

ECO

THE RAD ECO ISSUE

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What's the [Talanoa] story in Bangkok?

ECO has been hearing very positive reviews from Sunday's Talanoa Dialogues, even from some erstwhile Talanoa skeptics. The good feelings, positive dynamics and constructive engagement can't all have been the effect of the kava. Concerns that issues of equity, finance and pre-2020 responsibilities would be pushed aside have not born out. There was indeed space for all stories, including in reports back from the session yesterday.

Now the question is how to turn the stories and positive spirit into effective ongoing dialogues, both in the preparatory and political phases, that generate the concrete outcomes and greater ambition needed to close the emissions gap and put us on a path to hold warming to 1.5°C.

We expect to get some clarity on this at the closing session today, but ECO knows that the Parties and the Presidencies are still digesting the events over the past week, and so may need time to develop ideas and plans in the coming months. Those ideas can be tested and refined during the Petersberg Dialogue and MoCA ministerial meetings.

The Bangkok meeting will be an ideal opportunity for the COP presidencies to update parties on their evolving plans for the Talanoa Dialogue during COP24, and get feedback from parties and observers alike. We cannot have a Bangkok session where this discussion is not advanced. This would send a signal that the Rulebook takes precedence over raising ambition, but both are intrinsically linked and fundamental to a successful COP24 and the credibility of the Paris Agreement.

Looking ahead, the Talanoa Dialogue must facilitate an assessment of our collective progress towards the 1.5°C goal and the current gaps in mitigation, adaptation and finance.

Parties have identified the IPCC special report on 1.5°C as a key input to the assessment, so the Presidencies must also indicate how they expect to use the science and the report meeting in Korea, to feed into that ongoing process.

The Katowice outcomes must include a strong signal calling for raising ambition of NDCs and support by 2020, building on the outcomes of the Talanoa Dialogue, but also responding directly to the Paris decisions that indicate that much greater ambition is required than that in current NDCs, and calling on Parties to communicate or update their NDCs by 2020.

We have a winding and potentially rocky road from here to a successful outcome in Katowice. The Talanoa Dialogue process can smooth out some of the bumps, if the Talanoa spirit can be maintained and a clear, carefully thought-out process emerges for how to move from stories to solutions and continue at COP24 in a way that engages Ministers and builds on the other high-level dialogues on Finance and pre-2020 ambition.

In the meantime, parties and non-state and subnational actors can continue to build momentum and awareness through National and regional Talanoa dialogues, and who knows, even Talanoa events at Petersberg and MoCA and IPCC gatherings?

Action

Civil society and non-party stakeholder groups call for urgent action on 1.5°C

When: 9 May, 12.00 CET, main hall of WCCB

Invite:

Come and raise your voice for 1.5°C!

Banking on Bangkok

ECO was sat for seven long days patiently listening to questions and comments by Parties. But then, it appears the light appeared and ECO was delighted to see progress on article 6 with a revised note (though still just draft elements) presented yesterday morning by the SBSTA co-chairs. ECO would like to draw the attention of negotiators to three key aspects coming out of SB48:

1. While it is great to see additional references to human rights in the revised draft notes, the call from several Parties to delete the "Principles" sections of these notes is concerning. Rather than eliminating them, more Parties should stand up to defend these Principles, including references to human rights, sustainable development, and the achievement of overall mitigation of GHG emissions. ECO is certain that Parties will want to take this opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the CDM, which failed to uphold human rights and sustainable development.
2. Several new options were added to the informal notes on ways to achieve overall mitigation through Article 6. A constructive way to reach this goal would be a percentage cancellation of credits, contrary to assuming that the mere existence of the mechanism leads to this overall mitigation objective.
3. Although the issue was raised during the session, more work is required to design strong rules on avoiding double counting, including the need for corresponding adjustments. As Parties move to content discussions at the next session, they will need to do their homework on the risks of double counting, especially when it comes to regulating the use of A6 units under non-UNFCCC mechanisms such as CORSIA.

ECO supports the continuation of Article 6 discussions in Bangkok and at pre-session events. As Parties appear to want more clarity on outstanding issues and concepts. And you know what, ECO knows non-party stakeholders would happily contribute to this process by being allowed to speak during the next session and to participate in any pre-session events.

While article 6 still needs a lot of work, ECO would like to echo the views of several Parties on the need to ensure balanced progress in all PAWP items. This means Parties and facilitators will need to be flexible when it comes to agenda setting for Bangkok; giving priority to those items which have not made sufficient progress during the SB48.

The Great Eight Guiding the Way

ECO is excited by the progress to a "navigation tool" as the 160+ page text for NDCs was a bit unwieldy. Even more thrilling is that in accepting this navigation tool Parties didn't forget about "the Great Eight" - the eight rights-related dimensions in the Paris Agreement preamble: human rights, indigenous peoples' rights, public participation, gender, just transition, ecosystem integrity and protection of biodiversity, food security, and intergenerational equity. ECO is pleased to see such a promising development!

To make sure that the Great Eight don't get lost on the way to Bangkok and Katowice, negotiators need to reiterate their support for these rights-related dimensions that orient Paris being reflected in the decision guiding implementation.

ECO also has a few suggestions as Parties look towards Bangkok. First, Parties should stress the difference between the procedural dimension of integrating human rights in the planning of the NDCs (e.g. ensuring public participation) and the substantive dimension (e.g. considering how the policies proposed in the NDCs contribute to realising societal objectives). ECO hopes that the next iteration of the text will clear any confusion between these two dimensions.

And as Parties build on this navigation tool, ECO suggests they also include other critical rights-related elements such as, food security, ecosystem integrity and the protection of biodiversity, and intergenerational equity - particularly as these elements were all mentioned during the negotiations last week. Parties must remember that if you take one of these elements out, the Rulebook crumbles. So let us fix this oversight as we move to Katowice.

For those negotiators focusing on adaptation communications, transparency framework, and global stocktake, don't worry we haven't forgot about you and ECO looks forward to working with you to ensure that the guidelines reflect this unique vision in these other critical aspects of the Paris Agreement's implementation.

And don't forget, the closing plenary is an excellent opportunity to shout out the Great Eight!

Deadlock for the Indigenous Peoples Platform - One Day to Get the Job Done!

One of the most celebrated outcomes of COP23 was the operationalization of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform (LCIPP). ECO congratulates Parties for establishing a path to enable the UNFCCC to improve recognition of the perspectives and rights of Indigenous Peoples and their importance for climate action.

Building on this success, LCIPP negotiations resumed positively last week. However, this positive spirit seemed lost yesterday during the final negotiations on the establishment of a Facilitative Working Group. One Party, in particular, laid out red lines and used provisions from the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to curtail, rather than strengthen, the work of the Platform and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

As a result, the negotiations have not yet been finalised and left many issues, both technical and highly political, were left unresolved. Parties now have one final chance to conclude discussions lest the decisions forwarded to Katowice overwhelm the already-packed COP24 agenda.

Mitigating climate change in line with the Paris temperature goals and building more resilient societies requires the contribution of all - in particular learning from communities, traditional knowledge keepers and Indigenous Peoples' experiences. It also includes respecting the interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible rights of Indigenous Peoples including those reaffirmed in UNDRIP, when developing solutions to the climate crisis.

We hope that all Parties fully embrace this principle and support the work of the LCIPP so that it can contribute to the sharing and strengthening of traditional knowledge, building of capacity and facilitating the integration of the perspectives and rights of Indigenous Peoples in climate policies.

The Parties surprised ECO last November with their ability to find common ground and to uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples in this process. We count on you to do so once again today!

CVF is clear: Step Up!

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) told parties in the Talanoa Dialogue they need to step up and enhance their climate ambition before 2020. ECO is wondering if this plea was heard?

The CVF seem to be sensing that parties are sleeping on their laurels while climate impacts ravage their countries, threaten their very existence and cause serious and costly damage and loss of livelihood.

The CVF told parties that their NDCs are seriously outdated. If the NDCs remain as they are, It's likely that we will just disappear because of the rise of temperatures soaring to 3.7°C. There will also be sea level rise that will drown whole islands, with vulnerable states and flood refugees across the world. So let's ask ourselves, what is the story we want to tell in Talanoa in decades to come? What would be ideal is for all countries to tell their stories of how they updated their climate plans, transformed their sectors and used renewable energy, people stayed in their land and dwelled in prosperity? ECO asks, which of these two is a better story to tell?

In other words, CVF said: step up and catch up with the real economy. Why are we opting for the archaic and the passé while we can have innovation and avant-garde clean technology and a future? The group told parties to show some political will and step up to the challenge because 1.5°C is a necessity.

ECO joins that call to action and tells Parties: two years ago in Marrakech the CVF stepped up and declared going 100% renewable by 2050, the EU front runners have already heard the message and also announced that they would raise their ambition, China is showing positive signs that it will follow. When are you going to catch up and commit to ambitious climate targets by 2020?



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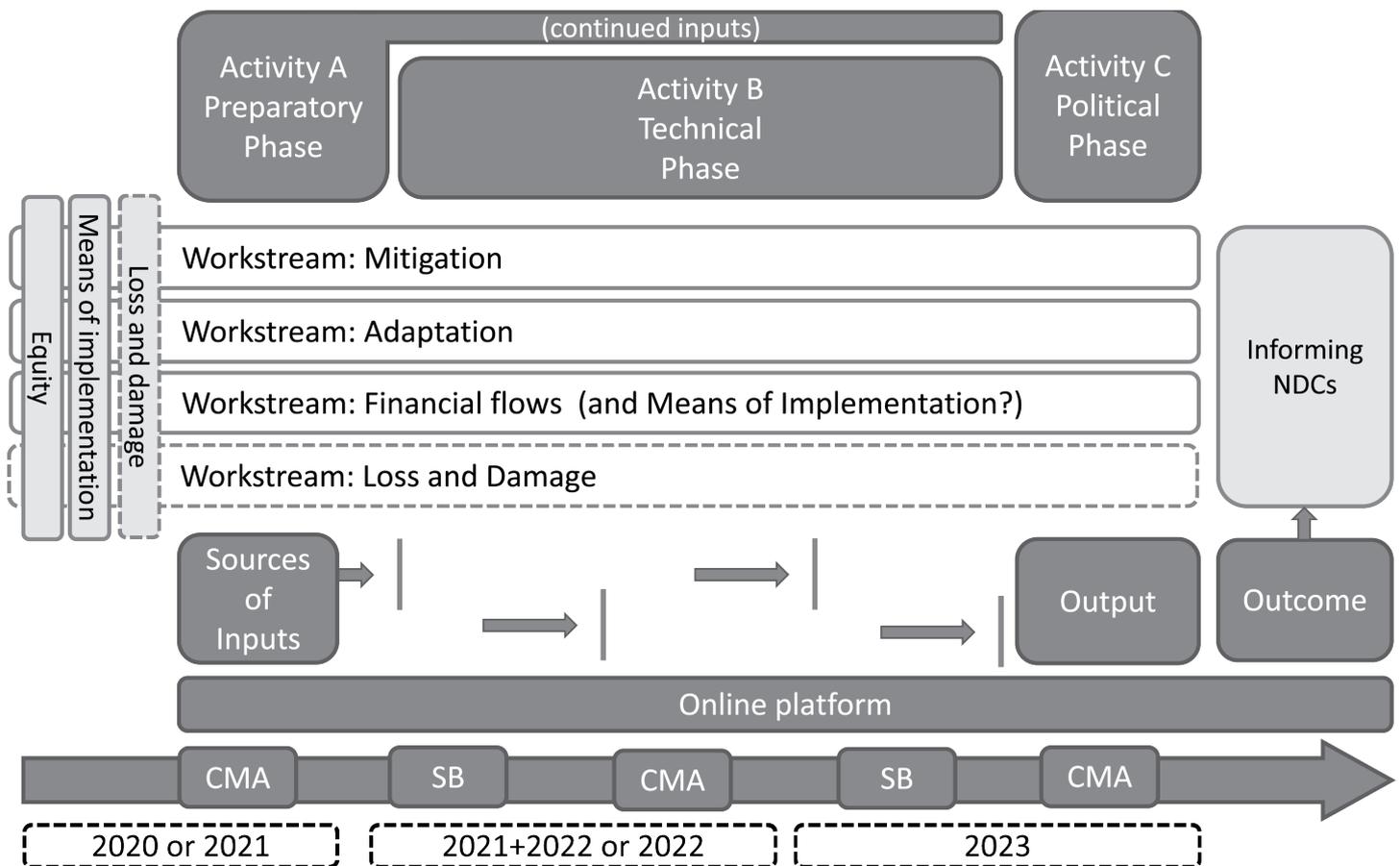
Breaking the Ice in the Global Stocktake

ECO has mixed feelings about the outcome of this session on Global Stocktake.

On one hand it was encouraging to see progress on the “informal note” but on the other it was also disappointing that Parties didn’t seem ready to get to the fundamental discussion.

For example, when co-facilitators presented their “tool” to illustrate a possible model of a GST timeline, there was a sense of hesitation on Parties’ side to engage. ECO understands negotiators’ need to “clarify” some things first, but we really need to break the ice and move forward.

Since ECO doesn’t have to concern itself with such sensitivities, let us put forward one illustrative timeline, inspired by the co-facilitators’ tool. Of course, it doesn’t do justice to the complexity of the GST but that’s not the point here.



The point here is that looking at specific requirements, e.g. with regards to sequencing of important milestones to ensure that they all can actually be fulfilled, allows fundamental decisions to be made.

Dear delegate, do you see your important issues in the figure? No? Then tell us where it should sit in the figure. In that way, we (you, Parties) can start a real conversation to create a draft text for COP24 decisions.

The figure already provided us with some realizations. A few examples:

- The duration has to be at least 2 years (and half of a CMA) if we want to give ample time for discussion - assuming we don’t create a permanent body for the GST;
- If we follow the example of the Structured Expert Dialogue, as some Parties suggested, the technical phase probably has to conclude with some sort of negotiated outcome (conclusions of whatever body carries out the GST) to make it relevant to the politicians during Activity C, which would take up at least one session;
- A body (e.g. joint working group under SBs) for GST will have to be established by a CMA meeting.

And with these realizations come some questions that need to be addressed. For example:

- Where do we want to put Loss and Damage? Some would say it should be a crosscutting theme, others would say it should be a standalone workstream. It must receive a proper treatment, but how?
- What is the deadline for inputs? Should there be cut-off points in the continued receipt of inputs, e.g. prior to each session, and if so, how often?
- To what extent do we need to define how the GST meetings should be conducted? How much can we leave it to the body to implement the GST?