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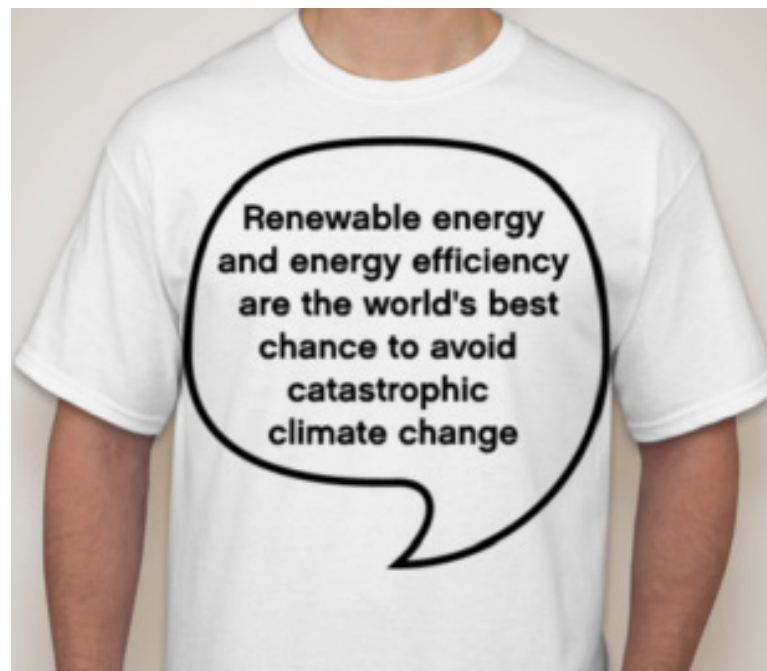


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Renewables save money, lives and jobs

ECO is excited about the many voices in favour of a future powered by renewable energy. On Thursday, it was UNEP's turn to explore the role of renewables and energy efficiency (RE & EE) in achieving **Sustainable Energy for All**. Their side event presented, among other things, findings from the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) REMAP 2030 study.

ECO finds some of the findings so cool that they should be printed on T-shirts, so we did:



Or how would “*If we use more renewable energy, we save money*” work on a poster hanging in a minister's wall?

Renewables are crucial in achieving modern energy access for all. According to IRENA, renewables are now the lowest-cost solution for new capacity in an increasing number of countries and regions. Many RE technologies are significantly cheaper than diesel- or kerosene-based systems, and cheaper than extending the grid into rural areas with low per capita energy demand. In addition, renewables offer more security and greater reliability than fossil fuels.

There are other benefits too. Doubling the share of RE in the global energy mix to 36% by 2030 could result in 900,000 additional direct jobs in the energy sector, and reduce health-related costs by up to US\$200 billion annually. When taking the true costs of fossil fuel use into account, switching to renewables could deliver overall savings of up to \$740bn per year by 2030.

If we really get going, renewables can be even bigger, like 40% by 2030, which is close to what, for example, Greenpeace and WWF scenarios show is needed to put us on a path to 100% RE by around mid century. So let's rock! But here's the real take-home message, especially for all the developed country finance negotiators: to maximise renewable energy uptake and provide modern energy access for all, international cooperation is not just desirable, but absolutely essential, along with access to finance.

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Thank you

A heartening moment occurred yesterday before an informal conversation on the coordination of support for REDD+. Many Parties, literally, stood side by side with NGOs and refused to enter the meeting room until the NGOs were also allowed in – which they eventually were. ECO thanks the Parties involved and hopes that this sort of Party-driven support for transparency will catch on.

After an 'own goal' on consultation, Brazil is back in the lead

Yesterday, ECO reported that Brazil had failed to consult with Brazilian civil society before submitting its Reference Levels to the UNFCCC, and that it had not yet made the submission public. Today, we are pleased to report that the submission has been published on the Brazilian government website, apparently while yesterday's article was in press.

Now that the submission is no longer a black box, ECO wants to properly congratulate Brazil on being the first country to submit its reference levels. We hope other countries will soon follow, with due consultation and transparency. While ex-post assessment is no substitute for prior consultation, at least now, the submission can be properly analysed and assessed. Brazil seems to be trying, but needs to work harder to become a role model in transparency and consultation.

From Bonn to New York

As we wrap up in Bonn, New York is preparing to host an equally important process, the penultimate session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ECO's done its homework and can tell you that the linkage between climate change, poverty eradication and sustainable development makes it clear that the post-2015 sustainable development framework will fail if climate change is not adequately addressed within it.

In an open letter, more than 170 civil society organisations and networks, from over 50 developed and developing countries, have called for the "framework to address climate change in a manner that recognises the urgency and importance of dealing with the most fundamental challenge of our time".

They call for a separate, stand-alone climate change goal, and for climate elements to be included in other relevant goals: "A robust framework of this nature will help to support the scale of ambition needed to achieve the UNFCCC's aims and help to ensure the delivery of a strong climate deal at COP21 in Paris in 2015".

ECO expects negotiators in New York to take note: strong and ambitious climate goals need to be part of the SDGs.

Clarity for loss and damage!

ECO has been sitting on the edge of its chair waiting to find out how the work of the Warsaw Loss and Damage Mechanism has progressed since the first meeting of its ExCom at the end of March.

Disappointingly, the much anticipated ExCom presentation left ECO puzzled: precious few insights were presented on the content of the work plan. The veil of secrecy has not been fully lifted, Yet, ECO is motivated by ExCom's decision to open up the work plan for input from Parties and other stakeholders until July 1. What's more, it will also webcast its next meeting live. Based on the comments received, the ExCom plans to advance the work plan by its second meeting, planned for the end of July. They will even accommodate observers who are not travelling to Bonn. ECO hopes that the work plan developed by the ExCom will leave some space for further inputs from those Parties who might not otherwise be able to meet the deadline. Here are some ECO suggestions for those planning on making submissions:

- Prioritise the needs of those segments of the population and ecosystems which are particularly vulnerable;
- Consider key loss and damage areas such as slow-onset events, the functioning of social protection systems, migration and displacement, non-economic losses like that of ecosystems and their services, and financial instruments to provide for rehabilitation and redress needs;
- Design a long-term work plan, not just a two-year set of activities.

The discussion on modalities and composition is still ongoing. ECO is convinced that a mechanism has to be more than just the ExCom doing a bit of work here and there. The Warsaw International Mechanism must become a tool which can address the full range of needs related to loss and damage. Therefore, countries should seriously consider proposals that can contribute to this objective.

ECO would like to echo the call of very vulnerable countries for adequate representation in the future ExCom. Fully engaging those who are most in need of a functioning mechanism is a way to ensure that their substantial expertise is brought into the work of the ExCom.

EU's Kyoto ratification and Poland: The Sequel

Dear Reader, do you remember when ECO wrote, a few nights ago, about Poland being a total bully, again, and trying to use the EU's KP ratification as a bargaining chip for the upcoming 2030 discussions in the EU?

Here comes the sequel: yep, you heard it right — this is what is happening. Two days ago, at the EU environment ministers meeting, Poland refused to agree to let the EU's ratification process move forward. Instead, Poland is planning to table a new proposal which includes... wait for it... hot air for Poland! Never mind the rest.

As it seems that Poland is not hearing ECO's "stop the madness" calls — could you help us out, Dear Reader? Whenever you see a Polish delegate, please tell them to stop.

