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Sustainable Development as a Framework for Climate Change Mitigation Policies

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The recent failures of the international climate change negotiation process in facilitating strong globally binding commitments have demonstrated that there is a need for a stronger alignment of more general development aspects as represented in sustainable development and climate change policies. The paper presents the results of global and regional studies with a main focus on India and China, where the costs and policy options are compared in two different scenario cases. A conventional policy case assumes that a global climate agreement is established and the portfolio of mitigation options are different technical options in the energy sector, transportation, and landuse, and an alternative sustainable development climate policy case assumes that mitigation policies are embedded in a broader policy agenda. It shows up that there potentially are many synergies between sustainable development and climate change, and it could be economic attractive to combine economic and climate change policy agendas.