

COMMON ENVIRONMENT, DIFFERENTIATED  
DUTIES? EUROPEAN UNION, CHINA AND  
KYOTO'S MECHANISMS TOWARDS AN  
EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ECOLOGICAL  
SPACE.

Student: Emanuela Bacchetta

Université Libre de Bruxelles

Supervisor: Arnaud Van Waeyenberge

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the principles relying on global warming and climate change policy.

Through an analysis of a wide-ranging set of governmental, legal, historical, and academic research documents, this piece of work examines the need to find an equitable solution, in order to avoid highly consequential impacts on the life of human beings. Climate change is a matter of social justice requiring urgent and integrated approaches, based on respect for and promotion of human rights.

It argues that only tackling the problem through Kyoto's mechanisms, based on "common but differentiated responsibility" (CDR), is not efficient, nor even "fair". That is why specific attention has to be paid to specific sensitive issues and questions, particularly: what should a post-Kyoto climate treaty look like? Should developing countries, such as China, accept binding emissions targets? May we retain that the new proposed global framework of 'contraction and convergence'- which consists of reducing greenhouse gases to a safe emission level (contraction), while calculating their global amount on a per capita basis, to a level which is equal for all countries- constitutes the fairest basis for a climate treaty?, and, if yes, why is it a concurrent model to Kyoto?

In order to attain both effectiveness as well as non-disparity within the outcome, it will become clear throughout this paper that governments must coordinate their efforts with a strategic partnership, and a long-term view, prospected towards an equalization of emission entitlements on the basis that the ecological space belongs to every human being.

## ACRONYMS

AAUs	Assigned Amount Units
C&C	Contraction And Convergence
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
Cfr. supra footnote X, p. Y	Page Y refers to the book quoted in footnote X
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
COPs	Conference of Parties
DNA	Designated National Authorities
EPBs	Environmental Protection Bureaus
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EPL	Environmental Protection Law
EPOs	Environmental Protection Offices
ERUs	Emissions Reduction Units
ETS	Emission Trading System
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHGs	Greenhouse Gases
JI	Joint Implementation
MEP	Minister of Environmental Protection
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NAP	National Allocation Plan
NCCCC	National Coordination Committee on Climate Change
NDRC	National Development and Reform

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	Commission
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
RMUs	Removal Units
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Administration
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCC	World Climate Conference
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

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