

China insists rich nations must do more at Lima climate meeting

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Local residents exercise amid heavy smog on the Bund in Shanghai, on November 12, 2014

Developed countries must do more than their less wealthy counterparts to tackle climate change, the world's biggest polluter China said on Tuesday, reaffirming its longstanding position before a United Nations climate conference next month.

The meeting, to be held in the Peruvian capital Lima from December 1 to 12, is intended to pave the way for a global deal on cutting Earth-warming [carbon emissions](#) to be agreed next year in Paris as a replacement for the Kyoto treaty.

China earlier this month set a target for its emissions to peak around 2030, the first time it has declared a date, albeit approximate, for the goal.

"Developed [countries](#)... should continue to take the lead in cutting emissions by large margins and at the same time provide developing countries with support for financing, technology and capability building," Su Wei, Beijing's top climate negotiator and a senior official of the National Development and Reform Commission, told reporters.

China hopes the Lima conference will uphold the principles of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in tackling [climate change](#), he told a briefing.

The phrase calls on developed nations—with their long industrial history—to take the lead in addressing global environmental issues such as curbing emissions.

That insistence was central to the failings of the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit as developed nations balked at undertaking the bulk of responsibility.



A plume of exhaust extends from the Mitchell Power Station, a coal-fired power plant near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on September 24, 2013

Developed countries are wealthier and have greater capabilities, while economic growth and poverty alleviation remain "the most urgent priorities" of developing states, said Su, whose organisation is China's top economic planning agency.

"The agreement to be reached in 2015 must face the facts squarely and its relevant institutions and arrangements must reflect the common and differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries," he said.

China as a developing nation will make "more powerful efforts after 2020" to make its "due contribution" to alleviating global warming, he added.

The Chinese emissions goal was announced during a visit to Beijing by US President Barack Obama, who set a target at the same time for the US to cut its [emissions](#) by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025.

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