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ADP mid-session stocktake:

Slowly, slowly, catchee monkey

With one week to go in the June 2014 session, it's time to see where we stand on some of the key issues. Here is ECO's take.

Adaptation

There was rich discussion on how adaptation should be addressed in the Paris agreement, but no sense on what a goal would look like or how it would actually fit into the 2015 agreement. There was no clarity on whether adaptation actions should feature in the INDCs, for example. Developed countries need to ramp up financial support substantially for adaptation activities, but there is no agreement yet on exactly how to do that.

ECO reminds Parties that COP20 must also take decisions on the governance structure and two-year work plan for the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage, as well as the Nairobi Work Program's activities in the areas of health, ecosystems, human settlements and water.

Equity

Equity is central to these negotiations. Without equity there is no ambition, and without ambition there is no equity. The good news is that there's a placeholder for equity indicators in the co-chairs' draft decision text, which must be addressed by countries when they put forward their INDCs.

ECO calls for an agreed list of equity indicators to be included in the final information requirements decision, both to inform the preparation of countries' INDCs and to be used in assessment of them next year.

There was robust discussion in the Structured Expert Dialogue of the 2013-2015 review process. This analysis and other expert input needs to directly inform the ADP's negotiations going forward.

When discussion on the INDC information requirements draft decision begins, ECO will call for a formal in-session space that allows experts from civil society, think tanks and Parties to share the results of their equity reviews of countries' INDCs. This should help inform the assessment

of both their collective adequacy and their individual fairness. ECO has not given up on its request for a formal equity review framework (ERF) as an essential part of the 2015 deal.

Finance

Finance in the 2015 agreement was the elephant in the room throughout all the other ADP discussions. This week, delegates will discuss how to include finance in the scope of the INDCs. For developing countries to go the "extra mitigation mile" in their INDCs, they need greater clarity and commitment on what developed countries will be providing in terms of public finance after 2020. We saw developed countries push back on the whole concept of providing any quantified commitments, contributions or targets for post-2020 finance as part of their fair share in the 2015 agreement.

It was good to hear that the question of capitalising the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has now shifted from *if* to *when* and *how much*.

ECO calls on developed countries to put forward their commitments to capitalise the GCF at the Climate Summit in September, and for those commitments to add up to at least US\$15 billion. ECO reminds delegates that pre-2020 finance is a key enabler both to greater pre-2020 ambition and to building confidence towards the 2015 agreement.

By Lima, developed countries must be able to demonstrate that finance is increasing in real terms. A global roadmap for scaling-up global public climate finance needs to be developed.

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Cities doing it for themselves

ECO was excited by yesterday's Cities forum where great ideas, such as a plan to phase out emissions by 2055 from the global building sector, were discussed. Amazing! A number of cities also have plans to go carbon neutral by 2030. Incredible! With this level of ambition, it's no wonder Parties want to include cities in the ADP deliberations. Let's hope yesterday was informative and inspiring for the Parties.

Cities drive national economies and account for the lions' share of national consumption; but 70% of global GHG emissions come from cities. While the plans outlined are encouraging, this needs to be further expanded. The unsustainable urbanisation we are presently seeing leads to phenomena such as urban sprawl and increased car use, which threaten ecosystems and livelihoods,

putting a tremendous strain on the natural environment. It does nothing for quality of life either!

ECO would love to see all cities adopt that vision for the future which is free of fossil fuel emissions and tries to meet the growing demand for energy through 100% renewable energy. Compact, efficient cities can alleviate poverty, combat climate change, and increase accessibility and efficient use of services and utilities like water, energy, and transport.

With cities on the right track, the next step will be to get their respective whole countries to do the same!

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Mitigation

There has been a groundswell of support for the phase out of fossil fuel emissions by mid-century through dramatically increasing energy efficiency (EE) and by ramping up the deployment of clean renewable energy (RE) technologies. There was great discussion on the need to have ambitious mitigation commitments in the 2015 agreement, what form those commitments might take and over what time period. There was support for developed countries to take on quantified economy-wide reduction targets. A number of countries also called for developing countries that have the capacity to take on such targets. Other developing countries firmly objected to this, saying that this kind of target should only be expected to be taken on by current Annex I countries.

The ADP will now turn its attention to pre-2020 mitigation, assessing the results of the Technical Expert Meetings on RE and EE, as well as on cities and land use issues.

ECO calls on Parties to mandate the Secretariat to prepare a technical report by the October ADP session on the gaps and impediments to RE and EE deployment and ways to overcome them, given the roles of existing multilateral and bilateral programs.

Based on this analysis, Parties could discuss the decisions that should be taken at COP20. This could include guidance to the GCF that priority mitigation funding should go to RE and EE actions, and to the Climate Technology Centre and Network on how it can assist developing countries in these sectors. Lima also needs to set up an institutional structure for capacity building, otherwise many developing countries will not be able to fully access new technology and funding. Parties could also agree in Lima to make Workstream 2 into an ongoing platform that helps close the mitigation gap.

Australia moving backwards with a Fossil

Australia is the lucky recipient of the first Fossil of the Day award here in Bonn in recognition of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's stupendously brazen denial of the catastrophic risks posed by climate change. And to commend him in his recent efforts to form a gang of of similarly minded countries opposed to climate change action. News reports say Abbott may have co-opted Canada into his new scheme, and is reaching out to other countries including the UK and India in an attempt to "dismantle global moves to introduce carbon pricing." ECO salutes Abbott's commitment and consistency in his wilful blindness to the crippling economic costs of climate change.

Abbott must have missed the memo from the IPCC when he decided to keep climate change out of the G20 talks that Australia is hosting later this year, which spells out how climate change is an economic problem. It's already costing us but "it doesn't cost the earth to save the world."

Abbott is clearly looking for recognition of his madcap scheme, and ECO is proud to be among the first to step out and congratulate him for his dedication to the fossilised past. And now, this isn't a joke, Abbott is actually doing this - sometimes truth is stranger than fiction!



Image credit: Matt Golding.

The time is now for forests and land use

According to the latest IPCC findings, forests and land use collectively account for 24% of global emissions — 10-12 GtCO₂e annually. This is, by far, the largest source of emissions in certain regions, notably Latin America, Central Africa and Southeast Asia. In 2012, in Brazil, more than 61% of GHG emissions came from forests and farming activities.

Addressing these emissions is crucial to bridge the annual emissions gap of 8-12 GtCO₂e by 2020 that would lead to global temperature increases of more than 1.5°C. Targeted actions in key regions can deliver immediate emissions reductions for the 2015-2020 period while necessary reforms in other sectors are under way. This would be a massive help if we are to peak emissions before 2020.

ADP Workstream 2 provides an opportunity to cut emissions fast from high carbon landscapes like forests, peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands. Once these ecosystems are severely degraded or lost, most of their emissions reductions potential are a thing of the past. Measures to conserve these ecosystems bring many other benefits such as diverse biodiversity, securing the livelihoods of local communities and maintaining resilience. One way to achieve all of this is to prioritise REDD+ as an immediate action to fund before 2020. Mechanisms like REDD+ are well placed to help reduce emissions in the 2015-2020 period, especially if a landscape approach is adopted and integrated with broader strategies for sustainable land use.

Land use activities under both Workstreams of the ADP should follow a rights-based approach to carefully address food security and land rights, particularly in developing countries. If you want to learn more, CAN's submission on principles for accounting under the ADP provides useful guidance.

On June 16, CAN is turning 25 - come along to hear about CAN's new direction and help us celebrate with a party!

Register here:

<http://bit.ly/RegisterCAN25Anniversary>

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<http://bit.ly/GetECO>



It's time to come clean: An open letter from ECO

Dear Japan, France, Germany and South Korea: is that soot on your face?

What's in your wallet? ECO took a quick look and started coughing from the coal soot in there! A healthy ECO was very happy last week to hear parties in Bonn calling for a phase out of fossil fuel emissions by 2050. News that China and the US were tackling their coal emissions today, makes the coughing version of ECO is very worried. We're worried we can't reach that goal until countries put their money where their mouth is, and stop spending public money on coal. This is a waste of scarce resources that could be more wisely spent on renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) projects, particularly in developing countries.

What a dirty waste it has been! Over the past six years, Export Credit Agencies (ECA) in OECD countries provided at least US\$32 billion for coal projects abroad. The good news is that some countries are starting to worry about their laundry bills and are beginning to clean up their act. For example, last year, the United States set a new policy to phase out its international public finance for coal.

Next week, at the OECD meeting, governments have a chance to decide to move towards ending ECA financing for coal. Sadly, some countries, yes you Japan, France, Germany and South Korea, with your sooty wallets, appear to be holding up this very smart and collective move. ECO wonders how these countries can table something big at the Climate Summit if they cannot agree to this first step to close the current gigatonne gap and phase out fossil fuel emissions by 2050.

Yours,

A wheezy *ECO*

Brother or sister, can you spare a dime?

There is a rumour that developing countries are puzzling over how to build confidence and trust for the Lima and Paris COPs. See below for a few great ideas.

At least \$US15 billion, and pledges no later than November: that's what the Green Climate Fund (GCF) bank account balance should read, and what developing countries need. Parties also made it clear that these pledges should be in addition to overall levels of climate finance and overseas development assistance. ECO does not want to have to write about how developed countries have stolen money from education and health programs or from the Adaptation Fund, just to fill the GCF.

Finance must and will go up, not down: this is another key take away from the ADP discussions. ECO is excited that countries do intend to abide by the Warsaw decision (*the main reason why we walked back into these negotiations, Volveremos*) to scale up public finance levels.

P.S. to the US: ECO sends its warm regards for reassuring parties using ECO language (finance is going up not down, and there is no falling off a finance cliff, etc).

P.P.S. to all developed countries: this reassurance now needs to translate into concrete commitments and provisions in the 2015 agreement.

Financial commitments in the INDCs: ECO has heard many parties making a strong plea to include provisions on climate finance, types, channels and instruments in developed countries INDCs. Dear (developed country) Reader, you are not misreading, ECO is using the big words: commitments - finance - iNDCs. We know you're not a fan but ECO wonders how else – as the Africa Group put it plainly - can we assess whether developed countries are contributing their fair share of the global effort? Did ECO mention that **finance is a key factor** in that fair share?

A global finance goal: ECO understands if developed countries would prefer to band together behind a collective effort and adopt a joint goal for the mobilisation of finance for post-2020. ECO and many countries support a **public** finance goal to put an end to all the dodgy accounting tricks attempting to shift responsibility to the private sector.

Ex-ante assessment of the financial commitments:

Now, that's a great way of assessing adequacy and consistency with equity. Thumbs up to the Least Developed Countries group for putting it forward. How else can we ensure funding is aligned with needs?

No backsliding on commitments: These four words clearly spell it out. Developed countries have to commit to this golden rule – hello shameless countries with declining climate finance levels!

The “POTODOSO” theorem: In operationalising the equity reference framework, ECO is entirely serious about all countries contributing their fair share to the global effort. In practice, it means that some developing countries will find their levels of responsibility and capability are comparable to that of some developed countries. After 2020, those “countries in a position to do so” – the POTODOSO (more than an acronym, it's bound to become an equity theorem) – are expected to support their much poorer and much more vulnerable developing country partners in adapting to the worsening impacts of climate change.

Shifting the trillions: ECO was nodding off after hearing too many developed countries making the case – again – for private climate finance when some countries and groups – AILAC for starters – made a refreshing proposal to look at how climate finance could be used to shift the trillions in the global economy away from fossil fuels. ECO believes that most countries could include efforts to this end in their iNDCs.

Alternative sources of finance: the icing on this ADP finance cake, ECO was so pleased to hear countries like Zambia, Norway, Belize, and Bangladesh suggest a renewed focus on alternative sources that would auto-generate climate finance, such as from bunker fuels or the long-standing proposal for passenger levies in international transport – which could be equitably assessed through an incidence mechanism as suggested by South Africa. ECO loves it when Parties' proposals – collectively – make so much