



Written by [James Heiser](#) on October 16, 2009

The United States and other industrialized nations will certainly have to contribute heavily to any financing program. But the global recession has tightened purse strings, and nations are having trouble backing their good intentions and previous pledges with cash.

The money woes of the United Nations fund, set up as an exemplar of international cooperation in addressing climate change, are symptomatic. The fund was supposed to benefit from two income streams: the first is a 2 percent tax on carbon credits sold in the United Nations carbon trading system, in which rich nations invest in green projects in the developing world to offset emissions at home; the second is voluntary donations by richer countries.

The 2 percent tax is expected to generate at least \$1.6 billion by 2012. But the donations have not materialized, Mr. de Boer said.

That's right; local, state, and federal taxes are not enough: it is time to pay your UN tax — and then listen to the Internationalists whine about the lack of "voluntary donations." By the standards of modern government, \$1.6 billion hardly seems like very much to get excited about — except, of course, for the fact that the important point that is being established is the principle of yet another level of taxing authority. The power to tax is the power to control the currency and the economic fate of all those who are under the boot of the taxman.

A number of proposals are on the table to generate money to help developing countries rein in future emissions as well as to adapt to the effects of climate change. But most remain far from producing money.

In September, the European Union offered a plan in which "industrialized nations and economically more advanced developing countries" would provide \$33 billion to \$74 billion a year to help poor countries adapt, with the European Union's share placed at \$3 billion to \$22 billion. The climate bill passed by the House in the United States in June would auction emissions permits, and donate a portion of revenues to help poor countries. The climate legislation is now before the Senate.

Connie Hedegaard, the Danish minister of climate and energy, who will be chairwoman of the Copenhagen meeting, recently suggested imposing a new tax on shipping fuel or on airline flights — which both cause substantial emissions — to finance adaptation in poor countries.

Most Americans would be surprised to discover that taxes gouged from Americans will not even be used for domestic programs, but will fund another round of international charity.

How long does this have to go on before people realize that it is not about the environment; it is about power: power to *control* wealth and power to *redistribute* wealth?



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