

# Your guide to COP20

Review of Wednesday 3 December 2014

## Harsh words on Finance

The third day of negotiations saw finance as one of two topics first discussed by the ADP contact group.



A group of international NGOs today took to the centre of the COP20 venue to urge governments to be clean on climate finance, after Japan's Fossil of the Day award on Tuesday

Developed countries started off with New Zealand aligning itself with the rather harsh statements of the US and Switzerland from the day before (see the Fossil of the Day award for more information). Going well over time, the contact group had a number of countries asking for the floor, giving roughly two types of comments:

1. Developed countries pushed back hard on text outlining quantified and binding commitments of finance, and
2. Developing countries questioned the text's consistency with the convention, especially with regards to the "common but differentiated responsibilities" and the annexes (the so-called firewall).

Some statements also questioned the status of the text as something to negotiate at all, and several countries asked for it to be made clearer that climate finance must be additional (to ODA).

However, it was good to see countries engaging in discussing actual text, and many questions were asked by parties to parties - several answers were also given.

Even though country positions in some cases are very far apart, it is worth remembering that these discussions are the first in a longer process. The co-chairs of the ADP intend, as far as we understand, to merge comments and

existing text into a new text to be put up on a screen by the end of the week for negotiation. It is clear that there is a need to make developed countries come around to accept the need for climate finance to be 'adequate, predictable and additional', both in the text currently under negotiation and in reality.

## COP Plenary focuses on Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was the topic of Wednesday morning's plenary session. So what did we learn?



Mainly that developing countries are still hoping for developed nations to put their money where their mouth is and come good on their financial commitments with a long-term vision, which includes adaptation.

Secondly, the GCF expects to start making its first grants during the first half of 2015, and is currently establishing national and international implementing bodies.

Governance of the fund was discussed and we heard that the door is still well and truly open for countries to pledge their commitments. With that sentiment in mind, Panama made an intervention, pledging as a developing country US\$1 million to the GCF, in an explicit bid to seek support and encourage developed countries who have yet to do so, to make their contributions. It stated that global civil society is looking for concrete commitments from developed countries.

The GCF is currently funded at over \$9 billion, close to its revised goal of \$10 billion. However, of the amount in the fund only \$625 million is for adaptation for vulnerable and least developed countries, and this is a concern. ACT is therefore pushing for more of this pot to be allocated for adaptation and developing countries.

**Take part in the ACT NOW Stunt on Friday!**

**Friday 9.30am central cafeteria area (Zone C).** Let Fran Witt (fwitt@christian-aid.org) / Estelle Marais (esm@actalliance.org) know if you're coming.  
**Rehearsal 6pm at the ACT meeting point today (Thursday).**

On Friday we will leave at 7.30am from the hotel.

## Meet Rolando M. Canda Jr. National Council of Churches in the Philippines

It's the third day of the COP20 in Lima and many of the participants are still arriving to the city to take part in the negotiations. One of those is Rolando M. Canda Jr. representing the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.



"It's my first time at a COP so I'm not only expecting to represent my organisation and do advocacy, but also to learn a lot and be able to update them on what is being said here. The Philippines is one of the countries that has been most affected by climate change and it's important that people see and understand the connection of what is happening. Typhoon Haiyan last year was a game changer that made the consequences of climate changes disastrously clear. We need to understand that there will be more, and not only adapt but also take action.

Although many people in the Philippines are aware of the effects of climate change we still have work to do. The most affected are the poor and vulnerable, therefore the National Council Churches in the Philippines as an ACT member helps to organise the people in the community to be more active in engaging in disaster risk reduction. As in many other countries and social movements, social media has become an essential part of our work. It's an important tool to keep people informed and for mobilisation. But we still are a few years away from where we want to be.

As the ACT Alliance campaign, we need to engage more people about climate change, and lobby the government to do more to give the people what they deserve."

### Invitation to ecumenical reception

**actalliance** invites ACT members attending the COP20 to a reception on behalf of the ecumenical family.

The reception will be an informal meeting where we will refresh and share our experiences and work in the first week.

**Sunday, 7 December 2014**

**18.30-21.30**

**NM Hotel (Av. Pardo y Aliaga 330 San Isidro Lima, Peru)**



## Small steps forward on separating adaptation and loss and damage

Negotiations on adaptation continued today. Across the divide parties recognised the importance of adaptation, and in a way reaffirmed that it should be part of the elements in the 2015 agreement. Parties are negotiating based on 'non-papers' in which their views on adaptation for the 2020 agreement have been compiled. A few issues came up from the negotiations so far:

1. The need to separate adaptation from loss and damage. The text currently combines these two, but most parties want the separation, to ensure maximum attention is given to each.
2. The need to ensure that although the two should be separate, there must be sufficient commitment to demonstrate the link between the two.

Another aspect that continues to unsettle developing country parties is the language of the text which, through its use of the words 'all parties' tries to suggest that *all* should make equal efforts to address the impacts of climate change through adaptation, implying universality. But developing country parties argue this undermines commitment to principles of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' and respective capacities. It also undermines the convention principles of leadership, whereby those with more capacity should take the lead.



Maria del Cid Aguilar, with one of her five children is a coffee farmer in Las Marias, Usulután, El Salvador. Leaf rust has destroyed most of her coffee farm. She is preparing to plant cocoa alongside it, which is more resistant to the higher temperatures and humidity from climate change.

## And the Fossil of the Day goes to...Switzerland

for being a big bully. Switzerland, in an intervention today, not only opposed any legally binding commitments of finance, but also threatened developing countries that any demands for such would jeopardise the outcome in Lima.



On the other hand, CAN awarded a Ray of the Day to AOSIS for being the first group to directly support during this COP the complete phase out of carbon pollution by 2050. What makes this even more powerful is that other countries added their voices to that of AOSIS, specifically AILAC and Norway.