

COP15 - an Analysis

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After COP15, the largest climate conference ever, the poor results are evident. We hoped for a climate deal that could lead the world to a future with less than 2°C average increase from man-made climate change. Instead we got a Copenhagen Accord, where most of the countries agreed to make a list of national reduction targets without any overall reduction target, and form a couple of new bodies. If we want as humanity to limit climate change to below 2°C (or 1.5°C), we need a lot more action than with the Copenhagen Accord. We need to start reducing emissions fast, we need to stop extractions of high-emissions fossil fuels, as tar sand, heavy oil, and coal, and we need to stop deforestation. And we need transitions to efficient use of renewable energy.

With the poor result in COP15 we have to think the strategies over. Obviously the global level is much too weak for sufficient actions. We need to go back to national actions, where the changes must come from. Additionally we need to strengthen the international level, with better climate agreements, as well as with other international cooperation, such as International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA.

THE COPENHAGEN ACCORD

The high-level outcome of COP15 is agreed by most countries. In the official documents, it says that the COP15 "took note" of the Copenhagen Accord, giving some freedom for the countries to follow it or not.

The Accord solved the question of reduction targets in the simple way that all countries shall report by 31/1 2010 with their national reduction targets. Then the UNFCCC will make a list of reductions (not a way to achieve the highest targets). A strong disagreement between USA and China was about external verification of reductions in developing countries. This was solved by including verification only for reductions that are supported by industrialised countries. The Accord also includes that the industrialised countries shall give 10 billion \$/year for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries 2010-2012 and the goal for this is 100 billion \$/year in 2020. A High Level Panel will be established to study the contribution of the potential sources to reach the goal. A significant part of the funding shall flow through a new Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. Additionally shall be established a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer for climate adaptation and mitigation. The new panel and funds shall be under the UNFCCC rather than under existing institutions such as the World Bank that the developing countries have criticized heavily.

As a gesture to the small island states that are expected to disappear in the sea at 2°C climate change, the Accord includes an assessment of the implementation in 2015, including a consideration of strengthening the long-term goal to a maximum climate change to 1.5°C (from 2°C).

COP DECISIONS AND CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS IN 2010

In addition to the Copenhagen Accord, the COP15 took 12 decisions and the Kyoto Protocol Conference (CMP5) took 10 decisions. The most important of these are probably:

- The negotiations on "Long-Term Cooperative Actions" among all countries (a global deal), shall continue to find a solution at COP16 next year
- The discussions on continuation of the Kyoto Protocol after 2012 shall also continue and shall conclude at COP16

¹ International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) is a network of 160 NGOs working for energy efficiency and renewable energy, see www.inforse.org

- Revision of CDM guidelines shall conclude at COP16, including possible inclusion of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and easier procedures for smaller projects. Nuclear that are currently excluded from CDM might also be discussed in the revision, but are not mentioned in the decision-text.
- The Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol (with funding from CDM projects) shall be reviewed until COP16
- The discussions on review of capacity building shall continue until COP16
- The COP15 calls for a replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Negotiations on the replenishment will go on.
- COP16 will be in Mexico, 29/11 - 10/12 2010 and COP17 will be in South Africa, 28/11 - 9/12 2011.

The basic effect of the decisions at COP15 is that the negotiations on major agreements are still open until COP16, but we have a Copenhagen Accord to guide the further work.

Read the official text of the decisions at <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

INFORSE will continue to follow the process.