

YOUR DAILY GUIDE TO COP17

MONDAY DEC 5

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Negotiations update

One week to go.

One week to finalise text, bring consultations to a conclusion and hammer out compromises.

One week to secure the integrity of the multilateral climate regime.

As negotiations in Durban enter the last week and ministers start to arrive, we can expect long nights waiting for news from behind closed doors. As well as negotiations on text in the two AWGs, we can expect ministers to be engaged on the difficult political question - what to do with the text?

The final days of COP 17 should first and foremost focus on establishing a coalition of countries willing to show the ambition needed to move forward with a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. This process is fully dependent on whether or not it is possible to get big emitters like the US, China and others to commit to a roadmap for new negotiations, with the aim of legally binding commitments for all at a later stage.

This necessitates that countries admit that the current mandate for the negotiations - the Bali Road Map - has failed (hence there is need for a new one). It will be interesting to see what parts of the Bali Action Plan will be dropped under the new mandate. Look out for intense attempts to play down the importance of equity, ambition and the legal nature of the (still delayed) agreed outcome.

Update on campaign activities

"We did not come to Durban to shop, we came for justice!"

On Saturday 3rd December as part of a global day of action for climate justice, Time for Climate Justice, We have faith - Act now for Climate Justice and ACT Alliance campaigners marched together with thousands of other thousand campaigners from across the globe through downtown Durban to demand that delegates deliver emissions cuts and climate finance making the climate justice message heard loud.



As negotiators continued to wrangle in the conference centre, the city was awash with banners, balloons, placards and even a few vuvuzelas as people - many of whom do not have access to the UN meetings - took to the streets to make their voices heard.

In marked contrast to the sluggish progress of negotiations over the past week, energy levels on the streets were high. Demonstrators, from countries such as China, USA, India, Brazil, Cuba and a range of African nations, braved scorching sun and bursts of rain to dance, sing and even do exercises in support of their message that delegates must overcome political obstacles and agree a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol.



TIME FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE



We
Have**Faith**

Young people, who had travelled by bus from Kenya to Durban as part of the We Have Faith Youth Caravan, stripped to the waist and did 17 press-ups in the street to show that they were tired of the lack of progress delivered after a succession of UN meetings. 'We did not come to Durban to shop, we came for justice,' said one.

Meanwhile campaigning groups - ranging from the Time For Climate Justice coalition to Greenpeace to African rural women's associations - waved placards and marched behind banners calling for a fair climate deal for the world's poor. The noise of the march was clearly audible from within the negotiating centre. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UN climate talks took to a makeshift stage to address the crowd.

Protestors must now hope that the passion and urgency that they showed on the streets will filter through into the negotiating centre as talks continue next week.

Words from a partner

Name: Lulu Heather Marsecko

Organization: African youth initiative on climate change

Country: Malawi



The We Have Faith coalition arranged a youth caravan that travelled to Durban for the UN talks. They met with thousands of people along their route to raise awareness on climate change issues. They also collected signatures for the We Have Faith petition that was handed to the COP Chair on Sunday 27th November on the eve of the UN talks.

Why did you organise a caravan?

The main aim of organising the caravan was to mobilise as many young people as possible from across Africa to take up leadership roles when it comes to safeguarding the environment. We need to ensure that the youth are aware of the adverse effects of climate change and that they participate in securing a better and greener future for the coming generations.

Who participated in the caravan?

Young people from all over the world took part in the caravan and in their midst we had musicians, environmentalists and journalists.

What events occurred along the route?

As the caravan travelled to Durban we stopped along the way to take part in many different events. These included petition drives and flash mobs, but our major activity in each country was a climate change concert which enabled us to engage the youth. The experience has been great especially getting to share different ideas on environmental matters with fellow youth from all over the world. I also made new friends throughout the journey.

What are your expectations for COP17?

My expectations for the caravan go hand in hand with our key demands in the petition. I would like the talks to achieve a legally binding agreement and for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. I also expect sustainable funds for Africa in order for it to easily adapt to climate change. Being from Malawi, I would also like resources to facilitate capacity building.

Looking forward

Climate Justice and Food Security – Moral, Ethical and Spiritual Imperatives

**Side event, Wednesday December 7
4.45pm-6.15 pm, Venue: Levubu River**

Religious leaders will hold a dialogue on the ethical and spiritual dimensions of climate change and food security, share best practices on advocacy, awareness raising and social/community mobilization and launch a resource guide. Recommendations will also be made to the climate change negotiations.

Time for Climate Justice is a global movement led by **APRODEV**, the association of the 17 major development aid organisations in Europe, working closely with the **WCC**, **ACT Alliance** and partners in the global South. **We Have Faith** is a Pan-African movement of people, faith communities, faith leaders and youth mobilised to represent the widespread belief among Africans in the need for a just and robust outcomes at COP17.



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