

*Is the Paris Agreement "fair and ambitious" enough to prove transformative?*

Leena Srivastava

TERI University



Which one are you?



1/2 FULL?

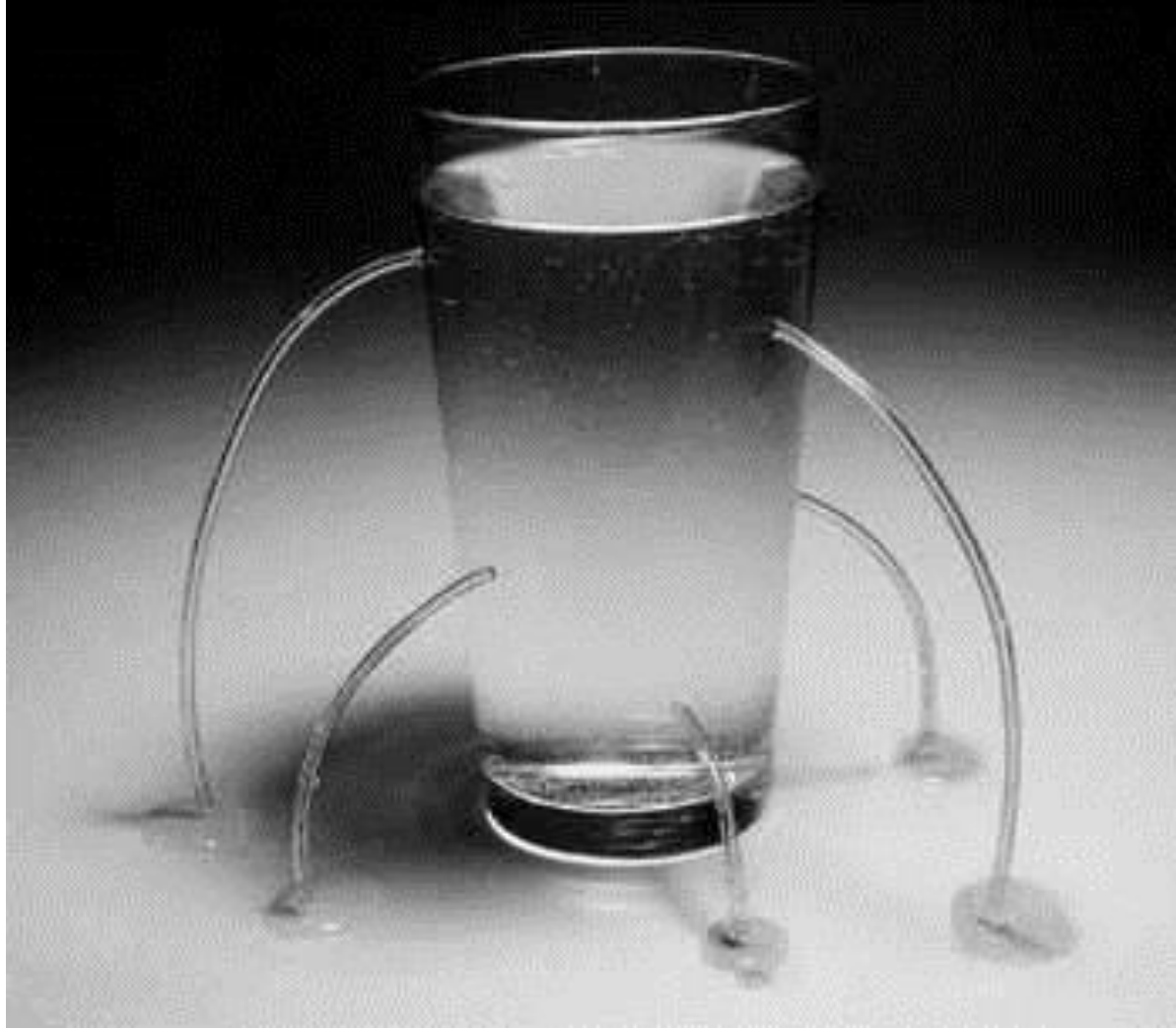
1/2 EMPTY?

**GLASS HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY?  
WHERE DOES ONE FOCUS?**

# Half Full, Yes...

- We have an Agreement!
  - Even though there is a complete disconnect between preamble of COP Decision and the Agreement
- It is Universal!
- All countries have obligations
- Legally binding (in parts)
- Transparency and accountability framework
- Rigidities have given way to flexibilities (Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1)

**BUT, ARE WE MISLEADING OURSELVES?**



The Glass is Rapidly Emptying ...

# 'Fairness' in the Paris Agreement

- PARIS AGREEMENT NOT FAIR TO PLANET EARTH!
  - We have lost time and are continuing to lose it.
  - Costs (human and economic) of mitigation and adaptation going up rapidly
- Short term economic impacts have taken supremacy over human lives and planetary costs – a win for the rich and powerful
- The Historic Responsibility clause has disappeared. No current responsibility either (Attribution)
- Issue of human migration/re-location not addressed
- Adaptation – still not a priority
- Equity sidestepped?
- Burden of proof on 'needs', 'particularly vulnerable', 'in light of different national circumstances'...

# Ambition of the Paris Agreement

- Bottom-up pledges do not add up;
  - Carbon budget likely to be used up in next few years
  - Uncertain future: It is too easy to give up on any ambition
- **DISCONNECTED WITH URGENCY OF SCIENCE**
- The demonstration of adherence to principles of equity and justice
- No commitments on finance! Financial flows include both public and private, plus there are equivalents of emissions trading and CDM/SDM => Potential for huge arbitrage/leakage
- Shirking responsibility for adaptation financing

# What do we want to 'Transform'

- Emissions Pathways to get into a safe zone?
- Land use patterns to enhance sequestration?
- Mobility Choices?
- Lifestyles so as to reduce consumption?

OR

- Governance of global commons?
- Metrics of performance and accountability on all fronts?
- Implementation capability of Governments?

# Leaking 'holes'?

- NDCs reflecting national circumstances; no obligation to achieve;
- Pushed to 2020 the communication of mid-century goals
- Adaptation language vague and non-committal [Adaptation](#)
- Loss and Damage sounds like Vulnerability reduction...[Loss and Damage](#)
- Finance Commitments Inadequate...





Refilling our glass...

# Making the most of the Paris Agreement

- Ratchet Mechanism
  - Must ensure that **progression** of commitment rapidly narrows gap between new pledges and achievement of long term goal
  - Poor performance reflected in stocktake must lead to a compounding commitment
- Role of Subsidiary Bodies
- Enhanced action prior to 2020

Thank you!



# Adaptation

- 42. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to jointly develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, ...
  - (b) To consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries, without placing an undue burden on them;



# Loss and Damage

- 52. *Agrees* that Article 8 of the Agreement does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation
- Article 8.3 notes that, “Accordingly, areas of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action and support may include:
  - Early warning systems
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Slow onset events
  - Events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage
  - Comprehensive risk assessment and management
  - Risk insurance facilities, climate risk pooling, and other insurance solutions
  - Non-economic losses
  - Resilience of communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems

