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## OMG! TXT! INF NDCs

Tuesday saw a draft text was released on what information Parties will be required to include in the announcement of their initial post-2020 contributions, and the process to review these for adequacy and equity. Much detail is still needed, but ECO welcomes this draft as a good development. Way to go Parties! Please continue to work at this speed!

As Parties ruminate over this text, ECO thought it should mention few points.

### *On the information needed*

The annex is a positive start regarding the information required. The overarching objective is that the proposed contributions are **quantifiable, comprehensible, comparable and reproducible**. For developed countries, everybody already knows how to start filling in the basic detail – like their base year; that the commitment will be an economy-wide absolute reduction one and so on. There can simply be no backsliding from the Kyoto approach with multi-year carbon budgets based on common metrics. This type of commitment should be expanded to a broader group of countries and should at least include all countries in the OECD. The mitigation component should also **allow for the tabling of solutions-oriented contributions**, particularly as countries move towards a 100% renewable future. This aspect is fundamental for a large number of countries with low emissions but also low energy access. Their greatest

challenge is to build a renewable energy system with access for all rather than to reduce emissions per se.

In order to avoid locking in low levels of ambition and staying in sync with IPCC assessment reports and political decision-making cycles, ECO thinks that **all contributions should have a common end date of 2025**. But what about the long-term you may ask (especially if you saw ECO's Wednesday edition introducing its position on a phase out of all fossil fuel emissions)? And you would be quite right, Dear Reader. Paris must **also send signals for the long-term**, and therefore it will also be necessary for Parties to indicate where they are going in 2030, 2050 and other time points.

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## The Visionary Few in the ADP Ministerial

Something revolutionary happened in the ADP ministerial yesterday even though most Parties repeated worn out positions, there were a visionary few that outlined a vision for Paris in line with what science demands.

First, the **Marshall Islands**, supported by **Grenada**, noted the “need to fully decarbonise our economies by the middle of century”. **AILAC** entertained the notion of “possibly [going] carbon neutral” by mid-century to stay below 2°C, while **Norway** said “we need to approach zero net emissions by the middle of the century”. The **Netherlands, Germany** and others made similar comments. Clearly, some governments have taken the findings of the IPCC's AR5 to heart (or was it ECO's opening article on Wednesday on the need to phase out all fossil fuels by 2050 and phase in 100% renewables?). Over the coming days - and in those UN Climate Summit statements! - ECO looks forward to hearing

more countries outlining their vision for a fossil-free world.

It is necessary to turn this vision into concrete action. Countries like Norway need to drop their double-standards on climate action and get the state-owned company, Statoil, to leave fossil fuels in the ground. All countries need to increase their efforts pre- and post-2020. However, ECO was really excited to hear China say it would table its proposed post-2020 contribution by the March 2015 deadline. Others, like Brazil, who noted that it would only be ready sometime “before Paris” clearly need to pick up their pace. ECO wonders if countries like Brazil are concerned about having their contributions considered in a civil society review? ECO is even more confused about the idea that some Parties only want to “commit to submit” at the Climate Summit. Of course, ECO would prefer that Parties submit what they will commit.

## Fresh air for fresh thinking

ECO hopes that a fresh breeze of air in Bonn will give the Chinese delegation a break from Beijing's filthy air, and perhaps a fresh perspective on the negotiations.

Last year, 92% of China's cities failed to meet national air quality standards. The government has since mandated provinces to curb coal consumption, the biggest source of air pollution, in particular PM2.5 (particles smaller than 2.5 mm in diameter). A number of provinces have put forward specific coal control measures and some have even pledged to reduce absolute consumption by 2017. The aggregate of these provincial measures will reduce the country's coal consumption by 655 million tonnes from a business as usual scenario by 2020.

ECO knows that there are significant co-benefits between addressing air pollution and mitigating greenhouse gases emissions. Over the past decade, China's coal burning has accounted for half of the world's CO2 emission growth. Slashing coal power generation will not only be good for the Chinese people, but also for the global community.

Provincial cuts to coal-based power generation will translate to roughly 1,300 million tonnes of emissions reductions, equivalent to the combined total annual emissions of Australia and Canada. If China delivers on these plans with full implementation and by expanding its coal caps to broader regions, then its emissions pathway will be almost in line with the IEA's 2°C scenario. Other countries must do their fair share too if China is to have confidence moving forward.

ECO thinks that the Minister's further clarification on China's proposed submission by March 2015 is a timely step in the right direction that needs to be built upon. China should also communicate its domestic successes here in Bonn to help build momentum in the international climate negotiations. More transparency will help build trust, enhance collective ambition, and might just allow everyone to breathe more easily.

### Ludwig

Basking in the double glow of the copious lighting and the bright sunlight shining into the "computer centre greenhouse" today, Ludwig was cool as a cucumber, thanks to the temporary air conditioning system snaking its way in from the back garden. Merely three metres from this newly arrived AC-monster, Ministers (or rather their stand-ins) waxed lyrical (except for you Trig!) on the subject of stepping up climate action, burrowing into their extra layers against the arctic conditions. The Maritim has been home to the UNFCCC's intersessionals since the Punic Wars (says Ludwig). But its management has apparently been incurious as to some recent developments in this world of ours. With a major renovation now on the cards, perhaps the most concrete thing that can come out of this session would be for the UNFCCC to call for a passive re-construction. Certainly passivity is an area in which Parties have shown themselves to excel.

### Paljon onnea Suomi!

ECO congratulates Finland on its brand new Climate Change Act. The Act gives legislative power for an emissions reduction target by 2050 of at least 80%. ECO would have preferred at least 95%, but hey, this is a leap in the right direction for Finland, which hasn't shown such strong climate leadership in the past. Moving forward, Finland's climate policy will not depend on political fluctuations. We applaud the long-term thinking! Please open your vodka bottles, and join ECO in a toast: "Kippis!"

Now, who's next? If a cold, isolated country with lots of energy intensive industry can do it, so can you!

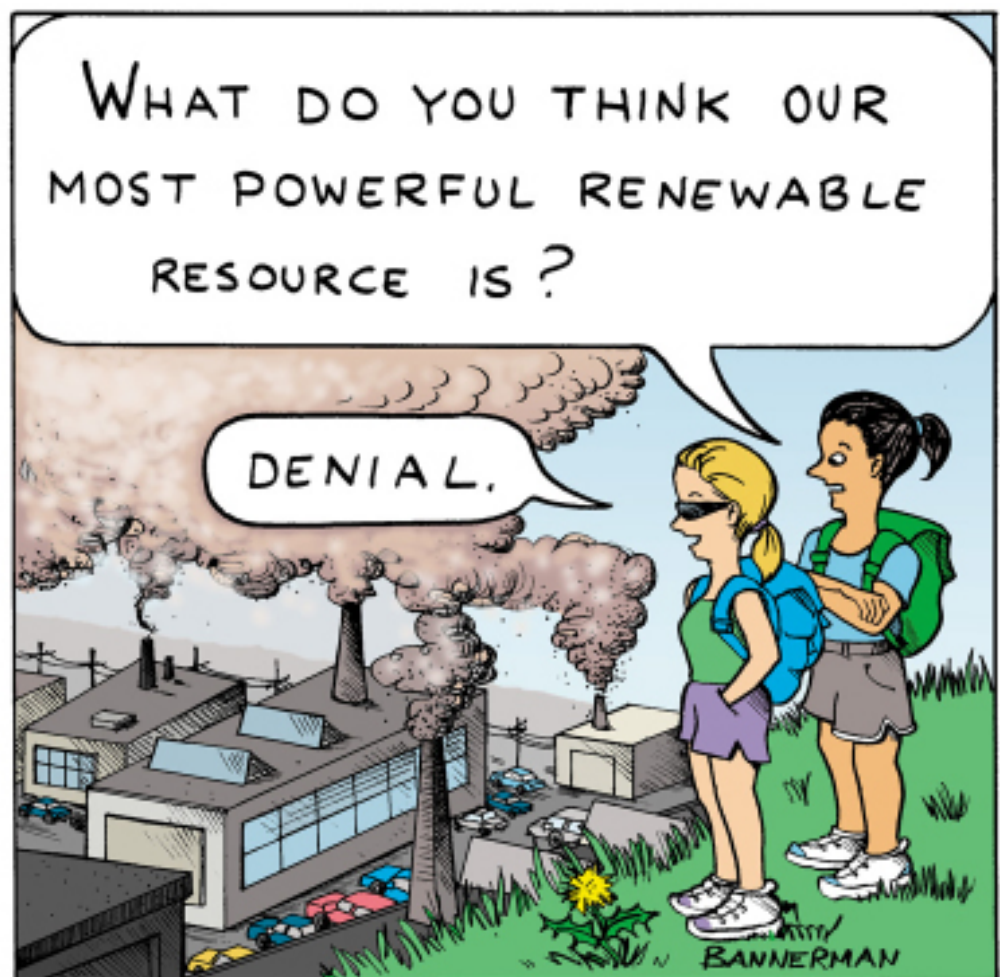


Image credit: Union of Concerned Scientists.

## [A]daptation in the [A]DP

ECO would like to remind Parties that “adaptation to climate change” represents an immediate and urgent global priority. The 2015 agreement must make a significant contribution to deliver an adaptation approach that adequately responds to the immediate needs of, and future threats to, the most vulnerable developing countries and ecosystems. This can only be achieved if the agreement recognises that insufficient mitigation ambition directly increases adaptation needs as well as loss and damage.

The Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) has given adaptation a strong voice under the UNFCCC. For the 2015 agreement, Parties need to continue to pursue the CAF principles and this begins with a review of the CAF in light of what has been, and will be, delivered on the mitigation front. This directly determines adaptation needs.

The National Adaptation Plan process is one of the major

elements of the CAF that should be part of the 2015 agreement. For that to be achieved, substantive progress on further development and implementation must be made well in advance of Paris.

ECO welcomes Parties’ proposal to include global adaptation goals in the 2015 agreement, especially on specific actions and finance

Adaptation needs to be treated with the same priority as mitigation when it comes to finance and means of implementation. Do you remember when developed countries pledged USD\$100 billion per annum by 2020 in Copenhagen? ECO does. Making \$50 billion of public finance available must remain a key ask for developing countries and the steps towards achieving it should be taken now.

## SDGs? Whazit? And what’s climate got to do with it?

In a land far far away, a bunch of busy bees are currently negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This brainchild of the Rio+20 Summit should provide for a successor to the MDGs, and is supposed to end poverty and bring on sustainable development. Since March last year, the members of the Open Working Group on SDGs have been working on an inspirational, aspirational and otherwise brilliant ‘To Do List’ (the goals) for international development over the next 15 years. Their recommendations are due to be delivered to the UN General Assembly by September 2014. The next round of negotiations starts on 16 June.

What will end up on the goals list depends on a battle that is yet to come. There are already some things in place like gender, health, education, food and agriculture, energy and water. There’s also some new kids on the block too, like climate change, ecosystems, forests and cities. Amongst all of these, the climate change goal is having the hardest time staying alive. At the moment the working group’s report’s zero draft has it on life support but a number of powerful countries are trying hard to pull the plug. These murderous intentions are only being kept at bay by a handful of brave countries and groups, like the LDCs, some island states, Bangladesh and Guatemala. Far too many others are just watching the battle from the sidelines.

It’s time to do some soul searching on why a climate goal is worth having.

Is it because addressing climate change is a pre-requisite to ending poverty and achieving sustainable development? Or because the IPCC has hammered it home, time and time

again, that climate change disproportionately affects the poorest and that action cannot wait another minute? Or because some leaders agree that climate change is the greatest threat to development? Heads of States will find it hard to credibly justify the SDGs in September 2015 without climate change goals while academia, civil society and even the private sector (and of course, ECO too!) realise that this is the most pressing challenge of our generation.

Now that we get that, what’s that got that to do with the UNFCCC?

A set of climate-blind SDGs agreed in September 2015 wouldn’t set a nice stage for an ambitious climate agreement a few weeks later in Paris, would it? Since the SDGs cover areas like energy, agriculture, water, forests, oceans, cities and economic growth, they can, and will, massively contribute to both mitigation and adaptation action. If you strive for low-carbon and climate-resilient *development*, you might throw the occasional side glance at those *development* goals.

Both processes are currently looking at the same pots for money and they intersect during implementation where (hopefully!) the same national strategies will guide climate and development action.

For ECO, it seems pretty straightforward that climate change must be strongly and credibly reflected in the SDGs and we want to encourage the Bonn clique to connect with their mates in New York - go!

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ECO is pleased too about the finance section. This **must stay in** (as ECO can already think of a few Parties with fingers on the 'delete' button!). The provision of climate finance is an integral part of the fair share for developed countries (and, post-2020, of countries with comparable levels of responsibility and capability in accordance with the equity framework/indicators). Information on the provision of finance must be included when tabling initial contributions. All countries should spell out **how they plan to mobilise additional finance and shift investment patterns**, such as through setting policy frameworks or deploying public finance.

**Adaptation is a fundamental element of the 2015 Agreement.** Many parties have expressed concern over the need to ensure equal importance, and ECO shares these concerns. Yet ECO is also concerned that some parties seem to think a contribution on adaptation alone is a sufficient contribution to the 2015 agreement. Clearly it's not! Adaptation is best addressed as part of the broader discussions on the 2015 Agreement, rather than just through the contribution preparation process. In a similar vein, ECO would like to stress that there are a number of issues related to finance, technology and capacity building which need to be addressed in the 2015 agreement. This goes far beyond merely being part of the discussion about intended nationally determined contributions.

ECO has many friends around the world. These friends are very knowledgeable about cutting emissions and transitioning to renewable energy. ECO's friends are eager to help countries. It should be a no-brainer that **civil society should be consulted and included in the domestic preparation processes** for developing proposed contributions. ECO heard Brazil mention in yesterday's Ministerial that they are consulting broadly with stakeholders as part of their preparations. To further facilitate independent assessments, the Secretariat could also help out – they could be mandated to prepare a **compilation and synthesis** of the national contributions as well as establish **an electronic bulletin board** so that Parties and stakeholders can post comments and questions to others about their contributions. How's that for one idea? Imagine how many more Parties could receive if it asks civil society.

Having now covered all the substance, ECO would like to remind Parties of the **firm deadline** for when this homework is due – and that it's **no later than the first quarter of 2015**. This is necessary so that ECO's friends and others can conduct an ex-ante review for equity and adequacy. What would be the point of having all these nice discussions if our combined efforts do not solve the climate crisis?

### *On the review of initial contributions*

ECO was glad to see that the concept of an ex-ante review for equity and adequacy was included in the text. This was hotly debated in Warsaw, but to little avail - Lima must do much better. The text as it stands now just says "further specification of modalities". To help parties in their elaboration on modalities, ECO proposes that these should include:

1) Agreement on **an official space within the ADP** where civil society and research organisations can **present the outcomes of their assessments** of the proposed commitments at the June 2015 session. And make no mistake Dear Reader, there WILL be a civil society review of your initial contributions! This shouldn't be too much of a lift as ECO assumes Parties will definitely be carving out some time next June to ask each other about their own targets. We would just like to make sure that we will be invited to the party (as we always invite you to ours!).

2) **A deadline for resubmitting contributions prior to COP 21.** Hopefully the original proposals are ambitious and fair enough, but there needs to be a space to resubmit revised contributions if this is not the case.

There are two further things that would help with the ex-ante review process. First, Parties should **specify the list of indicators** in the annex against which parties must justify their proposed post-2020 contributions. These indicators should include those on **adequacy** (e.g. carbon budgets used, mitigation pathways followed), **responsibility** (e.g. start date from which responsibility is calculated, which gases are included, etc.), **capability** (e.g. GDP, GDP per capita, poverty, etc.), the **sustainable development need**, and **adaptation need**.

As countries start announcing their contributions at the Climate Summit in September, significant process on this issue needs to be made here. So keep going!

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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