



What Transpired in Copenhagen

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Better living for all—sustainably

COP 15 Copenhagen

Idealism Meets Reality



Photos courtesy IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin



At the centre of the negotiations

- A Long-Term Cooperative Agreement
 - Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).
 - Seeking a long-term commitment (post-2012) from all parties on the following pillars:
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Finance and Investment
 - Technology Transfer
 - Shared Vision
- The Future of the Kyoto Protocol
 - Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP).



The Buildup to COP 15

- Central issues coming into Copenhagen included
 - What happens to the Kyoto protocol after 2012?
 - Strength/conditionality of Developed Country mitigation targets for 2020.
 - Financing (both long and short term) commitments needed to be quantified by developed countries.
 - Will major developing countries take on emissions reductions actions (NAMAs)?
 - Above all: Can a deal be struck between China and the US?
- Talks stalled in Bangkok, Barcelona, leading up to Copenhagen, far less progress made than necessary on the negotiating text.



The Players

- The United States
 - China has to sign up for reductions.
 - Domestic plan must come first.
 - New agreement cannot be an extension of Kyoto.
 - Bottom Up regime
- Europe
 - Did not have as much “sway” as previous negotiations given focus on China and the US.
 - Needed strong international agreement to go beyond 20% reduction call.
 - Top Down preference
- The Umbrella Group
 - More homogenous approach than under Bush, but still appreciable differences exist.



The Players (Continued)

- China
 - Strong MRV concerns
 - No legally binding regime.
- BASIC Countries
 - While China and India were critical to the end of the deal, Brazil and South Africa played a critical role in getting them there.
- Developing Parties
 - Strong mitigation commitments from Annex I.
 - The ensured continuation of the Kyoto Protocol .
 - Commitment to the two-track process.
 - US signing up to Kyoto.
- Small Island States/LDCs/Africa
 - Major infusion of public financing commitments.
 - Agreement on technology transfer.
 - Support for Adaptation.



The Copenhagen Accord

- After many fits and starts and the near collapse of the negotiations, a deal was negotiated by parties including a closed door meeting of BASIC leaders and US president Obama.
 - Even then almost failed to be resolved in plenary leading to quasi-legal status.
- Recognizes the 2° C limit, but no longer terms emissions reduction targets for developed countries or globally.
- Explicit acknowledgement to act on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), including establishment of a REDD-plus mechanism. Good progress on agriculture.
- Agreement on technology mechanism.
- Cooperation on adaptation particularly in LDCs, SIDS and Africa.
- Developed countries to inscribe emissions targets for 2020, Developing countries to inscribe NAMAs.
- Supported by financing commitment of \$30 B by 2010 and \$100 B by 2020



Other Developments

- Some progress made in a few areas (ie financing, REDD), but overall negotiating text is still far from agreement. Lots of blaming and finger-pointing.
- No resolution to the two-track process question, both will continue on parallel lines.
- Witnessed a strain on developing country solidarity (G77 & China, LDCs, SIDS, ALBA countries).
- Goalposts for full agreement pushed back to COP 16 in Mexico.



The Accord Since Copenhagen

- Quantified emission targets for 2020 inscribed by nearly all of Annex I¹ and United States. Almost all targets conditional on international agreement.
- Approx 35 developing countries ascribing some form of NAMAs, many noting an need for international support.
- Approx 35 more developing countries have noted their support for the accord and have wished to include their names while not ascribing actions at this point (mostly LDCs not required to ascribe mitigation actions).
- Many developing parties ascribing to the Accord note it is merely a part of the negotiating process not an end in and of itself.

¹Except Turkey and Ukraine



Questions going forward

- The two parallel tracks.
- Where does the Accord fit in to the two tracks?
- Annex I targets still not up to developing country demands.
- What of the US...still no domestic legislation.
- How to address financing commitments, public vs. private sources.
- The future of Markets.
- What can we expect in Mexico?



Back to The Negotiations

- First UNFCCC negotiating session is April 9-11. Will likely set the meetings agenda for the year for the AWGs.
- SB Meeting in Bonn May 31 – June 11.
- COP 16 in Mexico: Nov 29 – December 10.
- Other potential for talks? G8/G20? MEF?



Thank You

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