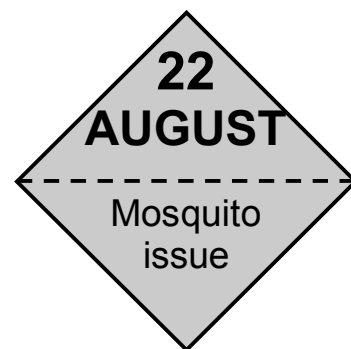


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Adaptation Olympics: Gold medal awaits!

Adaptation was high on the agenda in Bonn just eight weeks ago, kick-started by the in-session workshop. Now, in Accra, without such a stimulating workshop, ECO wonders if there is a danger that parties will either start from scratch or feel that there is little more to say on adaptation this week?

This at a time that climate change impacts become reality every day, and Poznan and Copenhagen are around the corner. There is no time to waste. Accra needs a focused discussion that picks up where we left the issue in Bonn. And that means clear responses and comments on proposals that were made by Parties so far. Progress can only come from the mutually active exchange on one's thoughts and visions.

To that end, ECO has drawn up key questions for the planned Contact Group on Adaptation. To kick-off the first meeting of that Contact Group, parties may wish to raise the following:

1. Adaptation under the future regime must be integrated into

one coherent framework that massively scales up adaptation action. Parties must make clear commitments, especially when it comes to supporting those most in need.

2. Annex 1 colleagues can be asked if they agree that the rich and industrialised countries should finance most of the adaptation needed in developing countries. The Annex I countries have after all caused most of climate change. Do not let them get off the hook.

3. ECO would like to remind parties that adaptation in developing countries will cost an estimated \$50-86bn annually. ECO wonders how Annex 1 colleagues (and, for that matter, also non-Annex 1 colleagues) think the necessary amounts should be generated: through auctioning of AAUs, a global carbon tax, contributions based on responsibility and capacity or some other creative mechanism. Yes, not all aspects of the various proposals have been looked at, but that's what delegates are here for in Accra.

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Arriving Bankrupt in Accra

Ludwig was thrilled to visit Africa for the first time. Just eight weeks after meetings ended in his hometown of Bonn, Germany, Ludwig arrived in Accra amidst a plane full of negotiators –including almost the entire U.S. delegation.

After going through customs, Ludwig noticed that a leading U.S. negotiator could not withdraw any money from the ATM – not once, but twice. “Does the world's biggest superpower – and global warming contributor – really have so little money in the bank to address climate change?” Ludwig wondered.

Ludwig hoped this was not a sign of the measurable, reportable and verifiable financing to come.

LULUCF: Creating new holes rather than plugging them?

The last few days have seen a flurry of discussion about changes to LULUCF rules and their implications. Several Annex I Parties made submissions and presentations to yesterday's first contact group on the topic. Unfortunately, to borrow a phrase from Canada's submission, they are largely focused on approaches to "substantially improve incentives" for mitigation in the sector. Translation: Parties are looking to make it easier to generate cheap LULUCF credits. Parties are calling for new sinks (harvested wood products and wetland restoration), reduced emissions liabilities through "factoring out" and special accounting rules that arbitrarily limit emissions from harvesting, despite what the atmosphere actually sees.

The technical paper released this week by the Secretariat shows that most of the proposals put forward in Bonn will have the effect of increasing the emission budgets of Annex I Parties. This will also increase the supply of tradeable units in the carbon market and therefore reduce the price. This is exactly the wrong direction!

The submission from the EU provides good reason to be concerned about this effect. It points out that the LULUCF sector has much higher rates of recalculations, uncertainties and variability than the emissions it would offset in other sectors.

Canada's proposed 'forward baseline approach' to factoring out emissions is the perfect

example of how the focus on incentives can have perverse outcomes: in trying to develop an approach to factor out natural emissions, it would give a pass on emissions from business-as-usual practices by putting them in the baseline (In the case of Canada: about 900,000 ha of annual harvest, much of it clear-felling in primary forests).

ECO implores the Parties to refocus their LULUCF efforts on plugging the holes in the current rules that allow them to pick and choose activities and allows them to evade responsibility for emissions from this sector.

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4. It's high time that Annex I parties responded to the various proposals for institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC that are necessary to deal with adaptation in a less fragmented, more efficient and targeted way – be it an adaptation expert group, a committee or a Subsidiary Body for Adaptation.

5. Test the ground for introducing a new kind of National Adaptation Plan (ECO calls them NAPs) in the future regime – like the current NAPAs, these would list the most urgent measures, but

also spell out the long-term adaptation needs for development. All developing countries (not just the LDCs) would prepare these plans, and both their preparation AND implementation would be financed through the financial mechanism of the future regime. Speaking of the most vulnerable: how would developing country governments ensure that the new NAPs particularly address the needs of their most vulnerable communities?

ECO invites all 192 Parties to respond clearly and urgently to the issues above – and submit answers to ECO. ECO will award

a Gold Medal for the best STP (specific textual proposal) on adaptation.

Bonn gave us a more concrete idea of what a future framework on adaptation could look like, through a number of elements that Parties proposed. Building on this, we must now begin to fill in the details, including guidelines and financing to prepare and implement national adaptation plans, and the establishment of regional centres.