

eco



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Keys to the 2nd KP Commitment Period

It shouldn't be too hard for Annex I countries to show needed leadership by actually agreeing emission reduction commitments in line with the top end of the IPCC 25-40% range. After all, many reputable studies show how to reach that achievable goal. But on the evidence thus far, those countries aren't ready to embrace ambition yet.

Nevertheless, Annex I Parties can and should reach agreement in Cancun on a number of technical issues that lead toward commitments in 2011 to achieve the needed scale of emissions reductions, along with a shared understanding of the underlying rules and modalities that will influence the fair sharing out of their targets in 2013-2017.

This week's launch of the UNEP *Emissions Gap Report* clearly demonstrates the massive and growing gap between the pledges now tabled and even a 2° C pathway, much less one limiting global temperature rise to less than 1.5° C. It is imperative to rapidly close the Gigatonne Gap and produce real emissions reductions, not fake accounting.

For these reasons, ECO reiterates the following points that need to be agreed here in Cancun:

- * At least a 40% aggregate target for 2020 for developed countries from 1990 levels.

- * LULUCF accounting that accurately tracks what the atmosphere sees rather than letting as much as 450 million tonnes of emissions vanish from the books.

- * Address AAU banking (hot air) in a way that preserves environmental integrity. The UNEP report says that dealing with carry-overs from the first commitment period as well as new surpluses created in the second could reduce the gap by up to 2.3 Gt..

- * Continuation of the 1990 base year will facilitate comparability of targets across the commitment periods. Other reference years are being advocated simply to hide the lack of effort by some Parties.

- * A 5-year commitment period to synchronize science reviews with the IPCC reports, help align with political cycles in many countries, and to avoid complacency. (Take note, EU!)

- * Strong domestic action to facilitate the transition to a zero carbon economy for developed countries by 2050. Strategic planning is required, not excessive offsetting.

- * Fewer new dubious sources of credits (the never-ending cries for CCS and nuclear in the CDM), and more demand for projects that deliver sustainable development benefits.

- * Use the most recent available science: that means IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report

– *KP, continued on page 2*

Memo to Ministers

Dear ministers, let ECO be among the first to welcome you to bright and friendly Cancun. The warm sunlight, sandy beaches and glittering pools create pleasant 'wish you were here' scenes.

We would certainly all enjoy some days by the pool or on the beach, sipping cold drinks and flipping through the pages of our new fair, ambitious and legally binding climate deal. But we must say, that is not what the coming week in Cancun will be about.

ECO regrets waking you up from your day-dream coming in from the airport. The world is still waiting for your governments to agree such a deal, and the demand for significant progress in Cancun will be ever present in the coming days.

But there should be some excitement about that too. There's a lot to be done! Progress during the first week has been slow, not reflecting the urgency and seriousness the climate crisis calls for.

You and your colleagues now can step up and take the work advanced by your delegations, show a cooperative spirit, and provide the political will, decision making power and commitment needed to make solid progress. This is the week, and this is your task.

Two important examples of issues needing a strong political push are the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the legal form of the LCA outcome. Both currently hang heavily on the backs of the negotiators in the two tracks.

In the KP, an uncertain future creates fast-growing tensions in the negotiations, and in the LCA, negotiators have been searching

– *Ministers, continued on page 2*

NGO PARTY

SATURDAY, December 4

21:00 - 05:00

SEÑOR FROG'S

Hotel Zone, Kukulcan km 9.5

City Buses along hotel zone

(~ 8.5 pesos)

City buses operational all night

Open Bar Bracelet Option: 30-35 USD

Dancing! Surprise Guests!

Waterslide! Fun!

**All with UNFCCC Conference Badges
are Welcome!**

– *KP, continued from page 1*

for global warming potential on the 100 year time horizon, not a political fudge. Is there a particular reason why Brazil does not support using the most recent science?

* Urge IMO and ICAO to take swift action to achieve a global approach, fully embracing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which means, for instance, that there is no net incidence on developing countries.

The KP modalities have the potential to lead to real emission reductions – or they can be a pretense that emissions are falling because of accounting tricks and self-serving rules to hide inaction. The clock is running down and the choice is clear.

And delegates, as always in a party-driven process, the choice is yours.

– *Ministers, continued from page 1*

without much success for cohesion in defining the kind of agreement they are seeking.

These underlying issues are slowing down progress in the negotiations. And as the discussions in the contact group on legal form revealed yesterday, these are issues which are difficult for the negotiators to progress without a strong push and a constructive approach from their ministers.

Dear ministers, the decision to maintain and strengthen the Kyoto Protocol as well as to adopt a legally binding agreement under the LCA are both essential elements. They are key to obtaining a package of decisions here in Cancun that carries us down the road toward a fair, ambitious and legally binding global climate deal. Having done that, you will surely deserve some rest and relaxation.

Mexico's LCAP Takes Shape

In line with the need to advance mitigation as well as integrating climate resilience and contributing to the MRV framework, ECO has noted the desirability of reaching an agreement in Cancun on Low Carbon Action Plans (LCAPs) for developing countries and Zero Carbon Action Plans (ZCAPs) for developed countries. Here we note some of the positive work already happening in that regard.

Yesterday, Mexico presented important progress on its short-term LCAP, the National Special Program on Climate Change 2009-2012 (known as PECC). Amongst its features are:

Long Term Vision: Mexico aims to reduce 50% of its emissions by 2050, from 2000 levels, going from 6.8 tonnes per capita annually now to 2.8 tonnes in 2050. Based on this goal and the PECC, Mexican emissions would peak before 2012 and gradually decrease until reaching the indicated level for 2050 around 340 Mt. However,



in order to reach its reduction target, Mexico highlights that a multilateral regime needs to be established and developed countries must provide financial and technological support at an unprecedented but necessary scale.

Mitigation: The PECC intends to decouple economic growth from increasing GHG emissions. By inducing a fall in carbon intensity, the PECC gives an initial boost to the decarbonization of the Mexican economy. The 129 Mt emission reductions for the period

2008-2012 are based on a variety of measures in energy generation, agriculture, forests and other land uses (AFOLU) as well as waste.

Adaptation: In some cases (mainly AFOLU), adaptation measures are integrated with those for mitigation. The PECC identifies the need to develop integrated risk management, especially in cases related to natural phenomena such as tropical storms and droughts.

Elements of a Cross-cutting Policy: The PECC engages a variety of federal government entities in the fight against climate change with actions, objectives and methodologies. Intersectoral and institutional co-ordination will ensure efforts are enhanced around the economy, education, capacity building, research, sharing of information and communication.

Mexico announced yesterday it will meet its unilateral annual emission reduction target of 129 MtCO₂ target for the 2008-2012 period. And Mexico also announced it would be open to

third party verification of these efforts.

The economy-wide nature of Mexico's approach and its long-term vision make it potentially a good example of long term planning, as long as it actually translates it into efforts that have funding support and political continuity. To start with, there are currently two proposals for a General Climate Law in the Legal Chambers. We certainly hope all these elements can be advanced in very short order.

Northern Lights?

ECO thought that leaving the gray winter chill for sunny weather here in Cancun, Canada wouldn't want to hide behind an Umbrella.

Japan certainly has been taking a lot of heat this week for its objection to a second Kyoto commitment period. But Canada has been under wraps – until yesterday, when the Executive Secretary yanked the umbrella away and exposed their true position to daylight. For it seems Canada has been opposing a Kyoto renewal behind closed doors.

Canada has been silent about other things too. Last week, evidence surfaced that the Canadian government is running a coordinated advocacy strategy to stall climate change and energy policy in Europe and the US, the country whose energy path Canada claims to follow. And last month, Canada's unelected Senate skipped debate and blocked major climate change legislation passed by the elected House of Commons.

It has not stopped at blocking policy, though. Canada is also obstructing science. Climate research funding has been slashed. Government scientists have been gagged. The country's premier Arctic research vessel is being rented out for oil exploration. Instead of falling, Canadian emissions have risen 30% since 1990. Canada was the only country to adopt targets under the Kyoto Protocol and then openly renounce them. Canada was the only country to return from Copenhagen last year and immediately weaken its emissions reductions targets. Canada's government has made a habit of bad faith.

The citizens of Canada, however, consistently support climate action and the Kyoto Protocol in national polling. The environment has frequently been highlighted as the most important issue to Canadians, even while their government was wrecking it.

And ECO can't avoid the thought that Canada might be better off with its delegation asleep on the beach.

Fossil of the Day

#1 - Saudi Arabia

For suggesting a scheduled SBI agenda item on enhancing observer participation was, in effect, a waste of time.