

Your guide to COP20

Wednesday 3 December 2014

Negotiations on the Paris 2015 agreement begin

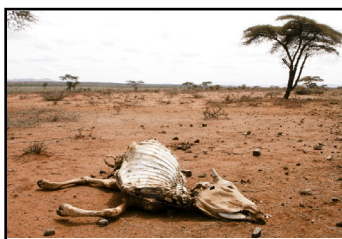
The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action talks, which is tasked with negotiating the Paris 2015 agreement started yesterday in Lima. Several countries stressed the need to move to text-based negotiations to discuss their 'intended nationally determined contributions' (INDCs) to the new international climate change agreement.

There were differences expressed on the elements of the 2015 agreement which can and should be introduced into the INDCs. Developing countries who spoke called for a broad-based agreement with, particularly, a balance between mitigation, finance and adaptation.

On the other hand, some developed countries wanted the INDCs contributions to be focused on emissions reductions targets only, and not on climate finance and adaptation.

It is fairly clear, from today's Parties interventions that the scope of the INDCs text will be widely debated with finance and adaptation likely to be given less attention in the INDCs. Developing countries will be pushing to include them, while in contrast many developed countries will be seeking a mitigation-centric post-2020 agreement.

ACT will need to push developed countries to be open to negotiate issues beyond mitigation offers in the INDCs. Climate change is not just climate pollution, it's also about farmers facing drought, people being pushed from their homes by extreme weather events – we need to look at all of those things, and that means countries' "contributions" will need to be more than pollution cuts.



Meet the experts! The ACT delegation at their daily 6pm debrief and strategising session towards next steps

Climate finance negotiations heat up

On the second day of negotiations climate finance was discussed in a contact group of the ADP, and the talks heated up.

The US pushed for deletion of several central parts the text (the non-paper by the chairs), including deleting climate finance being additional, adequate and predictable.

Switzerland followed the developed country line with a mixed attitude but very strong on not accepting finance described as quantified commitments.

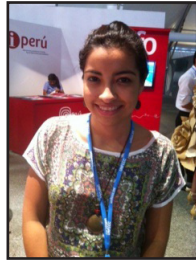
Developing countries mostly reiterated known positions, including questioning attempts to develop the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). Unhelpfully, Sudan questioned whether climate finance even could be gender sensitive. The meeting continues on Wednesday with a long list of countries already on the speaker's list.



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

There must be a meaningful elaboration of finance and adaptation in Lima. Sign the @ACTAlliance petition, calling for #climatejustice <http://actclimate.org/>

Meet Tania Guillén Bolaños from Centro Humboldt & SUSWATCH (Latin America) in Nicaragua



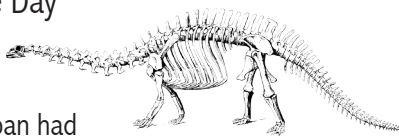
I am the Climate Change Officer and I work to link Central American voices to the international climate negotiations. Centro Humboldt & SUSWATCH are at COP20 as civil society throughout Central America needs to know what is being negotiated regarding climate issues at the international level. We also ensure the voices of the communities we work with are heard at the COP.

We believe that it is important for Central America to be recognised officially within the UNFCCC as one of the regions in the world most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. We have been suffering the effects of climate change for the last few decades, with extreme climate patterns, such as droughts and intense flooding.

Our expectations for COP20 are clear; we want the new global agreement to be: ambitious; legally binding, with clear commitments; with adaptation as a pillar of the agreement, as Central American countries do not have high CO2 emissions, but we are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate; and we want Loss and Damage to be part of the agreement.

Event: Wednesday 3rd December, 6.30pm. 'A Vulnerable Central America, United for Life', Voices for Climate, Auditorio Maloca (Hipódromo / Jockey Club).

And the Fossil of the Day goes to... Japan



after it was revealed Japan had spent climate finance on coal power stations.

The infamous award is given each day at the COP by Climate Action Network (CAN), to the country or countries which have been most disruptive to tackling climate change. At a special awards ceremony surrounded by the world's media, including the Associated Press journalist who broke the story, CAN members sang the Fossil of the Day song to the theme music of the Jurassic Park soundtrack. Climate finance should be spent on clean energy not more fossil fuels, especially the dirtiest energy - coal - even if they were 'cleaner' than regular coal plants as Japan claimed.

Work plan on Loss and Damage under the microscope

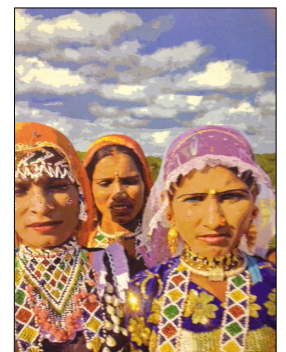


A message of hope from the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan destroyed thousands of homes and lives when it hit the country in November 2013.

One of the outcomes from the Warsaw COP19 last year was the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to support millions of people grappling with these impacts of climate change.

A two-year work plan to this end has been developed, which should be approved in Lima and the executive tasked to start work. But some countries have problems with the work plan and would to reopen the negotiations on it. While these concerns are genuine, equally concerning is how long it would take before the work plan is approved. It wouldn't be in the interest of the affected people if the implementation of the mechanism is postponed. ACT is working to urge parties to find middle ground to ensure that concerns are resolved here in Lima.

Advancing gender equality and achieving gender-responsive climate change policy



The Climate and Gender group meeting seeks coherence between gender-responsive climate policies and the balance of participation of women and men in the Convention. It was noted that gender-responsive climate policy requires additional clarification and strengthening in all activities related to adaptation and mitigation as well as the decision-making process on the implementation of climate policies. Malawi had prepared seven action points, and it was agreed to use this as the basis for further negotiation. Next steps will include discussion on a two-year work programme to ensure effective participation of women in the Convention and the Kyoto protocol.