



Climate change negotiations: issues at Marrakech

Climate Action Network Statement from the Southern Perspective

At the COP7 of the UNFCCC it is imperative that there is tangible progress on the Bonn decisions.

It remains an established fact that the bulk of the GHG emissions are caused by the developed countries of North, where less than a fifth of human population live. However, experience at the Negotiations reveal that these developed countries have not acted responsibly to meet the objectives of the Convention, i.e. to limit human interference with climate change while promoting sustainable development. Under common but differentiated responsibilities, it was stated that North shall take the lead to combat climate change.

At Bonn, the Parties to the Convention completed some of the negotiations on which consensus was reached, and forwarded these for adoption at COP7 in Marrakech. It is in the interest of all Parties that these are adopted here and not delayed any further. This agreement is currently again questioned; it's the credibility of Northern countries which is flying away.

Among these, the most burning issue is the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol with a strong compliance regime. Unless this happens, all polluter countries will continue to maintain a business-as-usual pathway, frustrating all efforts to prevent dangerous human impact on climate & development. A strong compliance regime will provide the basis for these countries to act responsibly in pursuit of their commitments made under the Convention and the Protocol.

Also a weakening of aspects related to LDCs is the issue of NAPAs implementation. We call on all Parties at the negotiations to take this matter up with the degree of responsibility and urgency required. We need figures on the table now at COP7 on the LDC funds.

At Marrakech, it is also expected that all Parties to the Convention continue to ensure that the obligations under the Convention are fully upheld and adopt mechanisms to operationalise decisions taken on Adaptation, Public Awareness and Participation, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building. It is alarming to see that the developed countries in the North are trying to transform mechanisms in opening new markets for its corporations.

All Parties at Bonn also reached a decision to establish a number of funds, both under the Convention and the Protocol. These Funds are to facilitate the developing countries to cope with adverse impacts of climate change and develop the necessary institutions to ensure that sustainable development goals are addressed adequately. It is also expected that these Funds will be additional to the ODA flow from the developed countries and can be verified and regularly reported as such.

We call on all Parties to facilitate the establishment of the Least Developed Countries Fund at Marrakech without which it may become impossible for LDCs to cope with adverse climate change impacts and achieve sustainable development goals as well.

Further, the question of where adequate money for these funds will come from still remains unresolved. Parties that made political declarations at Bonn have not come up with any concrete figures of their contributions. What has been committed to date is pathetic and is discouraging for all developing countries.

We call on all Parties to address the sources for these funds, and also ensure that the funds are substantial to enable developing countries to participate meaningfully in the Convention and the Protocol.

Raising Awareness of the public in all developing countries is a pre-requisite to meaningful public participation in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. The negotiations at Marrakech must recognize the importance of addressing the issue of public participation more comprehensively than has taken place so far. It would be wise to use the Aarhus Convention as a point of reference and good practice in enabling meaningful public participation

The Parties at COP7 must also take into consideration that the developing countries need to provide their populace with access to energy services, to a significant and increasing extent through renewable energy, and to safe water supply. In terms of technology transfer, there is great potential for south-south cooperation and this need to be considered at par with the possibilities of technology transfer from the North to the South.

Also, Parties must ensure that small projects are eligible in the CDM with simplified procedures, to enable most of the developing countries to participate in the process. The developing countries also expect that at COP7, specific rules for the inclusion of sinks in the CDM in the first commitment period are in place.

Further, Parties must also ensure full participation of indigenous people in the Climate Change negotiations process, and not relegate their involvement.

Finally, Parties must also uphold their political will and commitment to continue pushing the process forward, with much more strength than in the past.