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ECO's 1-2-3 for Parties at this ADP

Has the extreme winter weather that's gripped North America, the devastating flooding in the UK or the [insert your own top-of-mind climate-related disaster here] made a case for more ambitious action with you and your Party yet? If not, the release of the IPCC's Working Group II's 5th Assessment Report on climate impacts at the end of this month surely will. ECO has long said 2014 must be the year of ambition, so let's start off on the right foot and make the most of our five days together in Bonn.

There are 3 tasks this ADP session must deliver on to ensure that a draft text is developed by Lima and that countries come to the Ban Ki-moon Summit with ambitious pledges for Paris to close the gap in the near term.

EIN: Agree on the structure and process for developing a draft negotiating text for this year. We all know what building blocks will form the basis of the deal in Paris — mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building — but now it's time to get into the specifics. It's imperative that critical elements, like the legal architecture for the 2015 agreement, including the compliance regime; an MRV framework that will ensure transparency and environmental integrity; a review mechanism to ratchet up ambition over time; and progress on fleshing out the loss and damage mechanism agreed in Warsaw, not fall off the table. These specifics won't come out of the plenaries; we need to move to contact groups. There's no further time to lose here in Bonn.

DOS: Determine the information that should be included when countries come forward with their proposed post-2020 commitments. Countries have already started work on this front and this information needs to be agreed upon at the June ADP meeting. Waiting until Lima will give Parties little time to reflect on what's required. For developed countries, the process is rather straightforward, as there can be **NO** backtracking from Kyoto-style commitments and the need to provide detailed information on their financial commitments and other support for developing country actions. **ALL** countries must justify how their proposed commitments align with adequacy and equity principles. ECO laments that in Warsaw, Parties couldn't agree to develop a comprehensive ex-ante Equity Reference Framework. Here in Bonn, Parties can start to remedy this failure, by agreeing to justify their proposed commitments based on a basket of equity indicators.

Discussions must also continue on a robust review process to assess the collective and individual adequacy and fairness of proposed commitments, with the final decision on the review process will have to be made at COP20 in Lima.

TROIS: Ambition, ambition, ambition. The focus in Workstream 2 on renewable energy and energy efficiency at this session is a positive start. The science is clear that a phase out of fossil fuels is necessary, however, the road to a renewable energy future need not (and cannot) wait until then. Additionally, ECO looks forward to preparations for the June Ministerial review of mitigation targets, which will provide developed countries with an important opportunity to put forward the more ambitious emissions reduction targets that are required to help close the huge gigatonne gap. Developing countries, too, can discuss what they can do to enhance the ambition of their pre-2020 actions.

By **Acting** ambitiously on renewable energy and energy efficiency; **Developing** the structure and process for elaborating a draft text; and **Providing** clarity on the information needed for proposed commitments; here in Bonn, the ADP can be worthy of its name.

Cheers to the Technology Executive Committee!

ECO has noticed with great appreciation that the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) is continuing to move towards greater transparency. Ever since its inception 2 years ago, the TEC has laid the foundation for transparency with their adoption of webcasting and inclusion of observers in thematic dialogues. In the meeting that just ended last week, the TEC outshone its own record of inclusiveness by inviting BINGO; RINGO; ENGO; and IGO observers to take part in many of the thematic task forces. To boot, the secretariat will begin to post notes of the meetings on the TT: Clear website.

ECO toasts the TEC members and secretariat, especially Chair Gabriel Blanco and Vice-Chair Kuni Shimada, for their insightful leadership. Congratulations TEC - cheers to you!

Other thematic bodies, you're invited to follow suit.

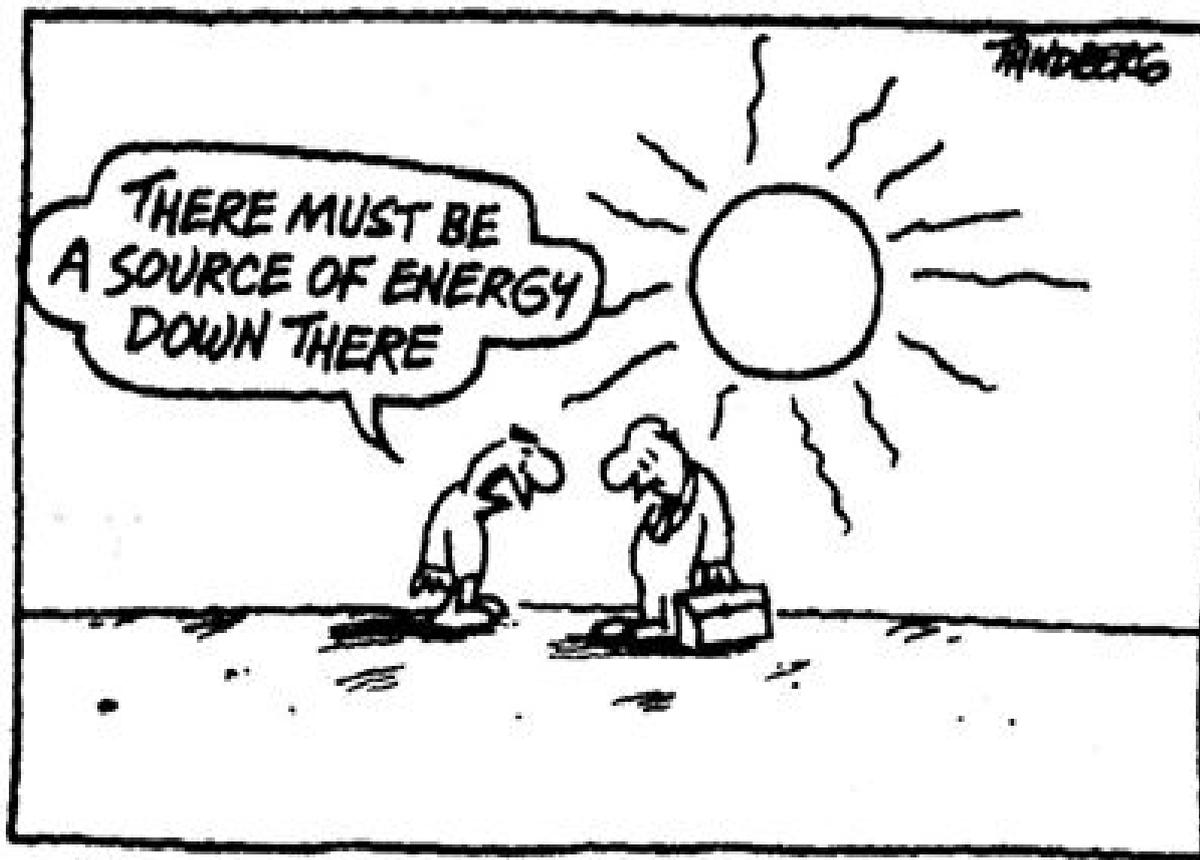


Image credit: Rob Tandberg

Let's imagine a better future for all

ECO often wonders how negotiators explain how they spend their time in Bonn. Do they go home and talk about the shopping in Bad Godesberg, the exquisite combination of German bratwurst and Pilsner, or how they ingeniously prevented agreement on binding commitments and successfully deflected pressure on their country to take action and prevent a climatic disasters?

Just imagine if, for once, we could all go home and enthusiastically announce that we had taken concrete decisions to support expanded deployment of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) technologies. Both of these things will deliver low-cost clean energy for households, create ecologically sound jobs, and ensure a livable world for our children.

All of this is what's possible in Bonn at the ADP alongside exploration of technological solutions with high mitigation potential. This has the potential to demonstrate that the UNFCCC can deliver results, and maybe also encourage negotiators to be more willing to make more difficult decisions on other political issues elsewhere in these halls.

As Parties prepare for the technical workshops, ECO suggest that they bear the following questions in mind:

- What specific decisions can the UNFCCC take to accelerate and expand existing initiatives on RE & EE that are proving to be effective?
- How can the various climate finance and technology institutions, under the UNFCCC, help enhance finance for low-carbon solutions on the ground in countries with different national circumstances and local conditions?

- How can the UNFCCC help to bridge the technology and finance barriers in many developing countries and help Parties learn from best practices?

- What additional international initiatives can be initiated under the UNFCCC to encourage a faster rollout of RE & EE?

ECO commends the ADP for taking up RE & EE as one of the first areas it explores. The depth of this area won't be exhausted, nor the solutions fully identified and implemented, within this one session though. ECO hopes that Parties will be so inspired by the progress they make this week that they'll be clamouring to come back in June to deliver much further progress on RE & EE. Ominous warnings about a 2020 emissions gap of 8-12 Gt CO₂ equivalent and emissions trajectories on track for a 4°C warmer world don't make for pleasant stories. How about we leave Bonn being able to tell the story of how we, together, made real progress delivering cleaner and more efficient energy for everyone? If the UNFCCC can help scale up renewable energy to 25% of global energy consumption (excluding traditional biomass) and double energy efficiency improvement rates by 2020, up to 8 Gt of CO₂ equivalent could be saved – closing most of the 2020 emissions gap.

The story only gets better though - most EE improvements pay for themselves within a few years and RE creates jobs, reduces local pollution and lays a foundation for a more sustainable future. And who knows, success with near-term emission reductions might just pave the way for closing the longer-term emissions gap, making a well below 2 or 1.5 degree future more than a pipe dream.