

eco



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 Bonn, Germany during the May SB 46 meeting.

ECO email: administration@climatenetwork.org • ECO website: www.climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletters • Editorial/Production: Andrés Fuentes

FD2018 - A Crucial Opportunity To Enhance Our Mitigation Ambition

ECO believes that the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 has three key aspects:

First, it presents an opportunity for Parties to take another look at their NDCs in relation to what we want to achieve collectively. Many NDCs were crafted in a hurry and there may be some areas that were not apparent but are worth exploring. There may be multiple ways to enhance the NDCs, and the FD2018 needs to result in a clear commitment by all countries to do so by 2020.

Second, it allows states to capture the positive momentum built by various non-state actors. The design of the FD2018 must ensure strong linkages between the planned events and activities of non-state actors and the FD2018.

Third, it provides an occasion to analyse what kind of support is

necessary in the NDCs. For example, it should look at what is needed to implement the conditional action that some countries put forward, and how to meet those needs. Those “needs” might present further opportunities for international cooperation.

ECO would like to see all of these aspects addressed in the FD2018 to support the enhancement of NDCs by 2020 in an equitable manner.

ECO further hopes that the Presidencies will be able to finalize the design of the FD2018 by COP23, so that Parties can start the process from the beginning of the year 2018. The COP23 outcome can take the form of a decision. It should welcome the report by the COP Presidencies and ask both incoming and present Presidencies to conduct the dialogue based on the design outlined in the report, with the Secretariat’s support.

Warming up to Transparency

ECO wants to congratulate Parties for the (mostly) constructive, (mostly) forward looking and (mostly) honest discussions seen in the multilateral assessments and the facilitative sharing of views. And while some Parties might have liked to see the heat turned up on the US, the collegiate nature of the discussions showed the true value of transparency – it’s all about building trust. That’s not to say that some did not deserve a bit of sizzle. With uncertainty over the US administration’s commitment to climate action, China made a strong point questioning the United States on the public health cost of retreating from the Clean Power Plan. However, many more Parties took it as an opportunity to share success stories, best practises and lessons learned.

In the Multilateral Assessment, countries largely reported being on track to meet their 2020 targets, and both Canada and France stood out by highlighting an increase in non-state actor and local authority engagement. Perhaps even overachievement of some of these targets might be on

the table. ECO hopes countries will be coming back to the table to tell these stories and energise the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018.

The facilitative sharing of views, meanwhile, was a space to reflect on the benefits of starting reporting early, with many countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia, reporting MRV and capacity development needs resulting from reporting under ICA. India was the clear success story of the morning, with numerous Parties offering congratulations for its rapid solar roll-out and enhanced targets.

However, our hearty congratulations here at ECO go to Mauritania, the first LDC to submit a BUR under the ICA process, proving that it’s never too early to start reporting. Transparency is useful for all countries. So, if you are a Party still looking for a transpiration (transparency inspiration) just remember - if Mauritania can do it, so can you!

The CDM and Article 6


Transparency Work Mode
ON


Dear Delegates,

How are those SBSTA Article 6 negotiations going?

Since ECO is not allowed in the room, we cannot be sure. We heard that headings were being thrown around, so at least there might be an outline of things to talk about.

While discussions continue about the future of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), the Sustainable Development Mechanism, and how non-market approaches might function, we're giving some thought to the future of the CDM.

The news that a comprehensive study for the European Commission found 85% of CDM projects lack environmental integrity (i.e. don't really reduce emissions) and only about 2% of projects are really delivering a mitigation benefit, is distressing. This on top of the news from a few years back that JI wasn't very good either. For the sake of the climate, we have to do better - especially when these credits are used to increase emissions beyond commitments.

There is a lot to learn from the CDM and it was a valuable experience. But as we approach the end of the last Kyoto commitment period, it is time to learn, move on, and make Article 6 fit for the climate purpose. In the Paris Agreement world, we need to build on good building blocks and delete undesirable parts (projects lacking environmental and developmental integrity) – we can't adopt a copy-paste approach.

One side event last Thursday talked about a number of projects lacking resources to achieve their climate benefit. We support the need for mitigation of greenhouse gases including from these projects that have stopped operating. There is also a wealth of expertise and infrastructure that could be built on, reformed and adapted for the SDM. Much more ambition and environmental integrity are essential to the achievement of the Paris Agreement's goals and specifically for further work on Article 6. Article 6 should help to increase climate action and its impact, not reduce (domestic) action. It's already getting warmer and we can't afford to repeat the same mistakes after 2020.

ECO believes that expeditious work is necessary to achieve a robust, common transparency framework with built-in flexibility that is inclusive and allows for continuous improvement. This framework needs to uphold environmental integrity and ensure double counting is avoided. This will only be possible by building constructive, practical linkages between different thematic areas. ECO commends Parties for working in an encouraging manner even when positions diverge. That being said, forward progress is needed without leaving anyone behind.

To address the cross-cutting nature of transparency, both a call for submissions and a second technical workshop are good ways forward to advance the issue.

The nature of the workshop should be technical, to provide participants with an opportunity to facilitate understanding of key issues and find a common landing zone on the interlinkages. This is crucial to ensure the robustness and coherence of the framework with other parts of the Paris Agreement. These areas include accounting of NDCs (art. 4.13), the mechanism and cooperative approaches (art. 6.4 and 6.2 respectively), adaptation communications and the AC registry (art. 7.10, 7.11 and 7.12 respectively), financial support (art. 9), technology transfer (art.10) and capacity building (art.11). ECO would like to remind Parties in the spirit of Paris that non-state actors are of value in this area and the proposed transparency workshops should be open to observers.

Submissions by Parties and representatives of constituency bodies could include views on how the current processes feed into the enhanced transparency framework. Processes of the multilateral assessments (MA) and the facilitative sharing of views (FSV) under the ICA, can be used as foundational learning space to build the enhanced transparency framework.

To reach the goal of adopting guidelines for an enhanced transparency framework by 2018, targeted work with integrity needs to take place. This will advance the Paris Agreement, keeping all, including the most vulnerable in a 1.5°C world.

Indigenous Peoples Platform

ECO welcomes the open multi-stakeholder dialogue which takes place today and tomorrow to consider how to operationalize the local communities and indigenous peoples' platform that was established by the Paris Agreement.

Indigenous peoples have vital contributions to make to climate change action. To ensure that these are shared, ECO encourages the local communities and indigenous peoples' platform to strengthen recognition and inclusion of indigenous peoples' knowledge and traditional knowledge in matters related to climate change. It should also enable indigenous peoples from all genders and regions of the world to participate fully and more meaningfully in the UNFCCC process; in line with their right to choose their own representatives. Parties should build on the experience of other intergovernmental fora that have established mechanisms ensuring that governance benefits from indigenous knowledge.

ECO calls on Parties to be bold and to create, through meaningful consultation, a robust local communities and indigenous peoples' platform ensuring that indigenous knowledge can effectively guide the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Ludwig On NGO Participation

Ludwig was encouraged last year when Parties reaffirmed the fundamental value of effective participation by observers and agreed to further enhance the engagement of observer organizations. However, yesterday Ludwig was surprised to learn that the Parties had decided to alter their previously transparent practices and conducted the discussions on inclusiveness and transparency behind closed doors. Ludwig is left wondering: surely enhancing stakeholder engagement does not mean kicking civil society out of meetings to which they enjoyed access in the past?

ECO online

Remember you can read ECO online or on your iPhone, iPad or Android!

<http://bit.ly/ReadECO>

