

eco



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Shared Vision:

Picture a climate-safe future

Adaptation Tuesday: make progress priority!

Today there are a number of opportunities to move forward on adaptation.

We hope that the UNFCCC side event in the afternoon will acknowledge that National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) have not yet achieved their goal: implementation of urgent priorities. Worse yet, complicated procedures to approve projects by the GEF, amongst other factors, have absorbed a lot of the already very limited institutional capacity of LDCs.

Capacity-building, crucial to progress on adaptation, including integration into national policies, is another item under SBI (8). These processes need to be country driven, and it is important to base these discussions on the understanding that adaptation is more than usual development work and is a new challenge – preparing for uncertainties! This requires learning by doing, or translated into UNFCCC language: building capacity through implementation.

Many good ideas have been proposed: to accelerate the effective implementation of NAPAs; support non-LDC vulnerable countries in determining and implementing their urgent adaptation priorities; scale-up knowledge-sharing through regional cooperation, including through regional centres etc.; intensify capacity development and promote pilot initiatives which inform the establishment of an international insurance mechanism.

Additional funding from developed countries is needed to support implementation.

First Prize: Poland

CAN set a precedent by handing a single fossil-of-the-day award to the host country on the first day of a COP. Poland earned the award for its plenary claims to be setting an example in tackling climate change, while doing the very opposite by its damaging engagement in Europe's climate and energy package.

The judges particularly commended:

- efforts to undermine 100% auctioning of pollution permits by cutting a loophole for coal-dependent countries,
- delaying implementation of an auction scheme
- putting a price ceiling into the cap and trade system.
- backtracking on the EU heads-of-state agreement that comparable effort by developed countries in a Copenhagen deal would automatically trigger an EU 2020 target of 30%.

Of course we all very much appreciate the warm hospitality we have received in Poland. In that spirit, we hope that this is taken not as a rebuke but as a challenge. In the next two weeks, Poland has an opportunity to change and create the global solidarity that Prime Minister Tusk – and all of us – so urgently hope for.

World-beating UK targets for 2020... ...hang on, could you just confirm that?

On Monday in London the UK Government advisory body, the Committee on Climate Change, published its proposals for the UK's 2020 target. The recommended level of effort (the so-called 'intended target') is for a 42% reduction in all greenhouse gases (GHG) below 1990 levels. Once the UK Government accepts this number, it will not only have the world's strongest 2020 target (surpassing the 40% offered by Norway and Germany), it will be showing the way for other developed countries to take on mitigation targets in the range set under the Bali Action Plan.

The Committee was established under the UK's flagship new climate legislation in order to offer independent advice on GHG budgets and targets. Its first report shows in detail how substantial reductions could be achieved for a very modest cost: well below 1% of GDP by 2020. What's more, this could be achieved with limited purchase of CDM credits: well below the levels being proposed (by, ahem, the UK) for the European climate package. Of course money must be channelled to the developing world to fund clean development, but this has to be in addition to the strong domestic cuts required from industrialised countries, not a substitute for them.

When you read the small print of the report, it turns out that the 42% target would in fact be the UK's contribution to meeting the EU's upper target of 30%, once allowance is made for effort-sharing between EU Member States. The report also contains a weaker back-up target of 34%, equivalent to the EU's 20% offering, in case we fail to get a global deal... but that's not going to happen, is it? We can't plan for failure, because the conse-

quences would be catastrophic. Leadership means setting out the path to success, and the Committee has laid down a challenge to the UK Government by spelling out what leadership looks like, and demonstrating that it is achievable and affordable.

Before we get carried away, the report is far from perfect. In particular, it's not based on the latest science of avoiding a 2 degree temperature rise: the Committee apparently thinks global cuts of 50% by 2050 will be enough. If you see a scientist around, ask just how far beyond 80% we need to go to be on the safe side.

In the context of a wavering EU climate package, however, the Committee's report is extremely welcome. Developing country Parties may well be wondering what happened to the EU's role as a leader, as they watch Member States squabble about delivering a target below the range they signed up to in Bali. The Committee has bucked this trend by showing that the EU's higher target – remember 42% in the UK translates to 30% across Europe – could be met without breaking the bank.

To reiterate: here we have a blueprint for a developed country to make the kind of cuts they signed up to in Bali – and they can afford it.

This report should revitalise the negotiations, but it won't do if it stays stuck in the UK's inbox. The UK government has a huge opportunity to show leadership in Europe, and here in Poznan, by declaring straightaway that it will implement the 42% target.

Everyone knows the UK likes being up on the Germans. So come on UK, let's hear it loud and clear: yes we will.



Is Britain demonstrating the necessary steps?



Mieszko was taking a stroll through the beautifully appointed conference centre yesterday afternoon, and taking a wrong turn found himself in the area dedicated to government offices. Nearby the largest and most impressive suite, which no-one will be surprised to learn belonged to a certain notorious North American Party, he came across a tiny booth, expected to fill the needs of the myriad small island and least developed countries. It has to be asked – is space allocation based on carbon emissions?

...and is the rumour true? Are certain Umbrella Group meetings taking place in the Buzzard Room?

The public has a right to know.