



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Briefing on UN climate change negotiations, Doha

November 2012

This briefing relates to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 18 (COP18), taking place this year in Doha from 26th November – 7th December 2012.

COP18 is a key moment for the international community to start building a 2015 deal that is fair, ambitious and legally binding.

The Scottish delegation must:

- Show leadership and highlight its work on climate justice;
- Push Europe for greater ambition on the Kyoto Protocol; and
- Ensure scaled-up, reliable finance is pledged to developing nations.

Introduction

In November, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) stated in its *Emissions Gap* report that global emissions are already considerably higher than the level needed to meet the agreed-upon 2°C climate target in 2020 and emissions are still growing¹. Greater ambition is clearly needed.

The pressing need for renewed global action has been further underlined by the World Bank in its report *'Turn Down the Heat'*, which examines the disastrous consequences of a 4°C world². According to the report, failure to act on climate change could result in extreme heat-waves, water scarcity, rising sea levels and a fall in global food stocks.

At the same time, the European Environment Agency (EEA) has highlighted the costs of the extreme weather events across all regions of Europe. The report suggests that climate change will make these events more frequent and more intense, leading to rising damage costs³. By contrast, the cost of tackling climate change is relatively modest: the UKCCC has stated that “Scottish emissions reduction targets can be met at manageable economic cost (e.g. of the order less than 1% of GDP)”⁴

Scotland's ambition

The Scottish Climate Change Act is one of the first pieces of domestic climate change legislation to be passed in the world. Thanks to campaigners and parliamentarians, it is also, to date, the most progressive climate change legislation in a number of key areas.

Scotland's Climate Change Act recognises the urgent need to tackle climate change and includes targets in line with IPCC advice that emissions should reduce by at least 42% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050.

Scotland's emissions reductions targets also include Scotland's share of emissions from international aviation and shipping. Although it has been announced that the UK plans to include such emissions in its accounts and targets, the Scottish Act is the first law to require their inclusion from the start.

¹ UNEP, The Emissions Gap 2012, November 2012,

http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/emissionsgap2012/portals/50143/Emissions2012_Exec%20Summary_EN.pdf

² <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/2012/11/18/new-report-examines-risks-of-degree-hotter-world-by-end-of-century>

³ EEA, November 2012, <http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/climate-change-evident-across-europe>

⁴ UKCCC, Scotland's path to a low carbon economy, <http://bit.ly/rn8iZA>

The challenge now is to turn that commitment into action and meet the legally-binding emissions targets set in the Act. The fact that Scotland missed its first emissions target (for 2010) undermines efforts to promote the 'world-leading' example Scotland has set.

The Scottish Government has shown solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people affected by climate change by establishing a Climate Justice Fund. The Fund is an excellent demonstration of the kind of action needed now. Scotland then must speak out strongly on the importance of the role of public international finance, particularly for adaptation.

UNFCCC talks

Last year at COP17 in Durban parties agreed to further negotiations on a new climate treaty for 2020, with emission reduction commitments by all major emitters⁵. The subsequent Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) commits parties to "a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force applicable to all parties" to be agreed by 2015 and to come into effect from 2020⁶.

Despite there now being a roadmap for future negotiations, serious challenges remain. At COP18 action is needed on the key issues shown below to ensure we move towards a fair, ambitious and legally binding treaty and avoid the catastrophic effects of runaway global warming:

Kyoto Protocol

The only international climate agreement we have – the Kyoto Protocol (KP), which was agreed as part of the UNFCCC process in 1997 – is due to expire weeks after COP18, at the end of 2012. A strong second commitment period for 2013-17 is expected to be agreed at Doha.

For a second commitment period of the KP to be meaningful, higher targets are required along with the elimination of 'hot air' surplus emissions from the first commitment period. Given that the EU is on track to meet its 20% by 2020 emissions reductions target⁷, Europe must show greater ambition and commit to an emissions reduction target of at least 30% by 2020.

Climate Finance

Those who have done least to cause global warming are currently being hit first and hardest by a changing climate. Developed nations like Scotland must support developing countries to adapt to climate change.

The period of Fast Start Finance (FSF) comes to an end in December 2012. Despite several countries indicating in intersessional meetings in Bonn and Bangkok that climate finance will not cease at this point, there is no clarity on how the promised \$100bn per year by 2020 will be delivered.

Trust is absolutely crucial to the success of the climate negotiations. Developing countries need to know that finance will be scaled-up, reliable and predictable, and additional to development aid. To this end, developed countries should commit to a 2013-2015 public finance package that at least doubles the amount of the Fast Start Finance and provides \$10-15bn in new public finance for the Green Climate Fund.

Clear decisions are needed at Doha to identify innovative sources of international climate finance – such as the financial transaction tax - and how this will be delivered.

What we want at Doha

COP18 is a key moment for the international community to start building a 2015 deal that is fair, ambitious and legally binding.

⁵ ODI, The EU and the progressive alliance negotiating in Durban: saving the climate? October 2012, <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7845.pdf>

⁶ UNFCCC, Report of COP 17, Durban, Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session, March 2012 <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf> ,

⁷ European Environment Agency, Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe 2012, October 2012 <http://www.eea.europa.eu/pressroom/newsreleases/eu-greenhouse-gases-in-2011.5>

The UK delegation must push Europe for greater ambition on the Kyoto Protocol and ensure scaled-up, reliable finance is pledged to developing nations.

As part of the UK delegation, Scotland must:

- **Show leadership** and reaffirm commitment to meeting Scotland's climate change targets under the Act and encourage greater ambition from European partners on reducing emissions. Scotland's climate change legislation remains the most ambitious in the world and it can be highlighted as a positive example to others considering putting their own climate change laws in place.

It is essential that the commitments set out in the Scottish Climate Change Act are delivered. Scotland must meet the emissions reduction targets that have been set if our Act is to remain a credible example of leading climate change legislation.

It is important to highlight the Scottish Government's target for 100% equivalent of Scotland's electricity demand to be met through renewable energy by 2020, and the interim target of 50% by 2015. Renewable energy currently supports 11,000 jobs in Scotland.

The Climate Justice Fund demonstrates Scotland's commitment to climate justice and is an example which should be shared with others.

- **Adopt amendments to the Kyoto Protocol (KP)** so that the second commitment period can begin in 2013, including a mandate that defines when and requires that ambition is increased, and an adjustment procedure to allow countries to unilaterally or severally increase ambition without requiring a new ratification process.

Limiting carry-over of 'hot air' surplus emissions - completely, or with very strong limits - is an important area to solve.

- **Support developing countries to adapt to climate change** by ensuring that climate finance goes up and not down: to double in overall amount during the period 2013-15 compared to Fast Start Finance levels; to guarantee sources and scaling up of climate finance to meet the \$100 billion per year commitment by 2020; and to ensure significant commitments on replenishment of the Green Climate Fund.
- **Support a solid foundation for negotiations under the Durban Platform towards a fair, ambitious and binding global agreement to be adopted by 2015.** This package should include a detailed programme of work with clear milestones towards achieving a Protocol, and other necessary decisions for an agreement.

For more information contact:

Gail Wilson, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland Co-ordinator
Ground Floor, 2 Lochside View, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9DH
Tel: 0131 317 4112 Email: gail@stopclimatechaosscotland.org
www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is a charity, registered in Scotland, no SC039643