1. What are the session key findings? What are the new Lesson(s) learned / Scientific progress (since AR5 release, if relevant)?

There is a need for a target with an ethical dimension:

- An ethical dimension needs to be central to the new agreement.
- Equity criteria or indicators should point to enjoyment of human rights e.g. adequate standard of living, health, food, water and intergenerational justice.

Justice and Burden Sharing:

- Development-Sensitive Polluter Pays Principle: burden borne by those who contributed to the problem and those with greatest ability to pay. Contrasted with current realities of ‘polluter paid’.

Justice and Political Reality:

- Misinterpretations of what is unrealistic – hinder progress of incorporating equity in an agreement.
- Is an ethical approach unrealistic? Does this mean impossible to do? Or unlikely to be achieved? Although challenging, that does not diminish the moral force of the need to incorporate equity.

Addressing equity in INDCs:

- It is clear we are no longer in a top-down world for determining action, there is not complete clarity.
- There needs to be more clarity on how countries determine what is equitable and ambitious action.
- Some countries determining in their own context what is equitable. Self-determination of equity cannot be a robust assessment. A credible assessment whether a country’s contribution is a ‘fair shares’ requires assessment by others.
The need for countries to communicate INDCs in terms of fairness and ambition:

- Increase comparability between countries’ INDCs.
- Explain links between adaptation and mitigation action.
- Enhance the international understanding of different national conditions and assessment of relative fair efforts.

The relevance of a framework for fair and ambitious INDCs:

- Contribute to a robust and transparent narrative.
- Establish how the contribution is fair and ambitious, assessing principles of equity and CBDR&RC, “in light of national circumstances”.
- Contribution towards achieving the objective of the convention laid out in Article 2.
- Proposal for an Equity Reference Framework (ERF)
- Additional considerations: broad participation in development of INDCs (fair process)

Why equity matters?

- Significant inequalities in well being exist.
- There is diversity of impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Variability of historical and current emissions.
- Fundamentally globalized world: ecologically, socially, and economically
  - Unavoidable interdependencies that need to be addressed.

Key characteristics to consider:

- Sovereignty.
- Applicable to all.
- Article 3 of the Convention – principles of equity and CBDR&RC.
- Consideration with regards to how to operationalize.

2. What are the major knowledge Gaps and Research Needs identified in the session?

Central challenges:

- Operationalizing the equity dimension:
  - No single indicator for CBDR-RC.
  - Multiple indicators exist and have been quantified – but resistance by countries to ‘sign up to a formula’.
  - Up until now there has been a reliance on a small sub set of indicators
- Processes for deepening equity:
  - Assessment across a broad range of multiple indicators?
  - Objective indicators based on transparency and flexibility.
  - Review?
  - Mainstreaming across UNFCCC.
- Overarching equity narrative:
  - Burden sharing has not been successful – are we ready for a new approach?
  - Shifting the narrative to opportunities and effort-sharing rather than burdens
  - Managing transformation? Elements of different transformations may further exacerbate the equity challenge.
3. Did the session discuss/identify promising approaches in the fields of Adaptation and Mitigation, or both?

- The fundamental injustice that the poor, who contribute least to the problem, are more vulnerable, was identified. Inadequate mitigation leads to greater impacts – injustice for future generations.
- Tools identified for establishing countries’ progress, mainly in relation to mitigation:
  - WRI CAIT equity explorer.
  - Climate Action Tracker.
  - Climate Equity Reference Project.
  - Analysis as part of the UNEP gap report.
- Role of equity – neglected ethics fuels inadequate climate policy.
- Standing threats:
  - Intergenerational injustice: National Governments are struggling to meet the needs of the current generation, how can it address the needs of future generations.
  - Moral corruption.
- Institutional inadequacy to incorporate the equity issue.
- However, countries to date are only addressing some aspects of equity – some none at all!

(Table 1: Analysis of selected INDCs submitted against elements of equity)

4. Are there take-home messages from the session?

- Overarching issues
  - Mitigation burden sharing: inadequate mitigation is the largest injustice for future generations, neglecting equity represents a major risk. Need to move away from the burden sharing term – to something more productive concerning opportunities.
- There is a need to set a target that incorporates equity, and establish feasible ways of operationalizing the target within the political reality.
- An Equity Reference Framework could play a role in terms of establishing the level fairness and ambition of INDCs.
- Assess mitigation contributions across a broad range of multiple indicators.
- Incorporate adaptation at multiple scales.
- Integrate finance and support needs for both mitigation and adaptation to have a full picture as to how equitable contributions are.

5. Are there Important Quotes from the session?

- Climate change is a major challenge to ethical action.
- This may be the last chance for the UNFCCC to address the issues of equity in an ambitious agreement.
- Unless equity is taken seriously, ambition cannot be achieved.
6. Please include any other remark that you might have.

- Principles and a strong ethical basis are crucial.
- Operationalizing the principles in a framework that informs climate negotiations is equally important.