

ECO



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Basics for Bali

2007 has been a tremendous year for the climate change issue. Never before has media coverage or public attention been higher. Many politicians and businesses are finally beginning to treat the issue with the degree of seriousness that it deserves. The three IPCC reports and the Synthesis clearly outline the impacts the world will experience if we continue on our current trajectory. The IPCC is also clear that we have the technologies and measures we need in order to be able to avoid dangerous climate if, and only if, expeditious action is undertaken. The scientific case for such action is clear, and the public expects the world's representatives in Bali to respond.

The signal from Bali must be clear. At the end of this COP, the global climate community must be able to credibly explain to the global public that a comprehensive negotiation has been launched on the post-2012 regime. This must result, by the end of 2009, in substantially greater emissions reductions globally, consistent with achieving below a 2°C target. Industrialised countries must demonstrate their leadership.

Developing countries will need to make increased contributions, incentivised by developed countries. This will require new mechanisms to substantially increase the use of best practice, sustainable, low-carbon technologies in developing countries, and other mechanisms to greatly scale-up financial and technological support for adaptation.

The Climate Action Network (CAN) wishes to be quite clear in its demands for the next two weeks.

As part of the Kyoto Protocol track of the Bali Mandate, the expanded workplan of the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AWG) will

need to include discussion of a number of important issues related to Annex I commitments post 2012. These include:

- drastic emissions reductions in Annex I countries consistent with the below 2°C imperative
- fair and transparent target sharing criteria for Annex I emissions reductions based on historical responsibility and capacity to act
- analysis of the existing flexible mechanisms, to ensure that they increase both real emissions reductions and sustainable development in the host countries
- exploration of the scale and modes of finance and technology transfer to enable developing countries to embark on a path of sustainable low-carbon development
- expansion of Annex A to include emissions from shipping and aviation, which are rapidly growing sectors responsible for significant proportions of current radiative forcing
- review of the first commitment period LULUCF procedures and modalities
- review of the entry into force requirements for amendments to the Kyoto Protocol.

The Dialogue must be taken forward through negotiations under the Convention to explore how developed countries will incentivise enhanced developing country actions to decarbonise their development. There is a real need to formalise the progress that has been made under the Dialogue. As Brazil stated in the third session of the Dialogue in Bonn in May: "Discussions in the absence of negotiations cannot prosper". In CAN's view, the negotiations under the Convention will need to address the following issues:

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Australia's time to shine?

Change is afoot in the land downunder. A new Australian government is set to breathe fresh air into the Kyoto process as countries begin to debate the shape and scope of a second commitment period. After enduring 11 long years of a government determined to undermine international progress on climate change, the November 24 election of the Labour government will add to the momentum for a strong Bali Mandate.

Most exciting is the commitment to ratify the Kyoto Protocol – leaving the US isolated outside of Kyoto. The election of the Rudd-led government provides reason for hope. During the election, Kevin Rudd campaigned on a 60 per cent cut in Australia's emissions for the year 2000 by 2050. He also said that stabilisation between 450ppm to 490ppm carbon dioxide equivalent was required to avoid dangerous climate change. While this still leaves at least a 50 per cent chance of exceeding 2°C, it comes second only to the leadership of the European Union.

The Prime Minister has stated he will not set a short-term target for emissions reductions until the Garnaut Review, the Australian equivalent of the Stern Review, has reported its findings. Yet, in his first speech since starting his review, Professor Garnaut stated he would recommend a stronger framework to achieve rapid cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The question in the first week of the Bali climate negotiations is whether the Australian delegation will carry forward this leadership. Prime Minister Rudd is sworn in today. ECO hopes his first act of office is to brief his delegation.

Climate Change – A Human Rights Issue

Human rights considerations are being pushed as an essential aspect of climate change.

In Male, Maldives last month, a subset of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) adopted the Male Declaration on the Human Dimensions of Climate Change. It called for the broader AOSIS group to take this up through its secretariat in New York and the UNFCCC to assess the human rights implications of climate change.

The Declaration also asks the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct a detailed study into the effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, and the United Nations Human Rights Council to convene a debate in March 2009 on human rights and climate change.

The Male process builds on existing efforts to link climate change more broadly to development and human rights. Earlier in 2007, the African Union issued a declara-

strengthen African institutions required to address climate change and implement adaptation measures in Africa.

This builds upon the preceding petition submitted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, arguing that their rights including to life, property and culture are violated by climate change and the failure to address it.

The Male Declaration launches a process that will invite the entire international community to participate in considering the human rights implications of climate change.

It also presents a strong case for negotiators to consider human rights as an additional dimension to their positions here in Bali.

The Male Declaration on the Human Dimensions of Climate Change...called for... the UNFCCC to assess the human rights implications of climate change.

tion on climate change and development, calling on the international community to meet their mitigation obligations, and to

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- scientific review, to include by 2009, definition of the overall level of ambition, based on the need to keep global temperature increases as far below 2°C as possible
- launching negotiations to increase the contributions from developing countries as part of the global effort to tackle climate change
- a fair and equitable process to define the fair share of each country
- rapidly increasing support for adaptation, including to ensure that the most vulnerable developing countries are supported to build their resilience and adapt to current and future climate change impacts
- technology: to scale up the research on, deployment and transfer of sustainable technologies
- a mechanism to guarantee reliable incentives to rapidly reduce absolute emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation in developing countries, which recognises the rights of indigenous peoples and the sovereignty of developing countries over their forests
- addressing unintended consequences of response measures (i.e., excluding foregone revenues for fossil fuel production)
- an effective compliance regime
- methodological review.

CAN recommends that the Bali Mandate create a set of working groups that address the key issues listed above. Inter-session meetings by all working groups will be necessary. Chairs of the working groups, under both the Convention and Protocol, should be mandated to have the freedom to define the terms of reference and work plans of their respective working groups. The working groups should report back on progress to the COP in 2008.

A Committee of the Whole should use these reports as the basis of overall negotiations starting in 2008, to be completed by

2009, to allow sufficient time for the new post 2012 agreement to enter into force before the end of the first commitment period on December 31, 2012.

If global emissions are to peak by 2015, as the IPCC reports indicates they should, what is achieved in Bali and in the next two years of negotiations is absolutely critical for whether we condemn ourselves to suffer the litany of climate change-induced impacts in the IPCC report, or whether we can embrace a sustainable future.

Negotiators, the world is looking to see what decisions you make.

Insanity Streak

by TONY LOPES

