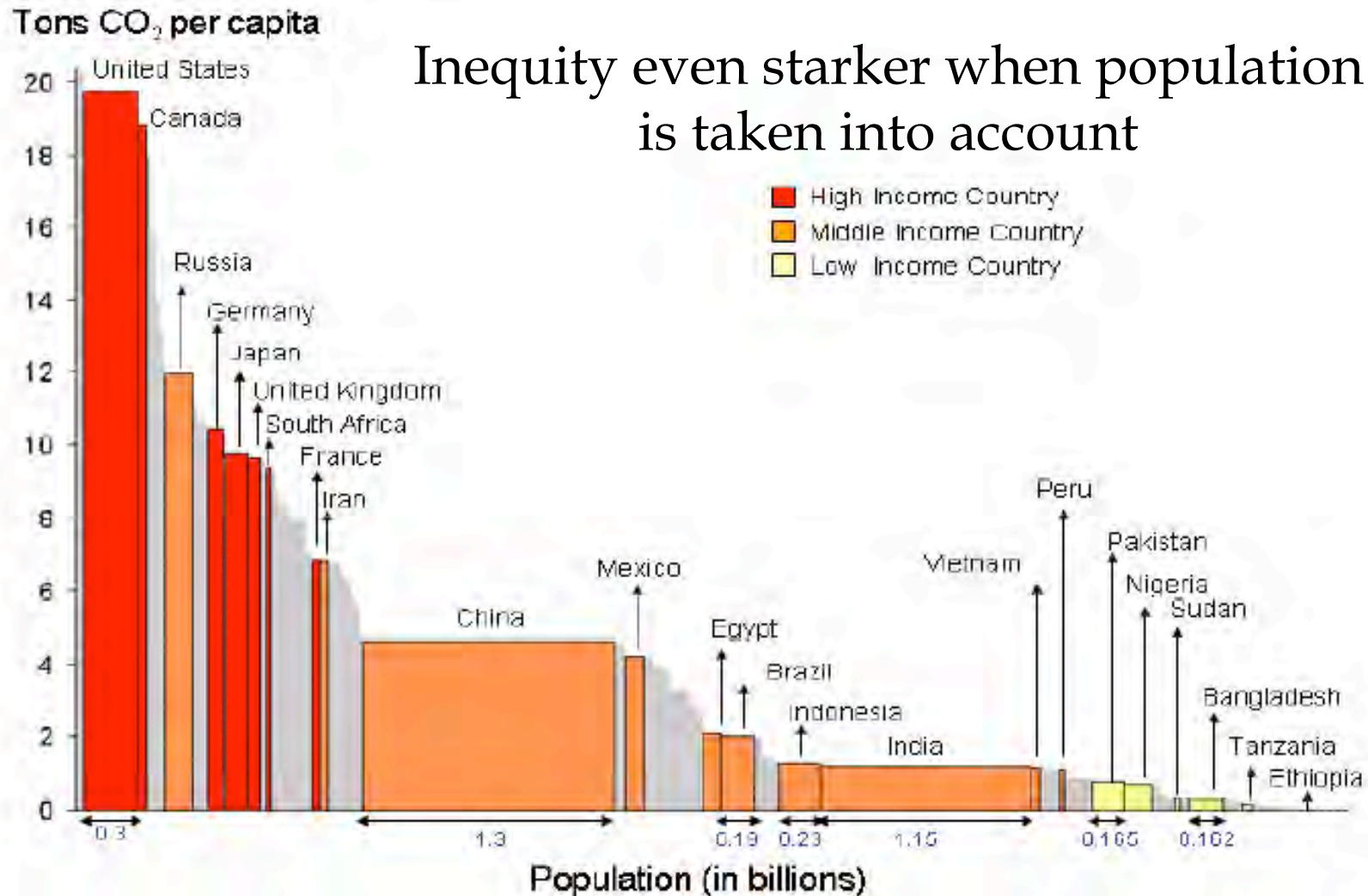
Per capita emissions from rich world dwarf those from global South

(Source: EIA 2009, drawing on 2006 emissions data)





Inequity even starker when population is taken into account

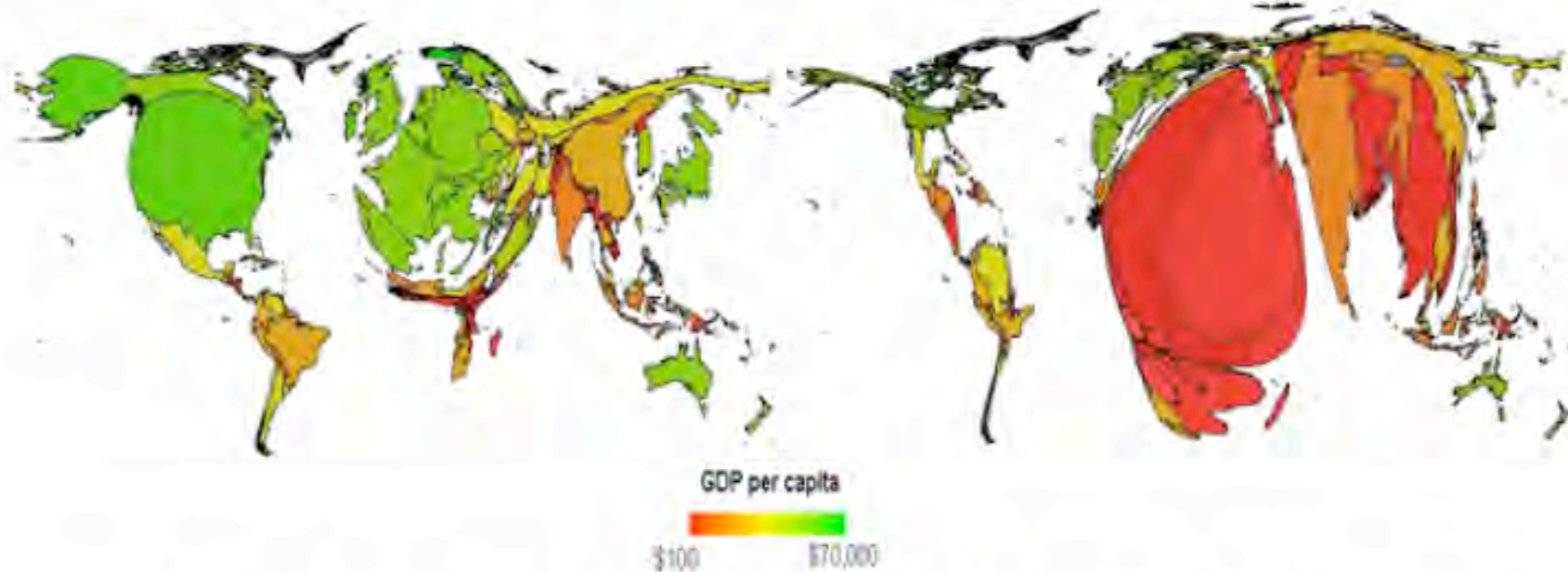




The lower the GDP,
the more people killed
by natural disasters

Gross Domestic Product (2008)

*People killed by weather-related
natural disasters (1975-2008)*



Note: Natural disasters cartogram is based on number deaths from hydrometeorological disasters (floods, droughts, cyclones and extreme temperatures) as recorded in EM-DAT. GDP data are from WDI.
Source: EM-DAT Disaster Database 2008; and World Development Indicators 2008.



Emissions and vulnerability to climate change

(from Robert Watson 2008)



What does 'equity' mean in this global context?

- Equity principle enshrined in UNFCCC: 'Common but differentiated responsibility' (Article 3)
- How is the burden of reducing GHG emissions to be shared among nations?
- How are adaptation efforts to be supported in the global South, who pays, and at what level?
- Cornerstone of global efforts to reach a fair deal in Copenhagen
- Instrumental as well as moral & ethical imperative – developing world has access to most cost-effective mitigation options



Rights-based approaches to operationalizing the equity principle

- International treaty law on human rights
 - Climate change undermines rights – e.g. to life & security, food, shelter, subsistence/ livelihood, health (Oxfam 2008)
 - Norms enshrined in international law offer agreed, minimum acceptable standards (ICHRP 2007, OHCHR 2009)
 - AOSIS (Maldives), Argentina among other proponents
- Proposals focusing on per capita emissions
 - Greenhouse Development Rights Framework (Baer et al. 2008, EcoEquity/ SEI)
 - Contraction & Convergence (first introduced by India in 1995, now promoted by www.cgi.org.uk)

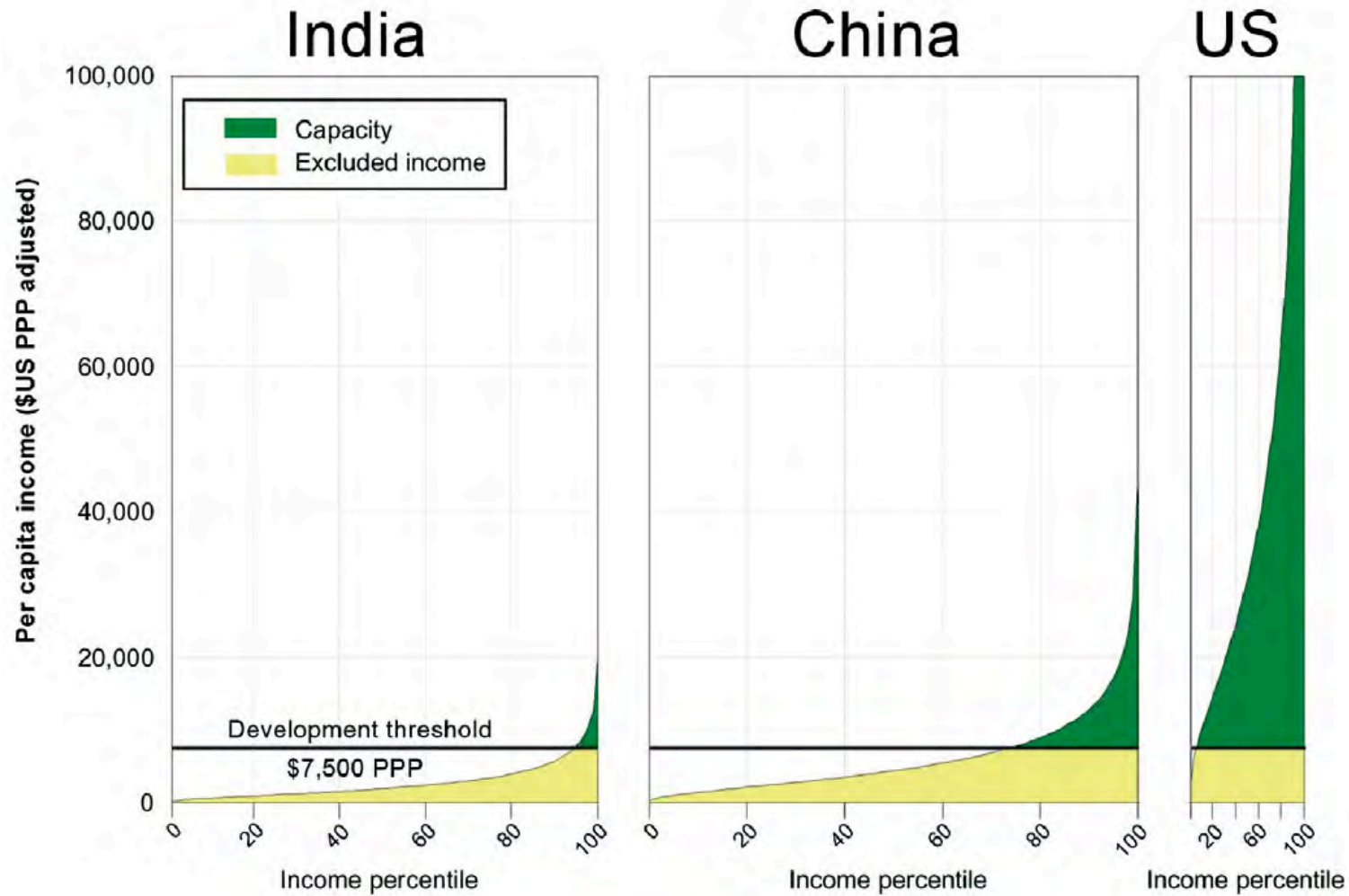


Greenhouse Development Rights Framework
(Baer et al. 2008)



SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
OF
CLIMATE CHANGE

'Capacity' = income above
development threshold



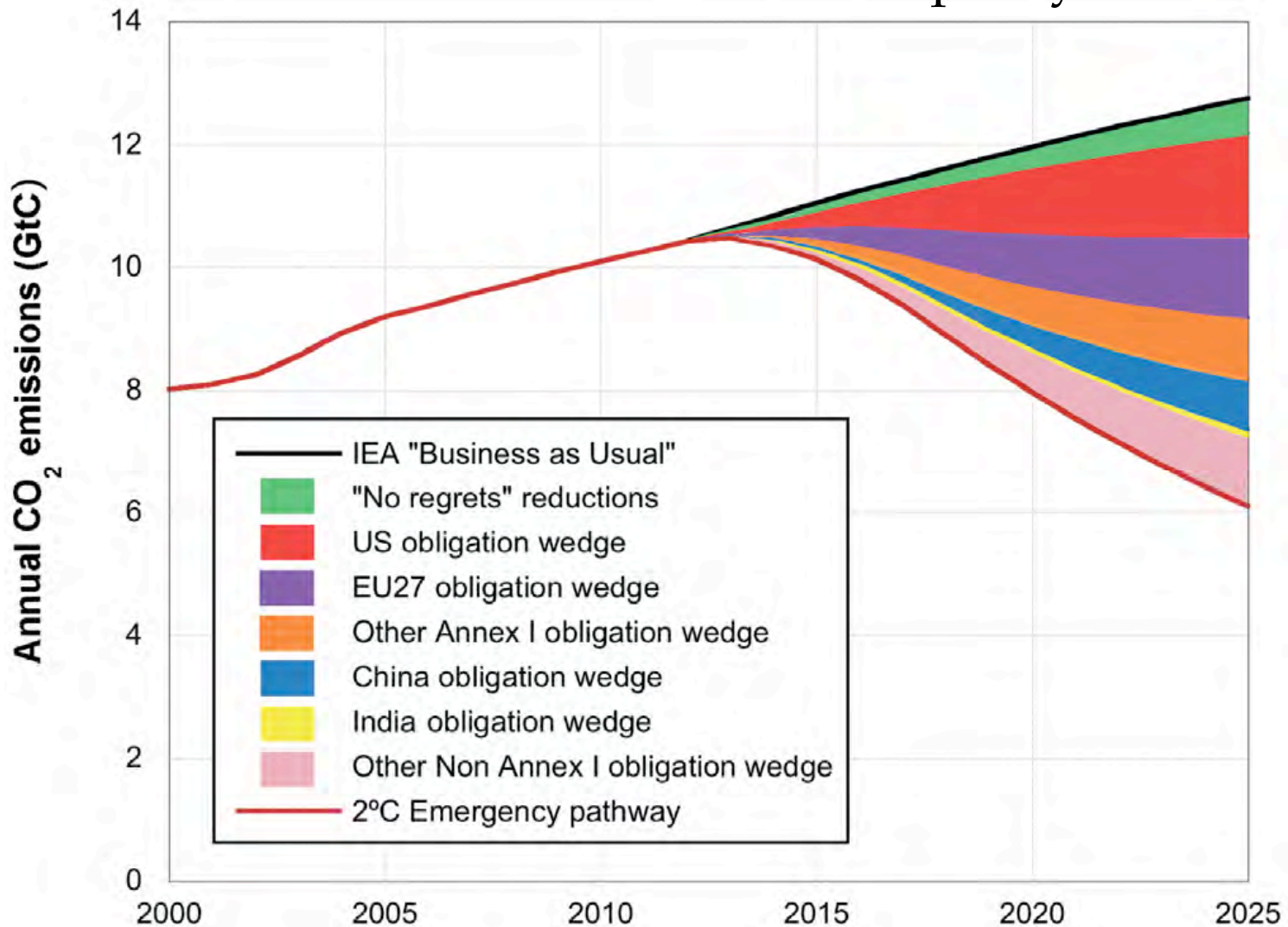


Greenhouse Development
Rights Framework
(Baer et al. 2008)



SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
OF

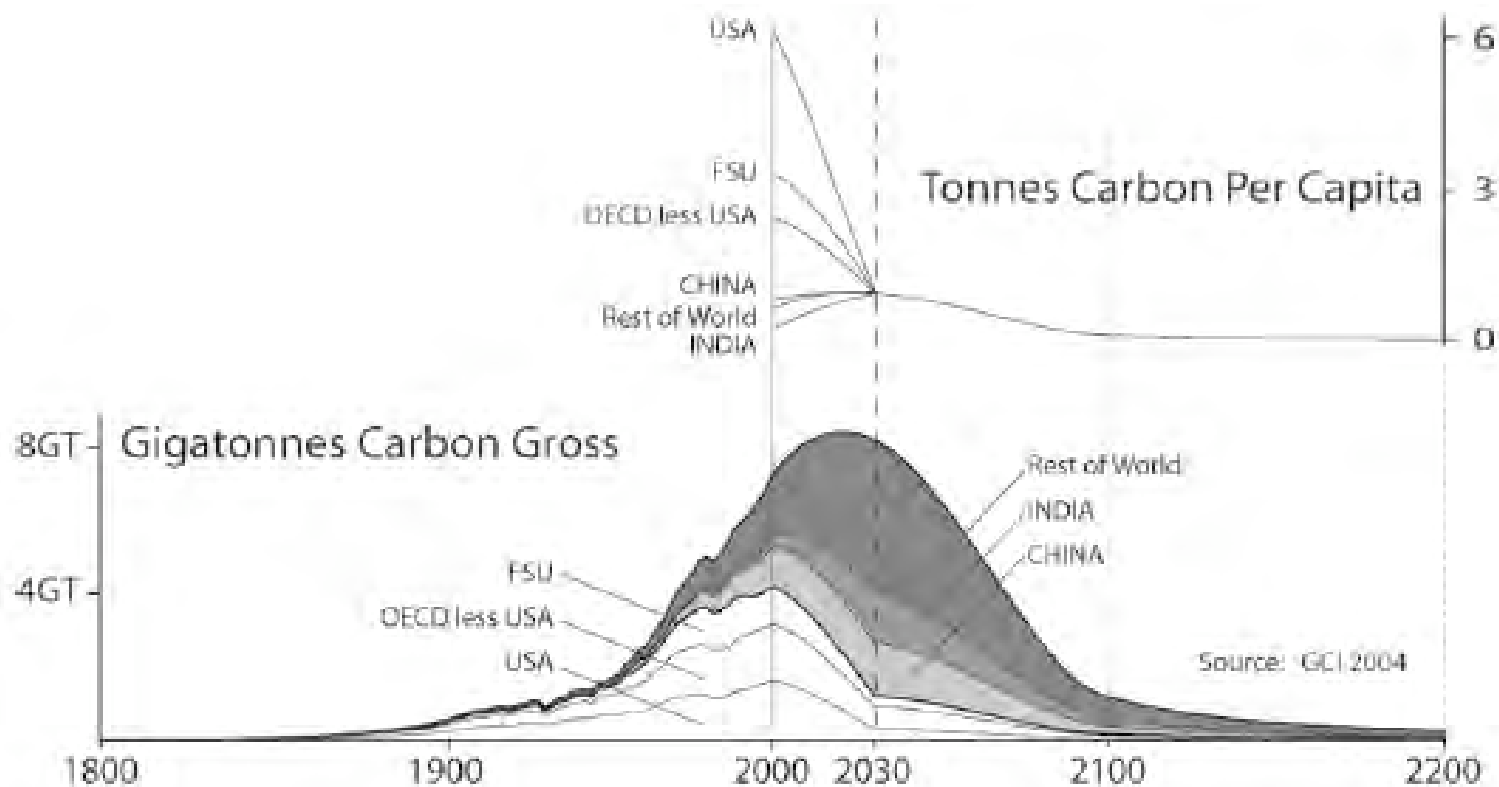
National obligations
according to 'Responsibility-
Capacity Index'





SOCIAL DIMENSIONS
OF
CLIMATE CHANGE
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Contraction & Convergence (www.gci.org.uk)



This example shows regionally negotiated rates of C&C.
This example is for a 450ppmv Contraction Budget, Converging by 2030.



Equity in climate responses *within* developing countries

- Substantive equity
 - Seek to ensure equitable outcomes from climate policy & action for those who are most vulnerable
- Procedural equity
 - Increase voice, capacity and engagement of vulnerable groups in setting priorities in climate policy & action at national and sub-national levels
 - Importance of social accountability & social learning
- Explicit vs. implicit rights-based approaches in dialogue with country clients
 - Moving to an instrumental approach



A dual-track approach is needed

- Pro-poor adaptation
 - Important mediating role of local institutions, currently neglected in NAPAs (Agrawal 2008)
 - Need for articulation of interventions across scales
 - Additionality of financing for adaptation but operational integration with 'no-regrets' development in practice
- Promoting equitable benefit-sharing and managing social risks associated with mitigation efforts
 - e.g. procedural & substantive equity in efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)



Thank you!

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/sdcc>