

CICERO
P.O. Box 1129 Blindern
N-0317 Oslo, Norway
Phone +47 22 85 87 50
Fax +47 22 85 87 51

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OUTLINE OF

EXPLORING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMITMENTS - A FOLLOW-UP TO THE BERLIN MANDATE

PROJECT BEING PREPARED FOR THE NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT

The distribution of commitments between participating countries will be a vital feature of any future protocol (or other legal instruments) to the Climate Convention, implying legally binding commitments for industrialized countries to reduce their net emissions of greenhouse gases. The project will study necessary prerequisites for such an agreement to be established, with the aim to identify potential problems and obstacles related to the distribution of commitments and costs between participating countries, and suggestions as to how these potential problems could be solved. A better understanding of these issues might contribute to the negotiation process on the Berlin mandate. Thus some of the inherent questions and problems of such negotiations should be handled and solved.

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

The project will be an analysis of prerequisites for establishing future protocols to the Climate Convention implying legally binding commitments for participating countries. The following five prerequisites are considered important:

1. Participation: number and type of countries (e.g. all OECD countries, or OECD countries and East European countries).
2. Global target: size of emissions reduction and total cost.
3. "Fairness" of cost distribution within the group of participating countries.
(Depends *inter alia* on preferences for various ethical systems, choice of coordinated policy option and implementation, willingness to pay for emissions reduction in various countries (which, *inter alia*, depends on expected climate change consequences for each country), and the level of development, e.g. measured as GDP per capita (less important within a group of similar countries.))