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Leadership, Courage, Action

As delegates enter the final hours of negotiations here in Nairobi, the Climate Action Network (CAN) calls for bold leadership, in keeping with the scale and urgency of the challenge before the global community. Climate change is the greatest threat to human security the world has ever faced and negotiations here and action at home must demonstrate that Parties are committed to avoiding dangerous climate change.

The recent release of the Stern Report on the economics of climate change is the latest call to action. The day approaches when humanity no longer has the option of staying as far below 2 degrees global warming as possible. Business as usual will mean even greater warming and risk up to 20 per cent of the value of the global economy. The cost of taking action will be far less than the cost of impacts. The figure of 1 per cent of global gross domestic product is consistent with many assessments. For almost two decades science has been telling us that radical reductions are needed to avoid economically, socially and environmentally destructive climate change.

Further delay is simply irresponsible. The world is watching: the welfare of the world's communities and economies is in delegates' hands. Parties urgently need to agree here to conclude the second review of the Protocol by 2008 and the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on further commitments for developed countries by 2009. These timelines are essential if resolute negotiations are to be launched next year, to ensure no gap between commitment periods. Nairobi must set the stage for the

launch of formal negotiations at COP/MOP3.

Courage, creativity and flexibility will be needed to finalise such a Nairobi package and there is reason to be hopeful.

CAN welcomes the positive gestures shown in recent days by a number of developed and developing countries offering concrete proposals for moving forward. Sadly, however, other delegates have been less respectful; less forthcoming about their intentions. It will take courage to confront the obstacles placed by these laggards.

Failure to meet current targets and to set deep targets for the second commitment period puts global security at risk. No country can be allowed to ignore its responsibility to contribute its fair share. Parties owe it to current and future generations. Please – mind the gap – for all our sakes.

Two weeks ago, ECO held high hopes for the African COP/MOP. This was to be the meeting where Parties recognised their responsibilities to vulnerable regions, like Africa, and to future generations.

Since then, ECO has heard how climate change is destroying lives and livelihoods across Africa. Parts of Kenya are suffering a drought that started in 2003: in Northern Kenya, pastoralists have lost 10 million livestock; two thirds of the population in Turkana region have lost their livelihoods; Maasai pastoralists have lost five million cattle.

In their speeches yesterday, Ministers
– *continued back page, column 2*

No Review is Better than a Bad Review

ECO wishes to remind delegates to keep their eyes on the ball. We have said time and again that to prevent a gap in commitment periods this meeting needs to agree the building blocks that can inform a mandate decision at COP/MOP3 in 2007. It is must already be obvious that climate change is wreaking havoc. It is a reality in Kenya today; the prolonged drought and this week's flash floods are just the beginning.

So, after Parties aborted attempt at a first review, ECO strongly urges delegates to try again, soon, and do the second review by 2007. The stalemate around the draft Article 9 text is outrageous. The positions taken by some notable countries last night were clearly designed to render the review process meaningless. The UN Secretary General spoke yesterday about the urgent global response needed to break this vicious cycle of negotiations so lacking in ambition. ECO suggests the following: There is widespread agreement that this review will not consider emissions reduction obligations for non-Annex 1 countries. A second review needs to be done in 2007, or at the latest 2008, as it is intended to inform the negotiations of future commitments by Annex 1. In fact, 2008 already puts Parties at risk of delaying the process. *Any* later date would most certainly hold us back and lead to a gap in commitment periods; undermining the Clean Development Mechanism, carbon market and opportunities to scale up adaptation. If discussion moves the review date beyond 2008, ECO would rather not see a date set. No review is better than a bad review.

Full Support for Decision on Fund

ECO recognises the progress made here in Nairobi on developing strong principles for the Adaptation Fund (AF) under the Kyoto Protocol. It is a great achievement to have secured the authority and guidance of COP/MOP over the Fund, and majority membership of non-Annex I parties in the governing body.

However, ECO was dismayed to learn that the Global Environment Facility had tried to reopen this decision after it was accepted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)

plenary. ECO confirms its support for the decision on the AF.

ECO urges Parties to agree the eligibility criteria, priority areas and institution by the next COP/MOP's end in 2007 so that the Adaptation Fund becomes operational without any further delay. This will enable the most vulnerable countries, including countries in Africa, to access funds to implement bottom-up adaptation projects which are urgently needed for sustainable development.

Mind the Gap



The Climate Action Network wishes delegates not to lose sight of their Montreal promise to avoid a gap between commitment periods. CAN produced an eye-catching reminder, which "sold out" within two hours of launch.

Climate Big Issue in US Elections

The full implications of the American mid-term elections are only now coming to light. Overnight, new poll results were released showing that global warming helped propel the Democrats to victory in the mid-term elections.

John Zogby, a top American pollster employed by several major news services, released the results of a massive post-election poll of 19,356 adults.

Overall, half of voters from this year's US

mid-term elections said that global warming was an important issue in their vote. Of these voters, 85 percent voted for Democratic Congressional candidates. According to Mr Zogby, the polling revealed that "global warming was a sleeper issue that may have snuck up on politicians in close races." The implications are clear. "Looking ahead," he said, "politicians in both parties ignore this issue at their peril."

"Fossil of the Day" Award

Canada won the top fossil award yesterday for Minister Ambrose's attempt to mislead the international community by claiming that her climate plan "recognises the need for urgent action so that we can finally make progress towards our 2012 international obligations". In reality, this "plan" repudiates Kyoto by delaying GHG regulations until late 2010 and allowing Canada's emissions to stay above current levels until 2020 to 2025. Second place was also awarded to Canada for using Minister Ambrose's speech in the high-level segment as a venue for flagrant partisanship. Canadian observers were shocked and embarrassed. Australia came in third for providing little

— Leadership, Courage, *from front page* — spoke of improving the Kyoto Protocol. But are Parties really willing to do the work to make it happen? There is only a small window of opportunity to take strong action on climate change and meet the demands of the vulnerable people of the world.

ECO urges Parties to show leadership — today — commensurate with the climate challenges that humanity faces. The developed and developing countries alike depend on your decisions.

detail about its hyped "new Kyoto" package in the high-level segment, or in any other part of the meeting.

Contributors to ECO

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COP12/MOP2 in a nutshell (in case you missed it)



by Jason Heinrich

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