

eco

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AUGUST

road to bali
issue

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The Road to Bali

Dear Delegates,

As you leave Vienna, a long winding road lies ahead. To those who do not know that you, distinguished delegates, all too often convene (delayed) meetings in windowless rooms, the road ahead may sound like an attractive collection of tourist destinations: New York, Bogor, Valencia, Bali. Some of you may even take a detour via Washington. ECO wishes you an enjoyable journey – as long as you deliver a Bali Mandate at the end. The Bali Mandate must set the world on a course to stay as far below a two degree Celsius temperature rise as possible. A post-2012 framework must make an energy revolution happen, whilst helping the most vulnerable to adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change. A globally shared framework – if done right - can prevent the worst of climate change, and unleash the innovations required to achieve a zero carbon future. The Bali mandate will need to deliver:

- A peak in global emission by 2015, followed by a deep cut in emissions, led by industrialized countries, who must commit as a group to at least 30% cuts by 2020. As AOSIS has pointed out, it may even take a -40% target to prevent further climate chaos.

- Including more players in the Kyoto regime, which means:

- USA and Australia to take on ambitious reduction targets and rejoin the group of industrialized countries contributing their fair share to the -30% target as well as joining the global effort to support developing countries in low-carbon development and adaptation to climate change.

- Newly industrialized countries with a high income such as South Korea, Singapore and Saudi Arabia graduating to Annex 1 and adopting binding targets for the next

commitment period that contribute to the -30% by 2020 target; this must be based on a fair system of differentiation; in Bali they should show their willingness to join the new global effort in a qualitatively new way, whereas

- Incentives for rapidly developing countries such as China, Brazil, India and South Africa to accelerate their climate actions. These need to be delivered through a package of incentives and assistance through an expanded carbon market by either revising and or creating new flexible mechanisms (possibly sectoral targets or other quantified actions), or “sustainable development policies and measures” for development motivated greenhouse gas emission reductions (e.g. for the electricity sector). Developing country action should build on a fair system of differentiation and graduation, and only if all industrialized countries deliver on their responsibilities. ECO is still to see how Japan, Canada and some of the other umbrella countries such as the US intend to do just that ...

- A massive new Clean Technology Deployment Fund system to be funded by industrialized countries aimed at switching to clean, efficient, renewable technology in developing countries.

- A Deforestation Reduction Mechanism that provides the necessary financing to halve emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 2020. The reductions from forest protection must be additional to cuts in industrial emissions, and not undermine the environmental integrity of the system.

- A Clean Development Mechanism review and reform to ensure its environmental effectiveness; any continued

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Voting for the Apocalypse?

The discussion on the AWG conclusion in relation to ranges of emission reductions is the most fundamental and important debates to have occurred since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. In a profound sense, these debates are the ultimate purpose of the negotiations underway and a failure to agree on the discussion items is a failure of the entire system. ECO was shocked at the disgraceful and shameful arguments put forward by Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and Russia.

ECO would like to reiterate that the 450ppmv CO₂-e stabilization level outlined in para 5, gives only a 50% chance of keeping global average temperature increases below 2C, and is more likely to lead to temperature increases on the order of 2-2.5C. As AOSIS rightly, and frequently, points out limiting increases to 2C is no guarantee of avoiding dangerous climate change and the low probability of achieving even this target that 450ppmv implies is unacceptable. The level of ambition of Annex I Parties needs to be in line with the dangers their actions (or lack thereof) imply for other Parties, as well as themselves.

Switzerland, New Zealand, Russia, Japan, Canada all opposed the retention of the emission reductions for Annex I of -25 to -40% by 2020 from 1990 levels consistent with stabilization at 450 CO₂-e in the draft conclusions and all referred to higher levels of stabilization. The positions that these countries support or want reflected in the AWG conclusions

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From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks towards Bali

Four main stumbling blocks have to be converted into building blocks as we go towards Bali. First block: science and targets. There is broad consensus that the climate problem is real, serious, and that developing countries will be most affected. There is need to set targets for global action, starting with keeping temperature rise to well below 2 degrees. Second block: fair North-South relations. The principles of equity, historical responsibility, and common but differentiated responsibilities have to be operationalised in the negotiations while global target implications for developing countries should be explicitly discussed. Third block: integrating development with environment. Addressing climate change requires a de-

velopment solution. We should not underestimate the tremendous challenges inherent in switching to new development pathways required to stabilize global emissions. Fourth block: policy coherence. Policies made in other areas and other fora have to be made consistent with climate objectives. For example, at the World Trade Organization there are proposals to consider as a non-trade barrier the imposition of higher taxes on cars with a higher engine capacity, or the lack of government action to facilitate financing of consumers' purchase of motor cars.

Read the rest of the article here: <http://www.climate-network.org/climate-change-basics/by-meeting/awg-vienna-august-2007/TWN-Statement/>

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uncapped trading must yield a significant reduction in global emissions in the second commitment period, by setting even more stringent industrialized country targets.

- An Expanded Adaptation Mechanism to ensure that the most vulnerable developing countries are given the support needed to adapt to unavoidable climate impacts; accelerated implementation of practical adaptation activities (a learning-by-doing phase for adaptation)

- Inclusion of new sources of emissions, notably bunker fuels.

This package must be agreed to by 2009 at the latest with a launch of formal negotiations under the Convention on the issues that are not covered by a yet to be expanded Kyoto AWG mandate.

Only this package will ensure that the road to - and from - Bali will not be a highway to hell. Delegates, we will not be on the beach. We will be watching.

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correspond to around 4°C warming, or higher. ECO wonders whether these delegations have a mandate from their people to support emission targets that would eliminate most of the glaciers in the Alpine region (Switzerland), virtually eliminate the entire Alpine flora of hundreds of species (New Zealand), cause massive degradation of permafrost regions and a major increase in drought in main agricultural regions (Russia), risk major dislocation and damage due to sea level rise (Japan) and major water resource losses and loss of arctic ecosystem and species (Canada).

Do the delegations of these countries have a mandate to oppose indicative range of emission reductions for discussion that would have a chance of avoiding these risks? Can these delegations seriously stand up in public, outside of a closed contact group meeting from which the press is excluded, and defend these positions in terms that any intelligent kid could understand? ECO thinks not. Judging from the body language of some of these delegations it would seem that they do not either.

WOLFGANG

- 4 degrees Club formed -

The first five members of the 4 degrees Club were proud to announce action to promote climate change at the AWG contact group meeting yesterday. Cheers! Demanding the addition of the higher emission scenarios (such as those up to 1130 ppm) to the conclusions must be brilliant news for their people at home!

Japan is willing to let the typhoons roll in and the water flow on its coastal land. Switzerland is committed to melt all its remaining glaciers. Canada is happy to let ticks take over (the government; they may do a better job ...) New Zealand opens its borders to climate refugees from around the world. Russia thaws its permafrost regions with the hope of huge gumboot sales.

And believe Wolfgang, this is just the prelude!

According to the Japanese negotiator, the first time he read the draft conclusions he didn't understand it. The second time he was in shock and couldn't speak. The third time he read it, the negotiator wanted to shoot himself. Actually, Wolfgang notes, by insisting on including higher ranges, the negotiator is in effect prepared to shoot at least 4 million other Japanese, except that instead of the bullet it would be death by drowning. 4 million Japanese are at risk from a 1 meter rise in sea levels, Wolfgang learned on a recent concert tour.

Wolfgang hopes G77 + China won't join the 4 Degree Club. Otherwise they may soon be G45 + Half-of-China.. The annual membership fee (of droughts, storms, heat waves) would be far too high. You'd be better off investing your money in another Mozart symphony!