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Paris Blues? Causes, Symptoms And Treatment For Success In 2018

Dear delegates,

ECO is glad to see you back and wanted to share some reflections with you on what needs to be done in 2018. It seemed COP23 left you exhausted, unhappy over things that usually wouldn't bother you and worried whether you can get it all done. Rest assured, all these feelings are normal during the technical phase of these negotiations. You seem to have the Paris Blues.

Paris Blues? Yes, delivering the Paris Agreement was a huge life changing experience with a lot of attention and support, particularly from your Ministers and even Heads of State. The first year after Paris went by in a hormone rush — the spirit of Paris on steroids. Collectively carried by a feeling of accomplishment and trust, you even managed to overcome the orange fever that threatened the entire Agreement before its first birthday. Now reality kicks in; attention has shifted to other issues and you are the ones that must do the heavy lifting to keep Paris alive by delivering on the implementation guidelines, the ambition mechanism, and other key issues in 2018. But it can be done! The Paris Blues is a condition that can be treated. Here are some tips for SB48 to get in shape and achieve your 2018 goals:

a. Deliver clear options for negotiation text

With everything that is at stake this year, it is vital that no time is wasted and that we see significant progress on the implementation guidelines at this intersessional. We need progress towards having a full negotiation text before the next session. The preliminary outcomes achieved during this session will set the tone for the year and will be critical for success or failure.

b. Boost your energy: talanoa talanoa

The Talanoa Dialogue is a crucial opportunity to build trust and cooperation. It is also a key opportunity to harvest innovative ideas for enhanced climate ambition. Use the Talanoa Dialogue to show us that you get it: More needs to be done in order to bring the world on a 1.5°C consistent and climate-resilient pathway. A Talanoa Dialogue focused on increasing ambition will make you leave Bonn with the energy needed to overcome the Paris Blues and revise your NDCs by 2020.

c. Tackle difficult issues right away

Besides the Talanoa Dialogue and the adoption of the Implementation Guidelines, there are a number of issues that are also critical and require much attention at SB48.

- Suva Expert Dialogue on Loss and Damage: Use the dialogue as a springboard into a taskforce to undertake all the work that is necessary ahead of the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) at COP25 in 2019. This work includes establishing a workable definition for loss and damage (L&D) finance, clarifying the scale of need and sources for L&D finance, amongst others.
- Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA): Agree on "Modalities and Procedures" with the purpose of shaping the KJWA mode of working to be effective, rigorous and relevant.
- Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE): Focus on lessons learned, including needs, gaps and barriers, in relation to the promotion of public awareness, public participation, and access to information in the context of specific areas of climate action: adaptation, loss and damage, mitigation, finance, transparency, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building.
- Pre-2020 action and finance: Developed countries have made commitments that they need to keep, so we can start into a new era of joint climate action based on the trust that promises will be kept. While not all of these questions might be on the official agenda here, it is important that those who have made promises start giving some indications how they will address them: How is the pre-2020 mitigation gap to be addressed? How are we going to get to US\$100 billion annual climate finance by 2020? Can we expect an ambitious GCF replenishment?

d. Seek help if and when needed

Nobody expects you to be able to take life changing decisions on your own. If in two weeks time you continue to feel the Paris blues, seek help from your Ministers to weigh in (they will understand if you explain) and can send the right political signals to the Petersberg Dialogue, the Ministerial for Climate Action, and the G7. Also the Chairs are there to help when and where needed.

You can do it!

In 2018, Where's The Finance Again?

On the way to the Bonn conference center, ECO found it challenging to pin down climate finance in the maze of the 2018 negotiations. Indeed, ECO heard that there is no less than 7 priorities that negotiators will have to deal with by the end of the year: modalities for the accounting of climate finance, Article 9.5, US\$100 billion goal, loss and damage finance, GCF and GEF replenishments, Adaptation Fund and reorientation of financial flows (Article 2.1.c).

Finance is crucial, as substantial progress on this issue would help create an enabling environment to achieve robust outcomes by COP24. Given the complexity and importance of the issue, we are happy to suggest some ways to build trust and move ahead on climate finance on route towards COP24:

Keep your (100bn) promise. Developed countries should use all opportunities in 2018 to send the clear signal that the road towards the \$100 billion commitment will be reached by 2020. In addition to the biennial assessment to be published by COP24, donor countries could enhance confidence by submitting well ahead of COP24 their strategies and approaches to show how they intend to scale up their financial support by 2020, with a specific focus on scaling up adaptation finance.

Better count it right. This year, countries will finally agree on the modalities for the accounting of climate finance. ECO thinks 4 key rules need to be respected in order to create transparent modalities: ensuring reporting at project-by-project level, reporting of grant-equivalent values for non-grant instruments, reporting of actual climate-specific proportion of funds and allowing mutual agreement between countries

about projects/funds to be included in future reports.

Plan for the future. Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement requests countries who provide financial support to indicate how they intend to respect their commitments. This process will help vulnerable countries to plan and manage their transition towards low carbon and resilient economies. ECO encourages Parties to acknowledge the need for a clear process to communicate predictable sources of finance and to identify which information will be used in the future. Respond to the inevitable. The increasing needs for Loss & Damage (L&D) finance have to be addressed, and the best chance to do this is during the Suva Dialogue to be held in the coming days. It will need to identify the tools to address all the consequences of L&D, including assessment of scale of potential needs and innovative financial mechanisms like taxation on polluters and on fossil fuel extraction to generate the needed finance.

Be fond of funds. While the GEF recapitalization is coming to an end, the GCF is on the right track to pass the threshold that will trigger its replenishment process by the end of the year. Donor countries should get prepared to send concrete signals by COP24 that they will continue to support the fund and are still committed to improve its governance in the coming years. It is crucial that the Adaptation Fund meets its resource mobilisation target this year to ensure its continued support for the vulnerable countries it serves. Decisions to be taken on its governance, operating modalities and safeguards this year need to send a strong signal ensuring the Fund's best practices and high standards are maintained.

33 Is the Magic Number

Until 2020, the Kyoto Protocol is the world's governments' main political instrument to cut emissions and close the mitigation gap. At the moment we are already in its second commitment period (KP2), implemented through the Doha amendments, covering the period until 2020, and ensuring continuous legally binding climate action. But only 111 Parties have ratified it so far — and we need 33 more for it to enter into force. Only if 144, i.e. 3/4 of the 192 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol ratify it in the coming months, will KP2 enter into force this year. If that happens we do not have to spend the pre-2020 stocktake at COP24 wondering why an agreement that was reached in 2012 has still not entered into force; and can instead focus on crucial questions of implementation. Which parties are on track to deliver on their pre-2020 commitments and which are not (whether they are under the KP2 or not)? What lessons can we learn? How can we avoid this gap in the future?

It would also make a difference for that pretty important Talanoa Dialogue Q&A we are going to have at COP24. It sure would be nice to be able to answer the first question: "Where are we?" with more than "In Katowice". We would rather say that enough countries have taken steps to fulfill the legal requirements for ratification, and have taken every opportunity to scale up climate action in the pre-2020 period. This would give us a good basis for climate action post-2020 under the Paris Agreement. ECO calls on the more than 80 Parties remaining to ratify as soon as they can, and urges the Presidencies and Secretariat to consult with these Parties during this Bonn session on how to overcome barriers to ratification. We also call on those large emitting developed countries that have decided to not ratify KP2, to reconsider this — in the name of the common good — accept their historic responsibility, honour past commitments, and set a good precedent for the Paris Agreement.