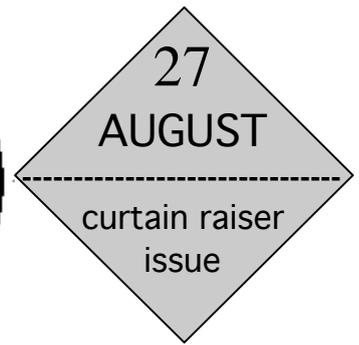


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Building up the momentum for Bali

Climate change is finally getting the attention it deserves at the highest levels of government worldwide. Heads of State at the G8 Summit prioritized it above all others. The US Congress has before it a record number of legislative proposals and, for the first time, real consideration is expected in the coming months. Preparations by the UN Secretary General for a high level meeting in September are underway, joining Heads of State not only from the G8+5 but also those most vulnerable to climate change.

Even President Bush felt enough domestic and international pressure to at least appear to be doing something. He felt compelled to set up his own process for climate talks, albeit a spoiler process, for public relation purposes. As delegates arrive in Vienna they should be aware that the general public and many influential groups in the business and finance sectors around the world already have the Bali COP on their agenda - and they have high expectations. For them, and for us, Bali is a meeting that must give people, young and old, hope that governments of the world are actually going to get serious about preventing dangerous climate change.

It is in this light that Vienna must be seen. No longer an issue for low-level technical negotiations, climate change demands a more serious process to deliver an ambitious outcome in 2009. The G8 nations agreed to a timetable for UN-based comprehensive global negotiations on the post-2012 regime by the end of 2009. This timetable should be the focus of Vienna as it develops, as it must, the core element of a Bali Mandate.

The Vienna meeting should pick up and advance the G8 Communique, and the G8+5 Statement committing those nations to "seriously consider" a long-term goal of at least halving global emissions by 2050. Vienna should bring more detail to this decision to guide the work on emission reductions for Annex B parties and on further action for all

Parties - at least halving global emissions below 1990 levels by 2050, with a clear commitment by the industrialised countries to reduce their emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

This, however, will only give us a 50-50 chance of staying below 2 degrees. As AOSIS points out, much deeper cuts will be necessary. The EU Heads of State have already committed the EU to taking on a -30% target. Other industrialized countries need to step forward now and make similar commitments.

The Vienna meeting should also explore other aspects of those statements. While the G5 document notes that each country has to do more and that they are ready to discuss their "fair share," the G8 communique noted that the emerging economies will not have the same types of commitments as industrialised countries but will need to reduce the carbon intensity of their economic development. It then goes on to list a range of types of contributions that emerging economies could make moving forward including sectoral contributions, policies and measures and an enhanced Clean Development Mechanism. All of these ideas are excellent elements to explore for a Bali Mandate.

For those delegates wondering how to understand the "new" Bush initiative, just turn your watches back to 1992. All that is on offer is a voluntary pledge and review of actions towards some undefined long-term objective with no funding. No funding for mitigation, but also no funding for adaptation to climate impacts. The proposal is a clear attempt to move the climate discussion out of the UN-agreed mandatory targets arena (such as those included in the Kyoto Protocol) and back into a self-defined voluntary scheme. The Bush initiative has been launched in an effort to convince Americans that his "talk" with other

countries' leaders is a worthwhile substitute for real Congressional action requiring mandatory carbon limits.

At the same time, he is hoping to fool the rest of the world into thinking that this set of talks is somehow a 'shift in US policy'. Yet all he offers up are failed policies of the past and a continued refusal to discuss carbon markets. Do not be fooled.

The next months will be a bumpy road, with attempts left and right to pull attention away from the heart of the matter. We all know that without a clear plan for how the world will come together and shift the \$20 trillion in energy investments into low carbon alternatives, it will be business-as-usual. Climate change will worsen and impede economic development in all countries.

If we want economic growth that is less carbon intensive, one that provides energy services with less carbon and ensures development, countries must decide on a Bali mandate that clearly states that all countries are ready to do more, and do so equitably. Industrialised nations have contributed more to the problem historically and are ready to create incentives and provide support for those countries that want and need to develop in a more sustainable, lower carbon fashion. The Bali mandate must also ensure that there is adequate financing, and compensation, for the impacts already occurring and those yet to come. With the atmosphere already loaded with so much CO₂, adaptation is not merely an option, it is a necessity.

The job in Vienna is to build up the political determination and momentum for Bali. Anything less than an ambitious post-2012 regime that finances low carbon development and keeps the planet below a 2°C rise is simply unacceptable.

No time for waltzing in Vienna

Vienna is the last meeting open to all parties to discuss the issues that must be pulled together into the mandate for post-2012 negotiations to stabilise the climate. Numerous other international meetings after Vienna have the potential to make some contribution towards this objective but this meeting is the only one that gives a voice to all countries, specifically gives a voice to the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

Parties must find ways to respond to the scientific imperative, and not limit their thinking to what they think is politically possible. The question is not what they think can be done, but what **MUST** be done.

The work of the AWG must be guided by the need for developed countries to reduce their emissions by at least 30% by 2020. The AWG must deliver substantive progress on its work plan and draft decisions for Bali that demonstrate Annex 1 Parties' commitment to taking the lead.

Brazil stated in Bonn: 'discussions in the absence of negotiations cannot prosper.' ECO agrees, and expects positive discussion in the Dialogue on how to take its work into negotiations. In this spirit ECO puts forward its vision for the Bali mandate.

The Bali Mandate must set a framework for negotiations to fulfill the ultimate objective of the Convention. Global average temperatures must be kept as far below 2°C as possible, compared to pre-industrial levels, for Parties to honour the commitment to avoid dangerous climate change they made fifteen years ago. Global emissions must peak within the next decade, i.e. within the next commitment period.

The post 2012 agreement must build on, and extend, the existing Kyoto architecture of absolute emission reductions and flexible mechanisms. This means that all developed countries must take the lead by taking on further, deeper binding QELROs to be achieved primarily by domestic action.

Key matters for inclusion in the mandate are:

- Positive incentives for developing countries' low-carbon development pathways and facilitating broader participation by all major emitting developing countries.
- New and effective forms of technology cooperation and deployment combining financing with set goals and policies to enable developing countries as a group to contribute to the global effort.
- Expanded adaptation mechanisms, involving assistance, capacity building and compensation funded by industrialized countries, to support LDCs and SIDs in coping with the climate impacts to which we are already committed. Funding for adaptation is at present at least two orders of magnitude too low.
- Expansion of Annex B to include newly industrialized countries, including Singapore, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, to broaden global efforts and strengthen the international mechanisms, as proposed as part of the Russian Proposal.
- Reducing emissions from deforestation and new incentives to arrest deforestation, although efforts here must not detract from efforts in other sectors.
- Reviews of existing methodologies and modalities on issues including Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry and the issue of new sources of emissions, notably bunker fuels.
- The adverse impacts of response measures and an effective compliance regime.

This complex agreement must be reached in a two-week period commencing in just three months time: there's no time to waltz around the issues this week!