

ECO



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ECO email: administration@climatenetwork.org – ECO website: <http://climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletters> – Editorial/Production: Joshua Darrach

When is Mitigation “Meaningful?”

According to the fossil fuel lobbyists in Brussels, Washington or Canberra, it is only developed countries that are being pressured to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. Those special interest lobbyists, and the governments that listen to them, should pay attention in the mitigation workshops this week. ECO notes that the majority of the emission reductions currently on the table are likely to be made in developing – not developed – countries.

A forthcoming overview of the major recent analyses of the mitigation pledges from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), shows that in 11 of the 12 scenarios looked at, developing countries will be responsible for more real emission reductions than developed countries. According to these studies, the only scenario that sees developed countries’ pledges deliver greater reductions compared to business as usual, is the most optimistic of those outlined in the UNEP emission gap report. Sadly there aren’t many developed countries currently committing to the high end of their

pledged ranges with the strictest of accounting rules.

Why does this matter? Firstly, because many developed countries have made implementation of – the higher end of – their pledges conditional on “adequate” or “ambitious” action by major developing countries. Secondly, because developed countries like to reiterate that the \$100 billion per year committed in Cancún as climate finance is conditional on “meaningful mitigation” by developed-countries.

So ECO would like to know when developed countries will tell their counterparts whether these conditions have been met. It may be difficult to argue they have not, so long as developed countries ambition remains so low.

In the end, ECO knows that for mitigation to be truly “meaningful”, global efforts must be sufficient to keep global warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. There are no prizes for coming first in a race in which everyone fails to reach the finish line. All countries will need to work to close the emissions gap – but developed country governments should recognise that they are currently not doing their fair share. They should stop listening to the lobbyists telling them not to lead, and recognise that it is instead they who are currently following.

There was no opportunity to appeal these decisions. This experience highlighted the need for Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat to address these and other participation concerns.

Today, the SBI will consider this issue once again in an all-day workshop to further develop ways of enhancing civil society engagement. The Parties and the Secretariat have each acknowledged that vibrant public participation increases transparency and trust, and “allows vital experience, expertise, information and perspectives from civil society to be

SBI & SBSTA Agenda Woes

ECO watched with dismay the two-day (and counting...) negotiation over the agenda of the subsidiary bodies. We were happy to see that the Ad hoc Working Groups got underway in a constructive fashion yesterday and hope to see quick resolution to the issues holding up the SBI and SBSTA.

Since these discussions are taking place (sadly, once again) behind closed doors, ECO is not in a position to judge what is really happening. We do realise that there are high political stakes in the issues being talked about broadly in these negotiations. Developing countries are being asked to do more in terms of MRV of actions and reporting while finance commitments are inadequate and reduction targets are slipping. The fact that the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is uncertain weighs heavily on many parties mind and on ours as well.

The work of the subsidiary bodies is critical to moving forward on many issues, but particularly for Adaptation, REDD, and MRV. In Cancún, the advances in these three issues represented a real breakthrough for the last few years of negotiations. Those decisions set the stage for real

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This is Our Home Too!

ECO would like to take you down memory lane for a moment and recall the monumental obstacles civil society observers faced in Copenhagen. Thousands were denied access despite being registered to attend the conference, while others were arbitrarily removed from the conference venue for actions taken by other members of their delegations.

brought into the process to generate new insights and approaches.” But, current processes are not adequate to guarantee these benefits.

ECO, on behalf of our civil society family, makes the following demands:

- Fewer “closed” negotiating sessions, making them the exception rather than the rule (i.e. negotiating sessions, including informal meetings, should be open to observers by default).
- Increased opportunities for interventions by not requiring observers to submit interventions in

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Progress on Adaptation Possible in Bonn

Yesterday afternoon, around 40 people came along to take part in an event organised by partners of the Nairobi Work Programme for partners and Parties. Discussion on a series of topics – including using climate models for local adaptation planning, integrating adaptation into national planning, best practice for knowledge sharing mechanisms, the challenges in accessing good practice faced by SIDS and LDCs, and measuring adaptation outcomes – was animated, over several hours. We heard some Delegates who left the lively discussions to do their duty waiting for SBSTA to start did to express great regret at wasting their afternoon, when they could have enjoyed a meaningful discussion.

ECO hopes that the lessons of Tuesday's workshop will encourage SBSTA to advance progress on the next phase of NWP in Bonn with more enthusiasm.

Ray of the Day

ECO is overjoyed to award the ray of the day to AOSIS for their spirit of constructive participation. They provided a concrete proposal to move the KP negotiations forward particularly in light of the decidedly uninspiring progress elsewhere. We would like to encourage other parties or groups to follow the example AOSIS has set in being solutions oriented. As AOSIS reminded us today, we cannot afford to talk in circles when there is so much to lose.



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action on the ground if Parties can begin working out how to operationalise them. And getting these details right could help pave the way for the political decisions needed from the LCA and from the KP. While there are, no doubt, serious issues involved in the discussions around the agenda, the disagreement among Parties is undermining the ability of the UNFCCC to effectively and efficiently conduct the process to reach a FAB deal.

ECO is unwavering in its belief that the UNFCCC is the most appropriate place for global cooperation on climate to take place so it wants to see the UNFCCC more empowered. We hope the parties can find a way to resolve these agenda disputes, preferably before they arrive at the meeting, in a way that strengthens the power and capabilities of the UNFCCC for the "full, effective, sustained, implementation" of the Convention, which is fundamental to life on Earth.



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advance, and by guaranteeing interventions at the end of all sessions with an opportunity to intervene during the session at the chair's discretion.

- Observer submissions included in official documentation.
- In addition to the formal negotiating process, clear, effective and uniform processes for participation in institutional bodies and mechanisms under the UNFCCC framework, such as the Transitional Committee of the GCF and the Adaptation Fund.
- Access to documentation at the same time as Parties.
- Increased transparency and accountability regarding restrictions on access, which should be imposed only in exceptional circumstances and based on clearly defined criteria.
- An independent committee to consider problems/disputes relating to observer participation.

ECO looks forward to fully and effectively participating in today's workshop, and to making progress towards enhanced participation. After all a house becomes a home when everyone has a say in how it is run.

Ludwig in Bonn

Ludwig went to the presentation of the IPCC on their renewables report and learned that renewable energy can provide all our current and future energy needs. While listening to the presentations of these smart scientists he also learned that in order to optimally use what nature offers us, we need governments to develop the right set of supportive policies. Ludwig was therefore very surprised when he opened his computer after this presentation and read about the Chinese government planning to cancel its subsidies for wind energy due to a complaint at the World Trade Organisation against this subsidy by the US government. Did the US government not yet receive a copy of the IPCC report? If not, Ludwig would be happy to give them his copy.