

COP23 Observers and Government Consultation, NYC

20 September 2017

RINGO Notes

Please see attached agenda, which we followed, more or less.

Ambassador Khan led most of the consultation, assisted by Ashwini Prabha, assistant to Deo Sara (pronounced Shara), Fiji HL Climate Champion. (Note: Ashwini was the main contact for this session; aprabha@cop23.com.fj)

Others introduced as important contacts for CSO were Elise ___ (formerly of CAN, unclear of role); Robin ___, Khan's Chief of Staff; Halo ___, FP for logistics; and Karen ___ of the UNFCCC.

Constituencies in attendance (no formal intros around the room, so based on my eyeballing): ENGO (Lina of CAN; Alden); BINGO (Norine); RINGO (Tracy); WGC (Bridget); LMG (C40 rep); YUNGO (Dominique); IP (members present, but no names). No reps from TUNGO, Farmers. About 25 – 30 people were in the room, all told.

Session 1

After general welcome, comments by Fiji PM, and group photo, Khan set out Fiji's vision (first 3 below) & desired outcomes (last 2) for COP23:

- Operationalizing the IP platform and gender action plan ("more than mere rhetoric")
- Bringing health to the fore ("Nairobi WP intended to include it, but states say not well done")
- Oceans (recently co-chaired oceans conference with Sweden, which resulted in a strong call for action)
- Main goal #1 = making progress on the Paris rulebook (now being called "implementation guidelines")
- Main goal #2 = recommending design for 2018 Facilitative Dialogue (FD)

Khan also bluntly stated that given the current geopolitical situation, COP23 was no longer a working COP but instead needs to restate Paris vision. Hence Fiji wants to have a "visionary COP" while still working on nuts and bolts of main goals 1 & 2 above, where specific sticking points are:

- On #1 = some Ps concerned about "uniform and balanced" progress & unclear definition of what is progress and in what form progress must be shown
- On #2 = given that the FD is intended to enhance ambition, and that current state of the state is no P has done enough + we're in now in "bad straits" = urgent action needed, how does the FD persuade leaders toward urgency, ambition, and specific steps in their co's NDCs?
- Again, Khan emphasized that Fiji is expected to deliver the design of the FD; she came back to this point repeatedly.

Breakout sessions

Priority issues and report out on them:

1. IP rights: advocate rights-based approach (has lobbying paper); looking forward to COP dec with “one state, one IP” co-champions, linkages between FD and global action agenda, financing for participation (right now fewer than 20 “friendly” states support now)
2. Oceans: seek intro on formal agenda (and wonder which state groups could move it) and 3-year pathway toward creating a WP; offers idea of coalition of Pacific coastal cities
3. Gender: WGC seeks two HL messages, 1. UNFCCC-wide action plan and 2. Grassroots IP women participating; seeks measurable target for women participation (e.g. Fiji 50)
4. Health: SGD3 connection and part of broader resilience initiative; should talk about co-benefits, empower WHO; should have HL event on health
5. Education (I participated in this group, along with Alden, Norine, and Dominique, who reported out): ed was key component of COP22 decision, how can COP23 dec cement it? importance to ask all 9 constituencies to work together on a specific issue (Khan replied: give us a proposal!); can use TEMs to socialize education norms

Session 2

Christine Fung, Advisor to Fiji HL Champion (Deo Sara) presented her work on the MRK Partnership for Global Climate Action, emphasizing two deliverables per COP22 mandate:

1. Yearbook on climate actions by non-state actors
2. Summary for policymakers (SPM) of this.

Fung explained that the purpose of both is to convince Ps that climate action is taking place outside their space, and persuade them to interact with it; both the yearbook and the SPM will be evidence of these actions and will provide recommendations on how to include them in Ps’ NDCs. It will be presented to the UN SG and UNFCCC Secretary at a HL ceremony in Bula Zone.

- She noted that this effort builds on the NAZCA portal, in particular its “priority track”, but commented frankly that it’s a “huge, messy animal”; so, while this NAZCA portal feeds into the yearbook, she/COP23 CL Champion has distributed survey forms to non-state actors asking for specific examples of these actions. (NOTE: Most observers present said they hadn’t received these forms; Fung took people’s cards, including mine.)
- She also announced that the Climate Action days organized by the MRK partnership would focus on ag, energy, water, oceans, forests, industry

Continuation of Session 1

Khan asked the group for views on how to include CSO in COP23 and supporting the COP23 presidency’s priorities. She described Fiji’s idea of building on the existing non-state actor space through TEMs, which would then feed into the SB agendas. She want to see more active inclusion of CSO in mitigation and adaptation committees, setting the agenda and not just sitting as observers.

Participants’ views included:

- We can set up 1x1 meetings with policymakers but need to know how it fits into your process.

- Need HL event where COP23 prez presents a road map that glues together all events that are developing momentum for the COP; also need landmarks in this road map for non-state actors, and specific invite to participate.
- Need to finalize implementation guidelines by COP24 and before that, a consolidated negotiating text with options; some of this would be legal text but not all; this text needs to be balanced but recognize that we can't make same progress on each one; use ministers for political cover; invite submissions, give guidance to APA co-chairs, organize additional sessions (like pre-Paris), and give CSOs access to the process b/c they can provide technical input and help to "socialize" these ideas.
- Need to add priority about finance and support for L&D, by directing WIM to address/not avoid finance Q.
- Possible to create a platform on insurance?
- Use stocktakes throughout.
- Need actions and visible outcomes, not just noise of reaffirming commitment to Paris Agreement.

Khan concluded that implementation guidelines = biggest challenge. Need to be measured by a "measurable vision." Not useful to have text with big blanks or one like the Geneva Negotiating Text in order to achieve "uniformly progressive" on each agenda item. Likewise "papering over the cracks" of deep, ideological divides. Achieving consensus on the road map for next year would be good, with workshops created on the most difficult issues.

Last session on FD

Khan outlined that, in listening to lots of state and non-state actors, she sees consensus around this session being highly interactive, including non-state actors, focused on enhancing ambition and not "blame game," and geared toward the 1.5C IPCC report. Fiji sees using "Talanoa" technique, which is simple, based on storytelling, to create empathy and trust, and then leads to a resolution for the collective good. Khan sees in first half of next year, lots of submissions, synthesis and analysis of them by the Secretariat, a special session on the 1.5C report, and then a political decision about current NDC impact on global temperature. She wants to invite submissions on how non-state actors can participate in the FD, to tap into processes and make it easier to implement.

Observers replied with:

- FD should not be a one off (mentioned several times)
- Must balance stocktakes with revising NDCs by 2020

Khan concluded this issue with several observations and questions:

- FD will not be valid and will not be sustained unless non-state actors participate in it.
- Fiji wants the CSO-state dialogue at COP23 to be so important that it continues at future COPs.
- If no clear design is agreed on by Ps and CSOs, should COP23 prez launch it? what happens if 1-2 Ps disagree?
- What do you see at the close of COP24 – political declaration? COP decision/