

What to expect from Lima? Regaining momentum on the road to Paris?

The 17th Conference of the Parties held in Durban in 2011 agreed on the necessity to develop a new global legal instrument to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, control climate change and avoid its negative consequences. In 2020, the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will come to an end and international climate negotiators currently struggle to fulfil the mandate established by the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and unblock a global climate deal no later than 2015, when the 21st Conference of the Parties will take place. The goal is to stabilize the global mean temperature at 2° C or lower with reference to pre-industrial years. According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (Working Group III), this target can still be achieved. However, the international community is running out of time and key aspects of the negotiation on topics like individual mitigation targets, climate financing, adaptation and loss and damage remain unclear.

The 20th Conference of the Parties, which will take place in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014, will play an important role in this context. It is the conference which will set the tone for Paris 2015. The Multinational Development Policy Dialogue of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung follows the global climate negotiations closely and organized in Brussels on 16 October 2014 a podium discussion with key-stakeholders in this process. Representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, civil society organizations and the Peruvian COP negotiating team met to discuss the remaining challenges and their expectations concerning the negotiations that will take place in Lima.

According to the experts present in the event, the underlying discussion will remain a debate on 'equity' and the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'. This will be reflected in the negotiations on mitigation, adaptation, financing and loss and damage. In this context, there is a consensus that more clarity and leadership are needed in comparison to what has been seen in previous rounds of negotiations.

Firstly, it is essential that the parties respect the time table agreed on and present their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) in the first quarter of 2015. Without this information, negotiations cannot move forward. Secondly, the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, i.e. China and the US, must come on board.

The difference between this COP and Copenhagen (2009) is the change of posture from big emitters like China. This single country is responsible for more than one fourth of global emissions. In comparison, EU countries just represent 10% of global emissions. Even per capita emissions figures show China being a higher polluter than the EU. In comparison to Copenhagen, it can be observed that the Chinese government is sending different signals. It is being, for example, more restrictive towards its coal industry. This has been also taking place in the US. Both countries are introducing heavier regulations on coal production which has been frightening investors. It is a game changer because if China and the US do not show real engagement in the negotiations, the whole post-Kyoto project falls apart. In this regard, the results of the legislative elections in the US in November 2014 are definitely a challenge to the inter-

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national climate negotiations, since they constrain the room for negotiation of the current Obama administration.

By taking into consideration the role of the EU as a leading actor in the negotiations, the last elections of the European Parliament also presented an important challenge to the international climate negotiations. Fortunately, the establishment of the Juncker Commission, with a stronger commitment to green growth, neutralized to some extent the negative effects of an increase of euro-skepticism within the European Parliament.

In any case, the main challenge of the negotiations for the parties is how to transcend a discussion which is built on dilemmas like 'developed countries vs. developing countries' or 'climate protection vs. the right of development'. The parties need to establish another negotiation narrative. Only then will they be in a position to tackle key-issues like carbon pricing and climate financing which are essential for the 2°C target to remain viable. It is necessary to that end that big emitters and rich countries are aware of their responsibilities but also members of the G-77, which also need to show a more progressive and conciliatory attitude in the negotiations.

The discussion with experts showed that negotiators are in general getting slightly more optimistic about the results of the negotiations. That does not mean they are ignoring the huge challenges ahead. This COP is different from previous ones but results are still what matter the most. There is a need for guaranteeing climate financing - e.g. through the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund. It is necessary to be ambitious and clear concerning individual national commitments.

The participants of the podium discussion agreed that a legally binding agreement by Paris 2015 is still possible. However, this agreement might not necessarily establish a differentiation in annexes and individual binding commitments like it might be expected. This is still to be seen but such an agreement would present important chal-

lenges in terms of the implementation. In any case, the parties must keep working on the goal of agreeing on a binding global climate deal. It is the best chance the international community has to achieve the 2°C target. The 20th Conference of the Parties will send a first signal to the world and thus demonstrate if there is still chance for optimism and hope. On 12 December 2014, all the eyes will be on Lima.