## <2°C Futures



2040 worlds on a trajectory to stay below two degrees centigrade of warming above pre-industrial levels





### Contents

- **3..... Welcome to our <2°C Futures**
- 4..... The case for action
- 4..... How <2°C Futures can help you
- 5..... Baseline 2040: What must have happened?
- 6..... <2°C Futures: How might it have happened?
- <sup>16</sup>..... A note on implications: What does this mean?

## Foreword

We as nations, as society and as a business have achieved tremendous progress in the last 100 years. But this progress is challenging the very nature of our ecosystem. We are now in a precarious situation. Staying under 2°C warming will not happen by itself and the dangers of not adhering to this commitment are significant.

We know that the transition to a 2°C trajectory is the best we can hope for, and that we at Aditya Birla Group have a role to play in making it happen. We also need to know that we can remain successful in the 2°C world we are creating. The ABG Sustainable Business Framework recognises that the space businesses have to operate within will shrink as legislation, coupled with other levers such as customer and citizen activism, will force change throughout value chains.

Our approach to the 2°C trajectory, and the commitments we make as a Group and as individual businesses, will to a large degree determine the trust we get from society. Trust is the ultimate and most precious accolade we can get in a challenging world.

By understanding what a <2°C world would look like and the transition scenarios to get there, we plan to build sustainable businesses that are even more successful than they are today.

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Legal Standards Today Following local laws gives business a relatively large space to operate in

#### International Standards Today Best Practice Today

operating space

Operating voluntarily to international standards requires a systematic approach and higher levels of control and performance i.e. a constricted More Demanding Legal Standards by 2030 By 2030, to be on the roadto a sustainable planet, businesses will have to perform better than ever

## Introduction

<2°C Futures is for those wishing to ensure their organisations can be successful as the world transitions to a zero carbon economy. Whilst this is not an easy path, it is both necessary and the best we can hope for, and one where competitiveness can be gained through innovation, proactive leadership and transformative management.

## There is no business case beyond 2°C

# The Paris Agreement on climate change commits us to keeping under two degrees centigrade of global warming beyond pre-industrial levels. The Stockholm Resilience Institute points out that beyond 2°C we risk becoming a "Hothouse Earth" which will stabilize at a global average of 4-5°C higher than pre-industrial temperatures<sup>1</sup>. Amongst other effects, this means a sea level 10-60 metres higher than today. New York, Bangkok, Jakarta, Dhaka, Singapore, Tel Aviv, Washington DC, Manila and Rio de Janeiro are amongst the cities that would be wiped out even at the lower 10-metre projection.

Not taking action means putting any business on a certain path to eventual collapse. For those looking to lead businesses that can be sustained in the long run, it is clear the business case exists only for action to stay below 2°C and successfully operate within this limit.

The challenge of staying below 2°C should not be underestimated. The planet has already warmed by at least  $1^{\circ}C^{2}$ . The already stretching commitments made under the Paris Agreement risk taking us to a potentially hothouse inducing 2.7 - 3.7°C<sup>3</sup>.

Although it is an exponentially better future than a hothouse, a below 2°C trajectory will look very different to today and getting there will require fundamental change. It will for instance require a dramatic shift in our energy systems, how we use resources and how we calculate value. The sooner we ensure our businesses can operate in this new future, the better prepared we will be - ahead of the competition and the almost inevitable regulations coming our way.

<sup>4</sup> https://science2017.globalchange.gov/

## How <2°C Futures can help you

<2°C Futures synthesises the leading scientific thinking on the physical im-pacts of climate change by 2040, and uses scenarios to explore the many possible levers that will push or pull us into a below two degree trajectory. It is a resource to help businesses and other organisations identify their future opp-ortunities and challenges, strategise, and take action to be successful on a below 2°C trajectory.

To help explore the <2°C Futures, and the implications for business and society, in this resource we summarise:

#### **BASELINE 2040**

What the science says is likely to have happened by 2040.

#### **PHYSICAL BASELINE**

The physical impacts of previous emissions already 'baked into' the system by 2040, based on projections from a number of sources, including the Fourth National Climate Assessment released by the U.S. Global Change Research Program in November 2017<sup>4</sup> and the January 2018 draft of the IPCC Special Report on  $1.5^{\circ}C^{5}$ , as well as insights gained during expert interviews.

#### **TRANSITION BASELINE**

The transition levers we must have pulled to reduce and control emissions to a below 2°C trajectory. There is no one silver bullet, and the massive change required by 2040 across the globe will require a complex combination of the levers.

### <2°C FUTURES: Four scenarios outlining what the business operating context could look like in 2040

The impacts on business will depend greatly on how the combination of levers is applied. In turn this will depend greatly on the socio-economic context. Many of the emissions trajectory models assume that the context in 2040, 2060 and 2100 will look similar to today. We know this is unlikely given the change we have seen over the previous 20, 40 and 80 years. For this reason, we need to understand how these levers could impact our businesses in different socioeconomic contexts: for instance, in a world of strict international governance what could we be forced to comply with and what incentives could we benefit from; and how can we therefore find success in that 2°C future? How might this differ if international governance splinters into the protectionist blocs already being signalled? The Scenarios will help you plan for these different <2°C Futures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Steffen, W., Rockström, J., Richardson, K., Lenton, T.M., Folke, C., Liverman, D., Summerhayes, C.P., Barnosky, A.D, Cornell, S.E., Crucifix, M., Donges, J.F., Fetzer, I., Lade, S.J., Scheffer, M., Winkelmann, R., and Schellnhuber, H.J. (2018) Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1810141115

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Schurer, A.P., Mann, M.E., Hawkins, E., Tett, S.F.B., Hegerl, G.C., (2017) Importance of the pre-industrial baseline for likelihood of exceeding Paris goals Nature Climate Change volume7, pages563–567 (2017)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/11/latest-climate-commitments-how-much-will-world-warm-its-complicated Accessed August 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/02/13/leaked-draft-summary-un-special-report-1-5c-climate-goal-full/

#### PHYSICAL BASELINE | Likely physical impacts of climate change by 2040

1.5

Globally Averaged Surface Temperature will likely be 1.5°C warmer than pre-industrial times by 2040



### TRANSITION BASELINE | The levers we have to pull by 2040 to stay below 2°C



Global economy including India decarbonises at a rate of around 5% per year during the 2020s and 2030s



## **Scenarios**



### **EFFICIENCY FIRST**

A precarious globalised house of cards where constant and often risky technological innovation, motivated by high carbon prices, is just keeping us on track



## **Efficiency First**

2040

is a precarious globalised house of cards where constant and often risky technological innovation, motivated by high carbon prices, is just keeping us on a <2°C trajectory



#### THE GLOBAL CONTEXT IS ...

driven by strengthened international governance. High global carbon prices were introduced early, quickly ramped up and internationally monitored, driving an ultra-competitive business environment.

#### SOCIETY AND LIFESTYLES ARE ...

still unequal, consumerist and individualistic. Massive skilling and reskilling programmes exist to transition people from high carbon or automated sectors to mitigation and adaptation-related industries like renewable energy and resilient infrastructure.

#### **BUSINESS IS ...**

consolidated, working in partnership with government to accelerate the transition, after initial resistance. A healthy flow of international finance and higher risk tolerances sees entrepreneurial leaders claiming market share with low carbon innovations.

#### THE ECONOMY IS ...

growing steadily, aided by AI monitoring and real-time policy interventions. Massive growth in renewables, artificial nutrition sources and the construction of new cities driven by urbanisation policies is changing the sectoral balance in most countries.

#### ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE ...

purely competitive in the business world, with little moral stance. Individuals expect business and government to deliver the transition required. Governments cooperate internationally in recognition of the collective threats. With most now living in urban areas, they feel the heat even more as heatwaves intensify.

#### **RESOURCES ARE ...**

volatile, with high carbon prices shaping demand. The circular economy has grown, driven by economics. Massive swathes of land, transferred through compulsory purchase in many countries, are devoted to corporate-run intensive precision agriculture, carbon sequestration and bio-energy crops.

#### POLITICS IS ...

interwoven with business, and remains vulnerable to corruption in some countries. Most cities are run in public-private partnership. An international agreement governs the movement of climate refugees, but political and society tensions flare at peak events.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IS ...**

the main source of hope for reducing emissions and ensuring resilience. Huge investment and international collaboration on negative emissions technologies, efficiency and massive renewable energy and storage is proving constantly only just enough to stay on trajectory.

#### MUMBAI IS COPING WITH MORE INTENSE STORMS BY ...

taking part in the International Port Protection Mission which built up artificial and natural sea defences over the 2030s. Protection is only just sufficient however, and has to be constantly topped up by Talianceraj, the transnational parent of the corporate partner in Mumbai City Government.

### **REDEFINING PROGRESS**

A digitally connected, yet highly localised world where priorities in many countries have shifted from rapid growth to healthier growth



## **Redefining Progress**

## 2040

is a digitally connected, yet highly localised world where priorities in many countries have shifted from rapid growth to healthier growth reflecting the changing aspirations of next generation leaders.



#### THE GLOBAL CONTEXT IS ...

shaped by a new localism that pervades politics and economics. Communities are more globally networked and empowered than ever, and business and technology are largely expected to serve society.

#### SOCIETY AND LIFESTYLES ARE ...

less consumerist and more about the experience as a status symbol. People monitor their wellness avidly, giving service providers access in order to live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives. Veganism has exploded in popularity, and gender equality programmes are reaping benefits.

#### BUSINESS IS ...

dominated by purpose-led organisations and collective ownership models. Supply chains have shortened and are far more transparent as societal expectations dictate. Brands that demonstrate purpose have ferociously loyal customers. A 4-day work week is standard.

#### THE ECONOMY IS ...

a competition to top the World Bank's Wellbeing Index. Investors are driven by long term gain and 'restorative returns'. Carbon prices are not universally applied, though a nuanced form of full cost accounting is widely practiced. International trade focuses on strategic resources not available locally.

#### ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE ...

universally based on good understanding, leading to it being a priority for most societies. With more applied systems thinking however, climate change solutions are expected to address other societal priorities too. Increasing water scarcity is putting pressure on relations as well as crop yields.

#### **RESOURCES ARE ...**

where possible, put to multiple productive uses and being prioritised for restoration. Regenerative agriculture and biochar are widely embraced. High migration puts pressure on key hotspots however, with influxes driven from areas under managed retreat programmes away from flood and drought prone land.

#### POLITICS IS ...

more participatory than ever before. A new cadre of mayors, regional and state leaders have emerged. International cooperation is enabled through a strengthen UN, which also coordinates decarbonisation and adaptation support. Water resources and refugees remain sources of tension. In a few places separatist movements try to put up barriers to protect resources.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IS ...**

massively enabling efficiency. One core device allows people to control almost every aspects of their lives, and to radiate data to chosen service providers. The energy system is a true mix of small, medium and large renewables and, with the help of IoT, cities now promote cycling, walking and public transport over private vehicle ownership.

#### MUMBAI IS COPING WITH MORE INTENSE STORMS BY ...

having well implemented local incident plans, and a strong emphasis on restoration in the mangroves to protect the coastline. Damage to property is still significant however, and the costs have to be collectively managed within communities, using local financing mechanisms.

## **NEW PROTECTIONISM** A splintered world of protectionist blocs, where tackling climate change is a matter of national security



## **New Protectionism**

## 2040

is a splintered world of protectionist blocs, where tackling climate change is a matter of national security. Cultures continue to fragment along religious, values and ethnic lines.



#### THE GLOBAL CONTEXT IS ...

dominated by strongmen-style leaders with 'national interest' being used to justify increasingly draconian measures that focus on security and access to resources. Hard borders stem the international flow of climate refugees, with an underfunded UN powerless to intervene.

#### SOCIETY AND LIFESTYLES ARE ...

largely dictated by government. Individuals are closely monitored in the name of patriotic duty, and National Reputation Rating Schemes determine social status in many countries. Everything from diet, health, technology and lifestyle choices, and even child-bearing, is watched and rated.

#### **BUSINESS IS ...**

dominated by large, state-owned 'national businesses' following a series of pseudo nationalisations where governments took control of assets deemed to be in the national interest. A few multi-nationals resisted protectionism and restrictions on trade, now only operating in relatively liberal countries.

#### THE ECONOMY IS ...

a network of strategic bilateral trade deals designed to ensure access to resources. Borders have been closed to nonsanctioned rivals. Cybercrime is rife and there is a flagrant disregard for IP rights in the name of national security.

#### ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE ...

focused on how it challenges national security, culture and integrity. The need to decarbonise quickly is now used to justify everything from international relations to highly invasive government control over individual behaviour. Some countries are suffering with falling crop yields as weather patterns change and water scarcity increases.

#### **RESOURCES ARE ...**

the subject of intense competition that frequently erupts into violence. Water wars were a defining feature of the 2030s across Asia and Africa. Countries and regions with limited resources, skills or capital to trade find little international sympathy or cooperation.

#### POLITICS IS ...

about using hard line policy to control business and how people live their lives. The cost to individual liberty is high. Access to resources is high on the agenda, but it has become a world of 'each for their own' with the most vulnerable rarely represented.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IS ...**

the tool in a decarbonisation and adaptation arms race that focuses on building or protecting national security. Large, centralised and state-backed decarbonisation and adaptation solutions dominate. Carbon capture and storage or utilisation (CCS/U) received huge investment in the 2020s and 2030s, but impact at scale is still elusive.

#### MUMBAI IS COPING WITH MORE INTENSE STORMS BY ...

making massive efforts to protect the flagship city. The ongoing costs of strengthening sea defences are becom-ing hard to justify, and a managed retreat plan has been tabled, proposing the sacrifice of a number of low-lying neighbourhoods over to mangroves and wetlands restoration and new defences.

## **SERVICE TRANSFORMATION** A world where the mainstreaming of access over ownership has happened quickly, and globally-applied, individual carbon budgets are traded and tracked



## **Service Transformation**

## 2040

is experience-led. Service-based living, the mainstreaming of access over ownership, has happened quickly, and globallyapplied, individual carbon budgets are traded and tracked.



#### THE GLOBAL CONTEXT IS ...

highly urbanised and globally networked. The centre of economic and political power has shifted east since the 2020s and China now dominates a technocratic internationalist framework.

#### SOCIETY AND LIFESTYLES ARE ...

based on subscriptions to services for everything from mobility to housing to wellbeing. Personal carbon trading on digital platforms is the new normal, and has to some degree reduced inequality as the poorer, less carbon intense lifestyles sell their quotas to the rich. Annual reductions in quotas are a source of tension. Virtual tourism and vegetarianism are default choices.

#### **BUSINESS IS ...**

in a state of disruptive transition led by tech-enabled innovators providing affordable access to service-based living. Finance innovation, enabled by decentralised blockchain, such as put options on property in less resilient cities and the pooling of smallholder land has changed the flow of capital.

#### THE ECONOMY IS ....

dominated by innovative and complex global carbon markets based on mature blockchain platforms. The low carbon economy has been a net creator of jobs thanks to constant upgrading of infrastructure and reconfiguring of cities. Carbon intensive industries are in steep decline. The global knowledge economy is more accessible than ever before.

#### ATTITUDES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE ...

accepting of the reality and driven by a desire to get 'out of the danger zone'. Refugees are individually tracked and funnelled towards special humanitarian zones serviced by international agencies. Where they settle is strictly governed. Keeping many temporary and permanent settlements alike at a safe and comfort-able temperature is proving a challenge.

#### **RESOURCES ARE ...**

stretched, particularly rare earth metals and natural fibres. The circular economy is mainstream and provides a significant source of jobs. 3D printing and recycled concrete, design for disassembly and reuse feature heavily due to a need for 'relocatable communities'. Water shortages and unpredictable deluges pose huge challenges for agriculture in many locations across the world despite significant innovation.

#### POLITICS IS ...

utilitarian, focusing on what 'produces results', often replacing subsidies for x-prize style funding or results-based smart contracts. Transparency is shrinking the space for corruption. A politically popular basic level of universal services for all has been established, helped by individual carbon quotas.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IS ...**

largely decentralised. Trustworthy verification is the subject of an arms race between AI technologies. Biotech is applied in finding resilient crops faster, and to free up land for agriculture by brewing inputs for textiles, leather and medicines. Energy generation is de-centralised, but distribution is centrally managed by a few smart grid companies. Virtualisation has replaced the majority of flights, which are now prohibitively expensive. Shipping has electrified, and volumes are lower due to shorter supply chains.

#### MUMBAI IS COPING WITH MORE INTENSE STORMS BY ...

having reconfigured the city over the course of the 2030s, shifting large populations away from areas prone to inundation. The service living concept is put to its test with wealthy families demanding rapid relocation to lower risk areas, but low income households facing lengthy delays and slow re-provision.

## Implications

Together, the baselines and scenarios suggest that businesses set to be successful in a below 2°C future need to be ready for a complex picture of mutually reinforcing changes including:

- A tough policy landscape and robust implementation
- The end of coal
- An huge transformation in the built environment
- A step change in agriculture and food
- A mobility revolution
- New materials and minerals to the fore
- Detailed monitoring of corporate, and even individual, behaviour
- The emergence of radically different governance and business models
- A change in land use on a massive scale for protection, sequestration and energy
- · Sea-level rise that poses serious challenges for low-lying cities
- Hotter, more frequent heatwaves and intense flooding
- Increasing migration, particularly from water-stressed areas
- · Tackling poverty will have become critical to all
- An acceptance that technology alone will not save us

With climate change impacts already demonstrating how unprepared we are globally, and the timetable for action being sooner than most believe, the time for action is now if we want our businesses to continue to be successful. As some of the leading experts say: "There will always be those who hide their heads in the sand and ignore the global risks of climate change. But there are many more of us committed to overcoming this inertia." Finding business value on a below 2°C trajectory is at the least imperative to manage our risks, and at best a source of transformational competitive advantage — and probably sooner than most think.



Produced by Sustainability Cell of the Aditya Birla Group supported by Forum for the Future November 2018. For more information and a detailed explanation (including the sources) of <2°C Futures, please contact sustainability@adityabirlagroup.com

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