

Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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Climate and Development Knowledge Network

Helping developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development

Welcome to our special edition on negotiations support

CDKN supports decision-makers to design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge-sharing. Supporting climate negotiators from the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries is an important part of our work. We believe that international climate change agreements should reflect and respond to these countries' concerns.

CDKN is working to help leaders and negotiators from these countries to become informed, active, networked and influential actors in the international climate negotiations. Only when they have a strong voice and can bring their influence to this international stage will more robust, progressive and equitable outcomes be possible for all parties. We hope you enjoy reading about our recent negotiations support work in the following pages.

New role for climate diplomacy

As the impacts of climate change take hold, climate change is beginning to feature in countries' foreign policies. Nowhere is this more the case than the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a Pacific island country that is now under drought orders and struggling to cope with rising sea levels.

Minister Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands recently wrote on cdkn.org, "climate change is not a distant prospect, but a reality for us now. People are starting to ask: What is happening to our country? What will my children do? Not our grandchildren or great-grandchildren, but our children, who are already on the frontline."

In April, Minister de Brum was among the high-level panellists, ambassadors and climate negotiators who met to discuss the emergent field of climate diplomacy and what it can achieve. CDKN, E3G and the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office convened the special workshop on climate diplomacy in London. Nick Mabey, Executive Director of E3G, presented the preliminary findings of a CDKN-supported review of the potential for climate diplomacy to catalyse national action and international cooperation.

Climate policy "depends upon action in other policy areas to deliver substantive change," said Mr Mabey. "This requires climate change to be aligned to other, usually more influential, actors in the national interest debate."

Participants suggested that climate change needs to be understood as a key element of the national interest, both in the domestic debate and in a country's projection of its interests overseas. Such a framing would lead to climate issues being more effectively taken up in existing political and diplomatic channels.

On the home front, for instance, climate champions need to build alliances and negotiate trade-offs with actors who have more clout than they do, such as finance and energy ministries and investors. The same principle goes for the international arena: governments could cite the co-benefits of climate action in bilateral and multilateral relations, or use trade and security issues to negotiate better climate outcomes.

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Boosting developing countries' legal capacity on climate change

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) need a good understanding of public international law and the international legal framework on climate if they are to make compelling arguments, draft sound legal texts and forge compromise in the global climate talks. The LDC Group of climate negotiators has emphasised its need for more lawyers, legal research and advice in order to undertake all these challenging roles.

To meet this need, CDKN funded the Legal Response Initiative (LRI) to train seven lawyers from the national climate delegations of Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Leading legal practitioners and academics coached the participants on international environmental law, technical skills and treaty drafting. Following the meeting in London in April, some of the participants will hold further training events for colleagues in their home countries. Christoph Schwarte of LRI said, in this way, the training programme will gradually “strengthen networks of Southern lawyers and improve the self-reliance of developing country delegations.” Edward Wabwoto of Kenya said, “the training was not only very useful in enabling us build our capacity in participating in the negotiations, but was also very timely.”

It is also about understanding which aspects of the climate debate—climate impacts or new, green growth opportunities—motivate other governments. “We need analysis of the national interests and trigger points of the big emitting nations so that we can speak their language,” said one participant from a least developed country.

The possibilities for climate diplomacy may even extend beyond the preserve of career diplomats, to other arenas for international cooperation. “The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) deals with emissions reductions and the allocation of cuts,” said Professor Michael Jacobs of the Grantham Institute. “Between high-level targets and detailed institutional arrangements, there is a massive array of governments and businesses doing adaptation and mitigation and now spending trillions of dollars doing those things. Some are provided for by the international regime but most are not.

“It involves the economic ministries that are doing the work to reduce emissions; it involves the businesses and financiers who are doing this both nationally and internationally—and it adds a whole new layer of complexity.”

E3G and CDKN will publish a report on new roles for climate diplomacy, later this year.

Least developed countries face new ‘digital divide’

Global climate talks have recently switched to a paperless format to help the environment, but research by Oneworld, supported by CDKN, shows the move has disadvantaged the poorest countries. New measures will be needed to assist these countries to participate on an equal basis with richer nations.

Delegations from the poorest, most climate-vulnerable nations are smaller, and normally less experienced than delegations from well-heeled industrial nations. The UNFCCC recently adopted PaperSmart conferencing, by which negotiating texts and final decisions are posted online only, instead of distributed to delegates in hard copy. As a result, LDC negotiators have been marginalised, as they lack up-to-date hardware.

Oneworld interviewed more than 70 delegates from LDCs at CoP18 in Doha to assess how they are coping. They found that even before the move to PaperSmart conferencing, least developed country negotiators were on the back foot: “More than half of those surveyed [reported] that they neither had a smartphone for use at the conference, nor had

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Launch of Climate Finance Advisory Service

At CoP18 in Doha, CDKN launched the Climate Finance Advisory Service (CFAS), which offers negotiators, policy-makers and advisors in the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries bespoke information and guidance to help them participate in climate finance negotiations, in particular the Green Climate Fund. CFAS is delivered by a consortium of experts led by Germanwatch.

CFAS is a demand-led service: users can simply submit their question via a button on the website and they will receive free, expert responses at short notice. CFAS also publishes policy briefs every quarter on current topics in the global climate finance negotiations and issues recommended reading guides. The first brief explored the implications of the Fifth Review of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism (published January 2013). See www.cdkn.org/cfas

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broadband internet connectivity in their domestic offices.” These negotiators were already so stretched by their thin capacity that “89% of negotiators report that they cannot even attend important meetings and events because their delegations do not have sufficient numbers of trained people,” Oneworld found.

Some aspects of PaperSmart conferencing have been very well received. One LDC delegate noted that new negotiating texts are published quickly and “it’s the way the world is moving.” However, the introduction of



PaperSmart has deepened the digital divide that already existed. The new UNFCCC ‘Negotiator App,’ which provides access to the daily conference programme and newly released documents, is only available for iPad and iPhone. “The mobile version of the UNFCCC website had not been developed for (or tested on) older ‘feature phones’ that are common in developing countries,” Oneworld reported. This unequal access has only “added to the imbalance” among delegations, said one respondent.

LDC negotiators have found that meeting rooms lack power sockets and their old laptop batteries run out rapidly, leaving them without access to key electronic texts. Their small delegations lack the support staff to leave meetings and print materials. One interviewee said, “because we are only two people, we cannot get up and leave a meeting... who will participate?”

PaperSmart conferencing could assist LDC negotiators, under the right conditions. They face multiple negotiating tracks and highly technical and complex texts which could be solved through smart ICT solutions. Oneworld concluded, “the irony is, if negotiators from poor and most climate-vulnerable countries were equipped with appropriate tools, they would stand to benefit most from the transition to digital working practices. PaperSmart opens the door to virtual collaboration at a scale and depth that has never before been possible; it offers a real opportunity to tackle some of the most important and persistent challenges faced ... including lack of cooperation, lack of technical and legal capacity, lack of institutional memory and lack of confidence.”

If negotiators are supported with appropriate ICT solutions that are designed to meet their needs and resource constraints, there is an opportunity to “address existing challenges and to unlock new levels of cooperation.” To respond to these challenges and opportunities, CDKN is currently exploring options for ICT solutions that can help poor and most climate-vulnerable countries to benefit from the digital age.

For more information, see www.cdkn.org/ict-solutions

New Support Unit for Africa Group of Negotiators

The Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) is an alliance of African countries and represents the region in the international climate change negotiations with a common and unified voice. CDKN recently launched the AGN Support Unit to deliver capacity support to the AGN to help ensure its effective and influential participation in the UNFCCC process. Hosted by BEA International in Nairobi, the AGN Support Unit will provide the AGN with technical and legal assistance on key negotiating issues, with a focus on climate finance, and strategic guidance on the international climate change process that is tailored to the interests and priorities of Africa. The work of the Support Unit will be guided by the AGN Chair, Emmanuel Dlamini, who said, “CDKN’s support will help us in developing our own negotiating positions and drive the discussion in the international arena in order to promote consensus on a future deal that reflects the needs of Africa.” For more information please contact Patrick Karani, Coordinator of the AGN Support Unit at pkarani@beainternational.org.

Climate Justice Dialogue seeks to reframe global debate

As countries inch towards agreeing a global climate deal in 2015, their pledges to cut emissions are not yet enough to stop dangerous climate change. Scientists' warnings about the amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere and its rate of increase just don't match the collective political ambition for tackling the problem.

Although many individual leaders are far-sighted in their vision for climate action, there remains a lack of 'critical mass,' especially among the big emitting nations. So, what does it take to jolt leaders into making collective commitments that are great enough?

A new initiative aims to promote 'climate justice' as the big idea that could unify a critical mass of leaders and their citizens to deliver a global deal—and a deal that is fair. The Mary Robinson Foundation–Climate Justice (MRFJ) and World Resources Institute (WRI) have joined forces to "mobilise political will and creative thinking to shape an equitable and ambitious international climate agreement in 2015" (www.climatejusticedialogue.org).

Together, they are organising a series of meetings with thought leaders around the world—including climate negotiators and current and former government leaders—and linking them with people who are

experiencing climate impacts and spearheading solutions. They hope that these leaders will rally around climate justice as an unassailable rationale for ambitious action at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) talks. CDKN is one of many organisations and individuals that are backing this Climate Justice Dialogue.

The Dialogue tables several key questions:

- How can equity and justice be defined when some countries are far more developed than others, thanks to an industrial revolution that was powered by fossil fuels?
- If human society can only afford to emit relatively few greenhouse gas emissions from now on, in order to avert dangerous climate change, how can the remaining global 'carbon allowance' be fairly apportioned among countries?
- How can equity and justice be defined when the finance and technical know-how needed to spur the low carbon revolution is unevenly distributed?
- What is the pathway to a fair outcome that preserves and enhances the basic rights of the world's peoples to development—given this uneven playing field?

The organisers intend to explore these questions through meetings in China, South Asia, the United States, Europe,

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Search for ambitious routes in the UNFCCC

As part of CDKN's work supporting negotiators, we are looking at innovative ways to build ambition in the UNFCCC talks. Energeia's project entitled 'Acting Together for Bold Outcomes' aims to do this by increasing the effectiveness of progressive voices and boosting the influence of least developed and most vulnerable countries. Energeia coordinates meetings among countries and groups, including the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) groups and progressive Latin American countries, in order to build this ambition and foster consensus around ambitious action. In particular, the project focuses on how an agreement can be reached through the lens of *equity of outcome*, rather than historical equity. Energeia's 'Economics of Boldness' principles are a key part of the dialogue. The project promotes a more proactive approach to future agreements, while simultaneously reflecting the needs of the LDCs and most climate-vulnerable countries. For more information, search 'Acting Together for Bold Outcomes' on www.cdkn.org

GUEST COLUMN

Working for ambitious outcomes in the UNFCCC—and beyond

**DAN HAMZA-GOODACRE,
HEAD OF NEGOTIATIONS
SUPPORT, CDKN**

A global agreement on climate change holds the promise of addressing the tragedy of the commons but agreement is proving hard to reach. Poor countries often struggle to influence the industrialised powers yet they need an ambitious deal in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. CDKN helps to build the capacity of negotiators from the poorest countries to act as more effective advocates for their concerns on this stage.

This capacity-building work takes many forms. It includes professional, on-the-job training in climate science and policy, on UNFCCC conference protocol and in basic negotiation skills, which we are funding through workshops and e-learning led by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Ricardo-AEA. We are also focusing on building Southern lawyers' capacity to advise their governments on the climate talks (see 'Boosting legal capacity').

However, while strengthening capacity to negotiate in the UNFCCC is an important part of breaking the global deadlock on climate action, it is not sufficient. Countries need to use international trade and financial agreements, security and other political affairs to influence other countries' positions on climate change.

To this end, CDKN is supporting work to mainstream climate change into foreign policy through 'climate diplomacy'. Mainstreaming allows poor and



vulnerable countries to look beyond trade-offs within the UNFCCC, and to seek means of leverage outside (See 'New role for climate diplomacy').

Building negotiator capacity and putting climate change on the diplomatic agenda are critical, but such initiatives will fail to bear fruit if they do not attract the vocal support of broader domestic constituencies in developing and developed countries. People must tell their political leaders clearly that they want action on climate change. Currently, civil society and social movements lack a compelling (and loud) narrative to pressure governments to be ambitious in the climate negotiations. CDKN, and partners, are therefore supporting the Climate Justice Dialogue, led by the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice and the World Resources Institute, to see whether a narrative for climate justice can help create a just and ambitious deal. (See 'Climate Justice Dialogue seeks to reframe global debate').

Building negotiators' capacity, supporting international relations on climate change and strengthening the voice of civil society can together enhance the likelihood of global agreement on a climate deal which safeguards our future.

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Africa and Latin America in the run-up to the 2015 deadline to agree a global climate deal.

The Climate Justice Dialogue held its first workshop in Santiago, Chile in early April. The meeting brought together climate negotiators and thought leaders from the Association of Independent Latin American and Caribbean States (AILAC), including Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, and Panama, plus Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Latin American countries' self-interest in embracing climate compatible development was a dominant theme of the meeting. Participants recognised the multiple co-benefits of taking strong climate action at home—such as better public health and quality of life. They also recognised that their countries could become more competitive by embracing low carbon, climate-resilient paths early, rather than lagging behind.

Mónica Araya, a climate negotiator from Costa Rica, called for a sea change in Latin American thinking, towards viewing climate resilience and low carbon development as empowering choices—not sacrifices. She said that equity in the climate arena is about the equal opportunity to adopt and

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I think that equitable access to energy services is a contribution to climate justice. There's no question that extending renewable energy technologies to remote communities will give them services that will help them bear the impacts of climate change.

GERALDO CANALES, RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER OF CHILE

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by providing demand-led research and technical assistance, and channelling the best available knowledge on climate change and development to support policy processes at the country and international levels. CDKN is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience.

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benefit from low carbon, climate-resilient development (and it does not depend wholly on foreign leaders but is a matter of national choice, too).

The workshop explored how an equitable global deal would look in practice. Participants agreed that an ambitious

and equitable deal would be built on: bold emissions cuts by wealthy countries; better mechanisms for delivering funding and technologies to developing nations; and transparency as the bedrock of international cooperation and mutual action.



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Dashboard

January – March 2013

- CDKN's Roster of Experts: experts from 140 countries worldwide
- Number of new contracts initiated this quarter: 83
- Unique visitors to the website (monthly average): 10,139
- Unique visits to the website (monthly average): 15,034

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