Your guide to COP20
Review of Tuesday 9 December 2014

ADP negotiation drags its feet

When the ADP draft decision text came out in the early hours of Monday, most civil society organisations were filled with positive sentiments, saying that it represented a fairly balanced inclusion of the key elements and principles of the negotiations under the COP17 mandate.

The presence of loss and damage, in addition to other key pillars such as mitigation, adaptation and finance, was like the proverbial crown jewel.

However when the Parties commenced their negotiations of the text, things started to fall apart.

The USA, Australia, Canada and others almost immediately started to demand the removal of the good provisions.

Loss and damage was among the first victims of the negotiations. Harmless concepts in the preamble, such as food security and poverty eradication were not spared either.

Some parties seemed to have forgotten the major milestones that have been achieved over the last few years, and are not focusing their energies on building on the foundations of the Durban Platform and the progress that was made in Doha and Warsaw in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

The Parties seem determined to make the next few days before the end of COP20 very difficult. As the negotiations crawl slowly forward, it is quite clear that the 2015 Paris agreement can only be realised if significant steps are taken in Lima.

What is needed is clear advancement in the negotiation text, as well as trust and confidence among the Parties - both of which were on Monday noticeably absent.

So how far have we come on gender equality and climate change?

Not very far, some of the more cynical observers may respond. Tuesday marked the UNFCCC’s 3rd annual gender day. At a high level event on the issue, the COP20 president Manuel Pulgar-Vidal used the event to emphasise the importance for a gender approach and flagged up the ‘Lima Working Programme for Gender’ (a two-year programme to promote gender balance).
Are we on track to meet the US$ 10 billion for Climate Financing?

On the 8th day of the COP20 in Lima, Climate finance got a boost when countries made new pledges to support climate work during the high-level ministerial talks.

Germany announced that it would make a contribution of EUR 55 million towards the adaptation fund, while Spain pledged EUR 20 million to the New York Declaration on Forests.

Belgium will contribute EUR 50 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and significant was Australia’s sudden change of mind towards contributing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Where the country had been seen as one of the least progressive towards boosting finances for climate change, Australia’s foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop surprisingly announced a pledge of AUS$ 200 million which amounts to US$ 165 million to the UN green bank over four years.

Bishop had earlier told reporters that her country would not make contributions to the fund as it was already filling its commitments through the country’s official development assistance. However, although Bishop indicated that Australia has a strong track record in delivering climate finance, sources indicate that the amount has been allocated by the country from its already slashed foreign aid budget.

Linking the UNFCCC to the Sustainable Development Goals

In the opening ceremony of the High level Ministerial secession the UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon called for negotiations climate change and the sustainable development to be strongly linked in 2015.

In his report launched last week titled ‘The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Plane’, Ban ki Moon puts climate change action at the heart of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). He stated: ‘To respect our planetary boundaries we need to equitably address climate change, halt biodiversity loss, and address desertification and unsustainable land use.’ The report also calls for an expert technical group to develop and present a coherent framework that accounts for climate finance and overseas aid.

ACT campaign support grows to over 800

The ‘ACT for Climate Justice’ campaign has seen a significant boost in support, with its offline campaign at the COP having gathered over 800 signatures. The petition aims to gather one million signatures to present to governments at the 2015 COP21 in Paris, asking for an ambitious agreement that keeps global warming below 2 degrees celcius and provides more finance for adaptation.