

ECO

NO CLIMATE JUSTICE WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

eco@climatenetwork.org • www.climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletter • November 12, 2022

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Editorial: Andres Fuentes

The COP27 Cover Decision: The Tip of the Pyramid

A long time ago, even longer than the weeks before COP27, the famous pyramids of Egypt were built. ECO heard that the tips of the biggest pyramids were covered in gold and shone brightly - so should your cover decision delegates. By the way, no one covered the tip in oil or coal, which makes sense as the place for all fossil fuels, including gas, is in the ground. ECO has the main modules and bricks to build your pyramid.

Brick one: The climate crisis is a human rights crisis

Remember our newly minted right via the UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 and Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the promotion of which requires the full implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements under the principles of international environmental law.

Brick two: Deliver on Loss and Damage at THIS CONFERENCE - You're not building the pyramids!

Delegates, it is time to establish a new Loss & Damage Finance Facility to address this gap as an operating entity under the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism through 1/CP27 and 1/CMA4 decisions. Don't forget to establish the advisory board of the Santiago Network as a constituted body to enable it to address technical and capacity-building needs to address Loss & Damage on the ground.

Brick three: Deliver on Finance, especially Adaptation Finance

Rich countries have to deliver on the US\$100bn, your decision needs to recognize that and plan for how to make up for their past shortfalls - otherwise, there will be a big glaring hole in your construction.

Looking forward your decision should also establish timebound tracking of the commitment to double adaptation finance and ensure a 50% share.

Bricks four and five: Mitigation and Deep Decarbonization

All countries urgently need to deliver on their current commitments, strengthen their NDCs and align with 1.5°C, otherwise, your pyramid will be like the tip of the iceberg. To help you deliver the ambition that the science and synthesis reports tell us you are far from; we need a robust, equitable mitigation work program that, through a sectoral approach matched with incentives, can guide you to where we need to be. The Mitigation Work Programme and its connection with the Annual Ministerials on Pre-2030 Ambition must be highlighted.

We also need to recognize that deep decarbonization requires a sharp reduction in the production and consumption of fossil fuels (and yes this includes coal, oil, and gas) and 100% renewable power generation and energy efficiency measures. Let's cover the tip of your pyramid with solar panels and shine a beacon of hope to direct the world to a climate-just future.

Brick six: Adaptation

The base of the pyramid is communities' efforts to adapt. Your decision must provide for a solid foundation of a clear workplan to fully operationalise the Global Goal for Adaptation by COP28, mindful of science and Indigenous knowledge, human rights and local leadership. To ensure the building goes well you must mandate a permanent agenda item on GGA, furthering transformative adaptation that will see a fundamental change in human and natural systems to protect both from the worst ravages of an unforgiving climate.

What We Like and Don't Like in the Draft Text of the Mitigation Work Programme

ECO is pleased to see that a draft text with options for the mitigation work programme was issued by co-facilitators. It is great to start discussing from a concrete basis, but there are still too many options. We are closely following your efforts (well, at least from a few of you) to try to refine them. Hang in there friends, this is important for all the peoples and ecosystems of the world and also for your children and grandchildren. It's our last best chance to keep 1.5 within reach; we can't rely only on the GST to do that. We know you are as tired as we are and we want to help your work by pointing out what we like and what we don't like in the current text. Tiredness should not be an excuse not to pay attention to the potential and risks of the options on the table.

Like:

- Mentions CBDR-RC, equity and fair shares; music to our ears!!!!
- Stressing the urgency to peak at the latest by 2025
- Just transitions that promote sustainable development and the eradication of poverty
- Importance of being informed by the best available science
- Fair and equitable distribution of the carbon budget
- NDC implementation and investment strategies: very interesting, getting to real action. The point on an actionable list of solutions that Parties can apply to enhance mitigation ambition and implementation, including identification of barriers and challenges under thematic areas, is also welcome.
- Reporting by international cooperative initiatives of progress against their collective goals: that will enhance transparency of initiatives that are being launched at every single COP
- Alignment of policies and incentives for protecting, conserving and restoring forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems with the Paris Agreement temperature goal: we are finally talking about nature. We know that natural carbon sequestration won't do the trick without decarbonization, but we also know we don't get to 1.5°C without nature.
- Human rights, gender and social inclusion challenges and environmental implications of growing emissions gaps and insufficient mitigation action: we will give you many <3s if this one makes it through your conversations
- Developed countries should take the lead - for ECO that is a no-brainer but we would also like to see a gentle nudge to the G20 (after all 80% of global emissions come from them)
- There are options for the programme to last till 2030 or till we close the emissions gap (ohooo)
- SDGs and support are also there

- A sectoral approach based on sectors and subsectors of 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- Provision of finance, technology and capacity-building support to developing countries for implementing nationally determined contributions - We love it
- Alignment of NDCs with LT-LEDS: fundamental

Don't like

Options of 1 year or 2 years for the duration of the programme. You had 5-6 years to do your NDCs with 2030 targets and they will reduce only 3.6% of emissions by 2030 compared to 2019 (IPCC said we need a 43% reduction). ECO trusts in your dedication but ECO does not trust you'll do the magic in 1-2 years.

At COP 26 a year ago, rather than committing to phase out fossil fuels, countries agreed only to a weak "phasedown" of "unabated" coal and a phase-out of "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies – a decision marred by so many qualifiers that it failed to reflect the gravity of the climate crisis and left LNG-tanker-sized loopholes for the fossil fuel industry. That same language is now in the new draft text. ECO knows you can do better than that!

A mitigation work programme at COP 27 needs to close those loopholes, clarify that enhancing ambition can only be done by phasing OUT fossil fuels, and ensure that any new decisions and commitments do not contain loopholes, such as carve-outs for "abated" fossil fuels. To be clear: No amount of CCS or blue hydrogen can enhance ambition!

Not so sure:

Decides to establish a committee, consisting of Party representatives and technical experts, to carry out the work programme [and requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to recommend a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at [its fifth session (November 2023): hmmm, we need to give this one some serious thought - is another body really needed, and is it this who is going to scale up ambition? Will the discussions delay the implementation of the MWP? (NO, PLEASE). How is this body different from the others in the Convention?

Closing Remarks

ECO is looking forward to seeing how far you got. As of now, the text has basically everything on everything and too many thematic options. We hope we will not end up with a 1 or 2 year talk-shop; we need a robust Mitigation Work Programme that really enhances ambition within this decade and we are counting on you for that.

Inaugural GST Final: the Second Half Kicks Off!!

Good news from our GST sports correspondent, the GST half time at COP27 ended quite positively. ECO wants to thank the co-facilitators of the technical dialog for conducting this session with improvements since Bonn. The dialogue was very inclusive and allowed interactive discussions. ECO can also report that Parties (players) are motivated to kick-off the second half!

The GST second half during the year 2023 is crucial and will be more challenging: our football team has to score goals by defining the political outcomes of this first GST.

As a strong motivated referee who was on the field during the entire game thus far, ECO also wants to highlight the following:

- **RED CARDS SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR FALSE SOLUTIONS:** ECO was alarmed to hear some statements during the GST roundtables and world café station. The mandate of the Global Stocktake is to rely on the best science available. It is not about defending political and economic priorities over what climate science is telling us, especially the IPCC. ECO cannot hear, cannot accept, in this UNFCCC context, statements arguing to develop solutions with high risks

to human rights or those that are unproven at scale, and that prolong fossil fuel dependency. These false solutions go against the rules and principles of the Global Stocktake being people centred. False solutions not in line with the best available climate science should be given Red Cards and removed from the GST game. We have very few years left to save billions of lives; we have no time for these risky and false solutions. The Global Stocktake should be about real solutions, such as rapidly reducing emissions through fossil fuel phaseout, decreasing energy demand, scaling up renewable energy, implemented in inclusive ways that also help local energy access and sustainable development.

- **EXTRA TIME:** ECO welcomes the will of Parties to start discussions on the political outcome of the Global Stocktake and the draft conclusion text that proposes extra time to achieve the political goals of the GST. This is crucial to have a real impact, ensuring that the next NDCs are in line with the objective to stay below 1.5°C, and are rights-based. We need this extra time and the two proposed workshops sound like a minimum.

- **CONTINUED INCLUSION OF REFEREES:** A GST without civil society would be like a football game without referees. The additional GST discussions and workshops should be inclusive and build on the good practices of the technical dialogue, with opportunities for meaningful and substantive participation of civil society who will hold Parties accountable and help implement enhanced NDCs informed by the GST outputs. ECO is concerned to hear talk that may ultimately result in the exclusion of civil society from the political phase of the GST. This would be like playing the second half of a football match without referees and players could engage in dangerous and foul play without being penalised.

The challenging second half of the GST match for the planet has kicked off. As ECO highlighted in a previous article, it is important for Parties to play their best game with referees ensuring fair and good play and win this GST match for the planet to secure the most ambitious climate action and a liveable planet for the years to come. Players have to be motivated, because referees are, more than ever!

WIM ExCom Desperately Needs a Partner

ECO is concerned about the executive committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, the ExCom. It seems to be suddenly waking up from a long slumber and is confused about its role. It was established in 2013 at COP19 in Warsaw and has progressed at a snail's pace since then. Its inability to establish an Expert Group on Action and Support until 2020 is a case in point. Despite this, the ExCom has done excellent work under its first two mandates, enhancing knowledge and strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies. But it has failed on its third mandate, the mandate that ECO considers the most important: enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage.

The ExCom has been working hard and has a very

important function as the executive committee of the WIM, but it cannot do everything. It's like Batman without Robin: Robin, in this case, being the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network. The ExCom is a political body that leads, but the SNLD is meant to be the operational body that gets the work done. Its approach is inclusive; It is accountable to the UNFCCC for delivering its work, and it is led by developing countries to ensure that its efforts are targeted where they are needed the most and reaches the people currently being overlooked by the current international system.

Civil society organizations and developing country negotiators appreciate the work of the ExCom, but the ExCom cannot do it all alone. We need Robin! We need an Advisory Board of the Santiago Network. With that, we could leave COP27 having made real progress.

Agriculture Day at COP: Brace for the Worst

Even though agriculture is more visible than ever at COP this year, this isn't necessarily a good thing. False solutions in food systems are more active than ever!

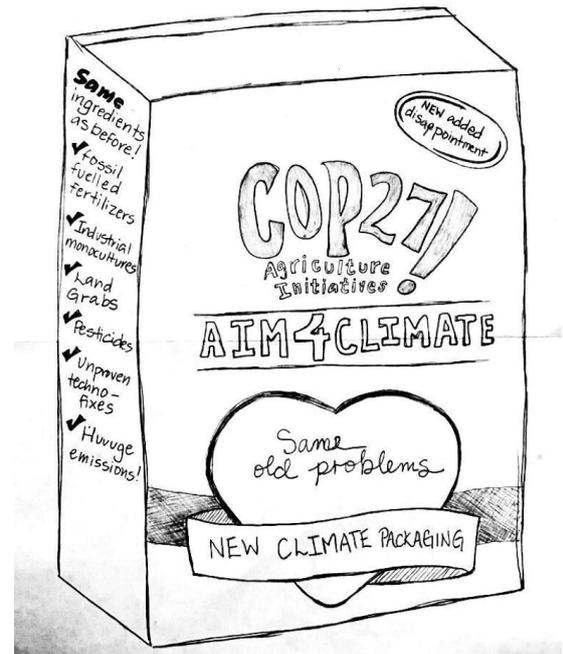
In these stressful times, let us remember a time when Agroecology almost made it into a COP outcome. Agroecology that empowers rural communities is the only approach that is built from the ground up by peasant and social movements. It is the only approach that ticks all the right boxes: adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity, human rights, and much more...

Sometimes ECO has to ask itself: Did we dream that the text from Glasgow COP26 included [Agroecology] in brackets?

Today, on Agriculture day at COP27, those days feel like a long time ago - much longer than a year ago. Especially when you look at the initiatives being announced today with so much fanfare.

With initiatives such as AIM4Climate, the corporate agribusiness sector is serving up its false solutions that see farming as the job of technology instead of smallholder farmers. Instead of real solutions for climate, farmers, and food security, the AIM4C menu includes "innovative tools by the private sector," sensor technologies and MORE fertilisers instead of fewer!

Brace yourselves, agri-reenwashing is coming!



Today is Decarbonization Day, which is why there are four winners of our Fossil Award today.

The **United States** wins the Fossil of the Day Award, coinciding with President Biden's visit to COP27. The US Envoy for Climate Change, John Kerry, announced on Wednesday the "Energy Transition Accelerator", the US' inadequate plan to streamline carbon offsets in partnership with corporate philanthropic groups such as Bezos' Earth Fund and the Rockefeller Fund which is being touted as climate action. The expansion of carbon markets and the marriage of corporations and government is the epitome of a neoliberal agenda that does absolutely zero to reduce actual emissions globally. Enough with the fluff and grand speeches, when it comes to putting real money on the table the US disappears from the scene.

Russia will also receive a Fossil of the Day Award **for using dirty fossil fuel money to fund its illegal war in Ukraine.** In COP27 the Russian delegation has 33 fossil fuel lobbyists from oil and gas out of 150. 60% of Russia's budget comes from selling fossil fuels. Russia has already generated more than 33 mln tons CO2 emissions through this full-scale war in Ukraine. And it continues its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, which is definitely not the way one should be phasing out fossil fuels. Russia's invasion has already had a global impact on energy security and led to an increase in coal exports from South Africa, Australia and Colombia. Fossil fuels drive conflict, wars and are the antithesis of peace and stability.

Egypt wins another Fossil of the Day Award - two days in a row but this time it's a joint award with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**! Today, the COP27 presidency is hosting not one but three presidential events in favor of fossil gas, trotting out the dirty old myth that gas is a bridge fuel and dishonestly

backing companies that are fueling the climate crisis. The Egyptian Energy Minister described fossil gas as "the least emissions fuel" for the transition period, which is ironic considering they are basically just talking about digging up methane which was already safely trapped below ground before they got involved.

What's more, throughout COP27, the **UAE** has used its pavilion to promote its gas industry. It's like the anticipated COP28 presidency thinks they're at a fossil fuel producers' conference, not the climate negotiations. The Guardian reports, Egypt hosted a meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum alongside the UAE just before COP. There, Egypt said the quiet part out loud and boasted that COP27 and COP28 would be a chance to promote their dirty gas. If they want to be taken seriously as the incoming COP presidency, the UAE needs to get real about the energy transition instead of leading us down a bridge to nowhere. This is why we are giving this third award to Egypt and UAE together!

A Roadmap to Hell

A dozen of the world's largest agricultural commodity trading companies promised in Glasgow to deliver a high ambition roadmap to 1.5°C for the agri-commodity sector by COP27. The Roadmap was published on the 7th by TFA and the WEF, but very discreetly announced at the Forest and Climate Leader Partnership.

No wonder, as preliminary information on its content already indicated that there was a dramatic lack of ambition, and has generated negative reactions from the UK and US governments. More than 80 Brazilian and global NGOs also signed a Manifesto asking for the immediate end of all commodity-related deforestation and conversion.

This matters a lot, as the soy, beef and palm oil sectors alone are responsible for about half of all agricultural land-conversion related GHG emissions, and these few companies together represent a dominant share of all forest and ecosystem-risk commodities' trade. Recent studies highlight the urgency of eliminating commodity-driven deforestation and conversion, for the agricultural sector to do its fair share

of contributions to a 1.5°C pathway.

The "Agriculture Sector Roadmap To 1.5°C" published on Monday falls far short. Soy-related deforestation will be able to continue at least until 2025, and legal savannah conversion forever. Cattle will also be able to encroach on forests and savannahs in the foreseeable future, setting their ambition only to achieve legal compliance.

By announcing a future restriction on deforestation, as well as focusing only on forests, the roadmap not only enshrines business-as-usual, it incentivizes the legally-permissible conversion of the Cerrado savannah. Business-as-usual in the Amazon and Cerrado currently means losing over 2 million hectares of ecosystems annually. Considering that the global forest loss is about 10 million hectares annually, this is a huge amount.

In practical terms, this roadmap cannot fulfill any promise to contribute to the 1.5°C goal. On the contrary, it reinforces our suicidal rush towards a 3°C global warming hell.

Loss and Damage: Bad Faith Negotiating?

With consultations on loss and damage nearing half-time here in sunny Sharm el-Sheikh, ECO is disappointed to report that — despite the excessive air-conditioning — meeting rooms have been full of little more than hot air.

In terms of the process, things have been difficult. Loss and Damage is a critical issue for this COP, yet room sizes have simply been too small, meaning that observers — and even parties — got kicked out of consultations today. ECO thanks the EU representative for recognising the role of civil society in pushing the loss and damage agenda, and for asking for an overflow room for observers.

In terms of substance, familiar battle lines are being drawn. G77+China and AOSIS have clear positions and are holding their lines. Any attempts to sow divisions have so far been unsuccessful. Indeed, the first of their asks seems to have been achieved: recognition of the loss and damage finance gap. As the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda said on Tuesday, this should not be perceived as a controversial issue.

There is more debate on the need for a new loss and damage financing

facility, that this funding should be new and additional, and precisely what should be agreed at this COP. Developed countries are keen to highlight all the work that needs to be done before any such fund could be agreed upon. Perhaps a bit like the 'merchants of doubt' — who claimed that there was no certainty about the link between cigarettes and cancer, and climate deniers who have exploited any gaps however small in scientific knowledge — they call for more information, more data, more research, more workshops, more reports, before anything can be concretely taken forward.

We know that the funding gaps exist; we know there is a need. There simply isn't enough money being made available, as Pakistan is currently finding out as it tries to respond to devastating floods. In this context, the call for more workshops feels like bad faith negotiating.

Could it be that developed countries are pledging small sums (a few million, when what is needed is billions) to take the heat out of the discussion? And that they will propose procedural outcomes as a way of kicking this into the long grass? Yes, there's a need for a work plan to develop the details, but

this should be with a clear view of the required outcome: a new fund.

Developed nations have failed to mitigate the climate crisis. They have failed to provide adequate finance and support for adaptation. And now, by all appearances, they are attempting to delay decision-making on loss and damage facility creation and avoid any concrete commitments here in Sharm el-Sheikh.

With limited time for negotiations to take place, ECO urges these negotiators to reconsider and address the third key aspect of loss and damage finance: a commitment to a dedicated loss and damage finance facility.

COP27 is an African COP, and a climate justice COP. In the third informal negotiations we saw developed countries show how little they understand climate justice. They showed their cards clearly by offering a united set of procedural outcomes that is detached from the urgency needed.

2024 is too late. Negotiators, your delay is killing people.

The time is now, and we cannot come out of this COP with nothing but hot air.

Indigenous and Human Rights vs Capitalism

ECO is happy to share this part of our publication with the Indigenous Peoples Caucus (IPO) to help amplify their voice. This article reflects the views of the IPO.

As we wrap up week one, the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus held a press conference to highlight the outcomes of the lackluster negotiations. The impassioned speakers laid out the concerns, updates, and calls to action from our caucus. It's become clear the objections to Loss & Damage, climate finance, and Article 6 are becoming illusions. The negotiations have become a battle of rights-based approaches versus market-based approaches. If we continue down this path, then who are we even trying to save the planet for?

Our rights and knowledge continue to be sidelined and left out of the global stocktake, climate finance, and Article 6 negotiations. This has enabled big polluters to dominate the discussions. When we start to look at the composition of the largest 'delegation' in the hallways and buzzing in the ears of state nationals, it's big oil and gas. At COP26 they were the largest delegation, but that wasn't enough – this year they decided they needed to increase their representation by another 25%! These busybodies are out here greenwashing, and promoting false solutions geared towards allowing big polluters to continue business as usual – pillaging Indigenous lands and waterways, all while making record-breaking profits off the genocide of our peoples and lands.

Despite the myriad of ways we experience Loss & Damage, there are no indicators for restitution regarding

our rights, cultural, and past damages. When it comes to the commitments from the Glasgow Pact and climate finance, the target of US\$100Billion is nowhere to be seen, let alone the smaller pledges of \$1.7Bn for Indigenous Peoples. So where is this money? What does climate finance even mean anymore? Apparently it's just becoming another subsidy for oil and gas companies and means nothing for our peoples.

As the negotiations on Article 6 continue like a bad soap opera, we are witnessing the disjointed and ill-framed positions that do nothing to actually substantively uphold human and Indigenous rights, defining non-market solutions, and leaving too much room for interpretation. It's clear state nationals are not ready to put forward real commitments, processes or mechanisms for Indigenous peoples, and are trying to rush through. In turn this is creating an exponential risk for our rights.

What we need are resources, political will, and to place Indigenous rights at the centre of the negotiations. Furthermore, there continues to be a real need to further energize and empower our youth in these spaces to show that we have a voice. The louder and more collective we become, the harder it is to silence us.

After all, we are the stewards of 80% of the world's biodiversity and continue to demonstrate some of the best low carbon lifestyles. It's high time we allow our people to be decision makers. Next week will determine whether or not states will follow through with their commitments to Indigenous peoples, but one thing is certain: Indigenous peoples will continue to be there advancing our issues, our rights, and our way of life.

Setting a Straight Course for Adaptation

Let's imagine that you are building a ship. We won't call it Titanic because we know how that ended. But you know there are increasingly heavy seas ahead, icebergs and peril aplenty. Your ship has the finest architects, engineers and crew and the best wishes of the whole world. Let's call it the good ship Adaptation and you are the parties talking about her first voyage. Here are ECO's tips for a successful trip:

1. Leave no one behind. This means putting the most vulnerable at the head of the queue. Others more able will follow.
2. Listen of the forecasts to inform your route, including those local and Indigenous people who know the seas best, and have sailed many times before
3. Have the same wise people pilot the ship when in their waters
4. Make sure you have an ample and fairly-sourced supply for your whole

journey, including reserve to respond to unpredictable events. Spread your resources equally across the ship so as not to tip it over,

5. Make sure you know where you are bound and that you will know when you get there
6. Chart your progress, check your bearings, and be prepared to alter course when needed.

Of course, the Global Goal on Adaptation is not a ship, nor a GlaSS bottomed boat. But the Parties so embroiled in negotiations this week seem to be endlessly repeating themselves. They need to make sure they are not paddling around in circles. Standing on the crumbling shoreline, ECO can perhaps see better than those aboard that you need help.

As we move from negotiation to implementation - the old tools need to be replaced, but there is no time to

dither anymore. The IPCC is ready with scientific and academic support, the Sendai Framework models the means for preparation, and please don't forget that adaptation is about contributing to sustainable development and the goals for that are well elaborated and understood.

And there is help at hand. There's a draft proposed framework that could reset the GlaSS work programme! It is not perfect, it needs changes, but it is worth pursuing. There is a concept note to take the workshops out of the doldrums: change towards transformation, inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' wisdom, values and knowledge, along with the potential for non-Party stakeholders, such as local communities to enhance action and support, and assess progress locally and sub-nationally.

Let's all work together to get the good boat Adaptation launched and under way.