

ECO

THE STOP RAINING ON ECO'S PARADE ISSUE

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I Gotta Feeling!

"I gotta feeling,
That this week we will make good progress
That this week we will think of workers
That this week we'll discuss diversification
Ouh!
I gotta feeling,
That countries will adopt the workplan
And the forum will share best practices
And contribute to more climate ambition!"

Wow, well this morning, ECO feels like singing!

Yesterday, ECO saw countries engage constructively on their first negotiations on the adoption of the six-year work-plan for the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures. They agreed to streamline a work process that has been delayed by one year. And it's particularly encouraging that all countries agreed in principle, to allow observers to stay in the room during the two hours of informal negotiations that took place yesterday.

ECO also finds it encouraging when countries decide to address, in the most honest way, issues related to just transition and economic diversification. In a climate-changing world, these are not easy discussions. They can be painful because change means there will be some losers. But for the global community to work together to hold the global temperature rise below 1.5°C, cooperation among and within countries will be essential to ensure that the transition is fair, equitable, inclusive, and responsive to gender, class, and race, and disabled people. The transition must jumpstart new social and economic development while increasing climate ambition.

But you know what, we are just starting. There is still much work to do to detail how countries will, for

example, "explore approaches to the development and implementation of NDCs and long-term low greenhouse gas emission strategies that maximize the positive impacts and minimize the negative impacts of response measures".

You know, ECO echoes the words of a negotiator who said [response measures are] "not an issue for oil-rich countries. This is more than that, and it's impacting the EU as well". We are all impacted, particularly as countries prepare new and more ambitious NDCs by 2020.

ECO looks forward to more discussions on how to prepare regional and sector-specific case studies on the impacts of implementation of response measures, on just transition and economic diversification. ECO also looks forward to more dialogue on how to ensure that capacity-building support and shared practices are provided to and with developing countries to improve knowledge on these topics. ECO knows that there is potential behind the creation of robust tools for modelling and assessing the impacts of the implementation of mitigation measures.

Most importantly, ECO is looking forward to a cooperative process of finalizing the six-year work plan to ensure that issues of equity and just transition are considered in tandem with setting new ambitious targets on climate. These cannot be divorced; social and economic justice cannot be ignored when countries are undergoing vast energy and social transitions. It is essential that the forum approves a work plan to kickstart a productive program on response measures.

It's time to turn things around from seeing response measures as one of the least-loved items of the agenda and come up with tools that will help us accelerate the transition towards a decarbonized world that will be better for all.

100 Billion Dollar Baby

Dear delegates,

Today, at the Stocktake on Pre-2020 implementation and ambition, you will have one of the last opportunities to reflect on how well (or how badly?) you are doing in meeting your 2020 targets. One of them is the climate finance goal of US\$100 billion a year that developed countries promised to provide and mobilise by 2020. With the deadline looming large, three things need to be foremost in your minds —and your interventions during the session:

Time to acknowledge and bridge the adaptation finance gap. On the last count only around a fifth of the overall climate finance provided and mobilised went to adaptation. Despite repeated commitments to balance adaptation and mitigation finance, you, developed countries, are still failing to respond to the growing needs of vulnerable populations on the frontline of the climate crisis. The Pre-2020 Stocktake is your chance to fix this, by committing to urgently increasing your adaptation finance. Making new pledges to the Adaptation Fund would not be such a bad idea.

Time to be transparent and fair. Today, we expect you

to say that you will meet the USD100 billion goal... but let's be honest, if you do, it will be entirely on your own terms and much of what is being counted should not be - "clean" coal and non-concessional loans to name two examples. If these weaknesses, gaps and inconsistencies remain unaddressed, they will continue to undermine trust in climate finance and the \$100bn. It is time to fix them as part of the new rules for transparency.

Time to be modest. Impacts of the climate crisis are growing at an unprecedented pace, along with climate finance needs. Adaptation finance needs alone could reach up to \$300bn a year by 2030. In 2020, you will not have time to congratulate yourselves. Instead, you should make sure that from the floor of \$100bn, the provision and mobilisation of climate finance will increase between 2020 and 2025.

By then, and in light of the forthcoming needs assessment report by the Standing Committee of Finance, you will have to decide on a new - and ambitious - collective goal on climate finance. Let us be clear: we are in a climate emergency and cannot afford a stagnation of climate finance.

2020 Will Not Reset the Gap

Today and tomorrow, COP25 will see some focus on pre-2020 implementation and action in the Stocktake on Pre-2020 Implementation and Ambition, with the technical part today and the high-level part tomorrow. According to the concept note for the Stocktake, "all Parties share the view that pre-2020 implementation and ambition are of utmost importance". We have a hard time believing that you all really feel that way.

In the pre-2020 period, you, the Parties

have had the chance to get the world on track to avoid catastrophic climate change and the resulting loss and damage to people, particularly in vulnerable countries.

have invited the IPCC to help us establish sound scientific knowledge on the impacts and risks of climate change, and the need to combat it.

have seen report after report demonstrating the co-benefits of climate action, including for poverty reduction, equality, pollution, health, and more. Early action would have even been more cost-effective.

Also in the pre-2020 period, have brought us promises, and

speeches. You have not brought the necessary emission reductions and finance. What you, the Parties, have not had in the pre-2020 period is the political will and courage matching the challenge we face, to stand up to those who want to continue profiting from climate-destroying practices, and stand up for those vulnerable people facing devastating losses and damages.

Did you think the issue of lack of action in the pre-2020 period was going to go away at midnight on 31 December? It will not. According to the Stocktake concept note, "enhanced pre-2020 ambition can lay a solid foundation for enhanced post-2020 ambition".

Right now, it's looking a lot more like *lack of pre-2020 action will lay a solid foundation for a larger post-2020 gap*.

Developed country Parties, what you need to remember during this week's Stocktake, and at midnight on 31 December 2019 as you enter the Year of Climate Ambition, is that the actions you have not taken up to then, must now be done post-2020 - by you. Distributing the responsibility of cutting those emissions among all countries is not an option.

Typhoon Kammuri a Déjà Vu Moment?

Is the COP facing a déjà vu moment? As Typhoon Kammuri threatens the Philippines, are we about to see a repeat of the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013? It was Typhoon Haiyan's impact on the people of the Philippines that mobilized global cooperation around the urgency to respond to irreversible loss and damage due to climate change. COP19 responded after lengthy negotiations with a decision to establish the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage, a political response to a human catastrophe caused by climate change.

Six years later at COP25, we are at another watershed moment. The review event of the WIM that took place the day before the COP began clearly recognised that the outputs of the WIM should be greater than the outputs of the Executive Committee (ExCom) alone. The review also recognised the lack of progress to date. Apart from some promising work under the Task Force for Displacement, the rest of the ExCom work plans are sadly far behind from where we need to be. So, what needs to change to unlock the potential of the loss and damage process in order to respond to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable?

We need to grasp the situation and recognise that we cannot respond to the climate emergency on the ground without dedicated resources. Using the model of the Technology Mechanism comprising both the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee, the COP should decide to establish a Loss and Damage Facility as an operational arm of the WIM alongside the policy work of the ExCom. This would be an essential first step to fill the void on action and support.

We urgently need a WIM that is fit for purpose. It is no longer 2013; we can't accept outcomes with inadequate structures anymore.

We have learned a great deal since Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines. It is clear that climate disasters are becoming more prevalent and the humanitarian system is close to the breaking point, we must address loss and damage now, and prepare for an increasingly dangerous future. We need an action-oriented Loss and Damage Facility, but we do not want to prejudge what it will look like. We need COP25 to recognise the failure of the existing system. It is time for action on loss and damage now!

Koronivia: The Story is in the Soil

It can be all too easy to accuse UNFCCC negotiations of being somewhat lofty and distant from the issues on the ground. But we're pleased to share that the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is proudly bucking that trend with a workshop this week on a topic that goes in the opposite direction...

Yes, friends. We're having a workshop on MANURE. Really.

Specifically, it's on "improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems". ECO knows this may sound hilarious to the urbanites among you. But folks with their hands in the soil know that this topic underpins the future of food security and climate stability. It may not be glamorous, but it's incredibly important.

Half a century of industrialised agriculture has pushed our climate and ecosystems to breaking point. Energy is needed to produce synthetic nitrogen fertilisers. This is primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, and the resulting nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions when these are produced and applied to soils are contributors to the climate crisis. Soils degraded by application of these fertilisers hold less water and natural nutrients and leave crops more vulnerable to climate impacts. Industrial agriculture is no longer fit for purpose in an era of climate change, and it must be transformed.

The recent IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL), released in August this year, confirms the urgent need to shift from industrial agriculture towards sustainable land management approaches such as agroecology and agroforestry.

The landmark SRCCL, authored by 107 experts from 52 countries, provided a comprehensive overview of the entire land-climate system for the first time.

It is telling us that we need to move away from chemical fertilisers - now - and go all-in with agroecological approaches which use nature to naturally build up and fertilise soils using techniques such as composting, mulching, leguminous nitrogen-fixing crops, and - of course - manure.

Big Ag has had its day. It is squeezing profits from farmers, driving deforestation, eroding global crop diversity, weakening soils, undermining adaptation and driving climate change. It's time for agroecology to take root in our food systems and to start thinking long-term.

Parties now have the chance to put science and ancestral knowledge into policy action at the KJWA. This workshop might be on the unglamorous issue of manure, but it really is an opportunity to address the planet's climate, agriculture and social crises from the ground up.

Why are You so Crazy About COAL, JAPAN?

ECO can't remember how often we have told Japan's minister to stop coal. The science is clear that new coal is not compatible with the Paris Agreement's goal of 2°C, let alone 1.5°C. Japan came to Madrid empty-handed with no policy change—again! Even worse, just yesterday, Mr. Kajiyama, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry said Japan wants to keep using coal power. Japan's pursuit of coal expansion both domestically and internationally is totally insane.

Japan is wasting billions of dollars on new coal plants overseas. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is considering financing Vung Ang 2 and possibly Vinh Tan 3 in Vietnam. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continues to support coal projects such as Indramayu in Indonesia and Matabari in Bangladesh. Japan says it supports coal if it meets the conditions of using highly efficient technologies and at the request of host countries. The old narrative that these projects are cleaner than older coal plants does not stand. The projects that received Japanese public financing emit far more air pollutants than would be allowed in Japan. But, with ANY conditions, coal is coal and it is still bad.

Japan's domestic coal expansion also poses serious

problems. When the government announced plans in 2012 to build 50 coal power projects, it was a shock. But what is even more shocking is that many of these projects are still alive.

15 units are already operational, and another 15 units are under construction. Five coal plants are expected to come online in Japan next year, generating 13.4 Mt/year of new carbon emissions. These emissions will be at least four times larger than emissions from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Within the next few years, renewables will be cheaper than coal in Japan. Coal is damaging to the climate, to the economy, and to the people. Do you remember the devastating typhoons and heat waves just a few months ago? Then why can't Japan phase out coal? Who are you protecting?

This COP will be a moment for Japan to step up as the world's major economy and emitter, and commit to ending coal with no exception.

Japan must take a serious look at the projects in its pipeline and stop them before they are built to avoid CO2 lock-in. That is the only way to secure a safer climate and avoid further economic losses.

Minister Koizumi, we need your leadership.

NOT-SO-FUN FACT ON ARTICLE 6

FACT #2

The Clean Development Mechanism failed to adequately involve local communities in mitigation projects. **Make local stakeholder consultations mandatory before and during the implementation of all Article 6 projects.**

Fossil of the Day

It's a tie! Three countries managed to equally rank first at being the worst! Today's fossil award goes to Australia, Brazil and Japan. They managed to be as bad as each other!

Prime Minister Scott Morrison enjoying a game of cricket as fires rage in Australia

As Australia has been on fire in recent weeks – literally - with an astounding 6000-kilometre front of flaming destruction killing six people, wiping out homes, forests, precious habitat and farmland. Experts, one after another, connected the dots to climate change.

But not Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison. He made his view known on national radio, declaring that Australia's unprecedented bushfires were unconnected to climate change. He said he doesn't think that Australia doing more on climate would have changed fire outcomes this season, despite Australia being the world's **third biggest fossil fuel exporter**.

Instead of taking responsible action on climate change, the Prime Minister made clear he was sending his thoughts and prayers to those who had suffered loss. Forget climate action, just thoughts and prayers.

The same day as fires busily destroyed people's lives, Prime Minister Morrison went to a cricket game, and happily posed with cricketers tweeting: "Going to be a great summer of cricket, and for our firefighters and fire-impacted communities, I'm sure our boys will give them something to cheer for."

Deputy PM Michael McCormack chimed in for good measure, declaring that even raising the issue of climate change while fires were burning is a 'disgrace'.

Students have taken to the streets by the thousands calling for stronger climate action.

The country has faced record breaking heat, extreme drought, the driest spring ever recorded and unseasonal bushfires. Yet, Australia's Prime Minister has rejected climate as a driving force, rejected calls for stronger ambition, and instead pointed to thoughts, prayers and cricket as the answer.

NGO's are the scapegoats, Brazil has no one else to blame for the destruction of the Amazon

Imagine the following scene: a man with a gun breaks in a bank. Pointing at the manager, he says he is in deep debt, and demands his credit limits to be raised, because he used to be a good payer before he had that account. That scene is playing out right now at COP25. The baffled manager is the international community. The desperate assailant is Brazil, who came to Madrid demanding to be paid for burning down the Amazon forest.

Yes, you've read it right: Brazil, the former climate champion who cut emissions from deforestation in 80% in the past. Brazil, of samba, caipirinhas and savvy diplomats who brokered difficult deals in past COPs. Under the far-right,

Trump-loving government of Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil is telling the world here in Madrid that it will not negotiate until it gets paid to dump more CO2 into the atmosphere. That creative negotiation tactic has earned Brazil the first Fossil of the Day of COP25.

President Bolsonaro's special envoy to Madrid is Environment minister Ricardo Salles, who will no doubt update your definitions of "honest broker". Salles was convicted for environmental fraud days before he took office. He lied to the media about having a master's degree at Yale.

He was sued for suggesting that Greenpeace was behind the massive oil spill in the Brazilian coast that he failed to respond to. And, the icing on the cake, he is a climate denier who famously said that COPs are nothing but luxury vacations to civil servants to debate the state of the world 500 years from now.

One wonders what the heck are you are doing here, minister? Did you fly business? How about coming back in 500 years?

In only 11 months, Salles and his boss have dismantled Brazil's environmental governance, grounded enforcement agencies and frozen the world's biggest REDD+ program, the celebrated Amazon Fund.

The results have been an appalling increase in violence against Indigenous peoples, an unprecedented surge in illegal logging, and a 30% increase in deforestation this year – the highest in a decade. As a consequence, Brazil is sure to miss its 2020 deforestation reduction target and is totally off track on its NDC.

Several studies have indicated that deforestation rates in Brazil in a weak governance scenario can triple, with yearly emissions of up to 1.3 billion tonnes in the Amazon alone. That is not only a blow to Brazil's Paris targets, but also to the 1.5C degree goal.

All that Mr. Salles has to say about this is "trust me". We don't think so.

Japan

The Japanese government received massive criticism over its coal addiction and expansion policy. And today, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama completely ignored the science.

In response to a media question about the UNEP Emissions Gap Report recommendation about coal phase out in Japan, Minister Kajiyama said that he is adamant Japan will continue using coal.

In a jiffy, Minister Kajiyama snubbed the international community and the Paris Agreement. Instead of showing a commitment to multilateralism and the climate, Minister Kajiyama showed commitment to destroying the planet and putting people in danger.

Shame on you Japan, if you don't stop your coal addiction now.

