

ECO

THE RAYS OF SUNSHINE IN GLASGOW ISSUE

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Who's Afraid Of The Global Stocktake?

Over the past two days, world leader after world leader took to the podium to boast about their climate action.

Many spoke about the urgent need for greater action this decade to keep 1.5°C alive.

Yet few of them pointed to ambition's twin sibling - accountability.

COP26 is a crucial moment to hold world leaders' feet to the fire and start the process of scrutinising politicians' commitments to climate action. In Glasgow, this begins with kickstarting the Global Stocktake (GST).

ECO doesn't need to remind you that in Paris, governments agreed that the GST would monitor collective progress of countries over time. This provides a periodic check-in, and indication on whether, how, and where ambition needs to be adjusted in order to make sure we meet all three Paris Agreement goals.

In other words, it ensures that the Paris Agreement is fulfilling its mandate to protect people from the impacts of climate change and support them to mitigate, adapt, and address loss and damage. It is the only way to reduce the climate risks to people and nature around the

world.

The GST is a key guarantor of the Paris Agreement. It will be the process where Parties, in front of the global community, have to explain their efforts, or lack thereof.

ECO wants a strong, robust political moment in 2023, and today - the first day of GST informal consultations - is the start.

ECO is ready to talk about the sources of inputs, the collection of inputs from non-party stakeholders, the assessment of non-state climate action, the guiding questions that should be asked to Parties... We have many recommendations and ideas on how to design a participatory and inclusive GST, enabling a higher ambition and climate justice - and crucially, one that turbocharges much-needed action and attention on loss and damage.

During the SBs sessions in June, the role and contributions of non-state actors were recognised as highly important by the Parties. Now, at COP26, it is time to work together to bring this expertise into the process. We demand that civil society and Indigenous Peoples form part of these discussions, and be supported to engage fully in the Global Stocktake.

Roll Up Your Sleeves & Get Transparency Over The Line!

ECO is getting a little desperate in the transparency negotiations. Parties are continuing to repeat the same lines and positions they've shared since June 2019, and ECO isn't *completely* sure if **all** Parties are eager to reach consensus on a robust set of decisions. Parties are still maneuvering over the structure of the texts rather than engaging on the technical aspects. ECO knows this can be part of the negotiating strategy, but it's beyond time to move toward consensus.

It is baffling that after all the work and time to get here to Glasgow, Parties spent an hour yesterday arguing over the difference in status between informal notes from the May-June virtual SB and notes prepared here in Glasgow.

ECO knows the transparency negotiations are on very technical topics: tables, outlines, and training programs. But the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) is a central element of the

Paris Agreement. The ETF will be how ECO knows whether we are on track to limit warming to 1.5°C. The ETF is how we know whether countries will meet the targets they have set out in their NDCs. The ETF is how we know whether countries meet the \$100 billion per annum goal. The ETF will give us information about adaptation. The ETF will give us information on loss and damage. Those arguing against such transparency could be seen to have things to hide.

But the ETF is not just about international reporting. The ETF is about providing robust data, detailing how climate targets are implemented domestically, and translating climate action into a driver of development for communities and societies.

In the final decision, Parties must uphold the TACC principles (transparency, accuracy, consistency, comparability and completeness). Simply, the ETF will tell us whether and how the Paris Agreement is working. So, roll up your sleeves and get it done.

Ambiguous Ambitions

World leaders came to Glasgow to kick off COP26 - a COP that needs to begin the decisive decade for climate action; a COP that must conclude with clear responses to the devastating messages from the recent IPCC report, the UNEP Gap report, the UNFCCC Synthesis report, the IEA 2050 scenario. These reports all clearly spell out the need to raise national ambition - urgently - to keep 1.5°C in reach.

Many leaders made hearteningly strong statements on the need to stay below 1.5°C. Some countries gave us hope - such as the ambitious 2030 clean energy announcement by India and the strong calls, from many developing and climate vulnerable countries, to most capable to raise national targets and enhance implementation.

Adding our voice to theirs, ECO echoes the Barbados Prime Minister's question: when will Leaders - especially of high-responsibility and capability countries - actually lead? We like hearing Leaders detail what they are doing today, tomorrow and before COP27 to raise national climate ambition and accelerate the implementation of climate action. These early actions shall not be forgotten over 2050 targets.

ECO now wonders how the leaders' call for global climate ambition will translate to an ambition decision that leads the world to accelerated 1.5°C-compatible implementation. ECO has faith that the Ministerial consultations held by Denmark and Grenada - COP President, please extend their mandate! - will unleash great ideas for the mitigation ambition decision of COP26.

For ECO, a minimum requirement for 1/CP.16 requires the decision to:

- firmly acknowledge the importance of science and the 1.5°C goal;
- annually raise national ambition targets and accelerate climate action immediately - this is in particular needed from major emitters;
- commit to phasing out the major source of the climate problem, namely, fossil fuels production and related finance;
- recognise the crucial role of nature, including the oceans, in keeping 1.5°C within reach, but **as well as**, not **instead of**, ending the fossil fuel era;
- send a clear signal that world leaders will urgently and decisively address the current mitigation ambition gap and move from plans on paper to actual implementation.

The Glasgow - Dhaka Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum as well as the Leaders Statement of the High Ambition Coalition are welcome in this regard and ECO is intrigued by the ideas in those statements. Mitigation ambition cannot stand alone; a truly ambitious COP outcome is equally concerned with addressing the need for increased support and finance, addressing loss and damage including finance and shifting the trillions. After all, the covering decision needs to address all three Paris goals - stay tuned for further ideas on the COP package in upcoming ECO issues!

[Article 6]

[Hooray we have a new Article 6 text, and it's the feast of the [brackets][options] again. It's [nearly] all there: from the most ambitious to the [ridiculous][scary].

ECO's jaw dropped in happy amazement when a search for the words "Human Rights" and "Rights of Indigenous Peoples" didn't come up blank, but reality hit again when noticing all the brackets as well as their absence from activity design and the continuing failure to have an independent grievance mechanism. Remember, [Human Rights][rights language] should never have left this text in the first place.

It's also getting a bit tiring to remind Parties that the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are not one and the same, and that there's no [place][role][possibility] for CERs to be carried over. No CERs can count towards a country's first [or subsequent] NDC[s], even if [vintage][registration] cut-offs are put in place.

Parties should stop counting brackets and start [ac] counting [for] emission reductions. Yes, we see all those [loopholes][jokes (we wish)][nonsensical propositions] in the text. Every credit must be accounted for, and that means applying corresponding adjustments for all credits, no [exception][excuses][“please look the other way while I fudge my emissions report”].

ECO urges Parties not to play games with baselines.

Baselines could [strongly undermine integrity][weaken the Paris Agreement] if they are set at business as usual levels. Host countries should not choose their own rules, and updates over time are crucial.

There are also brackets we are happy to see. This includes those signaling the continued support by some Parties for a high share of proceeds for adaptation, and a high cancellation rate to deliver an Overall Mitigation of Global Emissions. We see [5%] [20%] [30%]... and we encourage Parties to take the brackets off of the highest numbers, while avoiding any significant adverse effects.

Finally, ECO noticed that the 6.8 text was a bit more [robust][substantial], but it wasn't all good as some [extremely risky][unproven] "concepts" such as carbon capture and storage, which shouldn't be a priority action, have crept into the text.

May ECO also remind you that for Glasgow to keep 1.5°C alive, you shouldn't agree to any Article 6 rules that open up [loopholes][free passes][get out of jail free cards] that [delay real action][make our task to stay below 1.5°C [even harder] [impossible].]

So we'll make it clear and simple for you. Parties, in fully unbracketed text: do not carry-over any old CERs, do not allow any transition period for proper accounting, and do not ignore Human Rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Fossil of the Day

Today's list of Fossil Award winners is as long as the queues at COP.

1st Fossil of the Day Award goes to Norway.

Norway likes to play the climate champion but behind closed doors, new prime minister Jonas Gahr Støre is gaining a reputation as a fossil fuel cheerleader. The Labour leader, who's only been in charge for a few weeks, has, apparently, boasted to media that "Norwegian gas is not the problem, but part of the solution for a successful transition to renewable energy" especially if combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).

He positions the land of the midnight sun's fossil fuel production as a solution for the billion people who don't have access to electricity and has an interesting interpretation of the International Energy Agency and United Nations calls for an end to new fossil exploration. In Støreworld this only applies to large coal producers and not Norway.

Before COP, his government was caught red-handed by the media lobbying the IPCC to declare CCS a fix for continued fossil production. Alongside calling for further oil and gas development, they've joined Russia in arguing against the EU Commission's potential blacklisting of drilling in the Arctic.

As if that wasn't enough, not a single Norwegian climate target has ever been met, the petroleum industry is the largest source of domestic emissions and exported emissions of Norway's petroleum industry are around ten times higher than national emissions. Mind boggling

Throwing sovereign wealth fund money (worth an eye-watering \$1.4 trillion and built through petroleum exports) at climate finance initiatives is one thing but giving huge bailouts to the petroleum industry during the COVID-19 pandemic on top of existing subsidies is just a step too far.

Second Fossil of the Day Award goes to Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told the assembled Glasgow crowd that Japan promotes fossil power plants because they are necessary to integrate renewable energy, not only in Japan, but also throughout Asia.

Despite a coal phase out being set as a priority goal for this COP, the land of the rising sun aims to continue using coal power plants beyond 2030 and even towards 2050. Furthermore, Kishida has had deluded dreams of using ammonia and hydrogen as "zero-emission thermal power". He needs to wake up and understand that these novice and costly technologies are linked to fossil fuel extraction and would leave little chance of meeting the global 1.5C degrees targets. We need real world commitments to halt rising temperatures and a coal phase out by 2030 and not fossil fuel nightmares.

Third Fossil of the Day Award goes to Australia, again!

And for a second day running our antipodean cousins receive yet another fossil of the day award - they're going to need a bigger trophy cabinet.

So called "Emissions Reductions Ringmaster" Angus Taylor came to COP only to be unmasked as a vaudevillian mastermind selling Australian fossil fuels and our future down the toilet.

This morning he held a joint press conference in the Australian pavilion - with Santos, your friendly neighbourhood gas company to talk CCS with a majestic model of how they are going to bury emissions in their own backyard.

Spending public money on a technology theme park that 20 years on is still unproven is taking a hell of a risk and delaying climate action. Can they make it a Fossil Award hatrick - find out tomorrow.

Ray of the (yester)day for Scotland

A hurRAY for Scotland, dear hosts of COP and Monday's response to the escalating loss and damage from irreversible climate impacts. It's a miniscule amount in the grand scheme of things but by putting £1m from their Climate Justice Fund to support "communities to repair and rebuild from climate-related events, such as flooding and wildfires" they're setting a precedent that the richer nations must follow. We need funding mechanisms that acknowledge the scale of the problem and a roadmap for delivery. Scotland will get extra points from us if they now do more to start meeting their relatively strong legal emissions targets and come out and declare their opposition to plans to drill for yet more oil in the Cambo field off the coast of Shetland, applying pressure on the UK Government to use their powers to block it.

Ray of the Day - India

After Monday's 2070 emissions target announcement, in a quick turnaround, India has redefined itself as a COP26 climate champion. This shock 'ray of the day' award comes after it made bold *near-term commitments* to meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewables by 2030. And that's not all folks. A staggering reduction of one billion tons of CO2 emissions by 2030 and reduction of carbon intensity by 45% have also been announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These commitments will move India towards a low-carbon development pathway essential for a resilient future.

The announcement by Modi at the World Leaders Summit adds to the positive momentum on mitigation ambition and also demands developed countries to raise their targets based on equity and science and provide finance to the developing countries.

Ray of Day is awarded to India for their bold and concrete for 2030 which encourages other countries to follow suit. Hope you are listening China!