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Great Expectations

Delegates, as we come together in Bangkok, the city of angels, it is essential to keep the spirit of Bali alive. Progress at Bali was possible because countries came to the meeting with a new realization of the urgency of the problem and most showed a greater willingness to cooperate to urgently address it.

Time is flying by – for the climate and therefore for the negotiations. This means that real progress will need to be made in Bangkok: agreeing a workplan to fulfill Bali's promise and on substantive issues.

Work on each of the building blocks must be done in parallel to make progress in the limited available time. New proposals need to be brought to the table now, so that they can be included in the planning, and for their detailed consideration as possible elements in the post 2012 package. There is considerable overlap between the LCA and other agenda items. Information sharing between these is essential to keep the negotiations as coherent and streamlined as possible, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

In 2009 we need to come to an agreement that will avoid dangerous climate change, which means peaking global emissions within the next 10 years and keeping global average temperature increases well below 2°C - this is the only vision that ECO is prepared to "share".

Mitigation

Hard as it is to believe, the US is NOT a developing country, and must not be allowed to be treated as such: there must be a firewall between the developed and developing country mitigation working groups.

The linkage that must be made is between the AWG and the developed country mitigation tracks, so that mitigation potentials are analyzed for Kyoto and non-Kyoto developed country Parties in a way that ensures comparably deep QELROs for both. ECO looks forward to reading submissions on their mitigation potentials by ALL developed countries in early September.

Work will need to be done to define what 'measurable, reportable and verifiable' means for developed countries, for developing countries, and for developed countries' financial and technological support for these actions and to avoid duplication of efforts, work on REDD being undertaken under existing agenda items should feed into negotiations under the Bali Action Plan.

Adaptation

The impacts of climate change are already being experienced by vulnerable communities around the planet. As agreed in Bali, there needs to be 'urgent implementation of adaptation actions' and priority must be given to those at most risk. Work is needed on the ways in which co-operation can be best effected and the bringing together of information required to do so. The risks are present and real, work must begin immediately to assess vulnerabilities, how to address them and the scale of funding needed.

Technology

A key element of the post-2012 package will be massively scaled up technology transfer, enabled and supported through the establishment of effective mechanisms and new and additional funding under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Work will

need to be done to identify factors that make mechanisms successful conduits for technology deployment and how existing barriers can be removed.

Developed countries must meet their Convention commitments to promote and finance the transfer of environmentally sound technologies – it is sad that they have not made more progress in doing so to date. Transfer and deployment of sustainable technologies is an essential part of an ambitious agenda both for the decarbonization of developing country economies, and their effective adaptation to the ravages of climate impacts.

Finance

Negotiations will need to begin urgently on the highly important cross-cutting issue of finance. Ensuring improved access to adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources for developing countries is essential to both avoid dangerous climate change and to ensure their sustainable development. Work will need to be initiated as quickly as possible in building capacity to assess the scale of adaptation and technology needs of developing countries and to ensure that the financial flows discussed are adequate to meet the needs: this discussion will need to be closely coordinated with the adaptation and technology building blocks.

In Bangkok, the Bali spirit must be maintained. To paraphrase U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, ECO hopes that the countries that nearly prevented consensus in Bali are here guided by the 'better angels of their nature.'

Bangkok: the starter's gun for Copenhagen

Setting and achieving mitigation objectives are questions of political will. ECO hopes that governments show that will and grasp how severe and urgent the climate crisis is. They must ensure that stronger action is taken quickly.

Averting dangerous climate change will require decisive action, clear vision and a robust agreement in Copenhagen for post 2012. To achieve this we need substantial progress in Bangkok in line with the clear mandate for action from Bali. Global emissions must peak and decline within the next 10 years to keep global average temperature increase as far below 2°C as possible, compared with preindustrial levels.

The binding QELROS (quantified emissions limitation and reduction obligations) of Annex I countries for post 2012 must be ambitious: *at least* at the top end of the 25-40% reduction range by 2020 from 1990 levels. The majority of the effort in Annex 1 countries must be made domestically, as a massive shift is required in the unsustainable and inequitable consumption patterns of developed countries. This will lay the ground for the much deeper cuts (at least 80%) required by 2050. In this context, a purely "bottom up" approach to setting national targets is inappropriate, as it asks the question "What can we do?" rather than "What must we do?"

ECO has outlined a number of elements where improvements are required for Annex 1 parties to achieve these mitigation objectives.

Serious mitigation efforts need to be undertaken domestically to make their consumption patterns more sustainable, leading toward a zero carbon society. Energy efficiency can achieve huge reductions in the indus-

trial, electricity, housing, heating and cooling and transport sectors. Substantially increasing the use of renewable energy is vital for countries to successfully decarbonize their economies. Nuclear power is an unsustainable and therefore completely unacceptable means to achieve mitigation objectives.

There need to be major substantive changes to improve the flexible mechanisms for the post 2012 period: while they have had some benefits, there have also been significant problems. The AWG should take into account the recommendations of the Article 9 review in scoping mitigation potentials of Annex I countries. The CDM must move beyond offsetting and deliver real benefits for sustainable development with strong social and environmental criteria.

Any new mechanisms and financial obligations must not undermine the effectiveness and environmental integrity of the global mitigation effort.

The strength of cap and trade system is that it places an absolute limit on the real emissions that can occur. However, emissions trading is not a one-size-fits-all instrument and is only one part of the policy mix.

ECO believes the Kyoto mechanisms must not only work towards mitigation efforts, but also leverage funds for adaptation, technology transfer and reductions of tropical deforestation and degradation. Sufficient financing can be generated by exploring the adoption of a levy on the flexible mechanisms (CDM, JI and emissions trading) and auctioning of permits. Ending fossil fuel subsidies and redirecting them to fund clean technologies would be a good start.

One major lesson from the first commitment period is that Annex I LULUCF rules should be negotiated in parallel rather than after the Annex I targets are set. A key issue with respect to setting emissions targets is the need to understand the scale of likely credits from LULUCF. Failure to do so could result in targets that undermine climate protection goals and threaten the stability and effectiveness of a post-2012 regime.

Improvements are needed to the reporting, monitoring and verification system of LULUCF activities. LULUCF rules should enhance sustainable development and promote synergies with the other Rio conventions. Ecosystem conservation is a key component of climate change adaptation strategies as biodiverse systems are more resilient to climate disturbances. The current rules that enable natural forest to be cleared and replaced with plantations are not consistent with achieving such sustainability.

Inclusion of new sectors, sources and greenhouse gases in the post-2012 agreement will necessitate additional deeper emissions reduction targets. Key sectors that are explicitly missing from Annex A are international aviation and maritime emissions: both sectors are fast-growing and significant sources of emissions, which need to be addressed in the Kyoto Protocol.

Remember: global emissions will need to peak within the next 10 years. There is no reason to delay action and there is every reason to take deeper emission reductions now.