

Your guide to COP20

Review of Tuesday 9 December 2014

ADP negotiation drags its feet



When the ADP draft decision text came out in the early hours of Monday, most civil society organisations were filled with positive sentiments, saying that it represented a fairly balanced inclusion of the key elements and principles of the negotiations under the COP17 mandate.

The presence of loss and damage, in addition to other key pillars such as mitigation, adaptation and finance, was like the proverbial crown jewel.

However when the Parties commenced their negotiations of the text, things started to fall apart.

The USA, Australia, Canada and others almost immediately started to demand the removal of the good provisions.

Loss and damage was among the first victims of the negotiations. Harmless concepts in the preamble, such as food security and poverty eradication were not spared either.

Some parties seemed to have forgotten the major milestones that have been achieved over the last few years, and are not focusing their energies on building on the foundations of the Durban Platform and the progress that was made in Doha and Warsaw in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The Parties seem determined to make the next few days before the end of COP20 very difficult. As the negotiations crawl slowly forward, it is quite clear that the 2015 Paris agreement can only be realised if significant steps are taken in Lima.

What is needed is clear advancement in the negotiation text, as well as trust and confidence among the Parties - both of which were on Monday noticeably absent.



The People's Summit, also taking place in Lima, is bringing together social organisations, unions, farmers, indigenous peoples, women and young people at the national, regional and global level to defend the rights of the people and of Mother Earth regarding climate change and the environmental and human emergency affecting the buen vivir of men and women around the world.

The People's Summit is an alternative forum demanding climate justice be adequately reflected in international and national policies. It believes the people's proposals to change consumerism and the extractive industry destroying Mother Earth should be addressed.

Today at the summit the ACT Forum Peru promoted the new 'ACT Now for Climate Justice' petition, which well over 300 people signed. The ACT stand was a collaboration of members of the ACT Forum together with international colleagues from Kenya and the UK. It was visited by the ACT Alliance General Secretary John Nduna (pictured above).

So how far have we come on gender equality and climate change?

Not very far, some of the more cynical observers may respond. Tuesday marked the UNFCCC's 3rd annual gender day. At a high level event on the issue, the COP20 president Manuel Pulgar-Vidal used the event to emphasise the importance for a gender approach and flagged up the 'Lima Working Programme for Gender' (a two-year programme to promote gender balance).

Mary Robinson, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change, stated that we have come a long way on gender equality and that 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Beijing declaration which states that women's rights are human rights. Yet she cautioned that we must still remain vigilant for gender equality, we must still fight for women's rights and not backslide. She also expressed concern that in the final text 'gender equality' was not included, as we reported last week.

A key point from the discussion was that the 2015 agreement must include gender responsive climate policy with gender equality and be looked at in a cross cutting way throughout. The key elements of what gender within climate policy should look like in the next 10 years included the transformation of mentalities, increased allocation of resources nationally and internationally, countries committing to legally binding gender equality instruments and so forth.

Linking the UNFCCC to the Sustainable Development Goals

In the opening ceremony of the High level Ministerial session the UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon called for negotiations climate change and the sustainable development to be strongly linked in 2015.


In his report launched last week titled 'The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Plane', Ban ki Moon puts climate change action at the heart of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). He stated: 'To respect our planetary boundaries we need to equitably address climate change, halt biodiversity loss, and address desertification and unsustainable land use.' The report also calls for an expert technical group to develop and present a coherent framework that accounts for climate finance and overseas aid.

You are invited to a side event:

Why people-centred climate actions in the SDGs are essential for avoiding dangerous climate change

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2014
Time: 11:30-13:00
Room: Paracas

Supported by Christian Aid, CAFOD and PACJA, this event will highlight the elements of the SDGs that are essential for supporting delivery of effective climate action, the Paris Agreement and poverty reduction.



Are we on track to meet the US\$ 10 billion for Climate Financing?

On the 8th day of the COP20 in Lima, Climate finance got a boost when countries made new pledges to support climate work during the high-level ministerial talks.



Germany announced that it would make a contribution of EUR 55 million towards the adaptation fund, while Spain pledged EUR 20 million to the New York Declaration on Forests.

Belgium will contribute EUR 50 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and significant was Australia's sudden change of mind towards contributing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Where the country had been seen as one of the least progressive towards boosting finances for climate change, Australia's foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop surprisingly announced a pledge of AUS\$ 200 million which amounts to US\$ 165 million to the UN green bank over four years.

Bishop had earlier told reporters that her country would not make contributions to the fund as it was already fulfilling its commitments through the country's official development assistance. However, although Bishop indicated that Australia has a strong track record in delivering climate finance, sources indicate that the amount has been allocated by the country from its already slashed foreign aid budget.

ACT campaign support grows to over 800

The 'ACT for Climate Justice' campaign has seen a significant boost in support, with its offline campaign at the COP having gathered over 800 signatures. The petition aims to gather one million signatures to present to governments at the 2015 COP21 in Paris, asking for an ambitious agreement that keeps global warming below 2 degrees celcius and provides more finance for adaptation.



ACT General Secretary John Nduna signs the campaign petition in Lima