

eco



Eco has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. This issue is produced co-operatively by CAN groups attending the climate negotiations in Bonn, June 2009.

Passing the Buck

Saturday's AWG-KP plenary showed that each member of the Annex I group of countries is essentially wanting to "pass the buck" of emissions reductions onto other members. Surprise, surprise.

In the closed informal session, the UN-FCCC Secretariat prepared and circulated to Parties a note on aggregating possible Annex I quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) from submissions made by some Parties in May, plus Iceland's proposal at the current session.

Emissions from Annex I countries that have so far not submitted targets, or the US, which hasn't got around to ratifying the Protocol, were simply ignored. It has to be said that the Secretariat has put the aggregated targets in a way that makes them look as good as possible. But even then the figures look grim.

Ignoring the emissions of Russia, Japan, the US, Croatia and New Zealand's cows, the

note showed that aggregated Annex I offerings to date range between -16% and -24% including LULUCF and -17% to -26% without LULUCF. This is well below the 25-40% range for Annex I reductions proposed by the IPCC, let alone the 40%+ reductions that we are now being told is needed to keep warming well below 2°C.

ECO has to ask: do countries who have already announced their targets expect those who haven't yet done so to shoulder the rest of the load? What do they really expect of countries like the US and little old New Zealand? Perhaps when they set their target, they just assumed someone else would do the work. The alternative, would seem to be that these countries are genuinely willing to let the planet burn.

Meanwhile, AOSIS has circulated a paper that shows how miserable the Annex 1 offers

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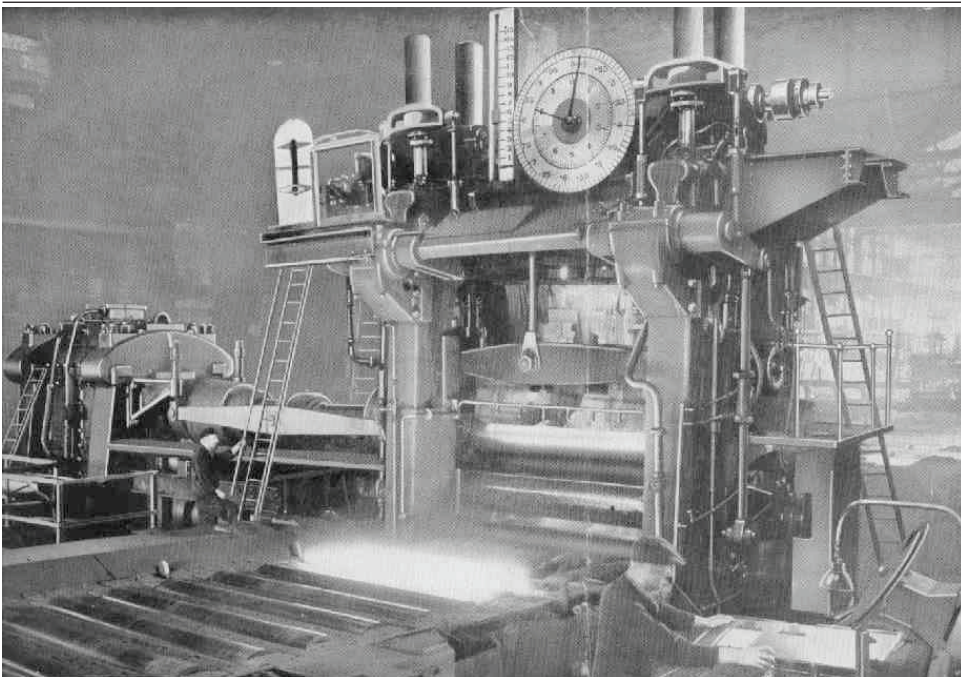
Tck tck tck

In the past week, ECO has noticed a buzz among the conference halls, or perhaps more accurately a ticking. Whether it's youth in red shirts chatting up the delegates as easily as they would a Facebook friend or the sea of green hard hats and hazmat-like suits that rallied outside of the Maritim doors on Saturday, there's clearly a new act in town, one that is proactive and positive.

"Yes You Can" fix the climate crisis – that's the message five hundred environmental activists sent to world leaders and delegates gathered here in Bonn to call for progress in the negotiations underway by forming those words for an aerial photo. Participants invoked US President Barack Obama's campaign mantra in their call for negotiators to secure a crucial climate treaty in Copenhagen this December, and hey, it worked for him, right?

The families, friends, and colleagues who laid in the wet grass, under driving rain for the photo (*see overleaf*) then marched to the Maritim for a rally with speakers emphasizing both "yes we can" and "yes we must". To help delegates keep track of the time pressure humanity is under, the marchers then presented a grandfather clock to the UNFCCC (to help delegates check their watches by the clock in the hallways).

The negotiator trackers, Saturday's photo and rally are all part of the tckctck campaign, a new global alliance of faith groups, NGOs, trade unions and individuals who have come together to call for an international treaty that will save the planet from the dangerous effects caused by climate change. With under 200 days to go before the new climate deal is set to be signed in Copenhagen, the tckctck campaign aims to "harness the voices of the people to demand an ambitious, fair and binding new international agreement that reflects the latest science". And after Saturday's action it's clear those voices aren't just in our heads.



The new financial mechanism undergoes testing at a top-secret site outside Copenhagen

No to Land-based LULUCF

Eco is puzzled.

Success for the post-2012 negotiations requires a scientifically sound, technically and politically viable approach to LULUCF. Most countries would agree with Eco that existing rules and accounting procedures fail to adequately reflect emissions that actually enter the atmosphere from the sector. Most countries would also agree with Eco that the number and scope of proposed changes to LULUCF have bogged down negotiations, as countries push for an ever-increasing range of LULUCF activities and accounting methodologies. So Eco is more than a little disappointed that some Parties continue to push for Land-based accounting for LULUCF in the second commitment period.

Land-based accounting is accounting for all emissions and removals across the landscape. While this may be possible, and may eventually be a positive way of dealing with the complexities of LULUCF, currently it can't be done in a scientifically credible way. Most countries don't have adequate data, or data of the quality required to undertake such a grand scheme. Parties are yet to even take the necessary step of approving the 2006 IPCC Guidelines that set out the methodologies for Land-based accounting.

Though a worthy goal for scientists to pursue, the complexity of ecological processes, high uncertainty in measurement and the difficulty in differentiating anthropogenic and natural emissions all need to be resolved before such an accounting framework can be contemplated.

Finally, a Land-based approach would require an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to include LULUCF activities in Annex A. This carries with it overwhelming risks of distorting Parties GHG accounting. Without a full appreciation of the scale of impact this amendment would carry, Land-based accounting cannot be seriously considered as an option for the second commitment period.

So, if countries do not currently possess the ability to do land-based accounting, why are Parties wasting time pushing for it? Eco thinks they should focus instead on negotiating a path toward a more comprehensive system in Commitment Period 2. A year ago, it was helpful to talk about such aspirational goals, but with six months to Copenhagen, it's time for realism to rule.

Reframing the Framework

As parties are writing their speaking points for tomorrow's LCA session on adaptation, ECO would like to remind them that designing an effective Adaptation Action Framework is not difficult as such – ECO's assessment is rather that there is lack of political will by Annex 1 parties to pay for adaptation in developing countries, even though the costs arise from past and current developed country emissions. If that barrier were removed, then a framework that is actually focused on action and implementation could easily be agreed.

The core of the framework, says ECO, is firstly regular and predictable financial flows – in the form of periodic instalments – to recipient developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable (ECO suggests to all Parties to look up in the Bali Action Plan which are meant here). Effective use of such regular flows would be ensured by country-driven, transparent and participatory processes for adaptation planning and implementation. These could take the form of In-country Co-ordinating Mechanisms that include all relevant stakeholders such as vulnerable communities, peoples and populations.

ECO is convinced that rich countries need to let go of control over how exactly adaptation finance is used – however, we agree with many Parties that finance should be used effectively and be focused on strengthening the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable. Hence, the framework should also, secondly, provide finance for building institutional capacity on all levels, and generating relevant knowledge for making vulnerability assessments, to enable sustained adaptation plan-

ning, implementation and monitoring.

Thirdly, the framework would also provide upfront finance for implementing urgent adaptation actions (building on experience from NAPAs or comparable in-country processes).

In conversations with developing countries, ECO has come across a kind of fatigue, some of them are becoming tired of having to rely on, well, *unreliable* promises – that do not get fulfilled anyway. Hence ECO has a request to all those Parties that are genuinely committed to getting adaptation action off the ground. Please try to ensure that, in the Copenhagen agreement, adaptation finance becomes a legally binding obligation for developed countries. ECO reminds everyone: at least \$50 billion is needed annually, additional to ODA commitments. And if Annex 1 countries get their way in the difficult mitigation negotiations, this figure will be even higher.

ECO is worried that some Annex 1 countries would like to delete from the text language to set up a mechanism on compensation and rehabilitation for impacts where adaptation is not or is no longer possible. Yet they do not offer any alternative solutions as to how to address the unavoidable losses and damages that those most at risk will have to bear. ECO suggests that delegates from such Parties travel to countries where such impacts are already occurring, and explain their reluctance to the people facing displacement and relocation.

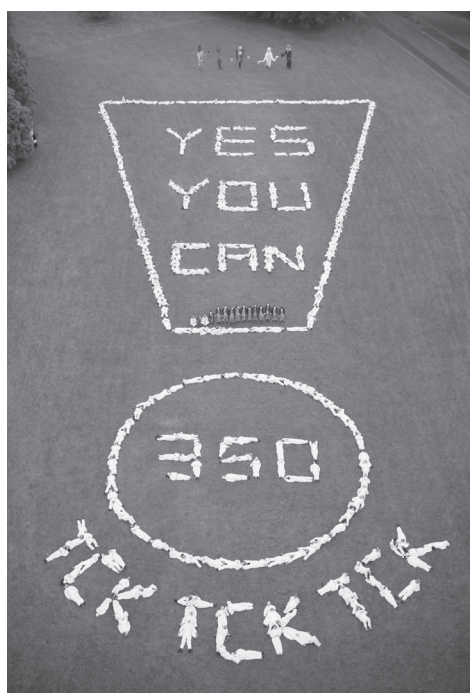
A final remark: looking at the Bali agreement, ECO sees no way for the Adaptation Action Framework to deal with response measures, sorry for everyone concerned.

–Imagine, from front page really are. Throw in the assumed positions of Russia, Japan, Croatia and New Zealand, along with the US, then the total of Annex 1's shameful lack of ambition for 2020 is 5-10% below 1990 levels excluding LULUCF, or 6-13% below 1990 levels if LULUCF is included.

We're all familiar enough with the science to know that, if this is the most Annex 1 can offer, the planet is likely fried.

LUDWIG

Ludwig notes that the Maritim has now begun to serve drinks in paper cups. At first he was shocked at such an unacceptable use of harvested wood products, with the Maritim's management clearly involved in an inappropriate drive towards deforestation. He now understands it to be a micro CCS project – the embodied carbon in the cups will after all last some time before breaking down. Well-intentioned, but still wrong.



Saturday's demonstration seen from the air