

ECO

NO CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

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Editorial: Andres Fuentes

We Need a Cover Decision, Not a Cover Up

Alright, Presidency. It's showtime. The curtain has been raised on week 2 but there's little indication yet about how the final act of this COP will play out. Will it include a vision, a political message to the world in the form of a cover decision that reflects urgency and solidarity? Will it demonstrate resolve to push back against climate inaction, greenwashing, and delay? Your silence worries ECO! We - and many others in this venue - are ready and eager to engage, but you seem to be talking to yourself. We've seen virtually nothing of the cover decision so far.

Despite a growing number of statements from Parties, including India, the EU, AILAC, Tuvalu and other Pacific island states, calling for the phaseout of all fossil fuels to appear in the cover decision, rumors abound that it may instead contain language promoting gas as a bridge fuel.

Mark ECO's words: a cover decision that promotes any fossil fuel – be it coal, oil, or gas – would be an utter failure. For the world's preeminent climate summit to have remained silent on fossil fuels for so many years was scandalous enough. For it to now come out in support of fossil fuels

–whether directly or through language that perpetuates the myth we can “fix” fossil fuels through risky and unproven technologies rather than ditch them – would be a travesty. So, too, would it be an utter failure if the cover decision:

- says nothing about the imperative of keeping warming to 1.5°C or the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- lacks commitments to a loss and damage finance facility, to double adaptation finance, to a transformational shift in financial flows away from fossil fuels and deforestation toward climate-resilient development pathways, based on renewable energy, energy efficiency and ecosystem protection and restoration, or;
- doesn't call on countries to ratchet up ambition rapidly and dramatically.

Parties cannot backslide on last year's cover decision in Glasgow, which marked tentative but inadequate steps forward. Time is running out! So let's get the show on the road.

All ECO Wants for Christmas is a 1.5-Compliant COP Outcome

Dear Santa Claus,

Brazil made fun of you on Saturday, but our crucial 1.5°C guardrail is on life support; negotiators and the presidency have not been able to deliver a robust mitigation work programme during week one; and the draft conclusions that were adopted do not even have conclusions. So ECO needs your help for week two to respond to the climate emergency, both in the cover decision and in the Mitigation Work Programme.

During the pre-2030 ambition high level round table, we heard consensus regarding the cover decision firmly committing to limiting warming to 1.5°C. But some countries should be on your naughty list: USA for using 1.5°C as a political pawn in a geopolitical chess game; Brazil for arguing for no cover decision; and some parties are reportedly even pushing for 1.5°C not to be in there at all! They should all be receiving lumps of coal. Or perhaps the problem is that they already have too much coal?

Speaking of coal, keeping 1.5°C alive means a fair phase-out of all fossil fuels. Even in the most conservative scenarios modeled in the latest IEA World Energy Outlook, total fossil fuel use peaks in just a few years, and gas demand plateaus by the end of the decade. This should be reflected in the MWP's sectoral approach. But strangely the MWP's xmas wishlist – the annex listing more than 50 items the parties wish for the programme to deliver – does not even mention the energy sector or the need to focus on

getting to 100% RE power.

We've said this before. To protect 1.5°C, ECO wants the MWP to last until 2030 and to have a strong link to Ministerial Roundtables. The MWP and the Ministers both need this annual checkpoint to ensure that ambition and implementation are matching.

ECO is happy to report that during the roundtables, Ministers converged around the need for a financial incentive package that includes scaled up access to finance through, notably, non-debt financial instruments and a much needed reform of the Multilateral Development Banks. Including this package in the MWP certainly would be a gift that keeps on giving.

And finally, dear Santa, ECO wishes for a cover decision that doesn't trade off a safe and habitable home. We need accountability on the Glasgow Climate Pact and welcoming the guidance from the High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Pledges. And for us to keep hope about climate justice, it needs to send a strong signal that limiting warming to 1.5°C – in line with the IPCC's 6th assessment report – will limit the devastating losses and damages we are already seeing across the world.

ECO will not just be waiting by the chimney, rather ECO will be attending every MWP meeting in Room 17 for you to make our dreams come true... All ECO wants for Christmas is... a 1.5°C-compliant COP outcome.

Making Good on the Promise to Stop Funding Fossils Abroad

After decades of shifting deadlines and refusing to say the 'F' word, the pledge 39 countries and institutions made at COP26 to stop funding fossils abroad by the end of 2022 was a much needed breath of fresh air. Signatories to this "Glasgow Statement" included Global North and Global South governments alike. It was the first international political commitment focused on ending public finance not just for coal, but also for oil and gas. Governments promised to instead 'fully prioritize' support for the clean energy transition.

Today at 13h15 at the UK pavilion, we will hear an update on signatories' progress. Tomorrow at 15h00 in the Memphis room civil society and others will highlight key next steps. If signatories make good on their pledge, this will directly shift at least USD 28 billion a year out of fossil fuels and into renewables. And as we have seen with coal finance agreements, this initial pact could create a domino effect — making finance free of oil and gas the norm rather than the exception.

But for more fossil dominoes to fall, we first need governments to keep this promise. Of the 16 signatories that have major international public finance for energy, six have published policies that are aligned or nearly aligned with the Glasgow Statement (UK, Denmark, European Investment Bank, France, Finland, Sweden). All of these put a halt to most fossil fuel investments, including new extraction and LNG infrastructure. But two signatories have new policies that leave major loopholes and need to be revised (Belgium,

Netherlands). And four of the largest signatories (Germany, Italy, Canada, and the United States) are still missing in action. For this pledge to keep its momentum, we need new policies without loopholes. We also need new signatories. ECO notes that Norway, Australia, and Mexico are conspicuously absent from the pledge, and all eyes are on them to join.

Wealthy governments keep saying they do not have enough money to pay their fair share of loss and damage, climate finance, and debt cancellation. ECO reminds these governments there is no shortage of money, just a shortage of political will. Fully meeting the Glasgow Statement is one key action — alongside others like windfall taxes, the Bridgetown Agenda to make more space for debt cancellation, and ending domestic fossil fuel subsidies — that can free up funding for climate solutions.

The science is clear, 1.5°C will stay out of reach if public finance for fossil fuels continues. According to the IEA, the solutions to the energy and climate crisis are one and the same: a faster transition away from fossil fuels and towards efficient, reliable, and affordable renewable energy. Following the fossil fuel industry into a neocolonial 'dash for gas' in Africa or CCS & hydrogen fairy tales are traps we can't afford.

For the Glasgow Public Finance Statement to once again be a good news story from COP, large signatories like Germany, Italy, Canada, and the United States must stop dragging their feet.

Amazon Governors Have Ancient Ideas About Ending Deforestation

ECO is aware that Sharm El-Sheikh is not your best pick for seeing Egyptian antiques, but we have nonetheless found a few old monuments at the site of COP27. One of them is the huge Tomb of the Bolsonaro Government, a 300 square meter empty ruin of a kingdom that should never have been. Right nearby, the smaller Mastaba of the Amazonian Governors looks slightly more modern, but it is actually promoting very ancient ideas — such as not ending deforestation by 2030.

After hinting in Paris at zero illegal deforestation by 2020, a target that was never achieved, some Brazilian Amazon states are now not only backtracking in their pledges, but actually proposing a destruction target: reducing rainforest clear-cutting to 50% by 2035, or to 80% by 2030 in the case of heavily deforested Mato Grosso. The state of Pará is aiming at having "only" 1,300 km² of forests destroyed every year by 2035 (nearly half the area

of Cairo). The question is whether there will be anything left to cut down so far in the future.

Dear governors, ECO is confused: as a country, Brazil has already committed in Glasgow to zero deforestation by 2030. Incoming president Lula has also repeatedly said that he will strive for zero deforestation. So we need to ask what part of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration pledge to "halt and reverse forest loss and degradation by 2030" you don't understand. It is written in plain English, not in hieroglyphs.

And one more thing ECO would like to decipher, how on Earth do you expect to raise money for forest protection without a strong commitment to protecting forests. The judgment of history is as implacable as the pharaoh's curse: please don't wander in the desert of lack of ambition, nor think you are fooling anyone with your mummified targets.

The Article 6.2 Review is Being Set up to Fail

ECO loves multilateralism, but sometimes it feels a bit like Parties are spoiled children that never get told off. To review Parties' cooperative approaches under article 6.2, Parties are currently proposing that the review process shall be "facilitative, [non-intrusive,] non-punitive, respectful of national sovereignty and avoid placing undue burden on participating Parties".

With all those caveats, ECO wonders what the point is of even having a review. Especially since some Parties are also fighting to keep the right to designate any information as "confidential", as ECO highlighted yesterday.

Do you know what *is* intrusive, punitive and places a major burden on Parties? Climate change. And it's time that the UNFCCC process starts setting up rules that can bite and have real impact. We don't need another facilitative and non-punitive exchange between experts and Parties. We need a stringent review that will verify whether Parties who trade mitigation

outcomes are actually delivering real impact, or just trading hot air and patting themselves on the back for it.

Information under article 6 should be public, complete, and all cooperative approaches must deliver real climate action. A strict review process needs to be established to deliver this.

For all their faults, the CDM, the 6.4 mechanism, and even the voluntary carbon markets do require independent and binding checks of the mitigation activities that lead to the generation of tradable units. There is no reason for cooperative approaches under article 6.2 to be any different. Having a handful of experts making non-binding recommendations to improve the quality of these approaches doesn't even come close to the level of assurance that carbon markets need in order to not undermine the Paris Agreement's objectives.

There's Only One Rational Choice

ECO fails to understand why is it that humans, as rational and self-interested creatures, want to continue to dig and drill in the ground for energy when the most abundant and economically sound choices are available above the ground, for free, and come with myriad benefits.

A decade or so back, fossil fuels made some economic sense because the levelized cost of energy from fossil fuel sources was significantly cheaper than renewables. But now, especially for wind and solar, the cost is on par or even cheaper than fossils, and that's before we look at the social costs and impacts they have on our health, well-being, and most importantly our climate. ECO is perplexed as to why countries would want to support some vested interests just want to get richer and richer at the expense of the world.

Fossil fuel companies, including some of the world's biggest oil and gas firms who claim to support the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming below the 1.5°C threshold, are likely to generate profits (not revenues!) of about US\$250 billion in 2022. Even more outrageous is that they are set to spend almost \$1 trillion in the next eight years on new gas and oil mining, all while being fully aware that any new investment in fossil fuels will push the world irrevocably over 1.5°C and have severe

repercussions on the climate and our lives. And to top it all off, they rely on tax breaks, subsidies, and public finance to keep what UN Secretary-General Guterres calls, "the moral and economic madness" going.

ECO knows that the transition to renewable energy and radical energy efficiency is economically viable and inevitable. The IPCC has warned that the time is running out to avoid a climate catastrophe. The world's reliance on fossil fuels is increasingly untenable. Renewable energy, complemented by energy efficiency, has the potential to meet all of the world's energy needs. It is high time we started a managed phase-out of all fossil fuels. Significant public and private finance should be harnessed to make this happen. This is the only rational, and the most optimal choice in the self-interest of the world.

On this thematic day dedicated to energy, ECO is calling on parties at COP27 to resolve to stop all new investments in fossil fuels as recommended by the IEA. The world needs a managed phase-out of all fossil fuels and a move to a 100% renewable future. We need to accomplish this starting with the richer countries in the coming decade and with the last countries reaching it by 2050. Can we achieve this at COP27? Or, do we accept homo non-sapiens as part of the evolution of our species?

Do Not Let Us be Fooled... Let Us be Free!

Today it's civil society day here at COP27. And today, thousands of people are still in jail for daring to speak out for human rights, democracy and environmental integrity. ECO has been reminding our dear readers that climate is a human rights issue, and that there is no climate justice without social justice.

Since COP has started, civil society observers have never felt so popular: innumerable local staff members have been taking pictures and videos of us, of our phone and laptop screens. Some observers have been randomly stopped at the entrance... they thought it was for an autograph but instead it was to get their bag checked!

And while this constant level of control is unacceptable for a UN meeting, they offer only a mild insight into the struggle our sisters and brothers go through every day, when basic rights like the freedom of speech,

press and peaceful assembly are not upheld.

Last week, a huge march happened within the COP premises. There was high energy and solidarity, but ECO cannot help but regret that this happened within well protected walls, far from the streets where people are living first hand what it means to have their political and civil rights heavily limited.

On this Civil Society Day, do not let us be fooled by high proclamations and rights washing. Let us continue to demand climate justice, basic freedoms and a safe and free civic space. Let us continue to demand that human rights are included not only in negotiated decisions, but also in the daily reality of people across the world that have the right to speak freely and not have their life threatened because of that.

We are not yet defeated. #FreeAlaa #FreeThemAll

Tic-tac-toe to Fossil Fuels

Okay ECOsters! Let's play tic-tac-toe! Three x's terminates the fossil fuel era and wins the COP!! COP26 made history by getting fossil fuels in a UNFCCC conference cover decision for the first time (lobbyists say booo). But it did not go far enough. When ECO says phase out, ECO means phase out of ALL fossil fuels. x- oil x- coal x- gas! Keep them in the ground.

This is why ECO welcomes India who asked for the phase out of all fossil fuels to be included in the cover decision. ECO also welcomes the similar strong language against fossils today and on Saturday from the EU, Colombia, the UK, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Spain. ECO wants to see the equitable phase out of coal, oil, and gas, ensuring

a just transition for all workers and communities across the world. All countries must agree in the cover decision to call for the phase out of all fossil fuels, with rich countries phasing out first and fastest whilst providing their fair and equitable share of finance!

But ECO is confused. Because ECO heard India, the EU, and others all calling loud and clear for a call to phase out (or at least phase down) fossil fuels in the cover decision, but the Presidency's summary of bullet points for what could be in the cover decision released last night seems to have accidentally missed this. Perhaps the Presidency's wifi cut out while these countries spoke out against fossils?

ECO En Español



What is the future of Africa?

As the sun rises above Egypt on Energy Day at COP27, let's consider our host country's proud symbol: the mysterious Sphinx, who devoured all those who failed to solve its riddle.

Esteemed delegates, like the Sphinx, ECO has a riddle for you today. Get it right and unveil the secret to a clean and just energy transition. But answer wrong, and lose yet another chance to follow promises with real action.

Here's the riddle: Which continent has the world's highest solar energy potential, and yet is home to 600 million people living without access to electricity? Which continent is highly vulnerable to climate impacts, but is seeing more foreign money flowing into fossil fuels than supporting climate action?

Give up? ECO is here to help those confused (looking at you, esteemed rich countries' delegates). The answer: Africa.

So far at COP27, ECO has heard two different versions of the story of Africa's energy future. In one version, some African countries are turning to 100% renewable energy, as business and civil society promote real solutions to energy access and poverty. In another, European countries are frantically negotiating new deals for African oil and gas, and finding willing partners in some African governments, ready to drill in the name of economic development.

Wearily, ECO would like to remind all delegates that gas is, in fact, a fossil fuel, and as such must stay in the ground. And for those arguing that foreign-funded oil and gas extraction will benefit African people and

improve the continent's access to electricity, we rebut with EACOP.

The story of the East African Crude Energy Pipeline has become COP27's symbol of everything that's wrong with the current picture of Africa's energy development. EACOP will displace thousands of families in Uganda and Tanzania, destroy precious nature, and threaten access to water for approximately 40 million people - not to mention the gigantic carbon dioxide emissions.

Inevitably, EACOP will leave East African countries and their people with a hefty bill to pay, while the crude oil is barreled and shipped through the Suez canal to drive TotalEnergies' billion dollar profits. It won't improve access to electricity for the energy poor across the continent, or bring economic development to its host countries. Unless stopped, it will become yet another story of neocolonial exploitation of resources that leaves local communities behind.

When you hear Africans protest against EACOP, or chant "Don't gas Africa", it's not another riddle. Africa's people want massive investment into clean renewable energy. We don't want high interest loans or fossil fuel lock-in. We don't want rich countries' blind dash for fossil oil and gas to take away our chance for a clean and just renewable energy transition.

COP27 can still find the right answer to the riddle that is Africa's energy future. Delegates, that future must be in equitable, grants-based finance for the energy transition. In massively scaled up investments into solar and wind energy, and modern transmission networks. And critically, in a swift, just, and complete fossil fuel phase out.

Is the GlaSS Half Broken?

ECO is perplexed. After a year's workshops, the GlaSS work programme still hasn't found its feet. Parties wasted precious time dithering and parroting each others' interventions. Let ECO remind you that as we are negotiating here in Sharm-el-Sheikh, on African soil, people are dying due to climate impacts. ECO knows you did a lot of work this year and that you are excited for next year's workshops. However, ECO would be remiss if it didn't point out the importance of establishing the key building blocks of the Global Goal on Adaptation.

The people and planet are relying on this process to deliver!!!

Let ECO show you a solution which is quite straightforward. COP27 must give a clear signal to the outside world on how we are moving forward towards meeting the overall objective of reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing adaptive capacity, and strengthening resilience as outlined in Article 7.1. ECO is seeing some good elements in the draft text that need to be strengthened further and Parties must see lessons from the Sustainable Development Goals and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. And we would be mad if we didn't mention the central nature of local leadership, Indigenous knowledge and no one left behind alongside the best of science. Finally, ECO reminds Parties to leave Sharm el-Sheikh with a clear way forward to responding to the ever growing adaptation needs, and a path showing where we need to go.

A Poem from ECO on Energy Day

At COP27, there's a major role for international public cash
But dashing for gas is dangerously rash

ECO reiterates to keep 1.5 alive
Ending fossils is the only way to survive

"Don't Gas Africa" is a clear demand
A just, equitable future is what must land

Shift finance into renewable energy
Decentralised solutions are absolutely key

Energy access needs to be green
International public finance has to be clean

It's time to stop funding coal, oil and gas
(That definitely includes you - President Malpass!)

So no more blah blah blah
Actions over words will take us far

Stop burning the planet
Saddling countries with debt

ECO joins with the calls to all of the IFIs
Now is the moment to reform and decarbonise