

APA Co-Chairs Briefing with Observer Organisations

Tuesday, 11 December 2018, 11am-12noon, Climate Action Room 2

COP24/CMP14/CMA1-3/SBI49/SBSTA49/ APA1-7

Note taker: Melissa Low, Research Fellow, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore
(esimlyx@nus.edu.sg)

The briefing began at 11.05pm

- Have done final report
- Strictly speaking, are no longer co-chairs
- Ensure that the baby is not just born but also walking
- APA closed and have forwarded text to COP24 for consideration in Week 2
- Struck by level of engagement of Parties right from the get-go in Katowice
- That hard work and dedication allowed for much progress to be made
- Despite all that hard work and good advances, still number of issues unresolved
- The Polish COP presidency basically said that we want two more days of work to be done to endeavor to resolve more straight forward issues as possible; in their view, more matters unresolved than as appropriate or possible for ministers to deal with in the second week
- The COP president asked Sarah and I and Paul and Emmanuel to work as experts to facilitate work and see what advances could be made by the end of the afternoon today
- **Stocktaking plenary at 5pm** where they will be looking at the product of work so far
- Where to next? will be discussed
- Ministers started on finance issues yesterday and on the other issues, on Wednesday onwards
- We know that Parties have been working away in rooms until very late last night to work systematically through the text, continuing work today and we've asked them to be solutions focused and oriented to look for agreed language and text to either close off or narrow down options so number of unresolved issues can be made manageable

YOUNGO

- Concerned about state of human rights in APA 3, 4, 5, 6
- APA 8 – like to ask how you'd envision fostering more meaningful negotiations among Parties

TUNGO

- Insufficient reference to rights issues in draft text e.g. human rights
- We want to see recommendations on Just transition in Paris rulebook
- What can COP presidency do to integrate human rights and just transition issues back in to the text?

BINGO

- Update or elaboration on status of the GST and non-state actors therein
- Good relationship with the APA and we'd like to be able to educate the baby as it starts to walk and here any possible update you can provide

- Transparency – number of unresolved issues – what do you see as the key crunch issues as we move along to the ministerial segment

ENGO

- CAN: collectively concerned about the health of the baby; that rulebook discussions are in a dangerous state (tradeoffs) e.g. on transparency and flexibility and loop holes on LULUCF rules
- Process going forward on political and technical issues
- Equity concerns in GST

Women & Gender

- Echo other observers on rights in the rulebook

(Former) APA Co-Chairs

- Thanked observers for their questions
- Important exercise to engage with observers, and thank you for doing so in our last capacity as APA Co-Chairs
- Party-driven process emphasized
- Value of having observers here is to raise questions about these concerns that you have
- Innovative approach now is on the recommendations on just transition becoming a focus
- Issues are relevant and important but we try not to prejudge the outcomes
- The drafting exercise of the text is still under the guidance of Parties; to see how they want to make these things operational
- Finish lines have passed from our perspectives
- To put us in good standing at the end of the COP, important to focus on core issues for the implementation of the PA
- Details need to be sufficient to enable different systems, processes and parts to function when put in place
- Equity remains an important point, although there remains key differences on how to make it a meaningful deliberation
- Understand that Parties have not given up, trying to address some proposals that came last week
- Trying to focus on critical elements
- Need some follow-up technical work and to understand on critical key issues to be resolved at the end of COP24 – timeline on when and how they will be discussed in the future
- Although finance is taken by Parties right now, but those negotiators looking at Adaptation Fund needs to be responsible for the text still – level of technical work that needs to be cleaned and presented to ministers e.g. exclusivity, not technical issues / not taken away from technical negotiators

- Reinforce that Parties have shaped the agenda and the Paris Agreement Work Programme – what is there on the table now represents the scope and not the case of there being now opportunities to introduce new things
- There will be an extent of trade-offs made
- Looking for an outcome that is workable and has buy-in from all Parties so that they will implement it but also that it remains credible and consistent with the Paris Agreement itself; that's what everybody tells us they want
- On Loss & Damage, the negotiations are continuing in the rooms – GST and transparency; that conversation is definitely continuing today
- There have been some really important developments that are taking forward the human rights agenda, with Just Transition and Local Communities and Indigenous Platform, etc. aspects of that are a core part of the work of the UNFCCC
- Question about the process going forward – that is in the hands of the Presidency
- They have said they want ministerial engagement; we know no more than that and not our role to presume or deliver messages about what the COP presidency plans
- We have always valued the opportunity to meet – never felt like quite enough to meet on one occasion – we love hearing your questions and we are very clear on where your priority and interests lie
- You play a hugely important, influential role in this process and all power to your elbow and may you continue to keep Parties' feet to the fire and ensure your interests get taken into account
- We will keep our fingers crossed now and we do what we can in our (no longer) APA role to bring the COP to a successful conclusion.

The Chair thanked the former APA Co-Chairs for their time, for the times they engaged with observers and for fighting for the rooms to be open to observers and wished us luck for the outcomes of COP24.

The briefing ended at 11.36pm.