

# Passing off business as usual as business unusual

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Ajay K Jha, CECOEDECON

k.ajay.j@gmail.com

# Business as usual or business unusual

Preventing rise in temp well below 2 DC or 1.5 DC, sustaining food productions, halting biodiversity loss, stopping pollution, achieving SDGs all require wide and deep transformations; however, in no global assessments we seem to be close to that transformation

None of the countries are likely to achieve all SDGs by 2030, none of the countries is truly on well below 2 DC pathway, biodiversity loss is increasing, pollution is claiming more lives, and we have been unable to arrest resource extraction

Are we passing off business as usual as business unusual?

# Are we addressing systemic issues

Despite multiplicity of the efforts, systemic issues/ the main drivers remain unaddressed

Inequality and concentration of wealth, power and technology is still rising

Social and gender justice remain peripheral

Environmental integrity is secondary to economic growth, no regulation of business and industries having substantial environmental footprints

Peoples participation and role of the CSOs is being marginalized further

Inability/lack of willingness to prevent wars and conflicts

# What is required for the transformation

Leadership- leaders are abdicating their resp

Policies- except few smaller countries (Morocco, Lithuania) no country is close to policies which can be called transformational (many countries are leaders despite their projected increase in emissions by more than 100%)

Technology-theoretically possible, but yet to be proven demonstrably, huge leaps in RE esp solar PV, conversations on pitfalls of high technology increasing

Finance- yet to manifest on some credible scale

Partnerships- some of them promising (powering past coal alliance, C 40, but many (viz. GACSA) yet to be convincing

Lifestyle changes-yet to take effect where they matter

# False solutions

Many false solutions are being promoted as business unusual

Geo engineering, CCS, BECCS

False solutions in agriculture (AI, robotics etc.)

Electric mobility

Circular economy

We are focussing on peripheral issues and diverting from the core issues (energy use, resource use in high income countries) unaddressed preventing us from promoting peoples solutions, traditional knowledge, preference to environmental sustainability over endless unsustainable growth pursuit etc.)

# Climate change; the core environmental issue

Many of the sustainability solutions run through stopping unabated climate change

But are we there?

Current efforts are less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of what is required (1.5C report),

Countries need to put in 5 times more effort (UNEP Emission GAP Report)

despite emissions increasing from developing countries huge inequality in global emissions

Per capita resource use in high income countries more than 13 times of the low income countries (Global Resource Outlook, 2019)

77% of arable land used for meat production for high income countries

Solutions are being find in developing and poor countries are being told to be responsible. Let's think who should be responsible, who should lead?

No resolution possible unless there is equity among countries and within the countries and there is appropriate development space for all which takes into account historical role based on common but differentiated responsibility