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1.5°C to Stay Alive: the Paris Call for Action

ECO would like to express its solidarity with the tens of millions of people around the world presently suffering from a super strong El Niño, on top of record breaking temperatures. These circumstances paint a bleak future for many, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised peoples. Let us not forget, they are the least responsible for climate change.

A recent report highlights how, even at the current level of temperature increases, heat stress undermines well-being, the productivity of labour and sustaining health. And further, a growing number of nations are reaching the limits of what adaptation can do. In light of this, the reference to a 1.5°C limit, made by many Parties in their opening statements, sends a positive signal. It is also consistent with the decision made in Paris to bid farewell to the 2°C limit. The 1.5°C provision in the Paris Agreement helps the world better understand what the “well below 2 degrees” means.

Here in Bonn, governments have several opportunities to respond:

1. Make the ambition, action and support required for a 1.5°C pathway key parameters of both the 2018 preliminary -stocktake and

the fullstocktake in 2023.

2. Start reviewing financial flows and scale them for a 1.5°C perspective, including phasing out subsidies for harmful fossil fuels.
3. Accelerate pre-2020 action on mitigation in light of the COP 22 facilitative dialogue, adaptation TEMs, and the 100bn roadmap.
4. Kick off the next periodic review and use the SBSTA research dialogue to improve understanding of the necessary actions.

It's time that all Parties immediately shift away from emission intensive practices and come back with enhanced NDCs by 2018, or 2020 at the latest for countries with less capacity.

A 1.5°C world is possible thanks to global trends such as the falling cost of renewable energies. The affordability of these technologies will only increase if aided by further political commitment to a 100% renewable world. The necessary changes are not constrained by technology but by political will. Last week's global actions to “break free” from fossil fuels demonstrate that a growing number of citizens aspire to a post-fossil and climate resilient world. It's now time for governments to live up to the ambition they committed to in Paris.

2018 and the Ambition Mechanism

ECO has observed that many people believe there's already an ambition mechanism in place. But the disappointing reality is, we don't have one (yet). Though we left Paris with many useful things, that didn't include a set of INDCs strong enough to support a real drive toward 1.5°C, nor even a clear plan for strengthening them.

A real ambition mechanism – one that can deliver 1.5°C – will need a significant number of Parties strengthening and resubmitting their INDCs before finalising them. Which is to say, before 2020, and the sooner the better. The key to ambition isn't only in resubmission, it's how all the mechanisms will work together to ratchet up the level of ambition. Here's a recap of the mechanisms we already have:

- The NDC process with its bottom-up architecture, national planning and conditional NDCs, allows even poor countries to table ambitious low-carbon development plans. But they cannot, and should not, be expected to execute those plans on their own.
- The dynamic review cycle and formalised periodic process anchors and integrates a variety of iterative processes. Alongside that is the progression clause by which the Parties have agreed to avoid backsliding.

- The transparency agreement allows everyone to see what everyone is doing.
- The global stocktake with its comprehensive terms of reference, and the dress-rehearsals that we'll have with the 2018 facilitative dialogue.

There are many good elements here, but not enough. We need actual reviews, which are not yet on the formal negotiating agenda, that go beyond collective assessment to considering the adequacy and fairness of individual pledges. Then there's the matter of the public finance breakthrough needed as part of the ambition mechanism.

The 2018 trial-stocktake is our single best chance to decrease emissions before 2020. ECO suggests a COP decision in Morocco this year [requiring] [requesting] Parties to update and improve the ambition of their INDCs well in advance of the COP 24 in 2018. But dreams must become real. Increasing ambition must be matched by increased and predictable finance.

This is a good place to pause and suggest that we resume the discussion at *Unfinished Business, the equity side event today at 16:45 in the Berlin Room.*

The Right Agriculture (Workshop) Inputs

Before the SBSTA agriculture workshops, ECO wants to remind Parties that nearly 800 million people are chronically hungry. With over 75% of the world's poor people living in rural areas and primarily reliant on agriculture, this issue needs to be higher up in the food chain of importance.

Commitments made under the new Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Decade on Nutrition, and the Paris Agreement all call for moving beyond the narrow considerations of yield. Producing more food alone will not end hunger in a changing climate: poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation are all drivers of food insecurity and vulnerability. Ensuring future food security requires agricultural strategies encapsulating environmental and socio-economic dimensions - livelihoods, land rights, animal welfare, fair and equal access to resources, decision-making and climate information, culture, and biodiversity protection.

The planned workshops must address the needs and contribution of small-scale food producers, who generate 80% of food in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Women play a dominant role, but lack equal access

to critical resources, rendering them more vulnerable to climate change impacts. The workshops need to address the UNFCCC's role in ensuring these populations can access the support they need.

Agroecological approaches not only improve soil health and water carrying capacity, but also empowers food producers, increases access to decision-making, and prioritises local knowledge. The FAO Director-General believes that agroecology is important as it will "help to address the challenge of ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, in the context of the climate change adaptation needed."

Parties should use this week to identify the UNFCCC's role in more clearly articulating appropriate approaches and guidelines for effective action, and also identify gaps in knowledge, action, and support.

The workshops must enable meaningful civil society participation, recognising experience and expertise on the ground. Ending hunger and tackling climate change will require action and learning by all, and civil society is a critical partner in these efforts.

From Lima to Marrakesh: How to create Gender / género / سن جلا Responsive Climate Policies

Here's some good news: 2015 saw all the big international policy venues—from the Sustainable Development Goals to the Paris Agreement to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction—commit to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment for more effective, just and inclusive climate and development policies.

The SBI in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy, with a focus on adaptation and capacity building, offers an opportunity to translate these principles into domestic climate actions. It is essential that a wide range of Parties and other stakeholders contribute.

To help set the direction, ECO has a few pointers on what Parties could focus on. To start, it is essential to address the discrimination women face in accessing decision-making processes and financial instruments, as well as improving their access to and control of natural resources.

Good planning and budgeting for climate action must be based on an analysis of gender and power dynamics. Parties must also

broaden their understanding of what a gender-responsive approach is. It can contribute to tackling different types of inequalities—not only between women and men—and has the potential to benefit all aspects of society, both in developing and developed countries.

The outcomes from this workshop should inspire Parties to support a new decision that ensures the continuation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender after COP22. But let's not stop there. Parties could even go further and start outlining potential priorities and activities for the next phase of the work programme, and organising workshops to review the implementation of mandates under various bodies and mechanisms? Another opportunity is creating additional capacity building and technical support on gender responsive initiatives in the design, planning and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

The French and Moroccan Presidencies have both demonstrated their interest in advancing gender equality under the UNFCCC. Now let's walk the talk.

The Worst Kept Secret: 100% Renewable Energy Can Be a Game Changer

If governments are serious about keeping temperature increases to 1.5°C, the next step is obvious: scale up levels of ambition on energy transition. There is no time left to delay embarking on a just transition to limit irreversible and disastrous climate damages. Observed atmospheric CO₂ concentrations continue skyrocketing — bad news indeed.

There are no two ways about the science. To limit temperature increases to 1.5°C, we need to have a carbon free energy sector by mid-century, if not earlier. If we continue emitting over 50Gt per year, that means significantly less than 20 years remaining of the carbon emissions budget.

The transition to 100% renewable energy over the coming decades

is the single most critical move that needs to occur. To do this, we need to increase the rate at which we are shifting trillions away from subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear, and towards investing in the renewables transition. There is no turning back.

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