

Nov. 12, 10:30 - First official, physical meeting with the executive secretary of UNFCCC

Note Taker: Gabby Teixeira (University of Miami School of Law, 3L student)

- **Observations by facilitator**
 - This hasn't been an easy COP re: logistics, lack of food, water, etc., accommodations, which affects the ways we're able to participate in these processes. The executive secretary is surprised by many of them.
- **Executive Secretary:**
 - Process of where we are with negotiations - we're halfway through. The subsidiary boards and bodies will close so the technical part of the negotiations is concluding.
 - Goal to facilitate the process on loss and damages
 - Re: mitigation, adaptation, etc. the plan is to close, but some items may run over until the second week. The hope is to get political guidance from the high officials
- **Indigenous Peoples (IPO):**
 - Need more support in basic things such as in the discussions of human rights approaches for indigenous people
 - Logistical support needed: difficult to enter some places and language difficulties
- **Women in Gender**
 - Reports of observer harassment during the events at COP and afterwards, the secretariat must do something to stop this. People should feel like this is a safe place to speak, but we're observing an increase of fear, so we can't guarantee a trustworthy relationship.
 - The argument of restricting observers last year was about covid, now it's about logistics - there are rooms with plenty of space for additional chairs. We hope that this limitation of observers will not be a growing trend.
 - Indigenous women have been denied speaking in their native languages, even when before they were told that translations would take place after.
 - Negotiations are not serving the purpose of advancing gender equality in the Paris Agreement
- **Farmers:**
 - Wondering what the secretary's view is on the status of Koronivia and whether a decision will be reached at this COP.
- **Executive Secretary to respond:**
 - As a blanket statement re: room access challenges, this is something he's aware of and is seeing improvements, also, proactively noting all of this for COP28
 - Comments re: safe space are heard. Making this process safe is a fundamental principle of the UNFCCC (essentially repeated this for a few minutes sans any concrete plans)
 - Can't speak to the translations, but comment noted.
 - Re: Farmers: thinks that the text will reflect a strong commitment to food security.
- **LGMA (Local Governments and Municipal Authorities):**
 - Multi-level engagement of government is needed
 - A call for greater integration among ministers of climate and other ministers
- **TUNGO (trade union NGOs):**
 - The logistical points were already shared in preparation for COP27 so how can we be reassured that there are improvements?
 - Issues of people taking pictures/filming, etc. which makes negotiations very uncomfortable/feel harassed.
 - There are too many people, too disorganized, a representation of observers would be helpful. Don't want to inflate the number of observers, just want the space it deserves representing the millions of people TUNGO represents
- **YUNGO**

- Unfortunate that the COP president didn't attend when observers went to speak, didn't attend the Youth day besides for ~5 minutes with plenty of photographers
- Many youths (including refugees) who had received invitations/subsidies arrived and were told they'd have to stay somewhere else b/c there was no space.
- Getting accreditation is a huge challenge esp. for those young people who don't have the documentation required.
- The Children and Youth pavilion was a huge step forward.
- **BINGO (Business and industries)**
 - Need support on how to increase involvement of all stakeholders
- **Executive Secretary to respond:**
 - Cities are a critical part of the solution
 - [distracted, heard a lot of blah on commitments]
- **(Nametag not shown on screen)**
 - Call to recognize the humble work of those on the ground here at COP
 - Extreme case of harassment - asking people to not attend COP b/c if they attend, the prices will increase; pictures where not allowed; prices - COP should not be an opportunity to make money!; meeting spaces - what are the priorities? COP should not be centered on the expos. There should be enough meeting spaces. There are an increase of number for participants, but are they polluters? More than 600 fossil fuel lobbyists registered and sees reflections of their presence in negotiations. The UN has a conflict of interest.
- **ENGO-CAN**
 - Echoing witnessing how people were forced to sign statements that they wouldn't attend COP in order to avoid higher prices
 - Can't take notes if only allowed to stand
 - Supports the point of conflicts of interests - so many fossil fuel lobbyists are at the roundtable of Global Stocktake sharing their interests that are counter to the 1.5 goals
 - Also experienced issue of safety and security with people recording their meetings, huddles, outside of the venue people are being followed - this gives a chilling effect on civic societies
- **Executive Secretary to respond:**
 - The process has to be inclusive and the science is clear for the direction
- **RINGO**
 - Inviting more people to come is not necessarily better, thinking through how they can engage is.
 - Platform used during the Pandemic and at times here, needs improvement
 - Since we're in an implementation phrase, what is the process you envision to transform how observers are engage? At Global Stocktake there were many opportunities of observers engaging with parties, so, perhaps that could serve as a model.
- **Executive Secretary to respond:**
 - Can commit to setting the bar as high as possible, in terms of how to do that, looks forward to soliciting your [RINGO] views
 - Platform serves a purpose for those who cant commit to travel
- **Laura, Secretariat:**
 - danger of sitting on the floor so will put in more chairs. Re: harassment and intruders, not aware of this so would like to follow-up so that can speak with security; will also remind staff of procedure for private meetings
 - 1,700 meetings reserved, most for observers as in the past
 - Now over 40K participants - the venue is only slightly bigger than Glasgow, but many more people.

- Re: hotels - have spoken to govt. about the youth hotels, will ask them to have in writing that the hotels should not be charging extras.