The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and COP 17
SAICA Presentation 15th July
The UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol

- Rio Earth Summit 1992 and resultant Conventions.
- Establishes an international framework to address climate change
- Convention negotiated in early 90’s – context of new awareness of global sustainability and major political change. Links to IPCC, Montreal protocol, CBD, etc
- Convention high level statement of principle and approach
- Decisions give flesh to the Convention and bind countries to implement with secretariat support
- Protocol legally binding instrument. Kyoto Protocol, legally binding targets on Annex 1 countries and system around it. USA does not accede. Creates major imbalance in system and raises fairness and competitiveness issues. Delays in bringing Kyoto into effect
International Processes: Climate Change

United Nations

- UNEP
- WMO

IPCC

Assessment

UNFCCC

Convention

GEF

Finance

- Scientific, technical & socio-economic assessment
  - IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (1988...)

- Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)
  - COP: Conference of Parties (1995...)
  - CMP: meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

- Financial mechanism for environmental conventions
  (established by developed countries)
  - GEF: Global Environment Facility (1991...)

COP is supreme body of UNFCCC
UNFCCC is a free-standing entity - not a “subsidiary” of UN

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Shaping a Sustainable Future
UNFCCC & KP - Structure

Conference of Parties (CoP)  
Secretariat  
Budget ~$26MUSD/yr  
Staff: ~225 staff  
+ 190 consultants  
Kyoto Protocol (moP)  
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)  
Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)  
JI SC  
CDM EB  
Compliance

COP, SBSTA, SBI are led by an elected bureau of officers with representatives from the five UN regional groups + AOSIS

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UNFCCC Agenda

The UNFCCC structure and program are not static – ongoing activity

**Permanent, standing committees**

**SBSTA:**
Technology & Technology Transfer (EGTT), Education and Outreach, Observation, CCS, New Gases, LULUCF, REDD, Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation, Interfaces to: IPCC, CRD,

**SBI:**
Reporting & Review, Adequacy of Commitments, Capacity Building, Financial Mechanisms, Budgets, Meetings

**Temporary Ad hoc committees**

AWG-LCA (Long-term Co-operative Action)
AWG-KP (Kyoto Protocol)
BEGINNING A NEW PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS

Early 2000’s- impacts of shifts in global power and global economics since Convention negotiated
Update of climate science shows rapid increases in GHG emissions and shifts in climatic patterns
Recognition of need to negotiate new climate regime that is equitable and fair
Create system that will bind USA comparably to other Annex 1 countries, address issue of growing emissions from developing countries and especially emerging economies
Address lack of attention to adaptation and impacts
Montreal in 2005 agreed a sets of dialogues; 2007 agreed to Bali Road Map – two track negotiation – second commitment period for Kyoto and system for USA, developing countries and address adaption. Deadline for negotiation in 2009
THE BALI ROAD MAP

- 2007 agreement on 2 tracks –
- Kyoto track for Annex 1 &
- Bali Action plan for USA & Developing countries under the Convention which comprised of;
  - Comparable targets for USA
  - Voluntary nationally appropriate mitigation action for developing countries enabled and supported by finance and technology – Monitoring, reporting and verification system
  - Adaptation action
  - Response measures
  - Market mechanisms
  - Sectors
  - Reduced emissions from forests and forest degradation
- Sets agenda for negotiations and brings key political issues to the fore
UNFCCC Bali Action Plan (2007)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Kyoto Protocol
2008-2012
Annex 1 Targets

Bali Negotiations: Post 2012 Framework

Track 1
Kyoto Protocol (KP)
2013-20xx
New Annex 1 Targets

Track 2
UNFCCC
Long-term Co-operative Action (LCA)

Process continues to complete negotiations

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Shaping a Sustainable Future
Ad Hoc WG Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)

- Form of agreement: an amendment to Kyoto Protocol

- Non-Annex 1 (Developing countries) position:
  - Aggregate Annex 1 reductions (incl USA) should be 45% below 1990
  - Through domestic actions without offsets
  - Minimal changes needed – simply amend Annex B

- Annex 1 (Developed countries) position:
  - Seek to merge two tracks into a single, comprehensive agreement
  - Merge Kyoto commitment terms into LCA texts (“Kyoto plus”)
  - Reform and extend available offset mechanisms

Other issues

- Duration: 5, 8 years, two periods (5, 5; 8, 8) with review

- Other: CDM reform, new procedures on emissions and carbon sequestration from land use and forests
Ad Hoc WG: Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)

- Form of agreement unclear, entry into force unclear
- Scope and nature of possible agreements:
  - Mitigation, Adaptation, Technology, Finance, Shared Vision
    - Vague text with many options, multiple contentious issues
- Mitigation and Adaptation actions by Developing Countries:
  - National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs)
  - Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
- New methodologies, procedures for Measure, Report, Verify (MRV):
  - Actions by developing countries
  - Financing and technology transfer from developed countries
- Form and content of US Commitment (not a NAMA)
  - Shared vision
    - Goal: ??[emissions (50-80% of 1990 by 2050), ≤ 2 °C, CO2 ≤ 450 ppm] ??
    - Enumeration of possible (co-operative) actions
    - Establishment of new principles, precedents: historical responsibility, climate debt, carbon space, ...
UNDERPINNINGS OF NEGOTIATIONS

- Balance, Fairness, equity, common but differentiated responsibility, right to development, competitiveness, historical responsibility
- Positions of blocs and countries (G77 and China, Africa, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States/AOSIS EU, Umbrella Group, Environmental Integrity Group, Alliance of Bolivarian States (Alba), BASIC, OPEC, Arab Group, Turkey, Economies in Transition (EITs)
- New regime must balance all interests, ensure financing and technology transfer and achieve environmental integrity.
BALI TO COPENHAGEN

• 2009 – deadline re 2nd commitment period and expectation to conclude negotiation on long term cooperative action.
• Technical negotiations stall on political issues
• In lead up to Copenhagen COP, Japan, Russia, EU signal backtracking on Kyoto
• New proposals for Convention architecture
• Polarised politics and process problems stall progress on substance
• Copenhagen Accord – political agreement recording consensus of key groups apart from ALBA therefore not accepted by COP
• Resolves key issue of “common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability” particularly around mitigation, review of global goal, deforestation
• Does not resolve global goal, level of ambition or Kyoto Protocol
CANCUN

- Consultative and political processes in lead up to COP and “by the rules” process creates basis for outcome
- Consultations with small groups around specific concerns lays basis for Mexicans to draft a compromise outcome. Accepted by acclaim
- Agreements on finance, technology and adaptation institutions, also consideration of forum on response measures and 2015 review of global goal. Progress on MRV system.
- Major technical work to be undertaken in 2011 for decisions at COP – MRV guidelines, technology finance, response measures and adaptation institutions and mechanisms, ToR for 2015 review
- and also big political issues not resolved and forwarded to Durban – second commitment period, global goal
- Also difficult negotiations around issues such as markets and other issues
How the COP works

- Two week UN meeting
- Venue is UN Territory for period of conference and access to accredited delegates
- Technical negotiators meet in first week and attempt to agree text to be presented to Ministers in second week.
- Meeting presided by COP President (SA in Durban) who must attempt to broker consensus outcome.
- Decisions only by consensus
- Some negotiating meetings open to accredited observers but many closed
- Large programme of side events and exhibitions
“Typical 2 week timeline”

**Week 1**
- Opening Plenary
  - Approve agenda, Opening Statements
- SBs and AWGs
  - Agenda and statements
- Contact Groups
  - Develop Proposed Text
- Informal Groups
  - Negotiations

**Week 2**
- Informals
  - Agree text or not
- AWGs/SBs
  - If agreed
- Friends of Chair
  - If not
- Final Plenary
  - Approve decisions
Participants

- Parties and Groups of Parties (Pink Badges)
  - Countries (some delegations include ENGOs and Business), EU
  - Groups: G77 (actually 132) & China, EU, JUSCANZ, Umbrella Group, African Group, AOSIS (SIDS), LDCs, Environmental Integrity Group
- Secretariat (Blue Badges)
  - NGO Liaison - Megumi Endo
- Intergovernmental Organizations (also Blue Badges)
  - IEA, OECD, OPEC, IPCC, ICAO, IMO, WMO, ...
- Observer Organizations (Yellow Badges)
  - ENGOs, BINGOS, RINGOS, Local Authorities, Indigenous Peoples, TUNGOs, YENGOs, Farmers, Gender
- Press (Orange Badges)
- Security (Uniforms)
SA Business and COP 17

• Business committed to support government and showcase business mitigation and adaptation action.
• COP as a Team SA event
• CEO Forum established to provide high level public face for business initiatives. CEO Forum open to all interested CEOs
• Business capacity building programme in lead up to COP through NBI
• Business Pavilion as collective initiative within SA EXPO
• Business Programme at COP, including CDP launch and participation in international business programme
Thank you for listening