

## How to engage developing countries in mitigation actions?

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**How to engage developing countries in mitigation actions?**

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One of the basic principles of the Climate Convention (article 3) is that “the Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse actions”. It has been weakened by article 4 which lists commitments of all Parties “taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities”. Such “caveat” has been used frequently by some developing countries to justify inaction on the basis of the argument that limitations on the GHG emissions in non-Annex I countries could hurt their economic development. This is only true if developing countries, in their process of economic development, repeat the inefficient and polluting trajectory followed in the past by today’s industrial countries. We will argue that the alternative for developing countries is to adopt early, in the process of economic development, modern and non-polluting technologies, which did not exist in the past; in other words they should adopt a strategy that allows them to “leapfrog” ‘steps in the development process to a cleaner and sustainable development. An example of “leapfrogging” technology is to replace fossil fuels in transportation in the use of renewable sources of energy, such as biofuels.