

Participation in UNFCCC COP 19, Warsaw

This year UNFCCC COP 19 was organised during 11th to 24th November at Warsaw (Poland). Cecoedecon actively participated in the conference under the umbrella of Beyond Copenhagen.

We made some efforts to document the impacts of climate change in some other countries, how their CSOs and governments are responding to these, what the people are experiencing etc.

– through short interviews. We hope to continue this, and come out with a short documentary. Equipment problems hampered this to some extent.

BCPH produced a book on climate issues, titled “Engaging With Climate Change : Perspectives on Some Critical Aspects of Climate Change” – for the COP19, and this was officially released on the 13th of November.

Meeting with Beata Jaczewska, Deputy Environment Minister, Poland at COP 19

Beyond Copenhagen Delegation met with Beata Jaczewska, Deputy Minister of Environment, Poland during the COP 19 at Warsaw on 15th November to discuss progress in the negotiations and expectations of the hosts. Earlier, the Minister had also addressed the PreCOP Consultation organized by Beyond Copenhagen, at Delhi on 5th November. The delegation also included representatives from MISEREOR and CIDSE.

The minister informed the delegation, that during the first week, the negotiations have progressed as expected except lack of progress on certain issues. She emphasized that since most of the decisions are political in nature, they can be resolved only at high level meetings in the second week. She also underlined that Poland and COP 19 President is putting all efforts possible to see a meaningful outcome from the COP. She informed, the participants on bilateral efforts made by the hosts, and COP President and Deputy Ministers including her having whirlwind tours around the world to discuss important issues. She highlighted that for the hosts, transparency, inclusiveness and fairness of the process are important and all efforts are being made to ensure these. She also underlined that hosts are collaborating with Peruvian and French Government in a Troika Spirit to ensure that a collective effort is made to have a new agreement before Paris.

Talking about the negotiations and nature of the agreement, she shared that the hosts



know that Qatar outcome “Applicable to all” does not go well with all the countries and therefore, efforts are being made to replace it with “Applied by All,” which will ensure that principles of the Convention are respected, and countries declare their commitments in consonance with their national circumstances, and need for atmospheric space.

She added that capitalization of the GCF and other decision on the finance including adaptation fund, and linkage between COP and GCF etc are high on the agenda, while capitalization of the adaptation fund has recorded some success, high level talks will only decide the capitalization of the GCF. Positive outcomes on the finance should resolve many issues in other streams and ensure developing and LDCs participation on many issues in the ADP, she added.

She added that a mechanism on Loss and damage was also one of the key expectations



from the COP, which has seen some bottlenecks in the negotiations. She added that the COP President has been having discussions with negotiators from different countries to remove bottlenecks and has also appointed facilitators to resolve differences, and that they are still hopeful that mechanism will result from the discussions. On agriculture, she added, that in session workshops have been held with expected results,

however, some countries are not in favour of having contact groups, and want to have more discussion in next meetings after considering the outcomes of the in session workshops. SBSTA will ensure that every one is included and all countries should have a chance to express their opinion on this critical matter.

She also added that civil society was important voice in the negotiations and it was being ensured that they get access to all important meetings and express themselves and provide inputs as prescribed in the convention.

After her presentation, she also answered a series of questions asked by the participants on many aspects of negotiations, Poland’s energy policies, Poland’s role and position in enhancing ambition in the EU etc. She also invited them for further discussions in the second week.

Justice Vinod Shankar Dave, Chairperson of CECOEDECON delivered the vote of thanks and also presented her the latest publication on COP 19

Climate Change in Post 2015 Development Agenda, Beyond Copenhagen Side event at COP 19, National Stadium, Warsaw

Beyond Copenhagen organized a side event on climate change in post 2015 development on 13th November 2013 at COP 19. The side event discussed how climate change has not been addressed adequately in post 2015 development agenda, and why it is extremely crucial to have a global agreement before 2015. The panelsists included Ajay K Jha (PAIRVI), SoumyaDutta (Bharat Jan Vigyanjathha), Samuel Samson (PACJA), and Manu Srivastava (CECOEDECON). Justice (Retd) V S Dave chaired the panel discussion.

In his opening remarks Ajay Jha said that there are three processes (UNFCCC negotiations, post 2015 development agenda of the United Nations, and Open Working Group on the SDGs), which will have a significant bearing on the future of the world. He

added that while there have been no visible progress negotiations in the UNFCC, other two processes have not addressed climate change in the right earnest. He said that in light of new evidences (IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2015, WMO Report 2001-2010, A decade of climate extremes, 2015, and UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2012), it was



imperative that discussion on climate change in post 2015 development agenda should be reviewed. Referring to Haiyan, floods and landslide in Uttarakhand, Nargis in Myanmar and Floods in Pakistan, he said the decade has signature of climate extremes. He also added that science is clear and categorical that more concerted and urgent efforts are needed for climate stabilization. Referring to the Report of the HLPE, he remarked that while the report has many good things, it is an opportunity missed in terms of many aspects of development. He elaborated that the report reiterates the commitment to prevent rise in temperature beyond 2 degrees, but does nothing more to encourage political polarization around the issues.

Mr. Samuel Samson (PACJA) dwelt on climate impacts in Africa, and explained how the climate smart agriculture, and investments in land are divesting small farmers of their rights, land, and natural resources. He referred to the droughts in East Africa, and that many countries are suffering serious drought like conditions. He added that climate change impacts call for urgent attention, financial and technology support. He added that agriculture is under immense pressure and farmers in many countries like Kenya,

Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda have been belied by Climate Smart projects. They have neither helped production, nor they have provided any financial help to the farmers, who are feeling cheated. He added that climate change impacts have also exacerbated forced migration. He added that here at COP 19 PACJA demands a new framework to protect climate refugees and a mechanism on loss and damage.

Soumya Dutta from Bharat Jan VigyanJathha spoke on the energy, climate change and sustainable development linkages. He emphasized that the HLPE report lays down a business as usual approach and does not offer anything new. He emphasized that it



envisioned and an increased role for business and private enterprise, and thus provides an opportunity to the rich countries to abrogate their responsibilities. Referring to the UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All (SEA4ALL) initiative, he said that, equity in access to energy is clearly a missing link. He added that though the HLPE Report acknowledges right to access

to modern energy services, the approach is riddled with problems and false solutions. He also referred to the extreme climatic event in the Uttarakhand and Himachal in India, and said that Beyond Copenhagen's assessments of Loss and damage revealed huge gaps between rehabilitation efforts and needs of the people who have been impacted. Elaborating on the impact he emphasized that never in the history Uttarakhand received so early and heavy monsoon, and there is sufficient evidence to say that the phenomenon was caused due to climate change impacts. He emphasized that more than 7% population of the world today faces climate threats, and there is an urgent need to address impacts within and outside the UNFCCC negotiations, post 2015 being one, there must be a greater convergence among them. He also demanded that a climate agreement must be reached by 2015, and it must be based on core principles of equity and CBDR, and a mechanism on loss and damage is set up to help people in poor countries who are facing climate extremes.

Manu Srivastava (CECOEDECON) shared her experiences of state of play and discussion on climate in the post 2015 development agenda. She said that climate does not figure very prominently in the regional processes on post 2015, and though NGLS

conducted an extensive regional processes, where climate change was emphasized, yet the report gave a short shrift to climate change by only acknowledging the global commitment to prevent rise in temperature below 2Degrees Celsius. She added, that CECOEDECON's experience and work with farmers and women shows that impacts like unpredictability of rains, delayed monsoon withdrawal, lack of adaptation support and adaptation limits, capacity building and risk coverage etc. threaten not only agricultural production but also entire rural economy. She emphasized that countries whose economy is dependent on agriculture, and countries, which are highly vulnerable (climate extremes), they ask for increased attention to climate change in post 2015 world.

Justice VS Dave, in his chair's remarks emphasized that all the speakers have reiterated that climate stabilization should be high priority in post 2015 development agenda, which must support early reduction of emissions in rich countries and low carbon development pathways in developing and poor countries. He highlighted that impacts are affecting a large part of humanity world over and demands a comprehensive, science based, just climate deal without delay. He also added, that within climate change, agriculture and food and energy services must also be looked at from the equity point of view rather than in only in terms of reduction of emission.

A Beyond Copenhagen Publication "Engaging with Climate Crisis; Perspectives on Critical Aspects of Climate Change" was also released at the side event. Justice Pana Chand Jain delivered the vote of thanks.