

# ECO



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## A Small Step for a Non-Party Stakeholder, a Giant Leap for the Process

ECO was excited to be part of the Presidency's Open Dialogue yesterday. The event was unique because it allowed Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS) to gather around the same table and participate in a discussion, unlike the usual style of statements or interventions in plenaries, where typically observers get only very short slots at the very end.

ECO appreciates both the Presidency's and Secretariat's efforts which paved the way for this very much needed form of conversation between Parties and NPS. It was also great to see so many Parties participating in this event.

Two topics were selected for this session: "NDC enhancement and implementation" and "enhancing observer access to and participation in formal meetings". Both are close to our hearts! Our hearts are also exceptionally warm since our representatives had the opportunity to make points on the importance of the Talanoa

Dialogue as perhaps the last opportunity to increase mitigation ambition in order to bring us to a 1.5°C-compatible pathway. Additionally, our colleagues stressed NPS' role of creating platforms for cross-border collaboration and that this form of conversation should continue.

We found these exchanges quite useful. However, ECO also believes there is room for improvement in regards to the methodology of the discussion. Rest assured, we found what the Parties and other NPS had to say interesting, despite the fact that many presenters kept their speaking approach pretty much, well... conventional. In future sessions, we would like to see more interactive "dialogue" at these Open Dialogues; featuring more discussions between participants and less delivering of prepared statements.

We all need to get used to this format through frequent practice. ECO is already looking forward to the next time.

## 4 years is long enough! Time for L&D

4 years is long enough! Time for loss and damage finance

From the devastating Atlantic hurricane season to catastrophic flooding across South Asia, 2017 has delivered harrowing reminders of the human cost and grave injustice of climate change. Loss and damage from climate change is not a future hypothetical but a growing current reality, affecting millions around the world.

AOSIS, LDCs, G77, Africa Group, AILAC – we heard you loud and clear at the opening of SBI and past days' consultations and couldn't agree more! We simply cannot let this COP – the 'Pacific COP' – go by without real progress in action and support on loss and damage.

First, it is long past time to elevate loss and damage within the negotiations. This means making it a permanent agenda item of the subsidiary bodies, and under the CMA negotiation process. And we must link work

on loss and damage to all elements of the Paris Agreement, including the Global Stocktake and the Transparency Framework, in a clever but effective way. Permanent agendas are critical because, other than annual reports of the Executive Committee on its work, there is currently no way for Parties to oversee the larger WIM aspirations or the achievement of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

Second, and most importantly, it is time to move beyond the mere building of knowledge and collaboration and towards mobilizing much needed finance and action on the ground to address loss and damage. The draft five-year workplan of the WIM makes a start. But we need to go further. Specifically, ECO suggests a two-year process to develop a range of instruments which can generate additional finance, at the scale of billions of US\$, including through innovative and fair sources such as a fossil fuel levy and others means.

Third and finally, the WIM ExCom must be

given greater resources with which to carry out its vital work and fulfill its mandate. ECO welcomes that this demand has been expressed in the L&D negotiations, and expects that this will be conveyed to those negotiating the budget.

ECO urges that draft decision text being prepared for feedback today address these priorities. Having listened to yesterday's discussions ECO is also of the clear view that giving additional guidance to the ExCom on these key priorities should not be confused with micro-managing. If the COP asked the ExCom to develop a workstream on enhancing action and support at COP22, and the work plan proposal by the ExCom does little to deliver on this, than the COP must act! It's time to listen to those on the frontlines of the climate crisis. It's time for determined, focused and concrete progress on loss and damage. There is no legitimacy to delay this to after 2019. If not now, then when?

# Meet the U.S. People's Delegation

ECO welcomes a new delegation at the COP this year.

The delegation represents a country whose people are deeply committed to climate action. A country with universities, businesses, cities, and states that are pushing forward with plans to achieve bold climate targets like 100% renewable energy. A country that believes in science, respect, and the importance of the global community. A country that currently has a President and Administration who believes in none of these things.

Meet the U.S. People's Delegation, a delegation of climate activists and community leaders from across the United States who have come to COP23 to represent the true spirit of the nation and to push for bold climate action that goes above and beyond the Paris Agreement.

The U.S. People's Delegation is stepping in to fill the void left by the Trump Administration, which announced its intention to exit the Paris Agreement. This administration is here at the climate talks not on behalf of the American people, it seems, but on behalf of their friends in the fossil fuel industry (the main side event hosted by the "official" U.S. delegation this year is an infomercial for "clean" coal).

Instead of speaking for this fossil fuel driven and dirty past, the U.S. People's Delegation will be at COP23 to represent the clean energy future. Members of the delegation include youth leaders who have successfully pressured their universities to divest from fossil fuels. It includes Indigenous leaders who have fought against major fossil fuel projects (e.g. Dakota Access Pipeline) and are building their own renewable energy solutions on tribal lands. It also includes leaders from frontline communities who are fighting the injustice of local pollution and advocating for a just and equitable transition towards a renewable

energy future that works for all. The delegation consists of advocates and activists who are pushing for bold climate action in dozens of cities and States across the country. They are backed by the voices of millions of more Americans back at home who have signed petitions and calls for action supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Included among this new delegation's policy demands are:

- A just and equitable transition to 100% renewable energy.
- A call for U.S. elected officials to live up to their commitments to bold climate action in the face of the current Administration's rollback on climate protections.
- A halt to all new fossil fuel projects, with the understanding that the fossil fuel industry continues to perpetuate the climate crisis and sow climate denial, creating a bleak future for generations to come.
- A call for all nations to increase their ambition, not decrease it.

You can find more information at [350.org/uspeoplesdelegation](http://350.org/uspeoplesdelegation) and by following #USPeoplesDelegation on social media.

We can't let the U.S. be an excuse for other countries to dial back their actions. With cities and states doubling down, the U.S. is still moving forward. ECO welcomes the presence of the U.S. People's Delegation here at COP23 and all the members of civil society from other countries who are speaking up for bold climate action, even when their governments seem to have lost their way. Politicians come and go, but the people remain. And we the people are calling for climate justice now!



The Fossil of the Day goes to France for postponing its target for dropping the share of nuclear energy in its power mix. France therefore sends a bad signal on its ability to meet its already agreed to energy transition targets at home and its shift towards a 100% renewable future.

France, you've been doing good so far on the international stage! You helped shape the Paris Agreement at COP21, and since then you've been working to achieve ambitious outcomes at UNFCCC conferences. Congratulations on this — keep up the good work!

But guess what? Strong ambition at international meetings is not enough. "Making our Planet Great Again" also requires national policies that live up to international rhetoric. Backsliding from agreed upon commitments cannot happen if you want to remain the gatekeeper of the Paris Agreement.

Yesterday, your government announced that you would not honour your 2025 target of phasing nuclear down from 75% to 50% of your electricity mix, delaying your ambition from 5 to 10 years. This target

was part of a law for energy transition, passed after 3 years of inclusive dialogue with French civil society and ahead of COP21. ECO reminds you that your newly elected President Emmanuel Macron made the promise to respect and implement the energy transition as such.

But instead of running the full implementation by increasing energy efficiency measures and accelerating the deployment of renewables (where, by the way, you're going to miss your 2020 target), your national debate will now focus on WHEN to phase down nuclear when it should be focussed on HOW to speed up the transition NOW.

At a time of urgency, your decision sends a bad signal at European and global levels: it suggests that a plan that was legally passed for energy transition, which aims to diversify energy sources towards more renewables, can be changed from one day to another without any dialogue. It also sends the wrong signal to countries mainly reliant on a single energy power source who may use this as cover to postpone their own transitions.

Next week, your president will be speaking on the UNFCCC floor. Do not miss this opportunity to show true leadership through global ambition AND bold national policies! We are counting on you!

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