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PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BALL

Dear Negotiators, welcome back to Bonn*.

Have you noticed a feeling of anticipation and excitement? Rumours from a big member of this community (let's just say the orange elephant in the room) are certainly fuelling that atmosphere.

But let's not spread any fake news. Instead, we'll start off this edition of ECO by sharing our hopes for a better tomorrow and a brighter future

To make good headway, you must focus on providing more clarity on the operational guidelines that will make the Paris Agreement robust, transparent and inclusive (AKA the Paris rulebook). We need to come out of Bonn with a good basis for a negotiation text ahead of COP 23, so that the rulebook completed next year at COP 24. A timely delivery of this task will ensure a strong framework that will foster increased ambition over time.

Here in Bonn you can also lay the foundations for a great COP 23 under the Presidency of Fiji, and keep expectations high for an ambitious Facilitative Dialogue in 2018. This must be informed by science, and generate commitment from all countries to increase ambition by 2020, in order to get us on track for the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Parties must also show solidarity towards people at the forefront of the impacts of climate change by making concrete efforts to support good rules for adaptation, resilience and capacity building, and by thinking hard on how to operationalize the Paris Agreement's adaptation goal. There also needs to be clarity on accounting of finance, and on the ways and means in which the US\$100 billion will be mobilized from 2020 onwards.

ECO is also convinced that delegates will help the incoming Fiji COP23 Presidency to identify an appropriate approach to an issue very close to home. The Pacific islands and many

others around the negotiation table are already suffering today from loss and damage, and a COP23 without strong attention to addressing this issue is unthinkable.

This is also the opportunity to set the right incentives. Markets should not create perverse incentives for unambitious NDCs, or for shifting reductions from one place to another. Instead, they should raise ambition, encourage broader NDC coverage and prioritise and elaborate key principles of environmental integrity and accounting.

Parties really must walk the talk on transparency. Discussions must remain transparent, so that the perspectives and expertise of civil society can inform the process, and the principles of public participation and transparency must be built into the rulebook.

Bonn is the place where you can show the world your government's firm commitment to act on climate change, by advancing work swiftly. The Paris Agreement is bigger than any one country. Getting it off the ground to cut emissions and save lives must remain the focus of all your attention. We need your leadership against all odds.

**still just Bonn - soon to be a tropical paradise - stay tuned to learn more about this magical transformation.*

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MOVING BEYOND THE UNPREDICTABLE

ECO wonders if negotiators watched the 2017 jaw-dropping moment at the Oscars when La La Land was mistakenly considered the winner for best picture. Poor Jimmy Kimmel seemed to not know where to hide his face. That unpredictable moment when Moonlight was announced as the winner really seemed to have shocked those who watched that world event. These days it just seems that unpredictability is all over the place and that the unexpected seems to haunt reality.

ECO sees unpredictability as one of the biggest challenges facing climate change and negotiators at this Bonn session.

At COP22, developed country Parties presented their commitment to deliver US\$100 billion per year by 2020. But announcing this was just the first step. Now the question is how do we create a system where climate finance is genuinely predictable and adequate, as well as reported properly, transparently and, accurately.

ECO hopes Parties in Bonn will define modalities that promote clarity and enhance transparency. That they will make sure that there is better reflection of actual support, better reflection of climate relevance in reported figures, and sufficient details and consistency across countries in reporting. All this will help in making finance more predictable. Because if we cannot trust what is reported as climate finance, then it is difficult to know if we are on track towards \$100b.

ECO is also concerned about the Adaptation Fund. We expect negotiators to agree that the Adaptation Fund has plenty of experience when operating with developing countries in need of small-scale adaptation projects. And that it deserves immediate replenishment in the pre-2020 period while the Green Climate Fund (GCF) resolves its shortcomings and operational problems. It is definitely not the time to engage in unnecessary political battles that may delay the required work necessary for the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement.

On this same topic, ECO is also looking for developed country Parties that will become immediate champions and will provide political and financial support to this important institution as acknowledged in recent submissions to UNFCCC.

Transparency, accountability and trust are essential pillars to build the appropriate architecture for an adequate system that will ensure that financial flows are delivered to the most vulnerable countries in time. Sharing the right information is the first step to avoid unpredictability and to prevent any jaw-dropping moment that could result in unavoidable climate consequences for us all.

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En Español

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TAKING STOCK OF THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE AND MORE

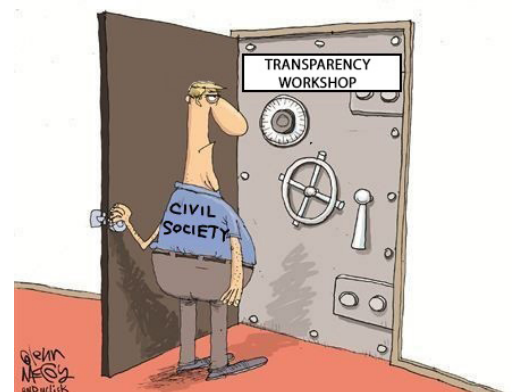
ECO is pleased to see the rich inputs from parties contained in the various submissions on the issue of the Global Stocktake (GST). The GST is the most crucial component of the Paris ambition ratcheting mechanism in which the “collective progress” towards the purpose of the Paris Agreement is to be assessed. And yet it is a new idea and it requires creative thinking to make it function effectively.

ECO is intrigued to see some of the common themes emerging in the Parties’ submissions. For example, AILAC, China, EU and Japan point out that the GST is not a single event but it should be treated as a process. Others are also in agreement with this as their submissions suggest that the GST should consist of both a political, or leadership, component and a technical component. The GST exercise deserves a well-planned process.

In addition, some Parties (AILAC, AOSIS, Canada, China, EU and Japan) also stressed the role of the GST in identifying opportunities for further collaboration. ECO believes that taking up such opportunities and increasing individual and collective ambition is one of the key outcomes that the GST must deliver. Unless progress is made on the GST design here in Bonn, it could end up being a talking shop that does nothing to close the gap to 1.5°C (as the “best available science” shows we must).

Finally, ECO is also heartened to see submissions point out the importance of the inputs from non-state actors. Together with other constituencies, civil society is ready to make inputs and work collaboratively to make the GST a success.

With Parties clearly having done some homework on the GST, ECO is very optimistic that we will see some good progress here in Bonn, especially on those challenging-yet-important issues that have not yet received much attention, for example on how equity will be operationalized, or how we can assure that the GST leads to a closing of the emissions gap. Rest assured, ECO will chime in with its own ideas over the next two weeks – watch this space!



Despite repeated requests, observer organisations were denied the chance to participate in, or nominate experts for, the APA workshop on transparency (as well as to the workshop dedicated to adaptation communications). We would therefore like to remind parties what the word TRANSPARENCY means:

TRANSPARENCY - trans·par·en·cy : the quality of being done in an open way without secrets (Cambridge Dictionary)

We sincerely hope that the parties will make sure that the APA negotiations will resume in a transparent manner.