

ECO

CEASEFIRE NOW

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Unveiling Power Plays at the GGA Saga

Early this week, your devoted chronicler spoke of the virtue of patience, a virtue that has been the constant companion of those awaiting the fruition of the Global Goal on Adaptation. But alas, even the saintliest of souls find their patience tested when faced with the slow machinations of this boring political dance. Now, let us not be mistaken, the crafting of a comprehensive GGA framework is no frivolous matter.

Until now, the urgency of adaptation action and finance has fallen off the radar. Just like the snail pace of negotiations, adaptation planning, implementation, and finance has stalled. Yet, the question remains: where is adaptation hiding at COP and why must such a crucial matter be shrouded in complexity and delay?

ECO challenges you to ponder

this – is adaptation's complexity truly insurmountable, or is it a convenient excuse for those who wish to delay progress? ECO has been anticipating a result after two years of discussions & workshops on GGA and if COP28 doesn't deliver on adaptation, it will be a significant global failure.

During Wednesday's tense sessions punctuated by points of order, ECO watched in horror as the adaptation negotiations collapsed in front of our eyes. The spirit of collaboration, discovered by Parties as late as the 7th workshop, vanished into thin air. A closer glance at all the adaptation negotiation rooms reveals a concerning dynamic. Certain countries - seemingly committed to derailing the adaptation agenda - effectively hijacked the negotiation process not just in relation to the GGA, but across the entire spectrum

of the adaptation negotiations. Starting from hardly any adaptation pledges at this COP, to contradictory stances taken during consultations on National Adaptation Plans, and arguing over text formatting in the Adaptation Committee room, they also refused to engage on substance on the GGA text.

Watch your step, ECO's eyes are on you.

Time has run out. With each passing day, the world is suffering from increasing climate extremes, and demanding strong adaptation action and support. The asks for GGA are clear – **an ambitious overarching goal, a comprehensive GGA framework acknowledging the principle of CBCR-RC, and unambiguous language on Means of Implementation.** Such demands are not just reasonable; they are imperative in our collective quest to deliver on climate justice.

Baby Steps on Mitigation Won't Do Justice to Climate Urgency

We are entering the final phase of this COP - and are mind-blown. Not by the swift and impeccable logistics in the Dubai COP venue, but by the slow progress made on multiple negotiation tracks and the amount of work still ahead if COP28 is to result in a successful outcome.

Let us look at the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) for example. After one week of negotiations, Parties have merely produced a text, without any real substance on mitigation. ECO wants to remind everyone why this is a problem: The MWP is the space in the negotiations where Parties agree on actionable steps to "urgently scale up mitigation ambition" in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Looking at the extent of the climate crisis around us and the gloomy scientific outlooks on where we are heading, moving at a snail's pace on such a critical issue should be out of the question.

As said, the current text is very slim and mainly repeats

existing language. It leaves A LOT to be desired still: Parties need to make sure they deliver on the 1.5°C target which means collectively reducing global emissions by 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035, while recognising the principles of the highest possible ambition, equity and best and latest available science. For this, Parties have at hand the annual report on the Global Dialogues. ECO asks you to do your job and use this report to scrape out emerging barriers and solutions, such as for example the unequal cost of capital, a major barrier for a just energy transition!

There also needs to be clear language on the link with the energy package in the Global Stocktake and a translation to what that means in terms of commitments for means of implementation.

ECO asks all parties to remember why we are sitting together. We want to urgently upscale mitigation action. It is high time that you step up and engage productively in the spirit of your mandate! We have to move from baby steps to elephant steps!

Rise to the Challenge of COP5 of the Minamata Convention

Parties at COP28 are challenged to follow the leadership of their counterparts at COP5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury who recently made a landmark decision.

On November 3, just over a month ago, 147 Parties agreed to phase out all fluorescent lamps by 2027; effectively paving the way for a seamless transition to mercury-free and energy-efficient LED lamps.

This decision will, cumulatively by 2050:

- Avoid 2.7 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions,
- Save USD 1.13 trillion on electricity bills, and
- Eliminate 158 tonnes of mercury pollution, both from the light bulbs themselves and from avoided mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Overwhelming evidence generated by research conducted in up to 60 countries by the Clean Lighting Coalition highlighted the incontestable health, economic, environment, climate, and technology benefits of transitioning to LED lamps.

It was also a matter of environmental justice. As countries in the Global North legislate the phase out of fluorescents without halting their manufacture, countries in the Global South become targets for the dumping of these toxic products.

In the face of such compelling evidence, any attempt to present counter arguments supporting the continuation of fluorescents, due to pressure from manufacturers, became untenable.

Remarkably, it took less than three years to adopt this landmark decision from the time the amendment to the Minamata

Convention to eliminate fluorescents was introduced.

This ambitious decision from COP5 has implications for Parties here at COP28. How will you rise to this challenge and come up with an even bolder decision, given the ongoing climate crisis?

Here's one recommendation: **Deliver a comprehensive energy package which enables a fast, fair, full and funded phase out of all fossil fuels, starting with an immediate end to fossil fuel expansion.**

Just like the need to phase out fluorescents, the evidence and ensuing benefits of saying farewell to fossil fuels, which include limiting global warming to 1.5°C, are incontestable,

Parties at COP28 are urged to rise to the challenge and make this decision. The global community expects nothing less!

All the Delegates!

To be sung in the tune of Beyonce's "Single Ladies"

All the delegates
 All the delegates
 All the delegates
 All the delegates
 All the delegates
 All the delegates
 Now put your plates up!

Up in B1, tryin' a-save the world
 I'm doing my own little thing
 Decided to dip, and now you wanna trip
 'Cause somebody screwed the GST

It's weak, you see, your NDC
 You didn't pay any attention
 Just cried my tears, for thirty one years
 From reading the IPCC

'Cause if you liked it then you should have put some text on it
 If you liked it, then you shoulda put your badge on it
 Don't be mad once you see they screwed the GST
 If you liked it, then you shoulda put some text on it
 Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, o-ohh

Got water up to my hips, then cracked lips
 All crazy weather in between
 While you're acting up, drinking your cup
 Don't threaten me with Rule 16
 We're failing our mission, did I mention
 The global goal on adaptation?
 'Cause you had your turn, and now you gonna learn
 To spell the damn NCQG

Cause if you liked it then you should have put some text on it
 If you liked it, then you shoulda put your badge on it
 Don't be mad once you see they screwed the GST
 If you liked it, then you shoulda put some text on it

Young Voices: Not Just a SideShow

Hey, movers and shakers! Heard the rumours? They're saying today is "Official Youth Day." But let's set the record straight: every day is children and youth day.

Young voices are not just flashy side acts, they deserve a spot and say at these negotiations. Youth aren't just social media trendsetters, they hold internationally recognized rights.

Let's address the elephant in the room: global injustice and the triple planetary crisis. This mess is a result of inequality, colonialism, burning of fossil fuels and exploitation. The most vulnerable bear the brunt of the climate crisis' impacts, despite having the least hand in causing it.

Here's the scoop from ECO. Fixing this imbalance needs more than a one-hit wonder—it's an ongoing orchestra! Youth participation and engagement has to come from the youth themselves, not as a top-down process. They should have the reins in choosing where and how they contribute. Self-organized and democratic youth movements and organizations show what this looks like.

Children and young people are already showing with great commitment and effort what they want. For example, the YOUNGOs Global Youth Statement (GYS) unites over 700,000 voices from 150 countries. Let's listen and take action based on what children and youth] demand!

ECO will set the stage with some essential principles of meaningful youth participation at UNFCCC: human rights-based, security, education, and capacity building; access for all; institutional embedding and mandate; designated places and mandates (not just separate processes); transparency; need-based (financial) support; inclusivity; diversity;. Sounds great, right? Well, here's the reality check: the realization of all these principles is about as common as spotting a unicorn.

It's time to crank up the volume on meaningful youth participation at UNFCCC. It's not about making noise; it's about demanding a rightful place for global youth in all their diversity on the main stage of these negotiations!"

Pope says Nope to (Agri)business-as-usual, and 'Hell, Yes!' to Agroecological Principles

His Holiness and representatives don't often descend from the Vatican to get involved in the scrappy detail of SBSTA-SBI negotiations at COPs.

The Pope himself was scheduled to join the Leaders' Summit at the opening of COP28, but was sadly held back by health issues. Undeterred, He sent his representative to one of the most critical issues at COP28, affecting billions of people around the world.

Indeed, the Pope's person felt moved to share His Holiness's views at the closing contact group of the Sharm-el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Agriculture and Food Security earlier this week.

And apparently one of God's biggest envoys on Earth is not

impressed.

Agriculture negotiations were unable to come to any agreement on the process to take forward the work, nor on the workshop topics to dive into in the years to come.

With 2.4 billion people - largely women and residents of rural areas - lacking access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, and that number growing every year, it is unacceptable that Parties prefer to play with procedural conclusions, instead of proactively progressing productive outcomes.

With agriculture outcomes delayed for yet another year, the agribusiness corporations that are fuelling the climate crisis, starving the

world and feeding their shareholders, continue business as usual.

In a powerful statement that spoke for the billions who need the UN process to deliver a food system fit for purpose in an era of climate change, the pope said Nope to agribusiness, delays and distractions, and a "Hell, yes!" to agroecological principles.

Witnesses report that when the Holy See spoke, the roof of Meeting Room 2 split open, the clouds parted, the air went dark and a beam of light shone down from the heavens.

ECO will send up a few prayers that the next round of agriculture negotiations manage a miracle. We need all the help we can get turning this water into wine.

Dangerous Distractions Abound in Carbon Management Challenge Rap

ECO heard some very concerning words at a high level roundtable on Tuesday. There seemed to be confusion about what we should be talking about here (hint: full fossil fuel phaseout) and instead we heard nothing but dangerous distractions from large producers. In case you missed it, here's what ECO heard.

Yo, it's John Kerry, let me lay it down straight,
Carbon Management Challenge, it's our clean slate.
We're the world's oil and gas giant, no doubt,
Greenwashing it all, we're taking that route.

1.5 degrees, that's our North Star,
We gotta reach it, no matter who we are,
Carbon capture, storage, that's the key,
To a greener future, you and me, you see?

(Chorus)
Green business is the plan, don't you know?
CCS may falter, but we put on a show.
We invite nations to join in this dance,
Carbon Management Challenge, give it a chance.

We launched a challenge, at the White House we met,
Carbon Management Challenge, our best bet,
Tax credits, legislation, it's all in the mix,
Occidental's in, DAC, a sustainable fix!

We're the top dogs in the oil and gas game,
Selling worldwide, building our name.

CCS might stumble, but we'll paint it just fine,
As long as it's profitable, we'll toe the line.

(Chorus)
Green business is the plan, don't you know?
CCS may falter, but we put on a show.
We invite nations to join in this dance,
Carbon Management Challenge, give it a chance.

Scale it up, break through that NIMBYism,
With the right pipes and permits, there's no schism,
We captured in Norway and the North Sea,
Massive amounts already, that's the key!

So countries, come along, bring what you got,
Offsets, direct air capture, whether cold or hot.
We'll call it all green and make it understood,
In this Carbon Management game, together we'll be good.

(Chorus)
Green business is the plan, don't you know?
CCS may falter, but we put on a show.
We invite nations to join in this dance,
Carbon Management Challenge, give it a chance.

So let's meet the challenge, hand in hand we'll strive,
For a greener planet, for the world to survive,
John Kerry's here, with this rap, I'll say goodbye,
Carbon Management, it's the future, let's reach for the sky!



KEEP UP WITH DUBAI FROM
YOUR SMARTPHONE!



An Albertasaurus at COP28? No, Just Fossil Fuel Champion Alberta

Today's winner managed to outshine their peers and earn the rare honour, or should we say dishonour, of being a subnational government getting a fossil of the day. The province of Alberta, Canada has come to COP with one mission, to sabotage the negotiations.

Premier Smith, in particular, has had her name added to the black book. Her previous work as a fossil fuel lobbyist was good experience for disrupting Canada's stance on the fossil fuel phaseout debate at COP. But she can't take all the credit, she had the support of an extensive delegation of oil and gas representatives.

This is COP28, there is no space for climate change blockers and deniers, or for governments who, for months, let toxic tailings leak into the drinking water of Indigenous communities without even bothering to inform them.

This past summer wildfires raged across the province of Alberta; attention Smith, the truth is catching up. It's time to end support for the oil & gas industry and stop blocking federal regulations that could finally allow Canada to meet its climate target, including a much-needed cap on the massive emissions from the fossil fuel sector. Clean energy solutions are here, they are sustainable investments, so stop blocking renewable energy development.

Alberta, we don't want you to end up like your namesake, the long-extinct Albertosaurus. Listen to what people in your own province want - a plan to transition from dependency on volatile fossil fuels to the opportunities

of clean energy, in a way that protects workers - or you'll get left behind.

First Runner-up - Norway

Norway comes runner-up for its decision to cheat on their exams. Deep sea mining as part of a 'green shiunacceptable. Scraping the sea and destroying ecosystems vital to our planet is anything but green, no matter what you are using the minerals for. This rationale has been debunked by leading scientists, and is both misleading and blatant greenwashing.

Oceans are facing more and more exploitation, threatening biodiversity and pushing them far beyond their tolerance limit. It comes as no surprise to us that the deep sea mining industry in Norway is in cahoots with the fossil fuel industry, both of which have heavily lobbied the Norwegian government. Norway has forgotten its mother's advice, don't jump off a cliff just because your best friend has done so.

Norway you're in detention for being irresponsible. Your actions have wider consequences, setting the tone for bad behaviour in international negotiations on seabed mining.

Runner-up - South Korea

South Korea wants to set off multi-billion dollar carbon bombs off the coast of Northern Australia. The Korean- and Japanese-financed Barossa gas project, off the coast of the Tiwi Islands, is polluting the waters and disrespecting their traditional First Nations owners.

Korea is also playing a key role in tripling the global LNG carrier capacity

by providing a \$44 billion subsidy to shipowners and shipbuilders. It's time to end this toxic relationship.

Barossa has already been blocked in the past due to its lack of consultation with the First Nation population of the Tiwi islands. The project poses unacceptable risks to Indigenous songlines. As stated by Munupi senior cultural leader and elder Pirrawayingi Puruntatameri:

"Our connection to sea country is way too strong, and it has been since the creation of time for us. The water may have risen and moved over time, but it has never interrupted our spiritual connection to the land that is now underwater."

It may come as no surprise that fossil of the day regular, Japan, also have their dirty fingerprints all over this project. Australian oil and gas exploration company, Santos, and the other project investors, are pitching this as a 'carbon-neutral LNG', or, as we know it, 'greenwashing'.

At COP28, South Korea's pavilion is being used as a safe space for the fossil fuel industry, facilitating the signing of new MOUs on blue hydrogen. These won't help anyone decarbonise - they'll facilitate more gas extraction, more co-firing, and more life for fossil gas in Australia and around Asia.

This is a rare appearance at Fossil of the Day for South Korea, but with their ongoing billions in fossil finance and failure to contribute at all to addressing the loss and damage they've caused, we're sure it won't be long before they're back on the podium.

Want to talk about climate justice? Check out the Civil Society Climate Justice Hub

Find us in Blue Zone, B7, Building 88 ("Energy, Finance), top floor"

Check out
our events
schedule

