

ECO

THE STOP RAINING ON ECO'S PARADE ISSUE

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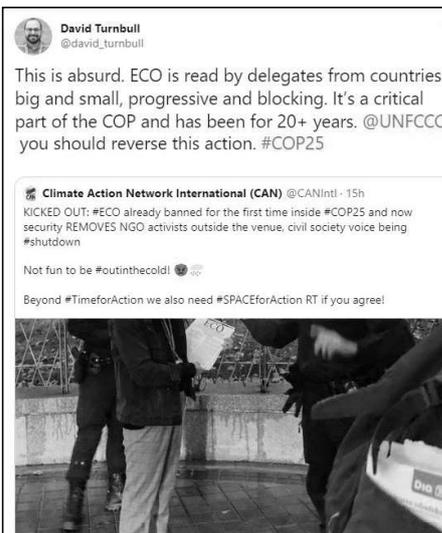
ECO has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. ECO is produced co-operatively by the Climate Action Network at the UNFCCC meetings in Madrid, Spain during the COP 25 meeting.

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Paperless COP?



ECO has been banned from COP because it is “paperless”. Sneaking into the venue and walking through the halls, ECO saw people handing out paper flyers about upcoming side events, paper-wrapped chocolate, and glossy papery brochures. The conference venue exhibits and delegation spaces are piled high with papery materials for distribution. In fact, the only two publications not allowed in the now “paperlight” COP are ECO and the Third World Network Bulletin. How very strange. ECO is very sad about this. We would like to come back into the cosy COP venue with you, instead of being shut out in a cold and shrinking space. ECO hopes you may be able to kindly raise this matter to the UNFCCC Secretariat.



Got a Place for Oceans?

There is no debating the critical importance of the ocean in the climate change debate. In terms of chemistry, thermodynamics, economics, geography, food security - the list goes on. And in return, the ocean impacts all our efforts towards meeting the Paris Agreement goals whether it is mitigation or adaptation. The ocean is the big blue pool that connects all Parties, including the land-locked nations, to this issue.

So, it is no surprise that there is a unrelenting effort by the ocean champions to find a place and a process for the biggest ecosystem on our planet within the Paris Agreement, against the strong currents of narrowing space and appetite for any broadening of scope.

Of course, it is no small feat to find a simple space for the big blue, that covers such a huge area with a vast range of links to climate change. It is both timely and apt that this Chilean COP in Madrid is dubbed the 'Blue' COP.

Just a few months ago, the IPCC published a Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate. It spoke to the severity of the situation we are already in, and where we will find ourselves without deep decarbonization, that is in line with the 1.5 ° goal. The science clearly projects a worsening state of our planet and severe impacts on us all, as well as highlighting the big uncertainties of abrupt or irreversible changes.

On the eve of 2020, this COP is a fantastic opportunity to realize interconnected actions that can be realized by looking at the world through the ocean. Next year is not only decisive for our collective action on climate change, it is also a critical year to protect the oceans through the UN Oceans Treaty negotiations and the CBD 2030 goal setting.

There are already many suggestions and solutions, which is why the Chilean Presidency launched the Platform for Science-Based Ocean Solutions (PSBOS). And there is an overwhelming amount of policy-relevant science and many pages of reports.

It's clear that the quest for the right process and content (based on science) for the ocean in the Paris Agreement will continue. But after three days of political rhetoric about the importance of oceans in this Blue COP, one must wonder, what is the true legacy of action for the ocean at COP25?

How can we make the Blue COP be truly Blue? ECO has a hint for you: it's not by creating new markets for the ocean's "ecosystem services."

One answer is as clear as the crystal-clear Caribbean waters: Urgent enhancement of climate action targets through enhancing NDCs as early as possible. That's climate justice and that's ocean protection.

Quo vadis Technology Mechanism?

What is the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism doing right now to help prepare the communities in the Philippines in advance of the Cyclone Kammuri? The transformative role of appropriate climate technologies is indisputable, and it will be increasingly important as climate change accelerates. Nine years ago, the Technology Mechanism (TM) was created to enhance technology development and transfer in developing countries. Next year we enter the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement. But what has actually been achieved in the course of the years is simply not enough, and there is an urgent need to evaluate if any transformative change on the ground has been delivered.

The Technology Executive Committee (TEC), as the policy arm of the TM, is, among other things, supposed to provide (much needed) guidance on climate technologies. Any policy guidance developed at a global level is meaningful only if it is mainstreamed into robust policies at national levels. Yet, it was crystal clear in the TEC side event that the committee cannot provide any feedback on performance. In this time of a climate emergency, each action needs to be accountable. We can't follow the old ways of empty words, nor can we justify expert meetings that do not result in tangible improvements for those at the forefront of climate change. How has TEC ensured

that policies are inclusive? How will the guidance from TEC ensure a synergy between Nationally Determined Contributions and Technology Action Plans? These, and many other questions remain unanswered.

The implementation arm of Climate Technology Centre Network (CTCN) has done better. CTCN can provide some concrete numbers and descriptions of technology assistance provided. But mere numbers are not enough. We need to know if the projects have answered to the needs of those hit by climate change. Most importantly, CTCN needs to ensure that their portfolio also includes technologies for loss and damage as, unfortunately - and largely due to inadequate action - many people and communities are now exceeding their adaptive capacity.

The first periodic assessment of the effectiveness and adequacy of support provided to the TM is to be completed in 2022. But with accelerating emissions and a lack of concrete ambition, the time to consider impacts is now. ECO encourages the TM to put a priority to their monitoring and evaluation system.

It is not enough just to be considered and outlined in the work plans, as it currently is. It needs to become a core part of the TM's work. ECO reminds the parties: ultimately, you are accountable to the people, not only to the COP.

Young Indigenous Peoples Call On States to #FixArticle6

ECO is happy to share this part of our platform with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus to help amplify their voice.

Today young Indigenous Peoples from across the world took collective action on the floor at COP25, calling on states to #FixArticle6.

World governments are currently negotiating the technical advice for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Rulebook. Article 6 relates to the creation of both market and non-market mechanisms to reduce emissions. The outcomes of the negotiation must uphold and extend existing protection of human and Indigenous rights. Just like we need ambitious commitments in all climate mitigation strategies. It is not just the inclusion of human rights that the indigenous caucus is calling for, but, the inclusion of indigenous rights. It is specifically about protecting collective rights, which are crucial to the customary governance and traditional ways of life of Indigenous Peoples.

Words, prayers, songs, and chants were propelled across Hall Four by young Indigenous People in an attempt to remind negotiators of the human element inherent in Article 6. Ta'kaiya Blaney Tla'Amin, Nation Coast Salish delegate, shared her frontline experiences of fossil fuel expansion, enabled by state governments within the occupied territories of so called Canada, "...this looks like Teck Mine, this looks like coastal Gaslink pipeline, the Transmountain pipeline and many more industrial mega projects that Canada pushes through - meanwhile claiming to be a climate leader. With Canada not pushing for the recognition

of the rights of indigenous people in Article 6, all we see is the continuation of indigenous genocide within climate solutions. This is not just about protecting the people and protecting the lands that we steward - this is about the fact that allowing for the appropriation of indigenous lands for carbon offsets does not work as a climate solution."

Ruth Miller, Curyung Tribe of Dena'ina Athabaskan, Anchorage, Alaska, shares the stories of her people in the Circumpolar North, where warming is occurring at two to three times the rate of the global average, "We are the first environmental refugees. Our people are having to leave our ancestral homelands that we have fought for and defended for thousands of years because of the impacts of climate change, driven by forces focused on profit and extraction."

"Indigenous Peoples are at the frontline, not only of profit-driven industries supported by state governments, but also at the front line of climate solutions. It is well known that 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity sits within indigenous territories."

Ruth goes on to say, "when we come here today to fight against the exclusion of our people's recognition, our people's power, our people's right to self-governance in Article 6, we are saying that we matter, because it is our communities that are leading the fight."

Indigenous Peoples are and have always been, leaders in climate justice. In order to continue this crucial work, for the sake of not only Indigenous lives, but all life on Earth, Article 6 must ensure safeguards for indigenous rights.

Parties, Get Ready to #ActOnTheGap!

While getting ready for COP25, ECO was energized by the upcoming discussions on the review and renewal of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan. Why? Because if there is one thing you don't need to argue for it is that fighting for gender justice and climate justice are two sides of the same coin. So, ECO expected to see Parties ready to aim higher, building on the work achieved over the past few years to advance the centrality of gender equality to the UNFCCC and climate action.

Alas, on Tuesday, ECO learnt the hard way that nothing should ever be taken for granted—not even the opening statements from the Paris Agreement! Yes, you read that right. Among the 196 Parties who four years ago committed to "respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, (...) as well as gender equality, empowerment of women" when taking action to address climate change, some now have second thoughts and have bracketed such references in the draft decision text proposed by the co-facilitators.

Are we really here to renegotiate the principles of the Paris Agreement? No - ECO doesn't think so.

ECO urges Parties to think twice before going into the

nitty gritty line-by-line negotiations of the text – and instead articulate a vision about what it is that we want to achieve with this updated gender framework and how. Who are the Lima Work Programme on Gender and Gender Action Plan for? Will it set meaningful goals to measure progress? Will it work to move us towards 'action'?

The COP25 venue is filled with gender experts, both from Parties and civil society organizations. They are people with experience and ideas on how to mainstream gender in national climate action plans. They are people who know how to improve the access of women's organizations to climate finance. People with the knowledge to ensure that women – including Indigenous women - contribute to climate decision-making at local, national and international levels. ECO sees a great potential for joint work with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform on this issue.

Half-way through the week, ECO is convinced that Parties can pull this off. But it requires them to put the interest of billions of women who are not at the COP venue at the centre of the negotiations. Time for them to show they are ready to #ActOnTheGap!

Fossil of the Day

At this rate, fossil awards will run out! Several countries awarded the Fossil of the Day again!

Bosnia and Slovenia rank first!

Slovenia wants to fund Bosnia's coal addiction through Slovenian NLB Banka, partly owned by the government, and partly by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

That is unheard of! If your brother suffers from drug addiction, it's not great to offer him money to buy more drugs.

World leaders are gathering here in Madrid to address climate change by cutting emissions, primarily through coal and other fossil fuels phase-out. As Europe prepares to pledge to be the first climate-neutral continent, it is shameful that Europe's banks work in the opposite direction!

The second fossil award goes to Australia! Again!

Australia evades its responsibility as a wealthy nation and major climate polluter. It fails to do its fair share to assist Indigenous Peoples in less developed countries (LDCs) in the face of catastrophic climate impacts. And now Australia has used the vulnerability of First Peoples to claim that we need to; 'break down the developed/developing country divide!' This would give Australia the same financial responsibility for climate action as, for example, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Tuvalu or Bangladesh. THIS IS DISGRACEFUL!

The truth is - First Nations peoples are the original sovereign first peoples. In their words: we are at the front line of many injustices, including climate change. We are at the front line of climate impacts, despite being the least responsible. This is true whether our sovereign lands are in developed or developing countries.

Australia is breaching our human and Indigenous rights. First Peoples don't separate our livelihoods from our environment, our culture, or our climate.

The third fossil award goes to Belgium!

While Europe is taking a leading role in the climate

crisis, Belgium is lagging behind on every target. The new Flemish minister of environment proposes 'plane-pooling' – genuinely, a term she invented herself. This is proposed as a good environmental option for getting to the COP! This means she is NOT going by private jet, but will fly on a plane that has 'normal' passengers as well, and is 'as full as possible'. This doesn't seem like a minister who takes the climate crisis seriously...

Belgium will miss its 2020 targets, and there is no good news about 2030 either. The plan that was presented to the European Commission last year has too weak targets, no clear policies to reach them, and a total lack of integration. This may, in part, be because Belgium has four governments that need to agree on climate action! Maybe they could train-pool to come up with a better plan!

And did you think that they were all about 2050? Forget it! Up until now, Belgium does not even seem to have a clear position on European climate neutrality in 2050. Yes, you heard that right. Even though the IPCC said that that would be the date that the WORLD needs to be climate neutral if we are to achieve the Paris goals.

Did they think the EU as a major historic emitter needs to do less than the rest of the world? Their chance to provide clarity is next week, when the EU council will vote on just this issue.

Oh and one more thing... Belgium has been announcing everywhere that they will double their contribution to the Green Climate Fund. Nice, but, without a number, we don't really know what they are talking about. Because, yet again, did we mention that there are four governments that need to decide this...? Could they maybe also clarify that before the end of the COP? That would be great!

So yeah, a deserved fossil at this so-called 'blue COP', where we talk about the ocean. You know, that thing that is rising and will flood the Belgian coast by the end of the century if we keep going like this... Congratulations, Belgium!

CONQUERING GLOBAL CARBON MARKETS



Success is not measured in getting an agreement for the sake of saying it is done. Rules that undermine the Paris Agreement does not feel like a definition of success. Success is making sure that the rules are robust, and ensuring that neither the environment nor people will be harmed.

Article 6 negotiators still have a mountain of issues to climb in order to close all the loopholes threatening to undermine post-2020 carbon markets.