

Your guide to COP20

Tuesday 2 December 2014

Day one sets positive tone for Lima negotiations

The first day of the negotiations has seen good will and faith from both world leaders and the UNFCCC.

The COP president expressed hope that Lima will be remembered for the progress that it will make towards the 2015 Paris agreement. Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres outlined the key deliverables for the meeting as:

A draft of a new, universal climate change agreement on the table and clarification on how national contributions will be communicated next year

Consolidation of progress on adaptation to achieve political parity with mitigation

Enhancement of the delivery of finance, in particular to the most vulnerable

Stimulation of ever-increasing action on the part of all stakeholders to scale up the scope and accelerate the solutions that move us all forward, faster.

One of the critical things parties will need to decide on is the commitment by parties to deliver on intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). It is important that parties deliver on INDCs by March 2015. ACT Alliance believes that mitigation and finance should be part of the INDCs, with adaptation as a voluntary contribution.

In addition ACT is pushing for parties to agree on the information required to submit the INDCs. As the parties will be planning for the submission of INDCs our demand is that the numbers should reflect the urgency of climate action and be adequate.

The IPCC report summary presented yesterday demonstrated a sobering reality to act now and act big.

FAST stunt draws a crowd

Yesterday a Fast stunt drew in a huge amount of interest from negotiators and media at the COP, followed by a press conference. The stunt involved handing out FAST menus and badges to participants and an “empty plates” lunchtime stunt. In other news, the government, faith leaders and more than half the population of Tulavu are now Fasting for the Climate. There will also be 365 days of fasting from now until COP21 in Paris in December 2015, with a chain of fasters, one a day, going from Latin America to Europe.



ACT booth collects over 100 climate signatures on Day One

The ACT Alliance booth in Lima opened yesterday, promoting the ACT Now for Climate Justice campaign, and gathered over 100 signatures to add to the campaign petition from visitors attending the COP20 talks. The campaign was launched in October 2014 at the ACT General Assembly and will continue with a goal of reaching 1 million signatures by December 2015. The petition will be presented to world leaders at the COP 21 in Paris.



And the first person to sign the offline ACT Now for Climate Justice petition at the ACT booth in Lima was...

Vitumbiko Chinoko, ACT's Climate Advocacy and Policy Officer!



If you tweet just one tweet for today, let it be:

A good start of the UN #climate talks in Lima. Sign the @ACTAlliance petition, calling for #climatejustice <http://actclimate.org/#COP20>

Meet Deborah Ikaroot Oriama
Kenya Youth Climate Network
and We Have Faith

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Facebook: We Have Faith



My work focusses on climate change, leadership and governance in Kenya, as well as climate justice in East and Southern Africa. We link young people to policy making processes and implementation within the Kenyan government, informing the role of young people in the climate change discourse.

In We Have Faith the constituency is faith communities. The biggest challenge is awareness and information – people tend not to have the right information so we try to address that. We need a combination of awareness raising and practical action, working within the green economy discourse on climate smart agriculture and renewable energy. Another strand is helping young people to realise the productive uses of renewable energy.

At the COP in Lima I hope for a clear roadmap towards Paris, some tangible hope especially on adaptation and mitigation and clarity on priorities. The structure of the agreement this year is very important if governments are to deliver in Paris. I also want to see some clear outcomes in terms of capacity building and technology transfer as enablers.

And the Fossil of the Day
goes to...

Three European free-riders:
Austria, Belgium and Ireland,
as well as to Australia, for not yet
pledging anything for the Green Climate Fund. Climate Action
Network, a worldwide network of environmental and social
NGOs, delivers the Fossil of the Day.



This translates into several billions of dollars missing in the fund's coffer. And it is jeopardising the Paris agreement. A message to these free-riding ministers: Don't forget to sign your cheque before you land in Lima!

Bienvenido a Lima; bienvenido a la acción!

These were the words of the incoming COP President, HE Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Peruvian Minister of the Environment, on Sunday night when attending the interfaith vigil for climate action in San Borja, Lima, Peru.



Hundreds of parishioners from all denominations and religions participated, calling for urgent action on climate change.

Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC Christiana Figueres gave a speech in Spanish and lit a candle to light the candles held by religious leaders and congregants from many traditions.

Laura Vargas and her team at the Peruvian Inter-religious Council had been working all year on public education, mobilisation and fasting for the climate.

Vargas said that Peru is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and that they see it every day. She said the glaciers are melting and Peru is running out of water, while most of its population live on the desert coastal belt.

The implications of climate change are devastating to this developing country. Pulgar-Vidal shared the candle from the vigil at the COP opening as the light needed in Lima for a robust and binding agreement towards Paris.

It is not since Durban's COP17 that the interfaith movement has had such a high visibility at the start of a COP.