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Copenhagen: Excluding People and Voices for an Unfair Deal



Photo: Thomas Aubin (Creative Commons)

**By: Sunita Narain,
Centre for Science and Environment**

The Copenhagen conference will definitely go down as the worst meeting in global climate negotiations. There is a complete mess here: lines of people standing outside the Bella Centre, where the conference is taking place, wanting to get in. Inside the meeting has broken down for the umpteenth time because industrialized countries refuse to commit to cutting emissions. Instead they want the global climate agreement changed, so that they do less and developing countries do more. The clock is ticking to Friday, when heads of state will descend to sign the 'historical accord'. But on freezing Monday there was no sign of the paper they would agree to sign, no agreement and the chaos inside and outside was horrendous.

I was with a group of media colleagues was in the crowd on this Monday. Not inside but outside, in the freezing cold. We stood for over 8 hours, waiting to register but as the hours passed by the line stopped moving ahead. But nobody came out and explained. Nobody moved in the line either. They did not know how long they would have to stand tomorrow, if they gave up their place today. Complete stalemate, much like the talks happening inside.

It was said that the cameras used in the elaborate security clearance of the UN meet had broken down. Things were slow because everybody had to be cleared manually. Others said that the conference hall had no place.

Continued on page 2...

It was full. But nobody could explain, why, the Danish government and the UN climate secretariat had given online registration to people. They knew how many they had registered. They knew then how many would come to Copenhagen. So, why this mess? Just incompetence or is there more to it.

The fact is that some 40,000 people have come to this freezing city not for a party. But to be part of the event that they believe is important for the future of the world. Climate change impacts their lives. They want to be here to listen, to cajole and to protest as governments prevaricate on the issues that concern their lives.

They come also because climate change is real, it is urgent and there is overwhelming interest on this matter. So, why did the Danish government, which has had a minister for climate change, Connie Hedegaard, running across the world whipping up this interest, failed to plan for the people it invited?

The reason it seems that the Danish government would want to run the climate change conference, without messy numbers of people and without messy consultations, which involve all countries. So, Connie Hedegaard's job

was to select carefully the few friendly governments and even friendlier ministers (including ours) who could be consulted in closed door meetings to arrive at a 'consensus' paper, which would be presented to all other governments at the climate conference.

This is the 'infamous' Danish proposal, which has revealed last week and created a huge uproar. For two reasons: one, most governments not part of the Danish-club were angry at the process, which was not consultative or transparent. Two, the paper changed the very framework of the climate agreement - from one based on equity and burden sharing to one which would give the biggest polluters, namely US, Australia and Canada, a cop-out. But even now, after the Danish proposal was rejected it is still surfacing.

On Monday, talks broke down because the chair of the conference wanted to speed up the discussions under the Long Term Cooperative Action (LCA), which includes elements of the Danish paper, to create a single-treaty for developed and developing countries. The African group objected saying that it needed the process under Kyoto Protocol (KP) to be discussed, as this is where the numbers of how much the industrialized

countries will cut will be put on the table. In frustration and anger they walked out. Talks were suspended. African nations said in no uncertain terms that they wanted a fair deal: A deal to save them and the planet.

Now, after some compromise, talks are beginning again. But nobody believes that there has been an agreement.

But this is not about what happens inside closed doors, where men (and it is largely men) in suits fight over commas, full-stops and brackets (in UN-parlance, all disagreements are put in brackets). Climate change is about people. It is about how it is affecting lives of millions already, through more variable monsoons, intensification of tropical cyclones or disappearing lands in the sea. People want to be included in the process. They want that there is a human face on the numbers of the climate change catastrophe.

That is what Copenhagen is about. That is why people stood outside in the bitter cold, unfazed by the callousness of the Danish hosts of the conference or the rudeness of the country's police. They want and demand more. Lets see if the next few days will get them closer to a fair deal. Lets see. ❖

The Numbers Game

By: Richard Sherman, Stakeholder Forum

With the arrival of Heads of State and the transformation of the Bella Centre into a High-Level event, talks in the corridors focused on the end result of the two year process initiated in Bali. While there will always be divergent views on what would ensure a successful outcome, most developing country participants were focusing on the numbers game.

On Tuesday, the so-called BASIC group of countries, Brazil, South Africa, India and China held a side-event on developing country mitigation actions. The purpose of the meeting was to present a joint framing statement and to expand on each of the countries announcements regarding voluntary climate

actions. The BASIC countries said that the current attitude of developed countries was a derailment from the mandate for negotiations agreed in December 2007, as set out in the Bali Roadmap, but also a renewed effort by developed countries to renegotiate the key principles of the Convention.

They expressed concern that signals from developed countries to live up to their agreed financial and technology transfer obligations under the Convention are well below the needs of developing countries. The overarching message from BASIC was: "We take our responsibilities seriously and are already making a meaningful contribution within our respective capabilities. In this context each one of our four

countries are already taking extensive action, and have signaled our intention to deviate substantially below business as usual." Brazil's Environment Minister told the event that the voluntary commitments proposed by a group of countries, which includes Brazil, Indonesia, India and China would amount to a reduction of 2.1 billion tons of CO₂e in 2012. In comparison, she said the current reduction pledges from developed countries, including the US, would only amount to 2.8 billion of CO₂e.

The second element relates to the finance numbers. Last week, the Council of the European Union suggested an overall financial package of €7.2 over three years (2010-2012). Japan has suggested a package of US\$ 10 billion

over the same period. Responding to the EU's numbers, the Chair of the G77 and China, Lumumba Stanislaus Di-Aping said: "I believe they are not only insignificant, they actually breed even more distrust on the intentions of European leaders on climate change.....Our view is that European leaders are acting as if they were climate sceptics."

The major concern is that the proposed numbers only address the short term and there has been no movement on breaking the deadlock on long term finance numbers. The African Group, for example, has requested long-term public finance in the range of US\$200 million per year by 2020. However, there is emerging sense that the negotiators have little appetite for resolving this issue in Copenhagen. UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon told the *Financial Times* that countries could sign a deal at the Copenhagen summit without a firm commitment from developed nations on long-term financing for poorer ones to combat global warming. Ban was quoted saying, "I'm not quite

On Wednesday, the Prime Ministers of France and Ethiopia put forward a proposal to address long-term finance in the range of €50 billion by 2015 and 100 billion by 2020. While the numbers are consistent with developing country demands, the problem, however, is that the proposal suggests that a final agreement would be made by the G-20, rather than the universal G-193 process under the Convention.

sure [we can get a long-term figure] ... I don't think the exact number itself

should be all of this Copenhagen deal.

On Wednesday, the Prime Ministers of France and Ethiopia put forward a proposal to address long-term finance in the range of €50 billion by 2015 and 100 billion by 2020. While the numbers are consistent with developing country demands, the problem, however, is that the proposal suggests that a final agreement would be made by the G-20, rather than the universal G-193 process under the Convention. Furthermore, there are rumblings within the African Group regarding Ethiopia's mandate to make such a deal, which also sees Africa support the French proposal for the establishment of a World Environment Organisation, something they have adamantly opposed for over a decade.

With the final end game rapidly approaching the likelihood of an ambitious outcome is hanging by a tenuous thread. Without agreeing an outcome that meets the numbers on reductions and long-term finance, Copenhagen may be remembered as climate fair that promised much, but delivered little. ❖

Copenhagen Teachers and Students Work to Create a Carbon-Neutral School

**By: Nancy Knickerbocker,
Senior Coordinator, Communications,
Education International**

As world leaders meet at COP 15 to negotiate a global agreement to avert climate catastrophe, students and teachers in Copenhagen are taking concrete steps towards making their school carbon neutral by 2015 – a full decade before their city aims to achieve carbon neutrality.

"Oh yes, we are definitely going to do it," predicts Peter Daniel Andersen, vice-principal of Vanløse Public School. "We set ourselves a deadline that all the children in the school would be educated in the climate challenge by January 2010 and we have done it across the entire curriculum, not just in the natural sciences."

The 507 students at Vanløse, from Kindergarten through Grade 10, have created art work, poetry and videos, along with solar-powered cars and windmills made of Lego. One of their teachers wrote a song about climate change and the school choir performed it on Danish television during the week of the climate talks. Some of the older students are volunteering at COP 15 and the Klima Forum.

As the students are actively engaged in learning and teaching others, including their parents and other adults in the local community about sustainability, Andersen and the rest of the school staff are working on many different levels to reduce the carbon footprint of the 1920s-era school building.

Isolated outer doors, modern double-glazed windows, low-wattage lighting, timers on light switches and solar panels are only a start. They have plans to improve drainage and usage of rainwater, to plant a green roof on one building, and even to put windmills on another.

But beyond the physical changes, Andersen is most excited about the intellectual and ethical growth of the students and the entire school community. The staff, members of the Danish teachers' union DLF, are very dedicated and innovative in their commitment to the programme, he said. "We're all creating a sense of ownership on this issue. And the youngsters we are educating here are going to become the global citizens who will make a real difference in the future." ❖

Chávez y Morales Disparan al Norte

Por Raúl Pierri, IPS/TerraViva

Los presidentes Evo Morales, de Bolivia, y Hugo Chávez, de Venezuela, dirigieron el miércoles duras palabras a los gobiernos de países ricos, acusándolos de arrastrar al fracaso a la COP-15 por su "egoísmo" y su defensa de la "cultura de la muerte".

"El objetivo científicamente sustentable de reducir la emisión de gases contaminantes y lograr un convenio de cooperación a largo plazo, a todas luces, hoy a esta hora, parece haber fracasado", afirmó el mandatario venezolano ante el plenario de la COP-15 (15 Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático).

"¿La razón cuál es? No tenemos duda: la actitud irresponsable, la falta de voluntad política de las naciones más poderosas. Que nadie se sienta ofendido. Recurro al gran José Gervasio Artigas: con libertad no ofendo ni temo", añadió repitiendo la frase atribuida al héroe de la revolución uruguaya contra la colonización española.

La tensión se hizo patente en Copenhague el miércoles, cuando las partes continuaban enfrentadas en la búsqueda de un nuevo régimen de reducción de emisiones contaminantes, y se redoblaban los dispositivos de seguridad en torno al Bella Center, sede del encuentro, ante la llegada de jefes de Estado y de gobierno.

Organizaciones no gubernamentales expresaron su descontento por la expulsión de sus representantes en la conferencia por "razones de seguridad".

Mientras, la renuncia de la presidenta de la conferencia, la ministra danesa Connie Hedegaard, intensificó la sensación de zozobra.

En ese marco, Chávez acusó a las naciones más ricas de "egoísmo" y "conservadurismo político", así como de una "alta insensibilidad y falta de solidaridad con los más pobres, con los hambrientos, con los más vulnerables".

"Quiero recordar que los 500 millones de personas más ricas, esto es, siete por ciento de la población mundial, son responsables de 50 por ciento de las emisiones contaminantes. Mientras que el

50 por ciento más pobre es responsable sólo de siete por ciento de las emisiones contaminantes", indicó.

El presidente venezolano también hizo una reseña de la situación ambiental mundial.

"Sesenta por ciento de los ecosistemas del planeta están dañados. El 20 por ciento de la corteza terrestre está degradada. Hemos sido testigos impasibles de la deforestación, la conversión de tierras, la desertificación, las alteraciones de los sistemas de agua dulce, la sobreexplotación de los recursos marítimos, la contaminación y las pérdidas de la diversidad biológica", señaló.

"La utilización exacerbada de la tierra sobrepasa en 30 por ciento la capacidad de recuperarla. El planeta va perdiendo la capacidad de autorregularse", agregó.

Por otra parte, Chávez subrayó que su gobierno rechazaría cualquier tipo de borrador de documento que saliera "de la nada", en alusión al polémico texto danés filtrado la semana pasada, y sólo aprobaría uno emanado de las comisiones correspondientes del Protocolo de Kyoto y de la Convención.

Pocos minutos antes, en conferencia de prensa, su par boliviano Morales había lanzado también duras críticas al Norte industrial por la falta de transparencia en la COP-15.

"Acá hay una maniobra permanente, documentos que aparecen, decisiones de carácter selectivo sin tener en cuenta a los gobiernos que vienen con propuestas de los pueblos. Y no es posible que pueda desatarse esta maniobra para imponer un modelo que representa a la cultura de la muerte", afirmó Morales.

Rodeado de miembros de su delegación y de representantes indígenas, el mandatario condenó el "modelo occidental" y "el sistema de vida capitalista" que promueve el consumismo y la destrucción de la naturaleza.

"Este no es un problema solamente ecológico o de financiamiento, es un problema de modelo de vida. Esta es una profunda diferencia que tenemos con el modelo occidental. Esto no es una causa,

sino un efecto, efecto del sistema de vida capitalista", añadió.

Morales exhortó a los países ricos a pagar su "deuda climática", y para ello propuso una serie de pasos para que sean considerados en la COP-15.

El primero es promover una Declaración Universal de los Derechos de la Madre Tierra, una iniciativa que ha ya había presentado para su estudio ante las Naciones Unidas.

"Así como en el siglo pasado nuestros antepasados negros e indígenas eran tratados como esclavos y no se les reconocían derechos, ahora también a nuestra Madre Tierra la tratan como si fuera una cosa sin vida, como si no tuviera derechos", dijo el presidente a la prensa.

"Tenemos que terminar con la esclavitud de la Madre Tierra. No es posible que esté esclava de los países capitalistas. Y si no terminamos, olvídense de la vida", afirmó categórico.

El mandatario boliviano exigió asimismo al Norte financiamiento para reparar los "daños presentes y futuros" del cambio climático, y la "devolución del espacio atmosférico" a los países en desarrollo.

"No es posible que el espacio atmosférico sea de pocos países para su desarrollo, que los países que con industrialización irracional lo han ocupado, con sus emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Para pagar esta deuda deben reducir y absorber estos gases de manera tal que exista una distribución equitativa de la atmósfera", afirmó.

Por último, llamó a las naciones industriales a acoger a todos las personas que emigren por causa del calentamiento planetario.

"Creo que ahí los hermanos de África, los hermanos indígenas, tenemos mucha autoridad moral y ética para exigirlo. Antes nos han invadido y saqueado", sostuvo.

Originally reported in Terraviva, 16th October 2009
<http://www.ips.org/TV/copenhagen/chavez-y-morales-disparan-al-norte/>



Consumer Perspective Key To Mitigation

Consumers International (CI) is the only independent global campaigning voice for consumers. With over 220 member organisations in 115 countries we are building a powerful international consumer movement to help protect and empower consumers everywhere. For more information, visit www.consumersinternational.org/climate.

**By: Ruth Golding, Senior Policy Officer,
Consumers International**

Listening to the to-and-fro over the 'who', the 'how', the 'when' (and sadly it seems, the 'if') of mitigating climate change, it's impossible not to think that there's a voice missing here – that of consumers. Surely at the very core of mitigation questions is the issue of changing consumption patterns. But the gaping void between current consumption patterns and sustainable consumption is an issue that developed country governments just don't seem to want to address.

Where consumers have been mentioned in talks and events these past two weeks, it has been in the context of market forces. We heard both CEOs and ministers talk about the need for consumers to drive the market for sustainable products and services. If only it were so simple. Of course individual consumers have the potential to make a critical difference. Consumer voluntary actions are incredibly important and powerful, but they don't happen in a vacuum.

Rhetoric from business and governments alike is that consumers are unwilling or unready for the necessary transition. That somehow they must wait for consumers before they can act. A classic case of business interests being dressed up as consumer interests. So I'd like to set the record straight: Is the devastation of the planet through unsustainable production and consumption in consumer interests? Absolutely not.

The reality is that millions of consumers all over the world are concerned about climate change –and many are already directly affected. But it isn't just a question of whether consumers care. In fact, research suggests that the belief



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that your actions will have an impact is more than six times more relevant in predicting whether you'll make sustainable choices than how much you care.

Consumers need incentives from governments, as well as guidance and leadership on how to make the transition. And they need businesses to make these changes feasible. As well as feelings of disempowerment, meaningful consumer action is disabled by misleading and confusing green claims, and a lack of genuine green options.

Emissions trading schemes are a good example. In countries with national emissions trading schemes, consumers electing to pay a premium for government accredited renewable energy do so because they are seeking to minimize their GHG emissions. But the inherent perverse effect of these schemes is that where a consumer makes this choice, the result is not a reduction in GHG emissions but simply a release of more carbon emissions permits onto the

market. So the consumer's attempt to reduce overall emissions is unsuccessful and demotivating.

The COP negotiations are so important in all of this because consumers need to see effective action from governments, and a reversal in unsustainable business trends, if they are to believe that their own consumption choices can make a difference. And binding emissions reductions targets are needed now. Without renewed commitments, there is no market predictability, and without that, sustainable products and services just won't be available for consumers to access.

Climate change is affecting consumers everywhere. Millions of consumers all over the world are ready to change their consumption patterns. But they need to be given the tools to make that change. We desperately need our leaders to seize the moment in Copenhagen and give us an ambitious agreement. Without a legally binding deal we simply delay the practical actions in areas like food, housing and transport that are needed to empower consumers to move towards genuinely greener lifestyles.

Consumers need to be central in the roadmap towards climate sustainability. We need outcomes capable of encouraging, enabling and inspiring consumer action. We've gone round in circles for long enough on the issue of who is going to be the one to act. Governments, business and consumers all have their role to play and now is the time to play it. Yes, consumers need to consume in a more sustainable way. And our leaders need to lead. ❖

A Solar Angle on Mitigation

By: Dr Dave Renné and Pete Gorton, International Solar Energy Society and acknowledging input from Dr Muriel Watt, Australian PhotoVoltaic Association

Solar technologies are unique in that they are almost universally applicable for both Mitigation and Adaptation. Solar is relatively easy to understand – at least in concept – everyone knows what the warmth of the sun feels like! Solar technologies fall into two broad groups – thermal, and photovoltaic (electricity) – from watches to full size commercial power generation facilities. Thermal can be for heating water, or concentrated for electricity generation or desalination.

Solar energy is ubiquitous – it's equally available everywhere – (although obviously in limited supply in Copenhagen in winter!). There are no downsides to using solar energy, although frequently people confuse affordability with practicality.

Solar solutions are available now, and are not subject to the common perceptions that they are too expensive, apply only to a niche market, or are not applicable to 24/7 “baseload” power situations. In fact, costs reducing surprisingly quickly – favorable policies like FIT around the world have encouraged widespread application, and therefore prices are dropping year on year. Applications now range from large central generation facilities through distributed systems to power individual homes and factories, and remote off-grid applications power facilities distant from the grid, e.g. telecommunications repeaters and water pumps. Thus there are considerable savings in diesel fuel which would otherwise be required – with consequent GHG emissions.

There are no winners and losers with solar access – and there are unlikely to be energy resource wars, as no one party can ever “own” the solar resource, although “solar access” legislation is sometimes required in built-up areas to

Solar is relevant to both developed and developing nations, the only requirement being to apply the technology where it is appropriate

ensure that adjoining properties or trees don't shade their neighbour's solar collectors.

Solar facilities do require access to land or buildings to host the collection array of collectors.

Solar is relevant to both developed and developing nations, the only requirement being to apply the technology where it is appropriate. Distributed generation of both heat and electricity is useful, although the technology is applicable to both grid connected or independent consumers.

All solar technologies are available here and now, with more than 20GW PV



Photo courtesy of the NREL 'PIX' library collection

already deployed. Quick deployment allows immediate energy requirements to be met, with extremely low GHG emissions, for both electricity and heating of both water and/or air.

Distributed PV systems are ideally suited to the emerging “smart grids”, where their suitability and cost-effectiveness is increased even further, and real savings in GHG are immediately achievable.

Solar represents a group of rapidly developing technologies, but as it's still relatively in its infancy, even more promising developments are to come, as a result of the intensive commercial and government-sponsored research, and efforts to commercialise the technology for commercial applications. In fact, government-sponsored research programmes are improving efficiency, longevity and reliability of these systems, as well as investigating and refining means of storing energy for use when the sun is not shining.

All solar systems have been shown to have long lifetimes, as systems are still operating after more than 30 years, having been deployed after the 1970's fuel crises.

Some of the more attractive attributes of solar include the lack of noise, the fact that in many installations there are no – or few - moving parts, and, apart from cleaning panels, there are minimal water requirements.

It's also important not to forget some of the less exotic uses of solar technologies, including solar food drying, process heat production for factories, lighting and heating buildings, water purification and desalination. All of these uses show that solar technologies are indispensable for mitigation in both the short and medium terms. ❖

Looking at the Menu at COP15

By: Prof. Jan Lundqvist, Senior Scientific Advisor, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and Josh Paglia, SIWI

Let's call it the ¼ menu, 25% of Sweden's national per capita CO₂ emissions comes from what Swedes eat. That is two metric tons of carbon on the dinner table each year. Here is another quarter for your thoughts: one-fourth of the food purchased in Sweden is thrown away, most perfectly fit to eat. Every year, the average Swede puts half a metric ton of CO₂ worth of food in waste. And that is just Sweden, a small nation with a reputation for an environmentally conscious population. Here is the bigger half to the story: 50 percent of all the food we grow in the field globally is lost or wasted.

This waste has tremendous costs that must be taken up, in and beyond the current climate negotiations. The carbon footprint of uneaten food is considerable and the water footprint is even larger. Recent studies from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases found that in the US, more than one quarter of the total freshwater consumption and 300 million barrels of oil per year were burned on food that people do not eat. They also estimated that per capita food waste increased by 50 percent over the past 35 years.

We need to reverse this trend. It does not require breakthrough innovations. We simply need to employ sound reasoning and commitment to modify our habits as individuals and societies. Copenhagen is a good place to start.

A Recipe for Climate, Food and Water Security

Food production is among the largest emitters to, and most impacted by, climate change. This is why the small steps taken to include food security as a component of the still unfinished AWG-LCA text should be seen as a productive development. Inappropriate disposal of food waste flows into landfills and

A win-win alternative for every nation to improve climate, water and food security is to reduce losses in the field during transport and storage; curb waste; and increase efficiency throughout the entire production and consumption chain.

generates methane. In developing countries, a large part of food spoils before it has a chance to be consumed. Depending on item and context, an estimated 15-35% of food may be lost in the field and another 10-15% is discarded or spoiled during processing, transport and storage. Investments and targets to reduce these losses should be national priorities in adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Apart from the heavy - and largely unnecessary - costs to produce uneaten food, the deteriorating context for increasing agricultural production must also be considered. As many as 40 percent of the Sub-Saharan countries could lose a substantial part of their agricultural production potential due to global warming over the next century. Mr. Zheng Guoguang, head of the China Meteorological Administration, has recently estimated that a rise in erratic weather could mean China's crop production levels may fluctuate from 30 to 50 percent from year to year. He made waves with his suggestion that it "is more realistic and urgent for China, a big developing country, to adapt to than mitigate climate change. So China should put adaptation as top strategy of addressing climate change and put enhancing grain production and ensuring food security as first task." A win-win alternative for every nation to improve

climate, water and food security is to reduce losses in the field during transport and storage; curb waste; and increase efficiency throughout the entire production and consumption chain.

Fixing the Global Eating Disorder

The amount of food that is produced is much higher than what is considered as adequate to provide food security for all, even the 9 billion expected in 2050. But the global diet needs to change. Overeating has grown into a larger problem in scale than hunger: The World Health Organization estimates that at least 1.2 billion people suffer from being overweight and 400 million are obese, while 1 billion are currently malnourished. Hunger is a crisis of poverty and distribution, not production. People suffer because they lack the means to access the food that is produced.

As we prepare for another 3 billion mouths to feed over the coming decades and the associated growing demand for increased water and carbon intensive foods, supply side solutions will not be sufficient. Like with fossil fuels, we cannot continue to pump water from the ground, lakes and aquifers faster than they are naturally replenished. We can and must get more 'crop per drop' of water through better use of the entire water resource, including the rain and moisture in the soil. But this must be coupled with healthier, less water- and carbon-intensive diets, minimized waste and a more efficient food chain. An achievable target and necessary goal is to reduce losses and wastage of food by half by 2025. Policy, pricing and social campaigns that discourage waste are needed.

At the COP 15 and beyond, we need a lot more thought for food and a lot less in the bin. ❖

The Impact of Climate Change on Employment

How to plan for mitigation: an account of trade union experiences.

Trade unions will pay close attention to financial flows for mitigation investments to developing countries. While this will be necessary in order to enhance the contribution of developing countries, in particular emerging economies, to the global emissions reduction effort, significant attention should be given simultaneously to meeting adaptation needs and to policies aiming at reducing poverty and vulnerability.

Trade unions believe it is crucial that governments at the UNFCCC include financial mechanism provisions related to “just transition” policies, such as social/employment vulnerability assessments, re-training and economic diversification in the least developed countries as part of the commitment to adaptation as well as mitigation.

By: International Trade Union Confederation

Social Dialogue in Spain: smoothing the impacts of mitigation on employment

In compliance with the commitments outlined in the Kyoto Protocol and European Directives, Spain had to design its own National Allocations Plan (PNA) establishing targets on emission reductions for several key sectors.

In view of this, Spanish trade unions proposed the creation of a tripartite space for the monitoring and assessment of the effects that these reductions could have on employment and competitiveness.

As a result, in 2005 one National Table and eight “Sectoral Tables”, composed of the most representative trade unions, employer organisations and the government, were constituted with a view to facilitating appropriate transitions and maximising positive spin-offs from mitigation processes for the world of work.

The tripartite “Social Dialogue Tables” have proven to be very useful as they have permitted a better understanding of the challenges and possibilities on a sectoral basis and they have facilitated specific indicators for the assessment and anticipation of eventual labour and social impacts of mitigation policies.

They are a true example of how social dialogue could be put in place in other countries, and the outcomes to date demonstrate the importance of involving workers’ organisations as key actors in the implementation of climate change measures.

Danish workplaces: employee-driven action

At the Copenhagen ZOO, shop stewards have taken on a different role, that of saving energy and water. The ZOO uses large amounts of water and energy in taking care of the animals but after having received ISO environmental certification, they were eager to save more energy as it is a place of large energy consumption.

The Danish Confederation of Trade Unions was approached by the ZOO about collaboration, focusing on a bottom-up approach, where workers with inside knowledge about the workings of the ZOO could come with suggestions on how to achieve energy efficiency and save water.

The sharing of ideas has taken place at all levels, between skilled and unskilled workers, and it has been a process driven by the employees themselves. Dialogue has been the guiding principle and the 10 elected environmental representatives at the workplace have been a motivational factor to other workers in the efforts to recycle, reduce emissions, using biodegradable products and collecting rainwater to utilize for cleaning and watering.

Self-Employed Women’s Association – empowering communities

SEWA represents over one million self-employed women in India and they have been actively promoting green livelihoods, green energy campaign and eco-friendly agricultural practices to mitigate the impact of climate change, reduce the carbon footprints and educate rural women workers on how to work towards mitigation.

It is worth mentioning two concrete projects where SEWA has been taking initiative and showing just how eager workers and unions in the developing countries are to contribute in fighting climate change.

SEWA NIRMAAN, a construction company owned and managed by rural poor, employs around 5000 construction workers. It builds eco-friendly homes out of indigenous nature materials, this keeps houses relatively cooler during summer and warmer during winter, thereby saving large amounts of electrical energy and reducing GHG emissions.

Another SEWA initiative (focused on emission reductions) is the construction of 145 Bio Gas plants in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India. The bio gas plants has reduced the hard work of collecting wood, cooking food on cow dung cakes, and it has improved the quality of life for rural women and left them time for other productive purposes. The small plants use eco-friendly energy and the total amount of carbon emission reductions is 2994 tons CO2 per year.

Do not Seal a Deal in a Hurry!

Just Plan Your Next Climate Negotiation Trip!

As we intend to live on earth for longer than the negotiators expect!

**By: Uchita de Zoysa, Convener,
Climate Sustainability PLATFORM**

With just two more days to go, I simply cannot support COP15 to seal any deal here in Copenhagen. From Bali to now, there has been no indication that the negotiators have shown any commitment towards a global agreement. Now that the national leaders are here in Copenhagen, why should they rush into an agreement? Buying time is of course the name of the game for them, and the world is aware of this shameless act. But, we are not ready to accept a deal from Copenhagen that can only ensure that some bureaucrats save their jobs. So, now that you have enjoyed the hospitality of another city, let me invite the negotiators to concentrate on planning their next climate negotiation trip and improve on their carbon footprint. While, the negotiators increase their emissions and talk about mitigation responsibilities, we the people will continue to plan our existence on earth.

The PLATFORM met with the C-ROADS team that has developed a climate policy simulator which enables the users to rapidly evaluate the impact of national GHG emissions reduction policies through 2100. Dr. Elizabeth Sawin for the C-ROADS team said, "We are providing close to real-time analysis of proposals within the negotiations. Friday (11th) the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action released a draft text that included emissions reduction targets. As we began to understand that the press and others were unsure of the implications of the draft text we decided it would be useful to offer C-ROADS analysis on the text. Here's the summary, "Mitigation Gap: National Emissions Reductions Proposals Currently Fall Short of the Targets Defined in Draft Text from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action". Dr. Sawin further stated; "significant differences remain between the aggregate emissions reductions



from current national proposals and the mitigation targets released yesterday in a draft text at the UNFCCC climate talks in Copenhagen. Achieving the potential declared in the draft texts will require sufficient commitment to financing, technology transfer, monitoring, verification, and accountability to allow nations to commit to and achieve higher reduction targets than they have currently put on the table."

While appreciating the fact that the model may help US and other Western Negotiators to play their numbers game, I have asked the C-ROADS team how their simulation can help us from the southern countries to ascertain poverty reduction, wellbeing increase, and other equity criteria while reducing national GHG emissions. The team has agreed to improve on the model to include such elements which are more pressing issues of over half of humanity on earth now in poverty. As Ms. Florence Charamba Christensen from Zimbabwe told us at a PLATFORM Dialogue, "as basic needs have yet to be met in developing nations, and the fact that there is a huge inequality in consumption, I

believe climate sustainability with a humanitarian approach is the key. Therefore, I would like to witness a solution where climate sustainability can be addressed through equity."

With fifteen years of negotiations, a Kyoto Protocol that spelt out some easy commitments for emission reductions, a Nobel prize winning IPCC Assessment Report, hundreds of thousands of people taking to the street to demonstrate against inaction, and even USA President Barack Obama wanting to move his country towards a more greener economy, the negotiators at COP15 are demonstrating the most primitive side of human animals. Now that the organisers of COP15 have blocked most of civil society to enter the Bella Centre, they may as well have the entire place turned into the circus they are so much capable of. They can now continue to elect their own head monkeys and chief clowns and entertain themselves, while mitigation obligations continue to become the scapegoat for lack of agreement to ensure humanity a chance on earth.

(Send comments to uchita@slt.net.lk)



Food for Thought...

Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum

Tomorrow is Today

"Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one." — Albert Einstein.

As we draw towards the finish of the largest environmental gathering since the Johannesburg Earth Summit it is clear our world leaders have not yet been able to address the seriousness of what faces us. It is increasingly becoming obvious to many that they wasted the nearly twenty years since the Rio Earth Summit when action could have been made on a number of fronts and could have ensured that help was made available to developing countries through funding and technology transfer to move to a more sustainable path.

The lack of implementation of both the Rio and Johannesburg agreement means we are now seeing an emerging nexus between environment and security.

Launched on the 4th of December the book *Climate Change and Insecurity* edited by Andrew Higham, Richard Sherman and myself: tries to outline the challenges that we are now starting to face and some ways to address those challenges. The book has an impressive list of contributors including Prof Stern, Achim Steiner, Nnimmo Bassey, European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, Jacques Diouf, Ahmed,

Djoghla, former German Minister Sigmar Gabriel, South African Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk and many more.

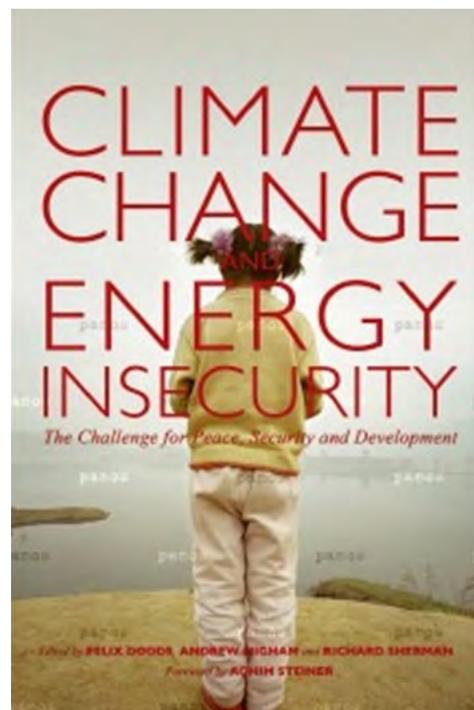
The book looks at: Energy Insecurity: Challenges to future energy stability, Climate Insecurity: A challenge to peace, security and development and Governing Climate and Energy Instability: Avenues for preventative diplomacy.

We are the first generation who realize that our personal actions impact upon but that can also contribute to the sustainability of our planet. We have perhaps a short time: 10-20 years to redirect the development model that has dominated this period of our lives on this planet. We know it is destroying options for future generations. On this generation falls the burden of proving to the world that we really mean it, when we say all people are created free and equal and should benefit from the fruits of this planet, to ensure that we live in a sustainable way.

We might all wish for an easier challenge, a more tranquil world but that isn't our lot. If we are to create a sustainable world for all of the people living and future generations to come, then we must change now not in 10-20 years.

As Maurice Strong has said:

'We must treat climate as a security issue, the most important threat to global security we will ever face. Energy is at the heart of this transition. Climate security and energy security are two sides of the same coin: one cannot be achieved without the other.' He went on to say. "This book is an important contribution to exploring this vital part of the environmental security agenda.'



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