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ECO has been published by Non-Governmental Environmental Groups at major international conferences since the Stockholm Environment Conference in 1972. ECO is produced co-operatively by the Climate Action Network at the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn, Germany during the May SBSTA 44 meeting. ECO email: administration@climatenetwork.org • ECO website: www.climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletters • Editorial/Production: Linh Do

Are We Really Headed There?

ECO welcomes the G7 environment ministers' commitment to develop and communicate their long-term low-GHG emission development strategies "as soon as possible" and before 2020. The G7 should also show leadership by using good long-term planning to bid our carbon-based economies a rapid retirement. Here are six key steps they should take:

1. Take action now

Financial planning 101 is easy: you can't wait until you're old to start preparing for retirement! The G7 needs to commit to developing their long-term low-GHG emissions strategies this year, and call for the other G20 members to do the same by 2018. By respecting this timeline, the collective impact of the decarbonisation strategies are an important step towards the 2018 facilitative dialogue. This provides the basis for assessing the revised NDCs being put forward no later than 2020, on the basis of equity and the latest science.

2. Plan consistently with your objectives

If Parties are truly committed to keeping temperature increases well below 1.5°C, then immediate action in all sectors and long-term development trajectories need to be consistent with this goal.

3. Maximise co-benefits

Long-term decarbonisation strategies are key in achieving

the goals of the Paris Agreement, and come with the added bonus of co-benefits. This includes improved public health, energy security, access and reduced fuel costs, to name a few.

4. Increase synergies

A little bit of foresight and planning will go a long way by enabling greater alignment between domestic and global short- and long-term goals. Countries can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, while avoiding high-carbon infrastructure lock-in by incorporating appropriate policies into national and local plans.

5. Send strong signals to the private sector

By taking the lead in signalling the end of a global economy built upon fossil fuels, and creating a positive policy framework for low/no-carbon investments, forward-thinking countries will help build investor confidence in climate-smart expenditures. In turn, these ramped-up levels of green investment will further reduce the costs of achieving deep decarbonisation.

6. Make decarbonisation plans participatory

These development strategies will impact, and require the full ownership of, the entire public. If these strategies are to be effective, their preparation must include full involvement by all sectors of civil society.

Who Runs the World?

With two women leading the APA now, Ludwig has heard about continuing progress by increasing the number of women leading national delegations at the COPs. Ludwig does have to wonder if he'll live long enough to witness gender balance at the head of delegation level though. If Parties' efforts to promote gender balance continue at the same pace, it will take until COP 46 (in 2040!) before half of the delegations will be led by women. Given that Parties committed to gender balance when they last met in Marrakesh some 15 years ago, Ludwig hopes to see a much stronger commitment to gender equality this November.

Article 6: Let's ACE This Test

In Paris, civil society was thrilled to note Parties' commitment to promote climate education, public participation, public access to information, as well as public awareness and training.

Since the 2012-2020 Doha Work Programme on Article 6, Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), is subject to a review at this session, ECO came to Bonn looking forward to engaging with Parties in identifying practical proposals to ensure enhanced implementation.

Considering the mandate provided by the Paris Agreement, ECO knows that Parties don't want to leave Bonn having only taken stock of activities over the past four years, without a more forward-looking vision. The dictionary could hardly be less ambiguous about this: enhance: VERB - "to increase or improve (something)". This a review we're certain Parties can earn high marks for if they work hard.

If there were any doubts about how to look beyond current activities, ECO has an ace or two up its sleeve for Parties' consideration:

1. Break down the silos: ensure the elements of the Doha Work Programme are integrated across all areas of work under the Convention—refocusing the annual in-session dialogues, for instance, could help strengthen the linkages between ACE and other policy areas.

2. Strengthen work on the ground: the Doha Work Programme should learn from its predecessors—the New Delhi Work Programmes—and enhance the engagement of stakeholders and government experts through regional workshops. It's great that at least 95 countries have nominated national focal points on Article 6! The ongoing review could send a strong signal to encourage these key people to better connect with civil society and experts, to play a more pivotal role.

3. Deliver for all: the dialogues organised earlier this week provided very convincing arguments on why it is important that all members of civil society benefit from the elements of Article 6, and some impressive examples of good practices. The second phase could focus on how it could effectively benefit all stakeholders.

These action should not be an ace in hole, kept in reserve. They represent a needed link between government and civil society action.

CAN and the City of Bonn has the great pleasure of inviting you to the:

CAN Party

Where: Bundesrechnungshof (Kantine), Adenauerallee 81
Trams 16, 61, 62, 66, 67 or 68 to Juridicum or Bundesrechnungshof

When: Tonight, from 9pm until late!

Remember to bring your badge and cash to buy drinks for all of your friends and colleagues.

