

Your guide to COP20

Review of Wednesday 10 December 2014

Slow negotiations about our future

Negotiations about the Lima agreement continued Wednesday. However, looking into the rooms it was difficult to see any sign of urgency.



Country after country asked for the floor to repeat existing positions. Even if some progress was achieved, big parts of the text was being put in brackets, meaning that difficult passages are left for ministers to deal with.

However, a long paper full of brackets will be difficult to deal with, and it is therefore time to start considering alternative ways to proceed.

One option could be to let the co-chairs of the negotiations compile the comments, and to develop a new and revised version of the text. Another option could be that the presidency of COP20 puts a new paper on the table.

But both solutions are risky.

The current draft Lima decision includes a lot of good options. If the best parts of the document are picked, Lima could deliver a good decision paving the way towards a fair and ambitious agreement in Paris next year.

If the current text is replaced with a revised version, controversial elements will probably fall out. We may thus end with a Lima decision giving limited guidance to the continued progress, and with weak language, leaving poor and vulnerable people behind.

The best solution would be for parties to speed up the current talks, move away from the fixed country positions, and if they start looking for compromises and win-win solutions.

The March to Protect Mother Earth



More than 15,000 people took part in Latin America's largest ever climate march in Lima to call for action on climate change. Marchers streamed through the streets of the capital Lima as ministers met at the UN climate summit to thrash out the basis of a global climate pact to be signed next year in Paris.

ACT Alliance partners from Peru, Bolivia, El Salvador and Honduras sent contingents to join the international delegation.

ACT members and Fast for the Climate campaigners held placards and chanted for climate justice. There was a spirit of urgency, impatience and festivity in the crowds as we processed through the midday sun of Lima.

At the end of the march we joined communities from all over the world at a rally where indigenous communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change had a huge presence.

The act of public mobilisation showed how seriously climate justice is taken in Latin America.



Assessment of future ambition under threat

It is important that COP20 results in an agreement about the kind of contributions countries are to deliver to a future global climate agreement.

The so called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) are supposed to be presented in the beginning of 2015, well in advance of the climate summit in Paris (COP21).

To ensure that ambition is adequate according to science and that the effort sharing between countries is fair, it is clear that it is important to have an assessment of the INDCs prior to COP21.

However, late Wednesday evening a few developing countries, including Malaysia and Nicaragua, proposed to delete references to such an assessment.

Why? An assessment may not be comfortable for parties with low ambition, but it is crucial if the Paris agreement is to deliver adequate action. The message is the same as always: Climate change is a global threat and all countries must engage to ensure ambition is pushed up.

And who received the Ray of the Day?

Climate Action Network's Ray of the Day award went to Colombia and host country Peru as the most constructive parties for the day.



Despite suffering from climate change and being nations which should receive climate finance rather than give it, Peru and Colombia, pledged to commit \$6 million dollars to the Green Climate Fund.

For developing countries this is a remarkable step and may go some way to this summit making considerable progress.

Also in the good books was Germany who pledged \$60 million dollars to the Adaptation Fund, a somewhat neglected avenue of climate finance but crucial to help poor countries adapt to an ever changing climate.

The total figures on climate finance are still too low and future pledges need to be additional to current aid budgets, but it certainly looks like progress in the right direction.

Meet Rosario Quispe Caceres PREDES, Peru ACT Forum

Rosario was working at the ACT Alliance stand at the People's Summit. She works for PREDES in Peru, which is recognised for its technical authority on disaster risk management at national and international levels.



Rosario with her colleague from the ACT Forum Peru, campaigning at the People's Summit

They have a highly qualified team who build capacity and promote disaster risk management nationally and internationally, as an inherent part of sustainable development. PREDES generates knowledge as an inherent part of sustainable development.

PREDES was involved in the setting up of ACT Forum Peru with LWF when it was first established as a humanitarian coalition. They meet monthly with the 19 observers and five full members to coordinate activities.

In Peru climate change is having a serious impact – in Lima, when the weather becomes unpredictable and it rains, it is the most vulnerable people who are affected the most. The water supply is under threat because of massive urbanisation and water quality can be very poor and the water that is normally available from the melting glaciers is under threat.

In rural areas, like Cuzco, PREDES is helping people to capture the traditional methods for predicting the changes in the weather. The work helps farmers who are increasingly vulnerable to losing their crops and their livelihoods.

COP20 has had very little coverage in the media in Peru.

Rosario hasn't been at the COP, but she hopes that the COP will bring fundamental agreements that put a brake on climate change.

"In the future we need to control the amount of CO2 we are adding to the atmosphere and help poor people to adapt to the impact of climate change," she says. "People should learn to consume less and return to looking after our natural resources."