

Complex and demanding scenario

Besides being among the most affected by global warming, either by geographic or structural issues, developing countries must face challenges to achieve the goals imposed by the Paris Agreement. According to specialists, governments, academics and private sector should work together in order to support countries like Brazil on implementing effective changes to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Many developing countries, like Brazil, India and Mexico are among the highest emitters of greenhouse gases. However, unlike low income countries, which have priority access to funds from Global Official Development Assistance (ODA), middle income countries do not have guaranteed access for funding for sustainability projects. "They should find other means to finance their development and environment programs", explains Maria Luisa Silva, director of United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In September last year, UNDP launched 17 new sustainable development goals, six of them directly related to environmental issues. "The environment goals were the ones which least progressed in Millennium Goals, which led us to strengthen their importance in the new agenda", explains Maria Luisa. The broader character of the new goals, she said, requires mobilization of new actors, cooperation and transfer of resources and technologies. "For countries like Brazil, private investment has a very important role", she said.

Kelly Levin, senior associate of research organization World Resources Institute (WRI), sees a challenging scenario to developing countries on achieving the goals of the Agreement from Paris. She explains that since 2013 with the Warsaw Conference, rich and developing economies began to speak the "same language" with the concept of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), which are the publicly commitments assumed by each country regarding climate actions. Although viewed as a development in terms of climate policy, the parameters also made the scenario more complex.

"They depend on local circumstances, ambitions and commitment. They are stronger in some countries than in others", she says. In Brazil and Colombia, the targets for reducing gas emissions are wider and non-conditioned to financial or funding factors, while in other countries, they will only occur if there is international financing. That requires great skills for countries like Brazil to develop those policies without ensuring access to funds which would support technology, infrastructure and human resources.

These challenges, however, should be seen as opportunities, advocates the researcher and Trinity Business School professor Cara Augustenborg. One example used by Cara is the energy industry, which can be compared to the Mobile industry. "Many low-income and developing countries were not able to invest in large-scale infrastructure and started to implement simple and innovative models, adopting mobile and pay-as-you-go solutions", she said. The role of businesses in the process, she said, has been important - since 2010, the global private investment on renewable energy is bigger than the fossil fuel production one.