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The Climate Justice Dialogue:
Inspiring a new framework
for climate action

Challenges to improving
transparency, accountability
and integrity in climate finance

a daily
multi-stakeholder
magazine on
climate change
and sustainable
development

outreach.

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pic: Isabell Schulz

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Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSD meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability and climate change arenas, giving a voice to individuals and organisations from all stakeholder groups. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (acutter@stakeholderforum.org or jcornforth@stakeholderforum.org) You can also follow us on Twitter: @stakeholders

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Framework for Climate Action: Regime evolution, objectives and challenges

Stuart Bruce
Lawyer

The UNFCCC, while a milestone for climate change governance, represents both advancement and compromise. Through its very existence, States acknowledged that human activities, such as fossil-fuel based energy production and use, dangerously increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. Over time the global climate change regime has evolved into a complex and technical area of international law.

Framework for climate action

As a 'framework' for addressing climate change, the UNFCCC is constitutional in nature and establishes few detailed domestic obligations for Parties. It provides a structure, institutional mechanisms and subsidiary bodies for implementation and technical advice (SBSTA, SBI). It also embodies guiding principles of international environmental law such as intergenerational justice, common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), and precaution, all balanced by the principle of an open international economic system.

The primary obligation for all Parties is to establish an inventory of emissions and to develop national or regional measures to mitigate climate change. Other individual and cooperative obligations relate to research, education, provision of financial assistance and national reporting. All activities should advance the ultimate goal of stabilising GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. By all accounts, this goal remains to be achieved.

Evolution

The climate change regime has evolved considerably in scope, scale and complexity by two distinct methods: a 'big bang', through the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and incrementally through ad hoc working groups and COP decisions. Under the Protocol, only developed states have binding emissions reduction targets – an on-going point of contention for many – compliance with which is facilitated through innovative 'flexibility' or market mechanisms. Since 2007, the regime has developed along 'two-tracks', one to negotiate long-term cooperative action on 'deep cuts' in emissions through a post-2012 framework (AWG-LCA), the other a second commitment period under the Protocol (AWG-KP).

In 2009, Parties politically agreed that global temperature increases must stay below 2°C. However, there remains an

'emission gap' of 9–12 gigatonnes between the emissions pledges made since Copenhagen and Cancun, and reductions scientifically necessary to achieve this goal. Much depends on the AWG-ADP – established in 2011 to agree a new, universal global platform by 2015 – to enhance ambition and action on emissions reductions. The regime's evolution demonstrates its deepening, broadening and improved integration and that the original country groupings do not reflect current circumstances.

Objectives and Challenges

There are numerous objectives for COP 18. In relation to the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and Protocol, they are to agree and finalise the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP and to demonstrate progress in the AWG-ADP. The goal for the first two objectives is to provide a draft text for adoption by the COP, after which time the bodies will dissolve. Judging by the provisional agendas and annotations, negotiations for the AWG-LCA will be challenging and will cover: shared vision for emission peaking and rapid reduction; mitigation action for developed and developing countries, including REDD+ and new market mechanisms; sectoral approaches; adaptation; and the old chestnuts of technology and finance transfer, capacity building support, equity and CBDR. It is about time that these chestnuts are roasted once and for all – Mother Nature waits for no one.

It seems likely that a second Protocol commitment period, commencing 1 January 2013, will be proposed by the AWG-KP and agreed by COP 18. But the major hurdles in getting there include agreement on its legal form, the duration of the second commitment period – five or eight years – and rules about 'carry-over' credits. Some countries, such as Australia, have publicly announced that they will only sign up to an eight-year commitment period.

As for the AWG-ADP, it is imperative that progress is demonstrated to the international community. The legal and political significance of language choice, and concepts such as vision, ambition and incentives to increase mitigation will be in the wings. However, the next two weeks need to result in a plan to substantively address these matters during 2013. Importantly, the Durban Platform does not necessarily advocate a space to begin climate negotiations afresh. There have been decades of excruciating negotiations and progress that will inform its contours and content.

Given the regime goals and the magnitude of necessary global restructuring, it is understandable that much regime progress has been incremental. Whatever one's opinion about the negotiations, it is unequivocal that the world is warming. The recent IEA World Energy Outlook 2012 emphasises this point, as no doubt will the forthcoming IPCC 5th Assessment Report. The regime may be imperfect, but it must go on ■

The Climate Justice Dialogue: Inspiring a new framework for climate action

Edward Cameron

World Resources Institute

Tara Shine

Mary Robinson Foundation

In the global climate debate, there is a window of opportunity for issues of equity to be discussed, analysed and reshaped in an open and constructive manner.

It is now a full 20 years since the adoption of the UNFCCC. Despite important steps in the conferences in Cancun and Durban, governments acknowledge in the Durban Platform that there is a gap between their combined efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their collective goal to limit a global average temperature increase to 2°C.

The enhanced ambition that is needed to address this gap may remain beyond reach unless we succeed in rethinking and operationalising the principles of equity and 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' (CBDR-RC).

CBDR-RC remains a central point of contention in the climate negotiations. Rather than promoting a race to the top and the type of bold collective action needed to safeguard development, the current approach to equity has become a tug-of-war between countries that are reluctant to do more without assurances that others will also act. In the new climate agreement equity cannot be about sharing failure. It must become a means to share both the opportunities and challenges of the transition to low carbon, climate resilient development.

A new window of opportunity

The Durban Platform has given new hope that countries can agree to act together to take positive action on climate change and embrace a new model of development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, builds resilience to climate change and delivers sustainable development. To capitalise on this opportunity and to build an atmosphere of trust and reciprocity between countries, issues of equity will have to be discussed, analysed and reshaped in an open and constructive manner.

Building a powerful narrative for action

Beyond the negotiations, there is a need to mobilise domestic constituencies in countries around the globe to demand greater ambition from political and business leaders. Compelling arguments built upon a solid evidence base will be needed to motivate domestic stakeholders, including citizens, consumers, corporations and governments at all levels to demand more urgent and ambitious action on climate change.

The Climate Justice Dialogue

The need for a new framework for climate action at the international level, to catalyse climate compatible development, coupled with the need to build domestic demand for this new international collective action approach, has prompted the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice (MRF CJ) to launch the 'Climate Justice Dialogue', an innovative new initiative that aims to mobilise political will and creative thinking to shape an equitable and ambitious international climate agreement in 2015.

In terms of outputs, we will produce one major flagship report by December 2014, timed to coincide with the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We shall also produce a series of shorter articles derived from the flagship report around specific influence opportunities (for instance, gatherings of the UNFCCC).

Central to the approach is a series of regional workshops and scenario exercises organised and co-hosted with partners. These workshops will inform our research while also helping to build communities of practice to enlighten and amplify the climate justice narrative.

A second important innovation is to commission papers from influential thought leaders. The Commissioned Paper series offers a platform for influential figures to voice their opinions, and provides greater legitimacy to the work, but by drawing a clear distinction between these papers and the final report also ensures that the work remains impartial and independent.

At the heart of the Climate Justice Dialogue is an Advisory Committee of approximately 20 thought leaders representing all regions of the world, including governments, private sector, civil society and academia. These leaders will give advice, strategic guidance and oversight, and will champion the principles, objectives and outcomes of the work, most notably by helping to make the voices of vulnerable populations heard by decision-makers.

All nations must act together to close the emissions gap. This difference of opinion will set the scene for vigorous debate. One thing is certain, though – equity cannot be about sharing failure. Climate change was predicted to arrive tomorrow but it is happening today. For this reason the moment for climate justice has arrived ■

MORE INFO

www.wri.org.

www.mrfcj.org.

Reframing the Adaptation Framework

Mizan R Khan

Climate Negotiator, Bangladesh

Beginning as an afterthought in the initial climate regime, adaptation remains the 'poor cousin' of mitigation, though it has evolved through several levels to finally reach an Adaptation Framework.

Funding stands at its core and provides primary assistance those already being hit hardest and those with the least capacity to adapt. This finance has three aspects: supply, demand and the governance of these two processes. Though Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of the UNFCCC obligate industrial countries to finance climate change-related activities in developing countries, funding continues to remain voluntary, depending on the political expediency of contributor nations.

Supply

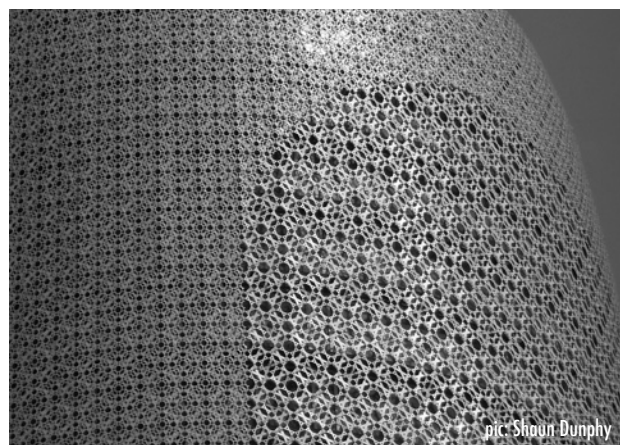
At the end of the fast-start finance period (2010-2012) less than one eighth of the pledged \$30 billion has been distributed and funding for adaptation amounts to less than a fifth of the total, despite balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation being agreed upon. Moreover, this money – as many reports attest – is mostly re-packaged overseas development assistance (ODA) and country reports show that less than half will be distributed as grants – going against the agreed principles of the UNFCCC, particularly for adaptation. Finally, there is still no sign of the incremental scaling up of funding needed from 2013 to move towards the pledged \$100 billion a year by 2020.

Actual distribution of climate finance remains smaller, by two orders of magnitude, relative to the needs estimated by UN bodies and the World Bank, further exacerbating the inadequacy of funding.

Against this dispiriting reality, the rote invocation of principles, such as 'new and additional', 'adequate' and 'predictable' funding in all agreed documents has become a ritual. Can trust be built on such empty rhetoric? How long should it take to operationalise these long-agreed principles? How can we measure 'new and additional' funding without a baseline? New and additional is understood by some as above the agreed ODA level of 0.7% of Gross National Income in industrialised countries but, in reality, the latter stands at less than half of 0.7%. Furthermore, is predictable funding – which is needed particularly for adaptation planning – achievable without agreement on some auto-generation mechanisms, such as levies on air travel and bunker fuels, or Tobin, carbon, and arms trade taxes?

Demand

Regarding the demand aspect: what are the criteria for prioritising countries for adaptation funding? The Convention, and other ratified documents, suggests 'particularly vulnerable' or 'most vulnerable' countries must get priority in funding. Without any agreed definition of these terms, there is a tendency for the least developed countries, small island development states and Africa to get priority. The



pic: Shaun Dunphy

Climate Action Network newsletter ECO once sarcastically dubbed vulnerability as a beauty contest! Additionally, there are other issues, such as different funds – such as the Adaptation Fund, Pilot Program for Climate Resilience and the EU-led Global Climate Change Alliance – using different criteria for allocation. This is further complicated by the great differences in population and territory sizes, as well as a host of other national socio-economic indicators. The Adaptation Fund, which mandated to fix the criteria, has seemed to shy away from finalising them.

Governance

The UNFCCC funding mechanisms – which possess democratic structures – are largely empty-shells. The latest data shows that only 2-3% of climate finance has been channeled through these funds. If this is the case, why invest so much time and resources into establishing democratically-governed institutions like the Green Climate Fund and Standing Committee?

In fact, the root of continued bias against adaptation lies in the conceptual lacunae surrounding it. Climate change is global, both in cause and effect. But mitigation, regarded as a 'global good', commands international cooperation to address the root cause of the problem, however it is not succeeding because of disagreement over burden-sharing. The Durban Platform is mainly about codifying this burden-sharing under a universal mitigation framework.

What about the 'effect' dimension – the result of continued undersupply of mitigation? Should it not be regarded as a 'global bad'? Should adaptation against increasing climate impacts not also be codified as a global responsibility? The discrimination of adaptation, in relation to mitigation, will continue unless its framing and legal basis is strengthened. Therefore, the Adaptation Framework, despite being enthusiastically operationalised, direly needs a solid reframing ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mizan R Khan is a Climate Negotiator for Bangladesh, Professor at North South University, Dhaka, a Lead Author of the IPCC WG3 and currently, Visiting Scholar at Brown University, USA.

Can '1°C of climate change adaptation' replace '1°C of mitigation'?

Magnus Benzie and Richard Klein
Stockholm Environment Institute

World leaders have agreed, as part of the UNFCCC process, to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The safety and wellbeing of humankind are at stake; in fact, science even suggests that such a temperature increase would greatly alter the composition of our planet.

Yet greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise and countries' mitigation pledges so far – if fully implemented – would still allow at least 3°C of warming. With climate talks making such slow progress, some have begun to ask: Could adaptation save us? Could we reach the 2°C target with 3°C of warming but 1°C of adaptation?

We recently explored the question in a scoping study for the UK Government's AVOID programme. The answer, in short, is NO. Below we explain why – and how a better understanding of the interplay between adaptation and mitigation could lead to smarter climate policy choices at all levels.

Complementary, but not interchangeable

The need for adaptation is clear. Already, the global mean surface temperature has increased by about 0.74°C above pre-industrial levels, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the impacts are increasingly evident. Over the next three decades, past emissions alone will push the temperature increase to +1.5°C, and even rapid mitigation is unlikely to prevent all further warming. Adaptation is thus crucial to help us adapt to unavoidable changes in the short to medium term.

Yet mitigation is also essential. Emissions continue to rise, and there is a growing concern that current trends will lead to warming beyond 4°C. Without more serious, urgent mitigation, there is a serious risk of extreme or catastrophic climate change. Once certain tipping points in the climate system have been crossed, the damages may be too great to overcome through adaptation.

In-between is a space in which policymakers might explore different combinations of adaptation and mitigation. But in practice, making those trade-offs may be very difficult, if not impossible. Adaptation and mitigation occur at different scales, involve different actors, and in most cases, draw on different resources. Mitigation is primarily driven by international agreements and national policies; adaptation generally occurs on a more local scale, and involves a mix

of private actions by affected entities, public arrangements to protect impacted communities, and national policies.

There may still be synergies: for example, reforestation schemes sequester carbon while also improving water management, soil stability and biodiversity. Or there may be conflicts: adaptation measures that increase emissions (e.g. water desalination), or mitigation policies that increase vulnerability (e.g. if biofuels production compromises food security). Conditions will vary from place to place, and over time.

Adaptation in practice

Even on a global scale, it is difficult to weigh the pros and cons of investing in adaptation vs. mitigation to avoid a specific climate impact. For starters, adaptation is primarily a process, not a series of specific, one-time actions (e.g. building a sea-wall). It involves social processes, institutions and behaviours, and is complex and context-specific. To a great extent, you cannot put a price on it.

Adaptive capacity and outcomes also vary dramatically. Some countries and communities have higher adaptive capacity – not just financial resources, but human, social and ecological capacities. Others may have few options available. And as evidenced by the enormous damage caused by Hurricane Sandy in the US, even having the resources and capacity to adapt doesn't mean that people will adapt on time.

In fact, adaptation is often reactive, triggered by extreme events, for example. The choices made under such circumstances can be far from optimal and may increase vulnerability, such as when a flood-prone city builds a defensive levee, but in so doing puts downstream neighbours at greater risk.

Most importantly, adaptation has limits. There are social limits – abandoning a storm-ravaged coastal district or city may be advisable, for example, but not politically or socially feasible – and natural limits – even the most drought-resistant maize still requires water and can only withstand so much heat. Once certain thresholds are crossed, entire natural systems may be irreversibly altered.

Knowing this, it is clear that adaptation cannot replace mitigation. If anything, the limits to adaptation highlight the urgency of mitigation; it is our only insurance against the worst long-term impacts. As we enter COP18, we hope negotiators will be mindful of this stark reality, and do not use the potential for adaptation as an excuse not to take decisive action on mitigation ■

Challenges to improving transparency, accountability and integrity in climate finance

Samuel Rotta Castilla

Proética (Peruvian chapter of Transparency International)

With the deadline for fast-start climate finance commitments due next month, the question of how to raise the funds necessary for climate action is likely to be hotly debated in Doha. Whilst it is crucial that this money materialises, at Transparency International (TI) we are calling for stronger safeguards to ensure that it is spent effectively, and not lost to corruption or mismanagement.

As climate finance passes from donors to beneficiaries, through multilateral, bilateral, national or local institutions, we have been trying to gain clarity over where it is being spent and under what conditions, employing both a top-down and a bottom-up approach. We are diagnosing risks and finding solutions.

Our assessment of climate finance bodies and processes has been structured around three key concerns that offer a good indication of how exposed or immune institutions and processes might be to corruption:

- i. **Transparency** – can the public access relevant and timely information on policies, procedures, decisions and projects?
- ii. **Accountability** – how effective is financial reporting? Are whistle-blowing channels in place and sufficiently resourced? Can citizens participate meaningfully in decision-making?
- iii. **Integrity** – how rigorously are conflict of interest policies, codes of conduct and background checks applied and enforced?

At the global level, our preliminary findings point to relatively strong standards of transparency for decision-making processes at the fund level – in board meetings, for example. Yet access to information is often more cumbersome at lower levels, meaning it can be difficult to ascertain who is accountable for climate money when projects are implemented on the ground. In some cases, there is a worrisome lack of effective and independent mechanisms to receive and follow up on complaints of wrongdoing by employees, contractors, subcontractors and consultants.

At the national level, limited access to information is often a barrier to monitoring money flows and decision-making. In my country, Peru, our on-going research has shed light on a chaotic picture, caused primarily by a lack of order in government bodies' management of information on climate projects. There is little collection of data and information regarding climate finance for accountability purposes, both internally and to the public. This complexity is further compounded by the wide range of financing systems in place, with money coming from credit operations, donations and the public treasury, among others, all of them with different transparency standards and accountability mechanisms.

In other countries, our research has already exposed evidence of corruption, like in Bangladesh, where our national chapter found that large sums of climate finance had been allocated under political rather than needs-driven considerations, prompting the government to launch an official investigation into a number of projects.

What is needed to improve the situation? Robust checks and balances at global, national and local levels, including mechanisms for citizens to hold accountable those who are in charge of climate finance delivery.

At the global level, workable solutions are needed to address transparency, accountability and integrity deficits in the relationship between funds, nation states and implementing bodies. It is crucial that lessons learned from the existing climate landscape inform the design of the nascent Green Climate Fund as it prepares to channel unprecedented sums of climate money.

Nationally, we are also shining a light on situations of opacity and policy void, and engaging with fellow civil society organisations and governments to discuss how to strengthen the institutional architecture to ensure that climate finance conduits deliver what they are meant to: relief from, and solutions to, climate change for all – especially those most vulnerable to its effects ■

The author would like to express his sincere gratitude to Alice Harrison, of Transparency International's Climate Governance Integrity Programme, for her valuable help to write this article.

MORE INFO

Proética is part of TI's Climate Governance Integrity Programme, a multi-national initiative to address the issue of anti-corruption in climate finance.

www.transparency.org/programmes/detail/cgip

Making water perspectives part of climate frameworks

Lovisa Selander

Stockholm International Water Institute and the Water and Climate Coalition

As the UNFCCC negotiations commence at COP18 in Doha, countries around the globe are already dealing with the new reality of a changed climate.

As difficult as it might be to predict the effects of climate change, there is one thing we can be sure about: in the future, uncertainty will be the only certainty. A global temperature increase will change water run-off patterns, speed up evapotranspiration and the melting of glaciers, and increase the frequency of droughts, storms, and floods – turning traditional knowledge about weather and rainfall patterns on its head. In short, water is the primary medium through which climate change impacts humans and ecosystems. Floods and droughts accounted for 86% of the natural disasters that struck nearly two billion people in the last decade of the 20th century. They present major risks to agricultural production and challenge planners to create proper structures for water storage and conveyance. Furthermore, increased temperature is likely to increase the spread of water-borne diseases and parasites.

Water managers around the world already deal with issues of water availability and variability on a daily basis. By supporting and developing sustainable and proactive water management strategies and streamlining them into climate adaptation plans, we can build resilience against the impacts of climate change. Therefore it is crucial that water management perspectives become an integrated part of climate frameworks on all levels – from policy, down to implementation.

It is not only a matter of adaptation. Many mitigation strategies also have a profound impact on water resources – biofuels, forest carbon, hydropower, ecosystem services and agriculture are all heavily dependent on sustainable, resilient water resources management. Looking through a water lens, the necessity to mitigate and adapt in a coherent way becomes obvious. Adaptation and mitigation cannot become competing causes, and green growth cannot be put in place so that carbon emissions are reduced but adaptation hindered.

In July, the UNFCCC held a technical workshop on “water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies” in Mexico City. Among the outcomes of that workshop was a consensus among participants for “an urgent need for policy considerations on climate change impacts on water resources and adaptation strategies in the UNFCCC process”. As COP18 in Doha commences, it is crucial that these realisations are captured in the negotiations.

Water is a cross cutting resource, fundamental for almost all functions of society. As a consequence there is no one place in the UNFCCC process where water issues have their home. Instead, these perspectives need to be integrated in all parts of the process – and most crucially in the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), in the Adaptation Committee and in the Green Climate Fund. What it all comes down to in the end is to make the right decisions and the best investments to ensure a sustainable future for our planet. How can the UNFCCC help make sure we get there?

About the Water and Climate Coalition

The Water and Climate Coalition is a global coalition of organisations seeking to place water management at the heart of global climate change policy. The members and collaborative partners of the Water and Climate Coalition are: Cap-Net, Chartered Institute for Water and Environmental Management, Conservation International, Green Cross International, Freshwater Action Network, IUCN, Instituto Ipanema, International Water Association, Progressio, Stakeholder Forum, Stockholm International Water Institute, The Nature Conservancy, UDYAMA, University of North Carolina, The Nature Conservancy, WWF, The Global Water Partnership, and CONAGUA ■



pic: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

The climate change negotiations and alternative legal approaches

Joy Hyvarinen
FIELD

The multilateral framework for the world's attempts to slow climate change is in a weak state. The Doha Conference will test if the limited progress achieved in Durban last year was a first step towards new political momentum and stronger commitments - or another failure presented as progress.

The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are essential to a successful international response to climate change. They recognise the historical responsibility of developed countries for climate change and set out commitments for all parties, underpinned by key principles such as 'common but differentiated responsibilities' and 'respective capabilities'.

Although parties have done nowhere near enough to achieve it, the UNFCCC's objective to avoid dangerous climate change remains valid and should guide all efforts. It is worth noting that this will automatically also be the objective of any new agreement (see UNFCCC Article 2).

Countries should make every effort to strengthen these multilateral agreements, but it is understandable that some are considering other options. The limits to adaptation are reached quickly in poor and vulnerable countries, as reflected in the negotiations about loss and damage in the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

Devastating human impacts, economic losses and even loss of inhabitable territory make it extremely important to tackle loss and damage, including through providing compensation and assistance to those affected. However, loss and damage raise challenging political issues and it is not clear how far the SBI negotiations, still at an early stage, will be able to progress.

There has been growing interest in international litigation by a country or groups of countries damaged by climate change against countries with large greenhouse gas emissions. Although it might be possible to establish liability, difficulties include finding a court to consider a

claim. An advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice could be another option, but it would require agreement in the UN General Assembly or other body with authority to request such an assessment. An advisory opinion, nonetheless, could clarify important points of law.

The Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) has suggested another alternative. If one party notifies another party that they are in dispute under the UNFCCC's dispute settlement rules and the dispute is unresolved after 12 months, the party can request conciliation. Following such a request, a conciliation commission must be established.

The conciliation commission's award would not be legally binding, but it could be expected to carry strong moral force. The commission could clarify legal issues and could help develop law on climate change.

However, any country considering international litigation or dispute settlement under the UNFCCC needs to be careful. There are many legal and political pitfalls.

Some have suggested that the lack of progress in the UN negotiations means that other fora, for example the Major Economies Forum (MEF) should take on a more prominent role. Discussions in other fora can play a very important role, but making progress under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol must remain the priority. A legally binding international framework that reflects climate justice principles should shape the global community's response to climate change.

However, climate change cannot be addressed only in one specialised negotiating process. Climate change and its impacts cut across virtually all other sectors. It needs to be high on the agenda in development debates, with the needs of poor and vulnerable countries and communities at the centre. This will become increasingly important as climate change advances and its impacts increase ■

MORE INFO

Joy Hyvarinen is Executive Director of FIELD.

A FIELD briefing about conciliation commissions is available here: http://www.field.org.uk/files/field_unfccc_conciliation_briefing_july_2012.pdf



pic: Isabell Schulz

Ireland's Fast Start Finance: Helping to build resilience to climate change

David Walsh

Head of Delegation, Ireland

Despite the current global - and indeed national - economic challenges facing us, Ireland has maintained a strong and active policy of assisting several developing countries in climate related projects through its Fast Start Finance (FSF) programme.

Under the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, developed countries agreed to provide new and additional resources in climate finance (Fast Start Finance) totalling \$30 billion to developing countries over a three year period from 2010-2012. As part of the EU's €7.2bn contribution, Ireland made a voluntary pledge of up to €100 million for the three years. At the end of 2012, the actual amount contributed from Ireland will be over €110 million (or \$135m), substantially exceeding our original pledge.

The Irish FSF contribution is channelled through Irish Aid, Ireland's overseas development aid (ODA) agency, the EU's Green Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Most of this climate funding is programmed in Ireland's nine priority ODA countries with whom we have bi-lateral development partnerships. Of these, eight are Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which receive more than 95% of our climate-related funds. All of Ireland's FSF contribution has been in the form of grants, with a very clear focus on climate adaptation actions.

Irish climate finance and development

At the country level, through Irish Aid, we have witnessed the effects of climate change on the ground. Through our development work, especially on combatting hunger, we have sought to provide assistance to help farmers and communities adapt to the changing environmental context. We are scaling up many agricultural supports that deliver on both hunger and climate objectives, such as: conservation agriculture; agro-forestry; crop diversification; and the development and promotion of drought-resistant crop and livestock varieties.

Irish Aid will continue to strengthen its engagement on environmental and climate change issues to safeguard the progress already made to date towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to help protect the world's poorest communities from the increasing impacts of adverse weather events and growing environmental challenges.

Supporting and building resilience to climate change through the GCCA

As part of its overall FSF programme, Ireland has provided some €31 million to the GCCA on a range of initiatives and programmes, including those outlined below:

A funding programme in **Sierra Leone** is helping to develop institutional, technical and social capacity building and the experience required for sound forest management and governance which will give input into defining a national REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) strategy.

In **Mozambique**, funding is focused on increasing the capacity of the Government of Mozambique to adequately mainstream climate change and climate-proofing initiatives into its poverty alleviation and development strategies.

In **Uganda**, funding is directed to a programme to strengthen knowledge and capacities for climate change adaptation focusing on agriculture and, in particular, creating better access for livestock to water and improving the resilience of agricultural production systems in the Ugandan 'cattle corridor'.

In **Lesotho**, funds will support the integration of climate change resilience initiatives in the National Development Strategy which will lead to adaptation actions related to soil and nutrient management, water use efficiency, food security, and disaster preparedness. Funding will also support capacity building for stakeholders.

In **Vietnam's** Mekong Delta, GCCA funds support the Mekong River Commission's Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, helping communities and ecosystems dependent on the Mekong to prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts.

Acknowledging the additional strain that the effects of climate change are putting on communities in **Timor Leste**, in particular in rural areas, Ireland's GCCA funding is focusing on the enhancement of climate monitoring systems, the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into local development plans, and the implementation of environmental restoration, sustainable livelihood activities and sustainable forest management.

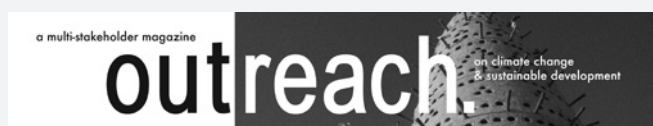
Support for the LDCF

Ireland has been a strong and consistent supporter of the LDCF, which is managed by the Global Environment Facility. Established under the UNFCCC, the Fund provides support to LDCs for the preparation and implementation of their national adaptation programmes of action. Overall, Ireland remains one of the largest per capita donors to the LDCF with our contributions to date amounting to over US \$13 million.

There is a saying in Ireland: "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine", which translates from Irish as "people live in one another's shadows" – in essence, what happens to one member of a community affects each member of that community. This is the principle that will guide Ireland's continued engagement on international climate change and climate finance matters ■

COP18 side event calendar

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TITLE	ORGANISERS
MONDAY 26th NOVEMBER	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 5	What Doha Must Deliver for the Pre and Post 2020 Climate Regime	Third World Network (TWN)
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 8	On the ground realities of loss and damage in least developed countries	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 7	Viet Nam: Policy development, financial mechanism, technology transfer to respond to climate change	Viet Nam
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 2	Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee: question and answer session	Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 6	Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the UNFCCC	Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 7	Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
	13:15–14:45	Press Conference Room 2	CDM Executive Board: Question and answer session	Secretariat of the UNFCCC
	15:00–16:30	Side Event Room 7	What Doha and the Durban Platform need to do about REDD & LULUCF	Global Witness, EIA, RFN & RFUK
	16:45–18:15	Side Event Room 7	Mediation and Climate Change: Applications Both Locally and Globally	Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 7	Islamic values and traditional knowledge in Drylands	Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 4	Gender and Climate: Moving beyond the Rhetoric	Secretariat of the UNFCCC
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 2	Climate change and education - making the future work for you	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 2	End of the age of coal: why it will happen sooner than people think	Greenpeace International
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 8	Climate Justice for LDCs	LDC Watch
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 6	Mainstreaming Sustainable Low Carbon Transport With Voluntary Commitments: From Rio+20 to NAMAs	Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)



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COY8: The International Youth Climate Movement gears up and gets ready

Sophia McNab

UK Youth Climate Coalition

The atmosphere at COY8, the 8th Conference of Youth, exudes passion, commitment, energy and determination. At the three-day event before COP18, I've joined young people from across the globe to come together to strengthen the movement of youth united against climate change. Far from a simple preliminary event, over the past eight years COY has grown to become a central feature in the International Youth Climate Movement (IYCM) calendar. Here, young campaigners stand together in pursuit of a clean, fair future.

Organised entirely by a team of young people, COY8 is a space where youth share skills to empower each other, through a series of workshops, panel discussions and energisers. In amongst the 30 workshops that took place on Saturday, Cressida Mawdesley-Thomas, from the UK, said:

"One of the highlights of COY for me was delivering a workshop with my organisation, the UK Youth Climate Coalition, to over 30 young people. It gave a beginners' guide to the UNFCCC and introduced key terms and themes, helping us to engage more effectively with the negotiations. I feel like I have tangibly contributed to the IYCM and enabled more young people to make their voice heard."

The breadth of experience being shared and the length of time devoted to these workshops reflect the nature of YOUNGO, the constituency of youth NGOs within the UNFCCC. As a horizontal organisation dedicated to consensus decision-making, the voice of every YOUNGO-er is equally important. The diversity of our backgrounds, perspectives, and skills is our primary strength that we are nurturing here at COY - and is something that will continue to be on display throughout COP18.

While some members of COY's organising team are 16 and 17 years old and therefore unable to attend COP18 itself, this gives a sense of the value and importance of COY8 to youth campaigners all over the world. The significance of the IYCM gathering has also not gone unrecognised by big players in the wider climate change community. We received a video message from Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, while the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres gave a speech on

Saturday, expressing her support for a strong youth voice in the UNFCCC process.

As a yearly opportunity to build and strengthen the movement, young people often use COY as a chance to work in regional groupings to skill-up and share knowledge for more effective regional campaigning. Something that has set COY8 apart from previous years has been this year's presence of the Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM). COY8 has marked AYCM proudly launching themselves on the international stage - and the strength and stories on display from them here show how far they have come in the 11 weeks since their conception. With national coordinators from 16 countries and their boundless energy levels, they are a brilliant example for any nation or region without its own youth climate movement. Having worked with them for only two days now, I have no doubt that they will have a profound effect on COP18.

COY does, after all, provide crucial time for YOUNGO to plan and strategise as a constituency for the COP that immediately follows. YOUNGO-ers - who for the rest of the year rely on technology to communicate - here have invaluable time to talk in person. In this way, COY enables young people to realise their potential to impact upon the UN summit. This year, we are in the process of planning multiple actions for the start of COP, as well as finalising our key messages, policy proposals and communication strategies. We are now more determined than ever to make the youth voice ring out loud and clear in the negotiations.

Reuben Makomere, a 25 year old student from Kenya, summed up the reasons why so many young people engage with the UN climate change process. She explained:

"It is important that young people have a voice at the UNFCCC because we are and will be the most affected by climate change. We are the largest demographic. This is an opportunity for us to make change. I want to convey the voice of young people in Kenya to the rest of the world."

MORE INFO

ukycc.org @ukyccdelegation

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