

inside:

Putting a spotlight on the fate of
the Kyoto Protocol and the role of
the European Union

Potential for economic depression
in Europe hampers longterm
policy making

a multi-stakeholder
magazine on
climate change
and sustainable
development

outreach.

COP 17 | DAY 2

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About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: www.stakeholderforum.org

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. Outreach is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena and has been produced at international meetings on the environment, including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and at COP15 and COP16. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org or Sabrina@sabrinachesterman.com)

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News from COP17

Youthful Hope in a Climate of Stale Politics

Alex Lenferna
SEACC SF Chairperson

The United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) kicked off in Durban yesterday with one resounding message, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

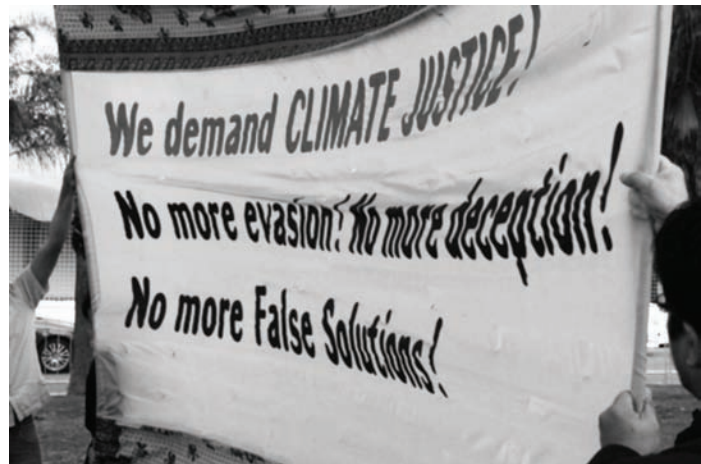
This Nelson Mandela quote has been repeated in relation to COP 17 by numerous high-profile climate change figures. The question that needs to be asked, though, is will it become an empty platitude, or will it resound through COP 17 as we progress towards a fair, ambitious and binding (FAB) climate change deal?

In the buildup to COP 17, over 500 youth from across the globe came together for the UNFCCC Conference of the Youth (COY) to discuss climate change and the upcoming conference. Throughout COY, there was an air of skepticism of politicians’ ability to take make COP17 a success. Kumi Naidoo, the Executive Director of Greenpeace, echoed this sentiment as he addressed the COY delegation, warning them not to trust his generation, as they were the ones who had driven the planet to its perilous situation. The future, according to Naidoo, was up to the youth, who he called on for a life-long commitment to the climate change movement.

If the future of the climate was indeed in the youth’s hands, then many of COY’s youth were confident that they would be the generation to make a difference. In a summary session, sentiments of confidence in the youth’s ability to be the change they wanted to see were echoed around the room. Other exciting developments from COY included the formation of the South African Youth Climate Coalition from numerous different youth initiatives across the country, who aim to use the power and energy of the youth to tackle climate change, recognising it as one of the greatest challenges of their time.

Pablo Solon, the previous Bolivian UN Ambassador, decreed COP 17 as having the potential to lock us into an incredibly dangerous climate future if serious changes were not made. The general feeling from Occupy discussions was that COP 17 was seemingly irrelevant for the majority of South Africans as most did not understand its significance.

Outside of the air-conditioned rooms of the Durban



International Convention Centre, the Occupy Movement gathered on a rough patch of grass on Durban Central to “occupy earth” and to discuss COP17. There is also the “We Have Faith” Caravan, which travelled from Nairobi to South Africa spreading the word about climate change issues across the continent and which delivered a petition to South Africa’s International Relations Minister Maite Nkoana-Mahabane at an Interfaith Climate Rally at Kings Park Stadium on Sunday. The aim of the petition was as optimistic as the group’s name; it called for world leaders to commit to a FAB agreement, for a renewal of the Kyoto Protocol and for funding to help Africa adapt to climate change.

In amongst these mixed feelings, the only thing that is clear within COP17, as rumours circulate about Canada’s possible withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol, is that the road ahead will be difficult. But, as Ambassador Jorge Argüello, Chair of the G77, said at the opening of COP17: “The challenges and difficulties of these negotiations cannot be faced with dismay and must not lead us to give up without a fight.” The “fight”, however, could go either way, so let’s hope that the We Have Faith Caravan’s faith is not unfounded. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alex Lenferna is the lead tracker of the South African Government during COP 17 under adoptanegotiator.org, as well as chairperson of the South East African Climate Consortium Student Forum (www.ru.ac.za/rugreen). Follow Alex as he tracks South Africa’s progress within COP 17 on Twitter (@al_lenferna), Facebook/Alex Lenferna or (www.adoptanegotiator.org).

The Road from Durban: Potential outcomes.

Antonio G.M. La Vina & Lawrence G. Ang

Looking back at the year's negotiations, two major themes received unparalleled attention and speculation owing to their influence on a Durban outcome – the fate of the Kyoto Protocol and the multiple facets of climate finance, including the emerging role of the private sector. These will likely be instrumental in affecting possible outcomes in Durban.

The fate of the Kyoto Protocol and the role of the European Union

The Kyoto Protocol, the only legally binding instrument under the Convention adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 2005 to reduce developed country emissions to 5%, expires in 2012 if its second commitment period is not agreed to by Parties.

In the last year, drawn-out technical negotiations were conducted on transforming emission reduction pledges into quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs), the carry-over of surplus assigned amount units (AAUs), LULUCF rules, and the future of flexible mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI). While some progress was made on these issues, particularly on LULUCF, no one can deny the combination of gloom and political uncertainty encumbering these discussions sparked among others by Japan, Canada and Russia's position that they shall not join any new commitment period under the Protocol.

Here are the options:

If the EU does decide to support a second commitment period, there is the actual legal opportunity to do so even without Japan, Canada and Russia—a "Kyoto-minus" situation. There is some talk that perhaps developing countries can also voluntarily inscribe declared targets under an Annex in the Kyoto Protocol, adding to the list of nations which shall reduce emissions under the legally binding instrument—a "Kyoto-plus" situation. The EU is now urging for further clarity on Parties' pledges and the starting period and length of the commitment period, as well as requiring progress on LCA mitigation discussions.

But by no means is this a sure-shot. Citing the "11%" total emission responsibility of the EU, EU Environment Commissioner Connie Hedegaard was quoted as saying, "What's the point of keeping something alive if you're alone there? There must be more from the 89%" - referring to the EU precondition that before it signs up to the second commitment period, other major emitters must be also held legally accountable. Durban will have to resolve this with a finesse not seen before in the UNFCCC.

Money talks: the global crisis, climate finance, and the emerging role of business

As protesters continue to "occupy" Wall Street and other country markets, Western governments continue to reel from the prevailing global financial crisis, with some already on full alert for the impending debt crisis. The economic outlook for much of the developed world is therefore, in a word, bad. Although direct reference has been avoided on the impact of this situation on the UNFCCC negotiations, Parties are well aware of its implications.

Ironically, tight pockets have not changed the flavour for what Parties expect out of the Transitional Committee recommendations towards operationalising the Green Climate Fund, which remain very ambitious.



One clear trend is the increasing recognition of public sector funds as not sufficient in covering the broad range of activities set out under the Convention, internationally and nationally. The private sector has therefore “organically” emerged as a logical partner in resourcing the common endeavor. This is evidenced not only with Secretary General’s High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing and the aforementioned Green Climate Funds discussions where private sector funds feature strongly as part of its design proposal, but also in REDD+, where surprisingly rich and detailed discussions have resulted in several initiatives being launched. Among them the Philippine-Swiss initiative “Towards Building a Governance Framework for REDD+ Finance” and the 11th Rights and Resources Institute Dialogue which focused on financing for forests and climate in the context of global crises.

Both highlighted the current scope, resources and appetite of the private sector for financing REDD+ projects, as well as opportunities for the private sector to help ensure environmental integrity and good governance. What is increasingly made clear is that there is mutual interest among governments and private sector investors to implement safeguards as both risk management and cost-containment approaches.

Unlocking the private sector’s potential to complement public financing will take not only signals — in as much as the private sector believes this to be the only element missing — but a further global understanding of their intentions, potential role and the business opportunities and models they can provide across the many facets of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A Durban outcome?

South Africa, in its report on the informal consultations it facilitated on the road to Durban, emphasised the major challenge for the Conference as being the



pic: Nikita Golovanov

“What does it say of the UNFCCC process if the main outcomes of Durban (and therefore of a five year process which was launched in 2007 in Bali) are merely a modest climate fund and a mandate to negotiate a legally binding agreement?”

second commitment of the Kyoto Protocol and links to the legal status and form of a future climate change regime. There were views that Durban can deliver: a possible mandate for a time-bound process to be launched towards a comprehensive legally-binding agreement with agreed timeframes and milestones; a Review process that could help facilitate a legally binding agreement; and confidence building towards clear MRV rules.

Another good outcome is if the world realises that perhaps it needs to open up other ways and approaches to address climate change. What does it say of the UNFCCC process if the main outcomes of Durban (and therefore of a five year process which was launched in 2007 in Bali) are merely a modest climate fund and a mandate to negotiate a legally binding agreement? It says that the process is useful but it has its limits and that perhaps we need to establish, ripen or support other venues and processes for advancing progress more quickly and decisively while returning always to the UNFCCC for overall framework and guidance.

Times have indeed changed. While clarity and positive movement have graced some issues, other age-old yet critical issues find themselves at a make-or-break situation with do-or-die implications for the world’s most vulnerable countries. Considering the challenging landscape and the golden opportunities facing Parties this December, Durban, if it is to be remembered, should be the meeting that seriously redefines the word “political will”. ■

AUTHORS’ NOTE

Antonio G.M. La Vina and Lawrence G. Ang are affiliated with the Ateneo School of Government. Although they are members of the Philippine Delegation to the UNFCCC Negotiations, including in COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, this article does not reflect official positions of the Philippine Government.

Europe should go beyond business as usual and push a Sustainable New Deal

National and European concern about the potential for economic depression in Europe is dominating choices on long-term policymaking.

The current official narrative is that of excessive austerity measures, which in this context thwarts the ambition and action needed to combat climate change while promoting social justice.

The market alone or chance will not deliver radically lower climate-damaging emissions. Europe's politicians in Durban and at home should be focusing on encouraging active, strong public policies and promoting investment in energy- and resource-efficiency. These policies will create and maintain jobs, and provide a decent standard of living.

With higher unemployment (especially for the young), ever deeper cuts in wages and pensions, increasingly insecure working conditions, rising poverty, social exclusion and social inequalities, the ETUC is actively promoting an alternative. An alternative which stabilises the economy and promotes sustainable growth, through investment in the transformation of industries and the promotion of infrastructure modernisation. An alternative which creates and maintains good quality jobs in existing and emerging sectors, in all regions of Europe. An alternative which takes Europe's leadership internationally on climate mitigation and adaptation as a central pillar in a sustainable development agenda domestically.

The ETUC suggests the following on how to achieve this:

1. The EU should ensure its domestic target reflects the IPCC's recommendation for developed countries (-25 to -40% domestic CO₂ emissions by 2020), through strong binding energy efficiency standards and investment in renewables. This target should be seen in the context of a longer-term policy to achieve -80 to -95% by 2050 on 1990 levels, and within a framework guaranteeing a Just Transition.

2. We should keep our promises and ask others to do the same. Europe should bring forward the funds promised for the period 2013-2020, in the framework of the Fast Start Finance package concluded in 2012, as well as a third of the total amount of \$100 billion annually as from 2020. This should be additional to EU member states responsibilities to provide 0.7% GDP in overseas development aid, and not substitute this earlier commitment.



pic: Piotr Ciuchta

3. The low price of CO₂ urgently needs addressing if we are to give the right price signals to launch the transition. A CO₂ tax should reflect the internalisation of external costs in investment risk calculations, whilst protecting the most vulnerable. Investment flows must be redirected to support R&D and innovation in low-carbon technologies and processes.

4. The reform of existing European funds would benefit investment in progressive social and environmental projects. However, new ways of providing solidarity in the crisis and rebalancing the economy are needed, such as Eurobonds and a Financial Transaction Tax to stimulate sustainable investment and lever private capital towards sustainable economic development policies.

5. A poorly managed social transition to a low-carbon economy will result in higher social and economic costs and threatens a backlash against climate policy. Therefore, the ETUC calls for a European Just Transition Roadmap to implement this international commitment agreed in Cancun/COP16. The Roadmap should be drawn up in collaboration with the trade unions and should include: the active promotion of social dialogue at all levels, sectoral roadmaps managing the transition and targeting investment, public-led education and training strategies, instruments on the anticipation of change and restructuring, the promotion of strong and effective social protection systems, and the respect for fundamental trade union rights and human rights.

The ETUC believes that without ambitious climate targets and decisive leadership on climate and energy policies now, the economic, environmental and social situation will continue to deteriorate. We are convinced that to stimulate sustainable growth in Europe, increased ambition beyond a business as usual scenario is necessary. In the face of the current assault on welfare provisions, social rights and collective bargaining systems, workers in Europe are fighting for a Sustainable New Deal for Europe combining the needs of people and planet before profit. ■

For more information please consult www.etuc.org

New Research Reveals Pathways for Action on Climate Change

Noel Casserly
UNFCCC National Focal Point, Ireland

A new paper published by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the Government of Ireland, offers options to scale up climate action globally in Durban, Rio and beyond. The paper shows that there are far more options to counter climate change than acknowledged or promoted.

Building the Climate Change Regime: Survey and Analysis of Approaches, reviews more than 130 proposals put forward by governments, non-governmental organisations and academics to design a climate regime capable of delivering adequate mitigation action. The key elements in the paper will be presented at a side event in the EU Pavilion on Friday 9th December (13.00hrs) with speakers from the Government of Ireland, UNEP and WRI as well as perspectives from developing and developed countries.

Building the Climate Change Regime clearly shows that there is a path forward for climate negotiators and offers a menu of options to national governments to mitigate climate change, both within and outside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report, which suggests that there are a number of pathways toward the desired level of ambition, also highlights the need to mobilise a range of public and private sector actors at the international, national and sub-national levels, who can contribute to climate governance, emission reductions and adaptation investment.

The report breaks down proposals into five key issues that have been major points of debate:

1. Options under the UNFCCC to Increase Ambition: Within the UNFCCC, new approaches could involve reducing the emissions of additional greenhouse gases, including additional sectors, and strengthening accounting rules for emissions and emission reductions. Utilising tools within the UNFCCC can be beneficial because they minimise duplication and implementation costs while facilitating trust-building. However, other complementary options should also be considered.

2. Options outside the UNFCCC to Increase Ambition: Beyond the UNFCCC process, approaches include

multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral and domestic strategies. These approaches offer prospects to mobilise actors around shared interests like development, trade, human rights, energy or food security. While these new strategies can generate greater ambition, one disadvantage of following approaches outside the UNFCCC is a risk of undermining existing processes and creating inefficiencies.

3. Means for Sharing the Mitigation Effort Under the UNFCCC: Various proposals could be used to allocate responsibility to bridge the gap between the current level of effort and scientific recommendations. Possible approaches include dividing mitigation efforts based on countries' capacity or based on countries' contribution to the problem. Setting a global carbon budget would help ensure that the climate regime meets the adequacy standard, but it could be difficult to implement new allocations for emission obligations.

4. The Role of Various Actors in Tracking Country Performance on Mitigation: Harmonised global accounting, reporting and verification standards are fundamental to progress. Two options are to use tools within the UNFCCC or outside the UNFCCC. Both options are discussed in detail.

5. The Legal Form of a Future Climate Agreement: The issue of legally binding commitments is central to the debates ahead of Durban. The paper presents multiple options for climate negotiators: to proceed without new, legally-binding commitments; to commit to achieving new legally-binding commitments immediately; or to strengthen the components of legal character over time to achieve new, legally-binding commitments as soon as possible.

An illustrative finding in the report is that it is possible to build upon existing UNFCCC processes to strengthen the climate regime and raise the overall level of ambition. For example, a review under the UNFCCC of aggregate progress towards the 2 degree goal could facilitate an increase in the ambition of countries' commitments. The UNFCCC can also provide a strengthened institutional framework, possibly binding in nature, to anchor, coordinate and review the commitments of countries. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The paper was launched at events in Washington, DC, and Dublin on 24th October featuring key experts from WRI, UNEP, the Government of Ireland, and partners. To read the full report, visit: <http://www.wri.org/project/moving-unfccc-forward>.

Europe's pathway to Rio+20

Creating a green, fair economy in the Regional Preparatory Meeting

Farooq Ullah

Head of Policy and Advocacy, Stakeholder Forum

This week in Geneva, representatives from across Europe, the UN and other parts of the world will come together in the historic Palais Des Nations to discuss the forthcoming Earth Summit next year. Twenty years on from the original Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, an objective of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20) is to secure a renewed political commitment to sustainable development. This European Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) - the last of the global regions - will prepare the contribution from Europe to Rio+20.

As the original headquarters of the League of Nations, the Palais Des Nations is no stranger to such international meetings and its walls have undoubtedly heard many discussions on world crises. Although the League failed, it was immediately succeeded by the United Nations "to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war... [and]... reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights".

This brings us to sustainable development. Humanity faces critical decisions now more than ever. The scale of the impact and cost of our current economic crisis will soon be overshadowed by that of the impending environmental crisis. Over the past 50 years, our current global economic model has failed to deliver the sustainable society that we both aspire to and need.

The concept of sustainable development that was elaborated at the first Earth Summit in Rio still provides a compelling vision of the transformation that needs to be made. But implementation of that vision has fallen far short.

Additionally, operating within planetary boundaries is a necessary precondition for sustainability. But at present the world is pressing harder against ecological limits and we have already breached the safe operating space of key environmental limits.

At the same time, inequality and unfairness is growing between and within countries. Poverty has increased in absolute terms, and the gap between rich and poor is growing. Furthermore, the world's population is increasing rapidly (a projected 9 billion by 2050 from the current 7 billion) which will increase the demand for resources and increase adverse impacts such as pollution and waste.

Rio+20 presents world leaders with a unique opportunity for change. We need to revive the original Rio momentum and launch the transformation towards a truly sustainable global economy that promotes true prosperity for all in a socially just and equitable way now and into the future, while acknowledging and respecting environmental limits. That is the Green and Fair Economy. This will require bold political leadership and engagement of all parts of society to bring about the necessary transformation of the global economy. It will require fundamental reforms in political systems and institutions and a shift in values and behaviours.

We can only hope that our European leaders will take inspiration from their historic surroundings and come up with concrete actions to drive forward success at Rio next year. ■

“Over the past 50 years, our current global economic model has failed to deliver the sustainable society that we both aspire to and need.”

Denmark's road map to the future

Katherine Richardson

(Article is an edited excerpt from chinadialogue)

In the absence of a global deal on climate change, Denmark has embraced an ambitious plan for fossil-fuel independence by 2050. Can other nations learn from their example?

The Danish Commission on Climate Change Policy reported in 2010 that Denmark could be independent of fossil fuels by 2050, with a greenhouse-gas emission reduction on the order of 80% compared to 1990 emissions. The commission defined independence from fossil fuels as: no use of fossil fuels for energy in Denmark. Import of energy based on fossil fuels was allowed, but the total amount of renewable energy produced in Denmark must, as a yearly average, be at least equal to Danish energy demands.

According to data from 2009, renewable energy sources supply 18% of gross energy production in Denmark, with biomass being, by far, the largest contributor. Approximately 3% of the gross energy supply comes from wind, while approximately 20% of the electricity is produced from wind power. Nevertheless, the commission concluded that it is realistic to assume that 100% of Denmark's energy needs in 2050 can be covered by electricity generated from renewable sources. The commission's relatively optimistic assessment is based on an assumption of significant technological development with respect to both electric vehicles and "smart grids".

Abundant wind energy resources, particularly offshore, and relatively large per capita biomass resources compared to other European Union countries could likely provide the basis of the future, fossil fuel-free energy sector. The role of other energy sources—solar, geothermal, wave—will depend on their possible development to commercial viability. Energy production in the future will largely be based on fluctuating sources, thus requiring a degree of flexibility on the demand side.

Considerable investment in new infrastructure will be required and energy will, regardless of its source, become more expensive than it is today. However, infrastructure investment will also be necessary with continued dependence on fossil fuels and fossil fuels will become more expensive over time. Given this, the model calculations carried out for the commission show that the difference between energy costs for Denmark in phasing out fossil fuels, compared to those where present energy

forms are continued until 2050, is likely to be less than 1% of gross domestic product (GDP).

The commission's analyses suggest that Denmark has access to wind resources in excess of its projected 2050 energy demands, but that 100% reliance on wind power would not be possible without significant technological development in energy storage. Therefore, the only limitation to incorporating wind in the new energy system appears to be the current technical capacity to accommodate a fluctuating energy source.

Biomass resources in Denmark are, on the other hand, estimated to be insufficient to meet the projected 2050 energy demand. Assuming present levels of food production are maintained, potential domestic biomass resources (including waste) would only cover some 25% of present gross energy consumption and, at best, less than 50% of the projected 2050 demand. Furthermore, the potential limits on the sustainable production of biomass globally are currently unknown. Therefore, the commission analysed the consequences for the Danish energy system using different assumptions concerning the amount of biomass available for energy purposes.

Greater energy efficiency is an important part of the strategy for independence from fossil fuels, as it is the key to minimising the costs of transformation.



pic: Bo Hansen

Infrastructure investment comprises the major cost of becoming independent of fossil fuels. These costs are held at a minimum if production of energy is designed to meet that actual energy demand, rather than an artificially high demand. On the basis of existing studies concerning the cost effectiveness of energy-efficiency investment and historical trends in efficiency improvement, the commission estimated that an average house in 2050 will use only 40% of the energy used today, despite a doubling in demand for energy services. Although the energy use per square metre of house or vehicle will be significantly less, the total energy demand in Denmark is predicted to only fall by 10% to 25% because of this demand for new energy services.

Central to the commission's analyses is the recognition that the energy sector is comprised of both supply and demand sides and that both can be used in the transformation of the energy

system as a whole. Another important assumption is that the costs of removing fossil fuels from the energy system in Denmark will be influenced by international developments. Therefore, the commission considered two scenarios: one where the world embarks on an ambitious climate policy, based on limiting carbon levels in the atmosphere to 450 parts per million, and, another, with an "unambitious" policy scenario, where no increase in current rates of emissions reduction are realised and fossil fuel scarcity would be the main driver of energy prices.

The commission's analysis suggests that Danish gross energy demand in 2050 will, as a result of the deployment of cost-effective energy efficiency initiatives, be slightly less than it is today. The models used in the analyses choose the most cost-effective energy source at a given time. ■

profile. Daisy Streatfeild



Nationality: British

Country of residence: U.K.

Current Position:
Head of International Climate Finance Negotiations for the UK.

What prompted your early interest in the environment?

About ten years ago, I read a book called *Dead Heat: Global Justice and Global Warming* by Tom Athanasiou and Paul Baer. It's a short accessible summary of the science of climate change, and the scale of the challenge. I defy anyone to read it and not feel the urgent need to do something about climate change.

Describe your first attempt to 'save the planet':

I read 'Dead Heat' while at university, so my housemates bore the brunt of my early attempts to save the planet. Repeatedly turning off the heating during a harsh Scottish winter proved by far the least popular.

Favourite quote:

'Do or do not. There is no try' (Yoda, Star Wars)

How did you get to the role you are in today and what advice would you give aspiring climate champions?

I wrote my Masters dissertation on a pretty specialist subject – the role of export credit agencies in supporting renewable energy. My tutor told me I should do something more mainstream to help me get a job, but I obstinately stuck with it because I believed it was an important issue. As it happened WWF were running a campaign on export credits at the time and offered me a job as a result. My experience there helped me get a job working on climate issues in the UK government where I've been for the last three years.

What do you believe should be achieved at COP17?

A key objective is to make progress on delivering the Cancun Agreements, continuing to put in place the global climate architecture including on adaptation, forests, technology and measuring

and reporting emissions. Climate finance is a big part of that, and we want to operationalise the Green Climate Fund in Durban.

We also need to move forwards on the issues that were not resolved in Cancun – legal form and mitigation ambition. That includes progress towards a legally binding instrument covering all parties which commits all major economies to binding targets to lower their emissions, preserving the rules based approach that we have in the KP, and making progress to reach a common understanding on the size of the mitigation gap and how we can close it.

What do you think the priorities for action should be emerging from COP 17?

On finance we need to work to ensure there's no gap in finance after Fast Start. The UK has already budgeted for this. Our £2.9 billion International Climate Fund will provide scaled up public finance for adaptation, low carbon development and REDD out to 2015, but we need to ensure this is disbursed as quickly as possible and delivers real impacts on the ground. We want other donors to also make commitments for post-Fast Start finance as soon as possible.

What is your aim within your role for 2012?

I need to make sure we deliver the rest of our Fast Start Finance. We're two thirds of the way through the fast start period and we've allocated two thirds of our pledge – so we're well on track to do so.

And I'll be working to make progress on mobilising new sources of finance – to ensure we deliver on the commitment to mobilise \$100 billion per year by 2020.

COP17 Side Events Calendar

Date	Title	Host
29/11/2011	Enforcement and Anti-corruption Measures Essential to REDD Success	Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Global Witness Limited
29/11/2011	The activities and progress of Mexico on Climate change and low carbon development will be presented	Mexico
29/11/2011	Global climate financing: how effective is it at the country level?	ODI, Transparency International
29/11/2011	African first ladies forum on climate change	Center For Climate Change and Enviromental Studies
29/11/2011	Agro-ecology, climate resilience and planning for adaptation	The Gaia Foundation, Development Fund
29/11/2011	Bridging the Emissions Gap With Policies That Work	European Climate Foundation (ECF), Climate Analytics GmbH
30/11/2011	Fair Climate: making climate finance work for the poor	Institute Research for the Upliftment and Prevention of Poverty (Nova Institute), The Fairtrade Foundation
30/11/2011	How is REDD+ unfolding on the ground? An exploration of the social, political and biophysical issues	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
30/11/2011	Making Progress with REDD+: Applying Lessons Learned to Enhance Success	UNEP
30/11/2011	Pioneer experiences on indigenous REDD+ Initiatives: The Surui Forest Carbon Project	Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM)
30/11/2011	Aviation and Climate Change	International Air Transport Association (IATA)
30/11/2011	Addressing REDD+ social and environmental safeguards:experiences using REDD+SES and other mechanisms	Ecuador, Conservation International
30/11/2011	Post-2012 Market Mechanisms: adressing design and governance challenges	Joanneum Research (JR), Climate strategies, Oeko-Institut (Institute for Applied Ecology e.V.), Berlin
01/12/2011	Launch of GHG Protocol Product & Corporate Value Chain Standards	World Resources Institute (WRI)
01/12/2011	Fresh Thinking Forum: What's Involved in Taking Corporate Sustainability to the Next Level?	CPSL
01/12/2011	Ensuring Survival: Oceans, Climate, and Security	South Africa, International Coastal and Ocean Organization (ICO)
01/12/2011	Green technology and China's climate adaptation: toward a low carbon society	Xiamen University
01/12/2011	Cracking the code: Private sector solutions to facilitate effective global action on carbon emission	Carbon Markets and Investors Association (CMIA)
01/12/2011	The comparative advantages of Brazilian companies towards a low carbon economy	Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD - Brazil)
02/12/2011	Leveraging private sector financing and investment	International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
02/12/2011	Climate-Smart Agriculture - a transformative approach to food security, adaptation and mitigation	IFAD
02/12/2011	Green Climate Fund: The private financial sector's perspective	UNEP - Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
03/12/2011	Water, Climate and Development Day	SF, SIWI and GWP
03/12/2011	Oceans Day	The Global Forum
03/12/2011	Agriculture and rural development day	IFAD, WFP, EU Rockefeller Foudation
03/12/2011	Climate Forced Migrants : Human Rights Perspective	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust)
03/12/2011	Indian Industry Perspective on Market Based Mechanisms, Technology Transfer, Trade & Climate Change	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
03/12/2011 - 04/12/2011	World Climate Summit	World Climate Ltd

Subnational Governments at the Forefront of Climate Action

Subnational governments from the North and South are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and the strengths of their societies in climate action. They are often responsible for the elaboration and implementation of policy, legislation, fiscal mechanisms and public investments plans. This is in areas which directly influence GHG emissions levels and deal with the impacts of climate change.

Subnational governments are determined to address the issues of climate change and the economic difficulties many of them are facing by turning these challenges into an opportunity to move towards greener, smarter and more inclusive societies. In the last years, subnational governments have concretely shown that they take their climate change responsibilities seriously. Local and subnational governments gained full recognition of their crucial role in climate action as 'governmental stakeholders' in the official Cancun Agreements of COP16 and will therefore continue to work towards the implementation of this notion.

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD works tirelessly to champion the work of subnational governments on sustainable development, including climate action. Established in 2002 at the World Summit of Johannesburg,

nrg4SD is a non-profit international organisation representing subnational governments, namely Federated States and Regions, and associations of subnational governments at global level. nrg4SD promotes understanding, partnerships and projects in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition the important contribution of subnational towards sustainable development.

Where can you find nrg4SD at COP17?

Friday 2 December - 07.30-21.00 : "The Durban Local Government Convention: Adapting to a changing climate - Towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond" - organised by ICLEI - Distinguished guest speech by nrg4SD (11:00 - 12:00) - eThekweni City Hall, Durban

Monday 5 December - 18.00-20.00 : Wallonia - Africa Fast Start Programme and 360° Tour of Climate Action by Subnational Governments, organised by Belgium - Wallonia - nrg4SD convenes a high-level political delegation - Warsaw Room, EU Pavilion, ICC

Tuesday 6 December - 18.30 : Official launch of "Momentum for Change Initiative", organised by UNFCCC Secretariat - nrg4SD showcases the Mbale-Wales Partnership - Plenary 2, ICC

Wednesday 7 December - 15.00-16.30 : "Financing Climate action at Subnational Level", co-organised by nrg4SD, The Climate Group and CDC Climat - Blyde River Room, Durban Exhibition Centre (DEC)

Wednesday 7 December - 18.30-20.00 : "Buenos Aires province perspective - Strategies to tackle climate change", organised by Buenos Aires province - participation of high level representatives from Buenos Aires and Co-Chair North of nrg4SD - Apies River Room

Saturday 3 - Friday 9 December - nrg4SD Exhibition stand - Durban Exhibition Centre (DEC)

For a full list of nrg4SD activities during UNFCCC COP17 please visit: <http://www.nrg4sd.org/nrg4sd-unfccc-cop17cmp7>

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