

ECO

TIME FOR AMBITION

eco@climateactionnetwork.org • www.climateactionnetwork.org/eco-newsletter • December 3, 2023

ECO has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at most international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. ECO is produced cooperatively by the Climate Action Network at the UNFCCC meetings in Dubai during the COP 28 meetings.

Editorial: Andres Fuentes

Time to sprint to finish line of GST marathon

The GST has been an intense two-year marathon, with hours spent in technical dialogues and thousands of submissions. Finally we are in the home stretch of the race here at COP28.

Halfway through the marathon, at the intersessionals in Bonn, huge divergences emerged that required time to be discussed, time that is needed to win the race and get an ambitious outcome. But the presidency did not see it this way and organised only a single workshop on the way to Dubai. The price is now being paid by delegates who spend hours in informal meetings, repeating positions and lacking crucial time for bilateral discussions to overcome divergences. That increases pressure on the presidency to bring Parties to a consensus in the second week – a consensus that takes into account the urgency in this critical decade. The GST has to conclude with a strong assessment of the existing gaps in climate ambition and with clear guidance for how to correct the current trajectory.

ECO is concerned that instead of sprinting towards the finish line to win the prize of a strong and ambitious GST decision for enhanced climate action, Parties are getting bogged down in deep divergences. These divergences, ranging from the relationship between the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC to the implications

of equity and the need to scale up finance to developing countries are hurdles that are hindering Parties from sprinting to the finish line of the GST marathon. ECO is also astonished that some Parties are reluctant to go beyond acknowledging the GST Technical Dialogue Synthesis Report in the GST decision, even though it has been a key checkpoint in the marathon thus far.

ECO is equally concerned that some Parties are still not pushing for a phase-out of fossil fuels but insist on continuing to extract and burn fossil fuels, like runners poisoning their lungs with cigarettes. ECO is surprised that at a COP that highlights the interlinkages of health and climate change, there are still Parties that cannot give up the unhealthy addiction to fossil fuels.

ECO would like to invite the UAE Presidency to play the role of an active coach and provide all the support needed to help Parties bridge their divergences so they can sprint to the finish line. ECO also urges the UAE Presidency to show leadership and help Parties kick their addiction to fossil fuels. ECO hopes the UAE Presidency and Parties will seize the opportunity to win the GST marathon at COP28. Otherwise the gold medal of a strong and ambitious GST outcome risks melting away in the escalating climate crisis.

Recipe for a habitable planet: balancing the climate action stew

Ingredients (feeds 8-10 billion):

- 30 to 50% protected Earth's ecosystems (you will need terrestrial, freshwater and marine – high-integrity versions taste best)
- Restored ecosystems in degraded areas
- Improved ecosystem management
- Finance sauce, generous amounts
- Respect for Indigenous rights, sovereignty, and knowledges
- Input and leadership from local communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, and beyond
- Ambitious NDCs and NBSAPs

Preparation:

Before you begin, remember: nature is not your kitchen appliance – it's your co-chef.

1. Set the oven to below 1.5°C by rapidly phasing out all fossil fuels and slashing emissions in all sectors.
2. In a large bowl of Global Stocktake, add a hearty dollop of increased ambition to protect and restore land, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems. For optimal results, reference and follow the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. Ensure ecosystem protection is added to the bowl ahead of

restoration and improved management. (You need them all, but ecosystem protection is the most vital!)

4. Spoon in the input from diverse groups.
5. Pour NDCs and NBSAPs into the same bowl and carefully stir climate and biodiversity actions until fully combined and an even paste is achieved.
6. Add generous amounts of finance sauce including hefty amounts of direct financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
7. This part is critical: if you forget the respect for Indigenous People's rights and sovereignty, the dish will never set.

Pro tip! Resist the temptation to sprinkle on carbon markets and biodiversity credits. Like artificial sweeteners - they are superficially appealing but detrimental to the true flavour of climate justice.

Serving suggestion: This dish is best paired with a substantial helping of clean renewable fossil free energy systems - without both of these ingredients on the plate, you will not have a palatable dish. But combined, it will satisfy any appetite for a flourishing habitable world.

Bon appétit!

The elephant in the climate room - Militarism - remains unaddressed

For the first time ever, COP is hosting a thematic day on "Health/Relief, Recovery and Peace". The "COP28 Declaration Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace", alongside a "package of solutions," released, seeks to mobilise for more climate action in countries and communities affected by conflict. While the protection and support of those at the frontlines of both conflict and the climate crisis is essential, the declaration fails to address one of the root causes: rampant militarisation.

Recent estimates suggest that global fossil fuel-powered military activity contributes at least 5.5% of global emissions. However, under the Paris Agreement, reporting on military emissions is voluntary, which gives militaries a "de facto" free ride.

Worse still, these estimates do not include emissions arising from active conflict. It has been calculated that the first year of the war in Ukraine has released additional emissions that equal the annual emissions of a highly industrialised country like Belgium. The data for Gaza are yet to be published.

Military emissions positively correlate with military spending: The more governments spend on their militaries, the higher their emissions. In 2022, global military spending rose to an all-time record high of USD 2.24 trillion.

Military spending further diverts crucial resources away from climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. The G20 military expenditure accounts for 87 per cent of last year's total global military spending

figure. These same countries spend 30 times more on their militaries than on climate finance.

ECO asks leaders to reduce and re-allocate military spending to cut emissions as an essential component of an equitable fossil fuel phase-out – and to provide adequate, scaled-up finance which we know is a critical enabler of ambitious climate action.

It is time for COP to address the elephant in the climate room and to recognise that demilitarisation must be a key component of climate justice and peace.

**MILITARISM IS THE
ELEPHANT
IN THE
CLIMATE
ROOM**



A Chicken-and-Egg dilemma

Today we started to see some baby steps on this very important track of the Mitigation Work Programme. Once again ECO wants to remind you all that once the GST process is done, the MWP will be the only track dedicated to discussions on mitigation. That's why we need it so badly.

One sentence that ECO always, yes always, keeps hearing is that MWP discussions need to "avoid duplication" with the GST. Since ECO follows both the GST process and the MWP processes, we see the synergies between the two tracks very clearly: the MWP is about creating the enabling conditions and discussing solutions and barriers to implement the guidance that will come from the GST. The GST is like the dome in the middle of the COP venue: our orientation point for the way forward.

Unfortunately we are faced with a chicken-and-egg dilemma when discussing the MWP text. And discussions have been as confusing as getting around the venue during the World Leaders Summit. For some negotiators, the solution is to get a mandate from the GST on the next steps for the MWP. For others, this is

too prescriptive. They also feel that discussing text is premature. ECO wants to remind negotiators that the objective of this agenda item is to urgently scale up mitigation ambition. To achieve this, ECO asks Parties to urgently move forward.

In any case, we need to decide how to make the best use of the reports from the Global Dialogues and what kind of outcome we want out of this process. We love to get together to talk, but just talking and producing reports won't help us mitigate the emissions that are causing the devastating impacts being felt worldwide (and ECO sure knows people have tried). So, as a bare minimum, a MWP decision must reflect key findings, barriers and actionable solutions discussed in the Global Dialogues on "accelerating just energy transition."

Lastly, ECO wants to thank Colombia for highlighting the importance of organising room logistics in a manner that allows delegates and observers to enter the room where those (non)-discussions are taking place. It's true, we are sometimes puzzled by what we hear. But we'd rather be puzzled than being left out.

Dear Lula: ambition and oil don't mix

ECO listened attentively to Brazilian President Lula's remarks on Friday at the leaders' summit. Although not as inspired (and inspiring) as his speech in Sharm El-Sheikh last year, they nonetheless contained a few good points: a criticism of undelivered promises (check), a defense of CBDR (check), bashing the world's military expenditures (check), and a quick list of Brazil's own pro-climate actions in the last eleven months, including the impressive 22% drop on Amazon deforestation. Lula spoke of raising ambition to keep 1.5°C within reach, and we'd expect nothing less from the feted host of COP30.

But wait – what's that thick black slick over there? Could it be... oil? Yes, friends, believe it or not, Brazil is willing to join OPEC, the infamous oil nations cartel. What's worse: Lula's Energy minister somehow thought it was a good idea to announce it on day one of COP28. (That's the

kind of encouragement you get when an oil exec is named COP president.) Pressed by civil society during a meeting on Saturday, Lula rushed to explain: "It's not OPEC! It's just OPEC+!" Really, Lula?

Let's look at the facts here: Lula's government is preparing to auction 603 new oil and gas blocks, onshore and offshore, just one day after the end of COP28. There is no way those hydrocarbons can be drilled and burned if we are to stay within IEA's 1.5°C scenario.

President Lula, we have a chemistry refresher for you: climate ambition, like water, doesn't mix with oil. Your government has done a lot to bring Brazil back to the climate fight and to cut land-use emissions after only eleven months in office. The world awaits your climate leadership. Don't let the hydrocarbon fever spoil it.

ECO has a dream! - Beyond tripled renewable energy targets to 100% renewable energy sovereignty for Africa

Not Just Consumers, But Creators: A New Dawn for Africa's Renewable Energy

ECO went to bed full of optimism a couple of nights ago. A sleepy ECO started thinking about how the Triple Renewable Energy pledge could not only light up Africa with 100% renewable energy, but also transform the continent into a powerhouse of renewable technology production. 'Certainly the answer lies in shifting from mere consumption and extraction to technological self-reliance and equitable mineral use' ECO thought. But then, zzzzzzzzz!

Harnessing Africa's Mineral Wealth for Its Energy Revolution

ECO saw Africa's treasure trove of critical minerals, essential for renewable energy technologies in its dream. And saw a new dawn where these resources do not merely fuel the energy ambitions of the Global North while leaving Africa in the dark. ECO saw the potential of the pledge becoming a beacon guiding Africa to use its minerals – lithium, cobalt, and rare earths – not for export, but through sustainable mining which centers communities and workers' rights as the building blocks of its own renewable energy infrastructure.

From Extraction to Innovation: A Blueprint for Africa

ECO saw Africa become its own powerhouse, investing in local production: African nations becoming producers, not just exporters of raw materials. Investments flowing into building facilities for processing minerals and manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, and batteries right in Africa. A just energy transition led by Africans on African soil!

ECO witnessed in its dream, African talent and ingenuity developing homegrown renewable energy technologies: why import when you can innovate? All this is possible with support for research institutions and incentives for startups to spark a technological revolution made in Africa, for Africa without privatization of the energy sector as seen with the big oil companies.

ECO saw fair trade, not exploitation through the global rush for Africa's minerals which repeats a history of

exploitation. It saw the renewable energy pledge emphasize fair trade practices, ensuring that African nations receive just compensation and that mining does not come at the cost of environmental degradation or human rights.

It saw adequate capacity building to facilitate Africa's renewable energy future with skilled hands and bright minds. As well as effective education and training programs to equip a new generation of African engineers and technicians.

ECO heard a common African saying, "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together". It saw a united and stronger Africa. Regional collaborations that pool resources, share knowledge, and create a unified market for African-made renewable technologies.

ECO saw prioritization of energy access and equity: a leap to 100% renewable energy that illuminates every corner of the continent, ensuring that rural and underserved communities are not left in the shadows.

The Road Ahead: A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step

"Bzzzzt! bzzzzt! bzzzzt!" ECO's alarm bell goes off in the early morning of 3rd December 2023. ECO must wake up and quickly get ready to beat the long queues and crazy detours at Expo City! But ECO had a few reflections before getting out of bed:

The pledge to triple renewable energy is just the beginning. For Africa, the journey towards 100% renewable energy, intertwined with technological sovereignty, and equitable resource use is long but promising. It's a path of transforming potential into power – not just electric power, but the power to shape its future, and redesign its economy on its terms. As the sun rises in this new era, Africa stands at the crossroads of a green revolution. The choice is clear: forge a path of self-reliance and innovation, turning the continent into a beacon of sustainable progress.

ECO got up from bed with a gleaming hope that the necessary financial commitments required to support a renewable energy dawn in Africa will be made by developed countries at COP28 for climate and social justice.

ECO won't swallow a dead rat

ECO likes a nice balanced meal. That's something anyone could enjoy. But ECO will NOT sign up for eating a dead rat. And yesterday's launch of the 'Global Decarbonisation Accelerator' was a nasty sandwich that had ECO gagging.

There was some solid, fluffy bread, and a lot of nice words – and a delicious morsel in the shape of a pledge to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency. Delicious! If that was where the cooks had left the sandwich, ECO would have feasted with relish.

The trouble is, there were too many cooks in the kitchen. Someone invited oil and gas industry CEOs to join in the cooking, and they served up a dead rat right in the middle

of the sandwich: a greenwashing pledge from oil and gas companies, full of recycled pledges, none of which address the emissions from the oil and gas they sell being burned. An energy sandwich without SCOPE 3? Not for ECO. And on the side, they piled up a dish of cheeky carbon capture and storage.

ECO didn't come to this restaurant for a meal like that. ECO came for a healthy negotiated agreement consisting of a comprehensive energy package, including renewable energy, finance, protections for communities and nature, and a full, fast, fair, funded phase out of all fossil fuels. Will the negotiators put that on the table at COP28?

NCQG HLMD Scorecard !!!!

TALLY UP HOW YOUR COUNTRY SCORES!

NAME OF COUNTRY BEING SCORED:	
PART 1: PROCEDURAL STEER FOR 2024 (for a maximum of 50 points, plus 10 bonus points if Party calls for an open and inclusive process that includes civil society and other non-government stakeholders)	
2024 TECHNICAL PROCESS (for a maximum of 20 points) Does your minister...?	
Call for a mandate to develop options for quanta for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, each with different layers: core public finance (measured in grant equivalence) versus outer layers with other sources of finance?	/20
2024 POLITICAL PROCESS (for a maximum of 20 points) Does your minister...?	
Call for a ministerial pair and ministerials on NCQG before COP29?	/10
Call for Heads of State/Gov't events on NCQG before COP29?	/10
2024 NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS (for a maximum of 10 points) Does your minister...?	
Call for discussions on a draft text to begin by SB59 in Bonn?	/10
PART 2: SUBSTANCE TO BE AGREED AT COP28 (for a maximum of 50 points)	
STRUCTURE: Call for a formal agreement at COP28 that the NCQG will have a multi-layer structure, with public finance at the core? (BONUS +5 points if measured on a grant-equivalent basis)	/15
STRUCTURE: Call for formal agreement at COP28 that the NCQG will have a multi-pillar sub-goal structure covering mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage?	/15
TIMEFRAMES: Call for a formal agreement at COP28 for the NCQG to be reviewed on a cyclical basis, offering alignment with the 5-year GST and NDC revision cycles?	/10
OTHER ASPECTS: Call for agreement at COP28 on language on principles and considerations to guide efforts under the Goal, including human rights, gender-responsiveness, access, additionality, the importance of grants, and other areas?	/10
TOTAL SCORE (for a maximum of 100 points)	/100

How did your minister do? Share the results on social media with the hashtag #NCQGScorecard