

RINGO Report-back Template:

Attendee and Note Writer's Name:

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Affiliations:

International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), Chair of the Disaster Intervention, Climate Change and Sustainability Committee and Designated Contact Point and Representative at the UNFCCC meetings, and attended the Climate Change Dialogues 2020 on behalf of IASSW; and. University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland, the UK, Director of the Disaster Interventions and Humanitarian Aid Programme.

Session Being Reported On:

Presidency's Open Dialogue between Observers and Parties

17:00-19:00 3 December 2020

UNFCCC secretariat

Session Chair: Archie Young, UK Lead Negotiator for COP26

Archie Young welcomed the Parties and Observers to the session, and saw it as a crucial means for encouraging dialogue between the Parties and Observers, and bringing innovation to the Table. As he repeated much of what he had said in the 30 Nov 2020 report, I will not repeat these here.

Speakers from COP25 and COP26:

The meeting was then addressed by Alok Sharma, Secretary of State for Business in the UK, and President of COP26. He thanked various people who had organised the event and welcomed the Parties and Observers. He was keen to engage with Observers, and mentioned several meetings he had attended to hear from NGOs representing trade unionists, young people indigenous peoples, and women's interests on climate change. He emphasised the importance of 'working together' to meet the ambitious target set to reach Net Zero and the other targets linked to the Paris Agreement which are important to COP26. He also commented on the useful support emanating from Italy regarding the arrangements being made through YOUNGO for young people, and the Net Zero campaign. He was looking forward to ramping up wider stakeholder engagement and climate ambition and reaching a comprehensive agreement in Glasgow which would include marginalised voices and gender equality.

Carolina Schmidt, COP25 President also addressed the meeting, and referred to the importance of including responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in the green recovery which would rebuild economies within a renewable energy base. She also emphasised the importance of dialogue and evidence in 'building back better' as the world races to reach zero carbon emissions.

Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, also encouraged the group to work together to achieve a green post-Covid-19 economic recovery, which she felt was crucial to climate change actions. She felt hope, transparency, momentum towards achieving climate change goals, and listening to and learning from each other, would get facilitate a good COP26 process.

Other Speakers (in order of appearance):

Abyd Kamali, BINGO, argued for business to be seen as a full partner in the green recovery by asking for economic support for business to play its full role in climate change, given the damage caused to livelihoods and supply chains by Covid-19. This would enable businesses to contribute to collective efforts aimed at ending economic exclusion, social inequalities, and coordinating and managing

resources that could help meet the goals set for carbon neutral economies and ending the use of fossil fuels, and enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He was pleased Article 6 (Paris Agreement) included the markets (Note: the carbon markets allowed under Article 6 were and remain contentious).

Eddy Pérez, Environmental NGO, Climate Action, discussed the links between health, economic devastation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and pre-existing structural inequalities and climate change. He argued that structural vulnerabilities were experienced differently by different groups and that this should be included in the NDCs. He argued that NDCs should support a just and fair transformation. Instead of observing the Paris Agreement regarding limiting the use of fossil fuels, he argued that usage was not declining by 6% per year as stipulated in the Paris Agreement, but has increased yearly since 2015. Moreover, he claimed that the G20 have subsidized fossil fuels by \$230 billion since Covid-19 started. He cited Costa Rica and Chile as among the handful of countries that had built resilient economies without using fossil fuels. He also suggested that the process to COP26 should enhance civil society organisation (CSO) involvement and show solidarity towards the Global South which was experiencing multiple crises.

Nathan Thanki, Climate Justice Now, ENGO – CIN, claimed that Covid-19 had ‘inflamed inequalities’, and that although we might all be ‘in the same storm, we were in different boats’. He was critical of those who wanted to be ‘on the right side of history’ without ‘walking the walk’, and complained about ‘greenwashing’ and ‘technological fixes’ as the way to deal with these problems. He also challenged the COP26 host to ‘get its house in order’ first, as a reality check.

Nicole Wilke, Party, EU, thought that Covid-19 had provided a ‘wind of change’ that could be linked to climate change and used to ‘build back better’, including reaching net zero by 2050.

Masahiro Takasugi, Party, Japan, commented on Japan’s transition to a net zero carbon economy by 2050, and asked COP26 to demonstrate international solidarity, and raise its ambitions for dealing with climate change.

Andres Landerretche Moreno, COP25, Coordinator (for the COP25 President), expressed his thanks to those working on the issues that need to be addressed through COP26 and the lead up to it.

John Davies, National Farmers Union, Farmer from Wales, represented farmers and their concerns globally. He highlighted the importance of markets, young farmers, and not using a ‘one size fits all’ approach to farming.

Indigenous People’s Organisations – the representative was unable to connect, so was returned to later when contact was finally established.

Yunis Arikan, LGMA, argued for the involvement of mayors in the climate change talks, focusing mainly on enhancing NDCs.

Mattias Frumerie, Party, Sweden, spoke about the importance of sustainable finance for a green recovery, through a green budget espoused by the Coalition of Financial Ministers. He notified the group of Sweden’s commitment to becoming fossil fuel free and being carbon neutral by 2045

Carlos Fuller, Party, Belize, called this the year of ambition. He wanted enhanced NDCs that would support the 1.5°C target as this would help Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and highlighted a meeting that would discuss this to be held on 12 December 2020. He also highlighted the importance of SIDS becoming self-sufficient in food and reducing food miles.

Tracy Bach and Marilyn Averill (a founder member of), RINGO, gave an account of the contributions to research and policy formation made by civil society organisations and universities in RINGO. This would enable the Parties to set an ambitious agenda with a green recovery programme that addressed mitigation, adaptation and ambition. This had included the publication, the Green Deal and Recovery Plan, working with groups including the University Climate Change Coalition, the International Universities Climate Alliance, and the COP26 Universities Network. Their watchword was building capacity through cooperation, evidence-based policies, good processes, open dialogue, inclusivity, sharing of knowledges, providing inputs into NDCs, and stakeholder engagement. They saw COP26 as offering a once in a lifetime opportunity to invest in the future.

Bert de Wel, TUNGO, spoke on behalf of trade unions and workers' rights to a good job, decent pay, labour rights, human rights, a universal social protection floor, training and just transitions to a carbon-neutral economy included in NDCs.

Milagros De Camps, Deputy Minister of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Dominican Republic, Party, welcomed discussions about the green recovery.

Franz Xaver Perrez, Environmental Ambassador, BAFU, Switzerland, Party, wanted robust, long-term research and development that promoted investment and net zero goals, and argued that the G20 should reform their subsidies to fossil fuels.

Shadhra Shreejaya, Women and Gender, highlighted the disadvantages women faced in their daily lives, including violence on the home and the streets, despite being frontline workers during Covid-19, and contributing to climate change endeavours. She was disappointed by the lack of recognition for women's caring work in the green recovery plans and the failure to engage women fully throughout COP26 activities. She called for ecological justice, human rights and transformed gender relations, and an end to the commodified social services, and armed trade. She also wanted the realisation of international solidarity and just economic financial arrangements.

Marie-Claire, and Heeta Lakhani, YOUNGO, spoke on behalf of young people and praised the support they had received from Italy in organising meetings and events for them to meet. She asked the Parties to sign the Child and Youth Declaration, and to provide scholarships for young people to attend COP26, other meetings and events, to ensure that young people were included in all activities, and maintained their momentum.

Ruth tchav'aya K'isen Miller, Indigenous People's Organisations, Native Movement, was welcomed to the meeting now that contact had been achieved. She spoke of the suffering of indigenous peoples and animals including fish in the Arctic area, and complained that the market approach of Article 6 ignored the contributions that indigenous peoples could make through their heritages, cultures, knowledge, skills and sustainable approach to life that they had lived always. She made the case for their inclusion throughout the COP26 process. She felt that indigenous people recognised the co-dependencies between people and ecosystem, had healing approaches to problems, and that this, combined with their belief in the sacredness of all life had much to offer COP26. Key among these were hope, working together as one, and recognizing the urgency of the situation indigenous people faced when they had contributed least to climate change.

Loredana Dall'Ora, Italy, Ministry of the Environment, Party, spoke as a partner in the organisation of COP26, with specific responsibility for supporting young people's participation in the process, monthly seminars, and the Pre-Congress Summit in Milan from 30 September to 2 October 2021.

Open Floor Speakers

There was sufficient time left for only a few of those requesting to speak from the floor to do so. These were:

Vincent Chauvet, Mayor of Atun, France, LGMA, spoke of the importance of mayors and those representing sub-national levels of government to be included in the COP26 process. He also explained how various cities had come together to act on issues, including biodiversity, the (EU) green deal, and their actions as global leaders on climate change. He asked that such contributions be recognised.

Par Lashans, BINGO, spoke of innovative technologies within companies aiming to be carbon neutral for a sustainable future, e.g., IKEA.

Ladislav Ngendahimara, LGMA, Rwanda, emphasised ownership over competition in reaching climate change goals as expressed in each NDC.

Marine Pouget, Climate Action International, France, argued that NGOs were ready to provide feedback on developments and were frustrated by the lack of energy in political developments aiming to increase capacity and research in developing countries. She suggested ministers of finance and the economy could collaborate more with Observers.

Steven Hebble, Local Government, Scotland, supported climate action at all levels of government, including a dedicated day for 100 Mayors at COP26, and the formulation of a National Charter.

Archie Young closed the meeting, accepting the interconnectedness of Covid-19 and climate change; a desire for greater ambition; inclusivity of all marginalised peoples (women and indigenous people). He ended with 'We can and must do better' if we work together.