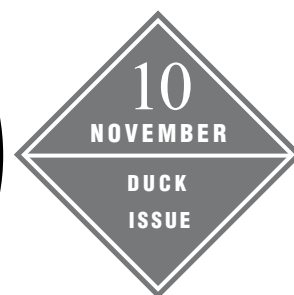


ECO



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Article 9 Review and the Post-2012 Negotiations

One of the major issues at this Nairobi climate conference is how to conduct the review of the effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol called for under Article 9 of the Protocol. Yesterday's plenary debate made clear the range of positions on this issue.

Some Parties would like to conduct a proforma review at this meeting, and then put off the next review for several years: South Africa (for the African Group) said two to three years, Korea said three years, China proposed three to four years, and the Saudis raised this to every four to five years. These options would clearly put a meaningful review well beyond the timeframe for completion of the post-2012 negotiations.

Other Parties called for the launch of a process at this meeting to conduct the review, but did not specify an end date. This raises the prospect of an open-ended process that could be used as an excuse to postpone serious negotiations over what comes next.

It is obvious that a meaningful review cannot be conducted at this meeting – the preparation just has not been done. But it is also clear that a decision to indefinitely postpone conducting a thorough review also will not work. There are many issues where clear-headed analysis and constructive discussion of creative new approaches are needed to facilitate the post-2012 negotiations.

As CAN pointed out in its intervention in yesterday's plenary, achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention – preventing dangerous anthropogenic climate change – requires cuts in global emissions of 50 per cent

or more by mid-century. Even if Annex 1 emissions were cut to zero, this would not get the job done; developing country emissions, as a whole, also need to be reduced significantly below today's levels to meet his goal. As we said, this is not a matter of politics, but physics.

Given this reality, negotiators need to discuss how to build on the existing Kyoto framework to achieve the deep emissions reductions needed to stabilise the climate, while facilitating the sustainable development aspirations of billions of people across the world. Increasing the emissions reduction targets for Annex 1 Parties and expanding the Clean Development Mechanism are essential elements in meeting this challenge, but much more is needed.

How can we stimulate deployment of clean energy and transportation technologies, and energy efficiency on a massive scale over the next several decades? How can we generate the tens of billions of dollars needed each year to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change? Does anyone really think that bilateral assistance from industrialised country governments is up to the task? These questions, and others, need to be addressed as Parties negotiate Kyoto's post-2012 framework.

The Article 9 review, together with the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 3.9, should provide the analytical and conceptual underpinnings for a negotiating mandate at COP/MOP 3 next year. The task for the Nairobi meeting is to clearly outline which

– continued back page, column 1

Choking off Coal

The City Council of Newcastle in Australia, home to the biggest coal exporting port in the world, has called for a cap on coal exports through the city's port at present levels to fight climate change.

The Council has also called for an inquiry into coal mining, a coal export levy, mandatory renewable energy targets and improved public transport and cycling infrastructure.

These actions match similar trends in the US and elsewhere where frustration with their government's lack of action on climate change at national level has led local governments taking a strong and independent stand on the issue. Both Australia and the US have not yet ratified the Kyoto Protocol, are part of Annex I and have massive greenhouse gas emissions.

Newcastle Greens councillor Michael Osborne, who moved the proposal, said the recent Stern Report showed environmental and social costs of each tonne of coal were far higher than its market price.

This progressive action by Newcastle's city councillors contrasts sharply with the performance of Australia's delegation at these negotiations in Nairobi. Their approach appears to be a desire to match their global position as a leading exporter of fossils by accumulating the most number of fossils awarded daily by the Climate Action Network. At the current pace – four awards in the first four days of negotiations – Australia will soon be giving world-class fossil earners the US and Saudi Arabia a run for their money.

Australia's negotiators are choking on fossils while Newcastle is choking off coal.

Canada “Ducking” on Kyoto

In the latest example of what appears to be the Canadian government’s ducking of its climate obligations, ECO has learned Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has skipped a Canada-EU Summit in Finland later this month with climate change on the agenda. He cited his obligation to be in the House of Commons as an excuse – a lame one given opposition parties offered to remove one of their members should any vote come up during his absence. So was Harper ducking? As a not-so-wise man once said: “If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck.”

Environmental groups are now concerned Environment Minister Rona Ambrose might duck out of answering the submission made last week by Canadian NGOs in which they informed her of her “duty to act” to regulate greenhouse gas reductions under Section 166 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. The Act requires the Minister to prevent, control or correct air pollution emitted by Canada which violates an international treaty binding on Canada. The NGOs gave the Minister 30 days to produce a compliance plan – allowing her to attend the Nairobi meeting and consult with her international colleagues.

– Article 9 Review, from front page –
issues should be addressed in each of these fora, and to set up a process of submissions by Parties, input from intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental experts, synthesis and analysis by the Secretariat, and workshop discussions next May and September. A working group, with a clear mandate and leadership, should be established at this meeting to carry out the Article 9 review, and report its findings and conclusions at COP/MOP 3. This would complement the reports by the AWG and the Convention Dialogue, and provide a sound basis upon which Ministers can frame a negotiating mandate.

Developing countries are right to point out that most Annex 1 countries have yet to demonstrate sufficient progress in cutting their emissions, or in providing adequate assistance

ECO wonders what the real reason is for all those ducked meetings, abandoned commitments and general ducking of the government’s climate protection responsibilities. Could it be that the Conservative government really does not care about climate change? Could it be that the Environment Minister’s failure to get a briefing from her own department’s scientists means she is not interested in the scientific facts about climate change? We eagerly await Minister Ambrose’s clarification when she arrives in Nairobi next week.



for mitigation and adaptation activities. Words must be matched by deeds.

But Japan is also right in asking “if we raise the level of our aspirations, who else is coming with us?” There is in fact the need for a “new sense of solidarity,” and the “massive cooperative effort” by both Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 Parties called for by Japan, if we are to meet the challenge of climate change.

It is long past time for countries of the North and South to stop pointing fingers at each other and saying “your end of the boat is sinking.”

We all share the same planet, and we must work together to ensure it remains habitable for the generations to come. ECO urges delegates to act in this spirit as they work over the coming week to lay out the path forward in these negotiations.

“Fossil of the Day” Award

Japan, a first time recipient of the fossil awards this year, clinched the top spot yesterday for its statements in the Ad Hoc Working Group plenary. It threatened to “shrink its commitment” for the second commitment period if forced to make a decision in 2008 regarding article 3.9.

Leading front-runner in this year’s awards so far, Australia, came in second place.

Australia’s use of hot air through their easy target, an increase of eight per cent and reductions in land clearing that have already taken place, will mean they can still build a number of coal-fired power stations and meet their Kyoto target. Australia’s intervention at the AWG plenary that they would meet their Kyoto targets – even though they abandoned them – was just more of the same hot air.

Forum on Post 2012: Moving Forward

Climate Action Network (CAN) International, the umbrella group for environmental organisations working on climate change and publisher of ECO, will be hosting a side event today on “Post-2012: Moving Forward” from 11.15am to 12.45pm at African Tulip 3 at ICRAF.

The event will review the latest science on climate change emissions pathways required to keep below 2°C warming, and discuss impacts in Africa. It will present CAN’s discussions and proposals for moving towards an adequate post-2012 regime, proposals for the negotiating framework and possibilities for expanding contributions to global efforts to prevent dangerous climate change

Speakers at the forum are Bill Hare (Greenpeace International) on Preventing Dangerous Climate Change; Ever Hart Na Goma (Malawi) on Impacts and Adaptation Needs in Africa; Richard Worthington (South Africa CAN) on CAN Proposals for a Negotiating Framework; and Shruti Shukla (WWF-India) and Sanjay Vashist (CAN International) on Capacity Building in Four Countries to Engage in the Post-2012 regime.

NGO Party Tomorrow!

The ever-popular NGO party, organised by Climate Action Network, will be held tomorrow, Saturday, November 11 from 8pm onwards. Venue for the event is the Jomo Kenyatta Conference Centre (JICC) in Nairobi’s city centre near the Parliament. (Refer to the back of a 100 Shillings note for additional details.)

Conference badges must be worn to gain entry. No cover charge will be imposed and it will be a cash bar. Extra security detail has been imposed to ensure safety is enhanced.

ECO urges all COP participants to join the party and use it as an opportunity to unwind from the vigours of the negotiations, meet others and have fun.

Youth Constituency

Youth attending this year’s negotiations have drafted a document entitled UNFCCC Youth Constituency. Soon to be circulated, the document provides solutions for the UN body to further empower youth, who are already taking considerable action in capacity building at the grassroots level. Proposals include better integration of youth into this UN process.