

THE UN NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
PRESENTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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Information Note: The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was opened for signature at the UN Conference for Environment and Development (UNCED) June 4, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and came into force 21 March, 1994. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat trapping gases. Under the Convention governments can share information, national policies and strategies for addressing green house gas emissions, cooperating to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted 11 December 1997 for legally binding constraints on curbing emissions. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on 16 February 2005. As of April 2005 150 states and regional economic integration organizations have deposited instruments of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance.
UNFCCC Main Website: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>. Information from NGLS compendium.
N.Colton

Briefing on Climate Change Meeting

COP 11 and COP/MOP 1

Montreal, 29 November - 10 December 2005

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Focus of briefing

1) Outcomes of the Montreal negotiations

2) What happens now?

Three major conclusions

The Montreal conference:

- o secured the short-term future of the Kyoto Protocol through to 2012;
- o successfully initiated a process for developing a long-term multilateral agreement;
- o BUT....

Conclusions...

c) ... this is just the start of a process to determine the international community's response to climate change in the medium- to long-term

First: Background on IISD RS

What is IISD RS? Who are we and what do we do?

International Institute for Sustainable Development is a non-governmental organization headquartered in Canada; well known for its research and policy work on sd

- o IISD Reporting Services is based out of New York and Geneva
- o Founded in 1992
- o Provides neutral, independent and balanced daily and summary reports and analysis from most major multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): climate, biodiversity, CSD, desertification, chemicals, water, oceans, forests...

Report writers: 60 consultants who are experts in different MEAs

Readership of 50,000 policy makers, experts from governments, UN, IGOs, NGOs, academia, private sector

f: www.iisd.ca

Main publications: Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB), Linkages Update, Your Meeting Bulletin

ENB in Montreal:

Busiest month ever for the IISD Linkages web site (www.iisd.ca) in its 10 year history. 933,878 unique “requests for pages”

Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) team in Montreal largest ever. Nearly a year of planning for our coverage.

Forty-three consultants were in Montreal, where we:

- o produced daily ENB reports and a 20,000 word summary and analysis from the climate negotiations;
- o produced daily reports and a summary from over 80 side events with our ENB on the Side publication
- o covered the IISD-IIED Development and Adaptation Days event; and
- o trained nine new ENB writers and one new logistics coordinator.

Montreal Climate Conference

What?

- o COP 11 (UNFCCC)
 - o COP/MOP 1 (Kyoto Protocol)
 - o Numerous side events, parallel meetings etc
- 10,000 participants - as big as Kyoto!

What are the UNFCCC and KP?

- o UNFCCC a framework convention agreeing on need to control emissions
- o Kyoto Protocol a treaty built on the UNFCCC that sets specific targets for certain countries

The Montreal meetings had both short and long-term aims..... mostly relating to the KP. COP President, Minister Stephane Dion and the Canadian Govt labeled these “implementation, improvement and innovation”:

- o Short-term: finalize the rules governing the Kyoto Protocol so it can be fully *implemented* for the “first commitment period” 2008-2012
- o Short-term: *improve* some elements of the Protocol in light of experience to date
- o Long-term: initiate an *innovative* process for agreeing on the long-term multilateral framework beyond 2012

Short-term: implementing / operationalizing the Protocol

o Most urgent goal in Montreal was to finalize the technical details/rules governing the functioning of the Protocol:

- o COP/MOP 1 required to adopt the 2001 Marrakesh Accords (LULUCF, accounting, inventories, reporting);
- o compliance mechanism adopted (objections from Saudi Arabia and others overruled);
- o Joint Implementation mechanism details agreed - Supervisory Committee established;
- o Special Climate Change Fund and Adaptation Fund NOT finalized, but did not derail talks

Short-term: implementing / operationalizing the Protocol

- o Marrakesh Accords
- o COP/MOP 1 required to adopt the 2001 Marrakesh Accords - a rule book of more than 200 pages setting out the details of how KP will work, including on the Kyoto mechanisms. Also on LULUCF, accounting, inventories, reporting. Done.

Short-term: implementing / operationalizing the Protocol

o compliance mechanism adopted (objections from Saudi Arabia and others, however eventually adopted)

Issue here is whether it should be adopted by amendment to the Protocol, or by decision. Compromise reached.

Short-term: implementing / operationalizing the Protocol

Joint Implementation mechanism details agreed - Supervisory Committee established; Controversy over JI vs CDM, mechanisms that affect different parts of the world - compromise reached

Short-term: implementing / operationalizing the Protocol

o Special Climate Change Fund and Adaptation Fund NOT finalized, but did not derail talks
SCCF is a Convention fund

AF is Kyoto

GEF relationship is being questioned: G77 unsure about AF in particular under GEF (US questions etc), RAF, etc. Further discussions in May at SB24.

Short-term PART II: Improving the Protocol?

o Second short-term goal supported by many participants and pushed by Canada was *improving* some of the Protocol's details, particularly with regards to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

Short-term: improving the Protocol?

o CDM: strong push reform the CDM given perception of project "logjam" in the Executive Board. Compromise between concerns over loss of environmental integrity and desire to improve efficiency. EB receives additional US\$8.2 million and flexibility on additionality and project "bundling"; However, private sector and others feels more was needed - wait and see...

o Adaptation boosted with five year programme of work. Funding not fully in place, but a strong focus on adaptation at meeting, including a major IISD event (more later).

Long-term issues: post-2012 talks?

Good progress on short-term issues. However, most difficult goal was addressing long-term issues

Background: Protocol requires COP/MOP 1 to begin process leading to an agreement on "future commitments" (i.e. a framework beyond 2008-2012, the initial period for which the rules are already set and emissions targets agreed for OECD countries and economies in transition)

Long-term issues: post-2012 talks?

Pessimism prior to meeting due to:

- Concerns from US, major developing countries;
- sense of possible diminished enthusiasm among some leading OECD "pro-Kyoto" Parties as reality sets in about difficulties in reaching targets (suggestion some might be leaning more towards voluntary, technology-based targets promoted by US *et al*; and
- lack of clarity about whether to proceed under the Protocol or the UNFCCC.

Multiple track long-term process

Outcome exceeded expectations - three-track process for ongoing discussions agreed under both Protocol and Convention:

o UNFCCC: future discussions under Convention process (so includes US) through to COP 13 (US inserted an "end date" for discussions, but did not block consensus

o Protocol Part I: discussions under *Article 3.9* (future commitments) - focus on industrialized countries' commitments (developing world keen for OECD to continue taking lead on mandatory

targets)

- o Protocol Part II: discussions under *Article 9* (a wider review of Protocol some hope will open door to some sort of commitments from developing countries)

Conclusion on meeting

Widely viewed as a success, in that it:

- o finalized and improved details of the Protocol so it could function fully in short-term; and
- o initiated a multi-track process on what happens after 2012 - something many felt could not be achieved.
- o BUT..... very uncertain time lie ahead

LOOKING AHEAD

The multilateral climate process is in a very interesting and critical stage... next four years will be key.

Various factors:

- o Stronger science
- o Kyoto targets difficult
- o Opposition in some circles
- o New alternative approaches developing?

END OF THE BEGINNING?

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

CHRIS'S COMMENTS AND ANSWERS:

1. CHRIS COMMENT : The next years are crucial, and there is increasing evidence that the targets of the Kyoto Protocol will not be realized. Emissions must be cut 60% by 2050. It may be hard to meet that goal, but there are new alternatives and options for regional cooperation, as in a new Asia/Pacific Pact, a possible alternative to Kyoto.

2. A question concerning regional cooperation and energy issues. Answer: In UNFCCC the North will aid the South and developing world on renewable energy efficiency. The Climate Change issues will be linked to the energy discussion in CSD 14. There lots of regional and national cooperative initiatives, such as conversion of sugar to ethanol.

3. NGO efforts and inclusion should be noted and enhanced. Answer: UNFCCC Article 6 provides for NGO and major group participation of civil society and the private sector, local and national organizations.

4. A question about CSD discussions. Answer: CSD13 discussions reinvigorated the issues with a long multilateral outcome document and good agreement. How much discussion will focus on climate change at CSD 14 is yet to be arranged.

5. The Ambassador from Fiji commented on the importance of grass roots implementation, as well as the crucial need for funds for water and climate change. The local GEF office and UNDP may aid Fiji.

6. A Deputy from the Nigerian Mission noted that the Adaptation Fund for LDCs and the World Bank have not yet aided the situation. Answer: The Adaptation Fund is not yet finalized. There is much discussion for a complicated process for the fund that will be managed by GEF. GEF needs to be streamlined and replenishment will be discussed.

7. Discussion continued concerning the private sector companies worldwide that have joined the

Global Compact. Some are in the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and work with UN agencies such as UNEP.

8. Reforestation and the Forum on the Forests was mentioned as an important part of the climate change agenda. Answer: Reforestation is a huge controversial process, with a great part of the difficulty being absorption, how much CO₂ different forests absorb.

Climate change is a complex threat to the environment demanding many solutions.

9. A question was asked about a website for best practices.

Answer: www.unccc.int

Briefing on the Climate Change Meeting Montreal. Chris Spence

Information Note and Question Period. Notes by Nancy Colton