“Under Pressure” – the song dedicated to the small island states details the serious pressure that developing countries are now facing with climate change. Adaptation has become increasingly important at these meetings. Year after year, delegates are reminded that the impacts of climate change are already being experienced by the most vulnerable countries and of the need for more urgent and concrete action on adaptation. Yet this attention has not translated into action, and adaptation is continuously side-lined and treated in a fragmented manner. The key question for today is, will this be any different in the Dialogue session on adaptation? ECO takes the opportunity to spell out what would be a comprehensive response to adaptation: mitigation action, adaptation finance, enhanced capacity and technical support.

Crucially, there needs to be recognition of the direct link between mitigation achievements and the impacts of climate change and therefore, the extent of adaptation that will be required. Adaptation will become increasingly difficult – and even impossible – if urgent action is not taken to reduce emissions. Work on targets must reflect the need to keep impacts within adaptive capacity – i.e. keeping temperature as far below 2 degrees as possible. This requires action from both the North and South:

1. For the Southern countries for whom adaptation is a major concern, we urge you to speak as strongly on the obligation of major emitters to mitigate climate change as you do on adaptation. There is no trade off between adaptation and mitigation and we want to hear the voices of vulnerable nations in South Asia and Africa joining with the clear demands from AOSIS for mitigation action.

2. Based on the Convention principle of ‘…common but differentiated responsibilities…’ the depth of Annex 1 countries emissions reduction commitments should balance the scale of their compensatory support for adaptation. Northern countries who don't want to be liable for exponentially increasing the cost of adaptation in vulnerable countries should commit to deeper emissions reduction targets.

Consistent and sufficient funding is needed, directly linked to the cost of adaptation and damages to the most vulnerable countries. Billions of dollars will be needed annually as opposed to the millions currently on offer and likely to be generated from the 2% levy on CDM transactions. Reflecting the key principles of polluter pays and historical responsibility, levies should be imposed on all flexible mechanisms to deliver the funding needed. Other financing streams should also be investigated.

Resilience and adaptive capacity to the existing and projected impacts of climate change must be developed for the most vulnerable countries and communities. Science and technical support and capacity building for adaptation planning and implementation is needed at regional, national and local levels. This must respond to and build on the local knowledge and coping practices of those most affected.

Adaptation can no longer be an ‘add-on’ activity within a comprehensive response to climate change. The international community is obligated through the UNFCCC to give adaptation the importance that it deserves. Failure to do so is putting at risk billions of people in poor vulnerable countries and communities around the world.
LUDWIG

Ludwig has learned that diplomatic tensions flared today in the Dialogue between Canada and Australia. Unbeknownst to most Parties, Canada and Australia have been engaged in a fierce battle over trademarks; both wanting to register the phrase ‘we are moving forward’ as their slogan for the post-2012 discussions.

The two parties have referred their dispute to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks under the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Ludwig originally bet on a successful outcome for Canada, considering that Australia had not ratified the Madrid Agreement, however he was dismayed to learn that Canada was also not a Party. When Australia pointed out that they had ratified the subsequent Madrid Protocol, Ludwig thought they had won until it was pointed out to him that Australia was potentially in non-compliance.

Ludwig cannot help but see the similarities with the current UNFCCC process. At the end of the day, Ludwig left the Aussies and Canadians still fighting: “We are moving forward”, “No, we are moving forward,” and moved on to the EU reception.

BEST OF BONN 2007 COMPETITION

The Best of Bonn Song Competition continues. Entries have been coming in thick and fast. This is your chance to enter your suggestions for the song that sums up the past two weeks of negotiations, or if you feel you have a better song for your delegation.

E-mail your suggestions to bestofbonn@climatenetwork.org or post them in the ballot box on the CAN table by 6pm today.

A CD of the songs will be awarded for the best song for Bonn 2007.

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SAVE THE CLIMATE!
GREENPEACE