

ECO



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The ADP: a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth?

ECO noted a range of opinions in Thursday's ADP stocktaking plenary — particularly on the question of how negotiations should go forward with which texts. Some Parties supported working with text based on a synthesis of Party contributions. This would mean that the co-chairs would be sent into the kitchen to cook up a text based on ingredients selected by Parties. Other countries want Parties to prepare the main dish, with negotiations held directly on Party submissions compiled to a single document. The fear is that this could run to a hundred-plus page cookbook.

A few countries seemed to want to try both approaches. This interesting proposal works and raises the question of whether Parties could work with two documents at the same time and achieve a compromise. In this spirit of conciliation, ECO proposes that Parties look for inspiration from the Post-2015 negotiations on SDGs. This process uses a dual text approach to ensure the soufflé rises.

In utilising the Post-2015 dual-text model, ADP co-chairs could call for conference room papers (CRPs) that they compile into an INF document featuring all Party submissions, with attribution. The co-chairs would prepare a companion document, a synthesis text developed from the CRPs, other submissions, and Party statements at this session. The synthesis text would identify areas of convergence and divergence and serve as the basis for formal negotiations.

This dual approach addresses Party calls for transparency and attribution, as well as addressing the need to move as fast as possible to narrow the differences amongst Parties. In this moment, the key to convergence might be found in combining approaches instead of choosing between them.

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Because I'm happy...

It's totally not crazy what I'm 'bout to say
Sunshine she's here, fossil fuels can take a break
Solar power's gonna fill this space
With the sunshine and wind power showing the way

Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like a room with PV on the roof
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like Renewable Energy is the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you know what sustainability is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like renewable energy's what you wanna do

Here come fossil fuels talking CCS and crap,
Yeah,
Don't give all you got, you gotta hold 80% back,
Yeah,
Don't you worry 'bout the economy we'll be just fine,
Yeah,
No offence to you, don't waste your time
Here's why

Because I'm happy
Clap along in South Africa with 4 million solar roofs
Because I'm happy
Clap along with Uruguay's 1.3% GDP investment in wind power that's the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along with Mauritius, Costa Rica, South Africa, Nicaragua and for you
Because I'm happy
Clap along if you feel like renewable energy's what you wanna do

Pollution has to go down
Looking at emissions goin' down
The level's too high
Bring it down
Need policies to bring pollution down
I said
Let me tell you 'bout
Solar brings pollution down
Can't help but
Bring it down
The levels too high
Wind brings emissions down
Can't help but
Bring emissions down
I said

Because I'm happy
Clap along with Uruguay with a 90% (RE) 2015 target as the proof
Because I'm happy
Clap along with Mauritius for 60% (RE) by 2025 and that's the truth
Because I'm happy
Clap along with Nicaragua for 90% (RE) by 2020 if you know what happiness is to you
Because I'm happy
Clap along with Costa Rica for 100% (RE) by 2021 if you feel like that's what we ought to do!

The Saudi Top 20

Don't sell yourself short, Saudi Arabia, under any definition you're important!

During Wednesday's ADP session on the information required for INDCs, Saudi Arabia suggested that only the world's top 20 emitters should worry about offering mitigation contributions to a Paris Protocol. The rest of the world, they said, should focus on adaptation, as their emissions are "minuscule".

ECO already debunked the "minuscule" argument yesterday. Nothing is minuscule when you're phasing-out fossil fuel emissions. And you can't very well achieve the ADP's purpose of "ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all Parties" if 80% of Parties don't mitigate. However, when you look at the countries in the top 20, Saudi has created quite the problem with its creative approach – it's on the list, any way you slice it.

As ECO digs deeper into this Saudi Arabia-style differentiation, things become more and more curious. Someone call Norway; tell them to toss out their reductions target of 40%. Switzerland? Who needs its 20% target? On the other hand, ECO wonders whether Saudi Arabia has contacted its fellow Like-Minded Developing Country group members (China, India and Iran) to break the news that they should join Saudi Arabia in doing most of the mitigation effort!

Back in the real world, it is clear to ECO that we need all countries to do their fair share of mitigation in the post-2020 period. Rather than arbitrary cut-offs, each country should show why its proposed contribution is both adequate and fair — based on an agreed list of equity indicators. ECO gives Saudi Arabia an "A" for creativity, but an "F" for failing to protect the vulnerable.

Total GHG Emissions (excl. LUCF)	Total GHG Emissions (incl. LUCF)
1. China	1. China
2. USA	2. USA
3. EU27	3. EU27
4. India	4. India
5. Russia	5. Russia
6. Japan	6. Indonesia
7. Brazil	7. Brazil
8. Germany	8. Japan
9. Indonesia	9. Canada
10. Canada	10. Germany
11. Iran	11. Mexico
12. Mexico	12. Iran
13. South Korea	13. South Korea
14. Australia	14. Australia
15. UK	15. UK
16. Saudi Arabia	16. Saudi Arabia
17. Italy	17. Nigeria
18. France	18. France
19. South Africa	19. Italy
20. Turkey	20. South Africa

Source: WRI CAIT 2.0 for 2011

Brazil's REDD+ black box

On June 6, Brazil became the first Party to deliver a REDD+ reference emission level to the UNFCCC under new rules established in Warsaw. This should be a reason for celebration: agriculture, forestry and other land use constitutes 24% of global emissions, and Brazil has been reducing deforestation rates in the Amazon. ECO applauds this here and in another article, even if Brazil has stumbled a bit in recent years. Yet, the more ECO looks, the more this REDD gift seems like a black box.

Brazil has been a bit shy about its latest accomplishment. According to Brazilian civil society, the numbers behind the submission are surprisingly secret. No open consultations at home before finishing the reference level? No transparency around the data used? But when the Brazilian Climate Observatory asked for a copy of the submission, the proud Brazilian government lost its mojo. Somehow it was powerless to send the submission to its own civil society, instead leaving it to the UNFCCC Secretariat to share it in due time.

ECO really wants to see Brazil as a leader, especially on deforestation. But in a week where disrespecting observers has become de rigueur, Brazil's lack of transparency and failure to engage its own civil society overshadows its REDD+ submission. Moreover, how are we to evaluate country promises and close the gigatonne gap, if everything is kept in a black box?

Will Brazil win?

The most anticipated event of the year has finally arrived (no, not the Bonn intersessionals!). Last night, after an early stumble, Brazil beat Croatia in the opening game of the 2014 World Cup. Just as much of the world looks up to Brazil's national team, many Parties admire Brazil's great success in tackling deforestation, with a 70% reduction during the past decade. And rightly so! It's worthy of a good cheer.

One success alone will not be enough for Brazil, you can't stay a winner forever. While historically deforestation has always been Brazil's biggest source of emissions this is changing. It is now time for Brazil to commit to an ambitious target that will bring down emissions across all sectors. In order to stay on top of it game, Brazil needs to commit to an ambitious target to bring down emissions across all sectors.

Emissions from agriculture, energy and transport are already higher than emissions from deforestation. ECO has learned that emissions from the Brazilian energy sector more than doubled between 1990 and 2012, making it one of the fastest growing sources of GHGs. It is time for Brazil to stop investing in fossil energy and get on track for a renewable future.

To become a true climate champion again, Brazil needs to keep up the fight against deforestation while bringing down emissions across all sectors. ECO calls on Brazil to commit to achieving zero deforestation by 2020, and tackling emissions from other sectors.

Domino effect of energy security: binding targets, higher ambition, a good deal in Paris

While ECO has been busy this week in Bonn, our spies in Luxembourg have been keeping an eye on EU environment and energy ministers. Yesterday, a joint EU Council meeting tackled two burning, and linked, issues: EU energy security and its post-2020 climate and energy framework. ECO's intelligence network says this will be agreed in October.

You don't have to be in the CIA to know that Europe as a whole is getting worried about its energy security. Countries like Germany have a secret weapon: binding targets for renewable energy and energy savings. Achieving these targets in Germany would mean at least 35% of its electricity will be supplied by largely home grown renewable sources. Similar policies in other EU countries will result in a 40% reduction in EU GHGs below 1900 levels by 2030. This recent development makes ECO feel slightly optimistic that EU politicians won't need a decoder ring to discover that fossil fuels don't equal energy security.

ECO hopes that all delegates took note of the EU's intervention at the ADP ministerial meeting last week. The EU's 40% reduction target by 2030 is just the first initial domestic offer, not the final number on the table, with member states like UK, Germany and Sweden already calling for the EU to go further.

But what about you, France, our 2015 host? ECO hears you are in the process of adopting a national energy transition law, but you're strangely silent about that EU package. Would that be because you're planning to do better **and** push the EU for a stronger target? *Normalement, oui quand même?*