

United Nations Climate Change Summit 2008

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Words
into
Action

Special Edition

for delegates and stakeholders



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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

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by the conference host

1.2 From Kyoto to Poznań
A review of the major decisions and initiatives that form the background to COP 14, with a particular emphasis on last year's major meetings in Bangkok and Bali.

1.3 A digest of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its Synthesis Report, providing the essential data that informs the climate change debate and decision making process.

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SECTION 2 CONFERENCE AGENDA & COMMENT

2.1 An overview of the COP 14 agenda and its potential in addressing the challenges of the next 40 years, the meetings of the principal bodies, and comments on both, including: The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice; The Subsidiary Body for Implementation; The Ad Hoc Working Groups; The Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee; The CDM Executive Board; The Consultations on the Adaptation Fund; The DNA Forum; The Expert Group on Technology Transfer, etc.

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SECTION 3 FINANCE

3.1 Investment and financial flows
It is an obvious truth to say that investment, in one form or another, is a sine qua non in most attempts to significantly mitigate the effects of climate change. Experts on finance and those "working at the sharp end" give their views on building approaches on both the macro and micro levels that will achieve results, as well as commenting on the reasons for past failures. Their comments are set against the background of the UNFCCC Poznań event that will focus on investment and financial flows.

3.2 Financial Mechanisms
The contribution of countries to climate change and their capacity to prevent and cope with its consequences vary enormously. The Global Environment Facility was set up in 1991 to provide grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment and increase the capacity for sustainable lifestyles at a local level. Funding opportunities under the GEF Trust Fund include the Strategic Priority on Adaptation and three additional funds, established in 2001: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF); the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); and the Adaptation Fund (AF). The LDCF and the SCCF are operated by the GEF. The AF will be operated by an Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), established at COP13. How effectively have the funds been applied and what 'return on investment' could be demonstrated in the 2007 GEF review?

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SECTION 3 FINANCE (CONT...)

3.3 Clean Development Mechanisms

The Kyoto Protocol broke new ground by defining three innovative “flexibility mechanisms” to lower the overall costs of achieving its emissions targets. The aim was to design a system that fulfilled the cost-effectiveness the mechanisms promised, which at the same time addressed concerns about environmental integrity and equity. All three mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol are based on the Protocol’s system for the accounting of targets.

In particular, Clean Development Mechanisms are expected to generate investment in developing countries, especially from the private sector, and promote the transfer of environmentally-friendly technologies. How far can market forces and the private sector be relied upon to deliver the technologies and infrastructure that is the prerequisite for sustainable development?

community to achieve this objective is dependent on an accurate knowledge of GHG emissions trends, and on our collective ability to alter these trends. How accurate is the available data?

4.3 The Brazilian Proposal

As part of the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol, the Brazilian delegation made a proposal, in May 1997, to set differentiated emission reduction targets according to the impact of the various parties’ historic emissions on temperature increases. At Bali, in December 2007 a special in-session side event took place under the auspices of The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at which research institutions, scientists and others engaged in this work could present their results. The subsequent report concluded that there is a 30% potential discrepancy in the case of recent emissions: where does this leave the setting of emissions targets?

4.4 International Transport

Emissions from international aviation and maritime transport are calculated as part of the national greenhouse gases (GHG) inventories, but are excluded from national totals and reported separately, as they are not subject to the limitation and reduction commitments of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. This article attempts to quantify the probable contribution these elements make to GHG in the context of The Brazilian Proposal and puts the case for their inclusion in the national totals.

4.5 Compliance

The Kyoto Protocol compliance mechanism is designed to strengthen its environmental integrity, support the carbon market’s credibility and ensure transparency of accounting. Its objective is to facilitate, promote and enforce compliance with commitments under the Protocol. Structured such that it is among the most comprehensive, strongest, most rigorous and effective systems for a multilateral environmental agreement, it is as crucial to the success of the implementation of the Protocol as accurate data capture. We examine and comment on the amendment of the Protocol in respect of procedures and mechanisms relating to compliance and the latest report of the Compliance Committee.

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SECTION 4 TARGETS AND COMPLIANCE

4.1 Emissions Trading

Emissions trading provides for the acquisition of units from other ‘Annex Parties’ and use of them towards meeting their emissions targets under article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol. Transfers and acquisitions of these units are tracked and recorded through the registry systems. This article examines the fundamental concept of emissions trading and asks whether it is capable of contributing anything of long term significance.

4.2 Greenhouse Gases Inventories

The primary objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent and reduce dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system. The ability of the international

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SECTION 5 POLICIES, METHODS & TOOLS

5.1 Policies & Methods

Specific commitments to mitigate climate change are laid down in the UNFCCC's articles. The articles make provision for the adoption of national policies and corresponding measures to limit anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in the drive to return to earlier levels. This feature looks at the main planks of the policies that the signatories were to target (energy efficiency; greenhouse gas sinks; sustainable agriculture; renewable energy, carbon sequestration; subsidy removal for environmentally-damaging activities; reforms to promote emission reductions; transport sector emissions; and controlling methane emissions) and asks how much progress has been made.

5.2 Education

The role of education, training and public awareness is paramount if the anthropogenic sources of climate change are to be effectively addressed. It is an undertaking of signatory governments to promote the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes, public access to information, public participation, and the training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel. Starting with a comparison of the per capita funding made available in both developed and developing nations, this article looks at the requirements for, and the probability of, long term success.

5.3 Cooperation with International Organisations

Cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as scientific bodies, UN agencies, IGO's, NGO's and other conventions, is an important aspect of the processes set in train by UNFCCC. For example, cooperation with other conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), has become an integral part of the SBSTA agenda. Initiatives taken include the preparation of technical papers and reports that consider the links between climate change, bio diversity and desertification. The volume of information exchanged has grown to the extent that the creation of a Joint

Liaison Group (JLG) between CBD, the UNCCD and the UNFCCC has become necessary. Does cross national, extra-governmental work such as this hold out the best hope of mitigating the effects of climate change?

5.4 Capacity Building

Capacity building cuts across many of the issues under consideration in the climate change process, and has featured in several COP decisions. The need for capacity building, especially in developing countries, to respond to climate change has long been recognized in the UNFCCC's work on issues such as technology transfer, communications and funding. Under the Convention, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) is charged with providing advice on "ways and means of supporting endogenous capacity building in developing countries", while the Kyoto Protocol commits signatories to cooperating in, and promoting, "the strengthening of national capacity building". We ask representatives in various countries what they feel about the quality of (SBI) advice and how their own capacity building programmes have benefitted.

5.5 Methods & Tools

New methods and tools for the evaluation of the impacts of climate change and vulnerability and adaptation to it, are constantly being developed. Equally, the application of those already in use is steadily being refined. The multiplicity of methods and tools for making these evaluations and of sources of information regarding their application created a need for a centralised, regularly updated, source of information which was identified as early as 1999 when a compendium of these methods and tools was first compiled. We look at both the multi-sector approaches and the sector specific methods available and ask if the tools are as relevant as they could be.

5.6 Adaptation - a special report

The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is now well over half way through its five-year programme. Launched in 2005, its objective is to help all countries improve their understanding of the impacts of climate change and to make informed decisions on practical actions

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SECTION 5 POLICIES, METHODS & TOOLS (CONT...)

and measures. We report on how this important programme has so far lived up to the expectations in its nine main areas of work and whether generally applicable potential models are starting to emerge in the programme's stated aims to enhance capacity and cooperation in managing climate change risks; develop, disseminate and apply knowledge; integrate actions to adapt to climate change with those needed to achieve sustainable development.

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SECTION 6: SUSTAINABILITY & DEVELOPMENT

6.1 The solutions conundrum
The need for countries, particularly in the developing world, to reconcile what often appear to be the diametrically opposed demands of reducing climate damage with the basic need to improve living standards has been part of the climate debate since before the Rio earth summit. Worsening the effects of climate change in the search for sustainable energy sources has brought issues such as reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries into sharp focus. This and other hoped for solutions that could become part of the problem are examined in a discussion based on the potential of bio fuels and, with the dramatic recent rises in oil prices, the economics driving their development.

6.1.1 A focus on developmental pressures, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF)
Deforestation, mainly conversion of forests to agricultural land, continued at the rate of some 13 million hectares per year from 1990 to 2005. The immediate consequence is the release (as CO₂) of the carbon originally stored in the trees, particularly if the trees are burned. In the short term, preventing deforestation would have the most immediate carbon

stock impact of all available options. The issue is no longer whether deforestation is undesirable in the context of climate change, but what practical steps are available to reduce and, ultimately, to reverse the trend.

6.3 Regional overviews
China, India and the U.S.A.: how can the biggest contributors to global warming reconcile the opposing demands on them for both ever increasing capacity and sustainability? Includes a summary of the Honolulu (January 2008) meeting of the "big emitters" group set up by the Bush administration of 16 major producers of greenhouse gases.

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SECTION 7: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGIES

7.1 Research
Research and systematic observation has been a regular and separate agenda item of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) since October 2002. A principal objective is to encourage cooperation to improve the capacities of developing countries to participate. This article reports on how well this crucial cooperation has developed and features case studies of projects that have benefited in Africa and Asia.

7.2 The development and transfer of technologies
In 2007, at Bali, it was agreed to reconstitute the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) for a further five years, with the existing framework as its main model. We report on the progress and achievements of the EGTT in enhancing the implementation of the framework; the adequacy of its terms of reference; and the availability and allocation of resources for it in the context of the issues mandated by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

7.3 Interactions with the ozone layer
Greenhouse gases that also deplete the ozone layer which were controlled by the 1987 Montreal Protocol include the

SECTION 7: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGIES (CONT...)

synthetic compounds chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are used as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs in some applications, as they do not deplete the ozone layer. However, they are greenhouse gases, and as such are covered by the Climate Change Convention and are also included in the six greenhouse gases subject to emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol. This article focuses on the commercial imperatives driving the development of substitutes and how effective industry has been in making 'neutral-impact' products a priority.

7.4: Renewable energy delivery systems

A review of renewable energy systems and sources and the extent of their application, with comments from those working on their development, together with expert assessments of the extent to which each - wind, wave, tidal, solar, geothermal - can contribute in specific regions, with reference to audits of projected demands. Against a background of continuing capacity shortfall, the re-emergence of nuclear power as a long term solution is also discussed.



Kevin Rafferty

Kevin Rafferty is a writer, author, and commentator of forty years standing on matters financial, environmental, and political and one of the most respected experts on Asian affairs. Amongst his numerous accolades is that of International Reporter of the Year at the British Press Awards. His journalistic career encompasses the Financial Times, where he was Asia editor and later regional editor; the Observer; New Society Magazine and the Guardian, for which he was Asia correspondent. He was founder-editor of Business Times, Malaysia, which was described by Norman Pearlstine (editor in chief of Time/Fortune as "the best daily newspaper in developing Asia"). He has also been executive editor for the Indian Express Group, managing editor for the World Bank; Asia-Pacific bureau chief for Institutional Investor; business editor and later editor of the Hong Kong Standard; special correspondent in Asia for Euromoney; and consultant and editor in chief for Business Day, Bangkok. He still writes for a number of these titles, is editor in chief of Plain Words Media, a consortium of journalists founded with former World Bank spokesman Tim Cullen, which covers international economic and development issues and has latterly added the South China Morning Post to the many titles to which he contributes.



Professor Jeffrey Sachs

Professor Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. From 2002 to 2006, he was Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by the year 2015. Professor Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty. He is widely considered to be the leading international economic advisor of his generation and is also one of the leading voices for combining economic development with environmental sustainability. As Director of the Earth Institute he leads large-scale efforts to promote the mitigation of human-induced climate change. In 2004 and 2005 he was named among the 100 most influential leaders in the world by Time Magazine.



Charles Secrett

Charles Secrett is a Special Advisor (Environment & Sustainability) to the Mayor of London and Visit London. He is also Chair of the Board of Triodos Bank Renewable Energy Fund; a Trustee of The Building Exploratory and Vice-President of London Wildlife Trust. Formerly, he was Executive Director, Friends of the Earth (1993-2003) and a member of the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Commission (1994-2003).



Dr. Saleemul Huq

Dr. Saleemul Huq is Director of the Climate Change Programme at the International Institute for Environment & Development, which in 1992 was the first recipient of the Blue Planet Prize for outstanding contributions to environmental policy and action. As one of the leading environmental planners at the national and international level, Dr Huq has worked for numerous international agencies and advised national government planners on global environmental issues. He is an Adviser to UNDP's Capacity 21 Programme where he has helped develop the Agenda 21 Programmes in Mongolia, Bhutan, Gambia and Kazakhstan. Dr. Huq also founded the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, the major nongovernment research and policy institute working on environment and development related issues in Bangladesh.



Rt. Hon Simon Upton

The Rt. Hon Simon Upton was New Zealand Minister of the Environment between 1990 and 1999. He now works internationally with governments, businesses and research institutions on climate change and wider sustainability issues. Until recently he chaired the Round Table on Sustainable Development at the OECD in Paris, a post he held for six years. Simon Upton is regarded as one of New Zealand's leading intellectuals, who can contribute to debate across the whole range of science, the humanities, and business.



Professor Louise Fresco

Professor Louise O. Fresco was appointed University Professor of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) in June 2006, and holds a chair in the field of the foundations of sustainable development in an international perspective. She is a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry in Stockholm and corresponding member of the Real Academia de Ingeniería in Madrid, as well as a member of the North Netherlands Society for Sciences. She also holds visiting professorships at the Institute of Earth Sciences at Stanford University and the David and Lucille Packard Foundation in Palo Alto (US). In addition, she is Distinguished Professor at Wageningen University. Professor Fresco previously served as Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture Department of the FAO (the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome) from January 2000 to May 2006, and before that as Director of Research (1997-1999).



Sunita Narain

Sunita Narain. Currently its Director, Sunita has been working with the Centre for Science and Environment since 1982. She is also Director of the Society for Environmental Communications and publisher of the fortnightly magazine, Down To Earth. For a number of years, she has made one of her principal focuses the study and analysis of the relationship between environment and development, and the concomitant creation of public awareness of the need for sustainable development. She also serves on the boards of numerous organisations and on governmental committees, and has spoken at many fora across the world, as well as authoring books and papers on issues related to her areas of expertise.



Johann Gnadlinger

Johann Gnadlinger has been living in Brazil as a rural development worker since 1977 and, since 1991, has been working at IRPAA (The Regional Institute for Appropriate Small Scale Agriculture), one of the most influential NGO's of the Brazilian Semi-Arid Tropics, where he was responsible for the Water and Climate Section from 1991 to 2002. As a member of Horizont3000 - the Austrian Organization for Development Co-Operation, he has dedicated the last twelve years to environmental and water management, especially in the Brazilian semi-arid tropics. He is also one of the founders of ABCMAC (The Brazilian Rainwater Catchment and Management Association) and is its current President. He has co-organized five Brazilian Conferences on Rainwater Harvesting, and has also acted as secretary general of the 9th International Rainwater Catchment Systems Conference in Brazil, 1999. He was convener of the Rainwater Harvesting Session during the 2nd World Water Forum at the Hague, in 2000, and the 3rd World Water Forum at Kyoto, in 2003. From 1999 to 2003 he was a vice-president of IRCSA - International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, gaining practical experience of rainwater harvesting in different parts of the world such as Kenya, China, Iran and Mexico. He is one of the originators and promoters of P1+2 (Program One Peace of Land and Two Types of Water), relating the water issue to the sustainable development of the Brazilian rural semi-arid region and its population, and has authored publications on this and numerous related issues.