



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COP25: Civil Society's Assessment of the Climate Negotiations

Audio recording of the [press briefing available here](#)

13 December 2019, Madrid, Spain: As the COP25 UN climate negotiations close today in Madrid, Climate Action Network (CAN) held a press briefing to provide civil society's assessment and a number of important updates from the ongoing negotiation.

Reactions from CAN speakers:

Vanessa Perez-Cirera, *Deputy Lead, Global Climate and Energy Practice WWF*

Pledges now take us to a 3 degree and plus world. We have not heard any of the big emitters make any commitments this week to increase their 2030 climate pledges. At the moment, there is good text options that would urge countries to do so in 2030. We need to keep these options in the text. Big emitters have not only come here with empty hands but also to obstruct large progress. They have to go home with an angry, disappointed and growing youth movement. They still have a chance to show the world that they are willing to agree with committed parties specifically an explicit mention to increasing ambition of climate pledges in 2020 in the decision text of COP25 and a cut-off date to do so so that the report on aggregate effects due by September or October next year to tell how much we have reduced the gigatonne gap in a significant way.

They have to do it for us, for their children and for our living planet

Chema Vera, *Interim Executive Director, Oxfam International*

On loss and damage, this summit is not coming close to the urgency needed and being demanded by frontline communities around the world who are also already suffering the impact, and also by youth activists. In this area, we are still waiting for the final outcome of the negotiations but we are not expecting any really relevant success that would speak about money and system to really deliver on that money. The most vulnerable people that have called in one voice for the loss and damage at this COP, actions are not coming from wealthy countries to close what is really needed. Still, there are two possible outcomes and advances that may be happening: request to the Green Climate Fund, and entities to open a stream for

funding loss and damage but still need to be worked out on how, on the system and how to finance it. If there is no extra money or financing, this stream would have to compete with adaptation and with other areas of climate funding. That's the way forward but it's not really meaningful in terms of securing funds for it and the creation of an expert group under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, an action group that will seek to move forward but is not clear on how this will happen. It's difficult to explain explain this to pastoralists in Somaliland that have already lost the 500 animals that they have and are waiting for urgent action and repairing now.

Sam Van den Plas, *Policy Director, Carbon Market Watch*

In terms of Article 6 and future rules for international carbon markets being discussed here, we are clearly at a critical stage in the negotiations. We saw new text coming out a couple of hours ago and still all those dodgy carbon market rules remain on the table and they would fundamentally undermine the social and environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement. We still risk to have double counting of emissions reductions going forward. I cannot believe that I still have to explain this: cheating does not change what the atmosphere sees. We don't want any accounting tricks being created here. The other issue of transferring old credits generated under the Kyoto Protocol, there are four billion out there from the Clean Development Mechanism, there are 15 billion out there assigned amount units under the Kyoto targets. Together, that's 19 billion tonnes of CO2 represents a real danger and risks to undermine the Paris Agreement from within 19 billion tonnes of CO2 represents 700 coal plants running for ten years. A specific shoutout to Brazilian and Australian governments which have done their utmost best in particular to undermine these rules. They need to change their attitude in these talks and present solutions respecting environmental integrity also the Chilean Presidency should not let this environmental catastrophe happen here in the pretense of creating global carbon markets. There are some opportunities still, there is some good news - measures to deliver overall mitigation of global emissions, measures to generate climate finance for adaptation under these carbon market rules are there and they all potential to be taken forward in the coming hours. The latest text also creates real casualties, unfortunately. We are deeply concerned that any reference to upholding human rights and establishing social and environmental safeguards have been removed from these talks. Governments need to put this back in. We cannot afford to endanger human rights under the pretense and umbrella of climate policies. This is just unacceptable. Our main question to the Chilean Presidency and the governments present here: do you want to undermine the Paris Agreement or do you want to implement it properly? We need to get it right and we need to get these rules correct. It would be a massive disaster for this COP if we end up with flawed and weak rules undermining climate targets for many, many years to come. This COP will not be a failure if countries are clear and they want good rules if they walk away, ask more time and come back for negotiations later.

Astrid Puentez, *IEEDA*

I want to raise our concern in terms of the lack of inclusion of human rights perspective in the Article 6 and in general, the whole agreement. This is not a minor element. We are already seeing massive human rights impacts on millions of people worldwide. I am from Colombia and I live in Mexico, Latin America is also a very vulnerable region. Governments are not getting to

the level of ambition and the kind of agreements that we need, that the planet needs. We need these agreements to include human rights perspective and safeguards because we're not only talking about markets, we are talking about our survival. We are talking about people, our communities and future generations. We also need a good inclusion of transparency and participation - not only in the agreement but also in the implementation of the NDCs and all of the climate actions that will be agreed on. From Latin America and the Caribbean, we have seen good message in the assignment of some countries with the Escazu Agreement. This is the kind of good messaging that we need our governments to include that level of commitment in this agreement as well. We know that the situation is complicated and we need the level of leadership that allows the world to make the agreement in terms of the ambition that we need. We need to see how we can do this and not continue discussing why we can't. We also know that if we cannot see this agreement, this ambition, and these solutions at the UNFCCC, we also think that there's hope outside with non-state actors and other actors because we all need to deliver what governments are apparently not delivering today.

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