

# Ensuring Equity in Paris Rulebook

## Pre COP 23 Consultation

**23 October 2017, India International Centre, New Delhi**

The Pre COP23 Consultation organized by Beyond Copenhagen, CEOEDECON, PAIRVI and SADED was held at India International Centre, New Delhi on 23 October, 2017. The objective of the Consultation was to discuss state of play of climate negotiations, possibilities and challenges before the COP at BONN. Leading civil society organizations working on climate change and sustainable development concerns, media, policymakers and representatives from important actors/countries through their missions in Delhi participated in the consultation. Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Joint Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was the Keynote speaker.



Mr. Ajay Jha opened the consultation and welcomed the keynote speaker and participants. He highlighted the important issues for developing countries to focus in the upcoming COP as this is going to be instrumental in developing the mechanism to implement the Paris Agreement known as the Paris rulebook. The Paris rule book has to be concluded by 2018. He said that for developing countries the challenges would be to ensure 'differentiation' in the responses, ensuring equity and adequate finances, technology, to raise ambition of the industrialized countries to meet Paris

climate goals and ensuring that the Pre 2020 commitments of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol are met. Along with these, the area of concern would be to ensure transparency, role of market mechanisms, loss and damage and review of NDCs.

Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad in his keynote address highlighted the expectations from the COP-23. He said that the Paris rulebook would ensure that the Paris Agreement is taken forward the way it was envisaged. As of now the text is not available related to the broad themes of the rule book such as NDC, time cycle and transparency etc. He said that a broad skeleton is there and a major expectation from this COP is that the text will emerge and word by word text based negotiations will start. He stressed that the differentiation is the key to success of Paris Agreement and flexibility is inbuilt in the process and it will be ensured that it is maintained. He further added that it will be ensured that the enhanced framework addresses the concerns related to the major challenges of finance and technology development & transfer. He said that he was optimistic about the outcome of the Paris agreement and

feels that it is important to have clear understanding of how we would organize our decisions post 2020. He said that India's climate action plan is ambitious and in next 5-10 years a lot of things will happen as the country plans to move towards 100% electric vehicles, extended metro network, have ambitious renewable energy targets and adopts new norms of blending of fuels.

Mr. Shankar informed that the India Pavilion this year will host 24-28 events and there will also be yoga sessions and he expects participation of CSOs and youth. He added that the Minister of MOEF&CC will remain accessible for the civil Society Organizations during the COP.

In the discussions that followed, Mr. Jha expressed his concern for providing very limited space to the CSO's in the side events during the upcoming COP at Bonn and said that this limits the control of a CSO over any useful discussion. Query was also raised regarding developed countries' view that the principle of differentiation has been removed from the Paris agreement, to which Mr. Shankar replied that there is no dilution on 'differentiation' in the Paris agreement and it is clearly mentioned that the developed countries will take the lead and finance will be provided by developed countries to the developing countries.



Session I focused on recent evidences and manifestations and progress in climate negotiations and was chaired by Sh Vijay Pratap from SADED. Mr. Soumya Dutta from Beyond Copenhagen in his presentation highlighted the recent evidences and manifestation of climate change and climate driven disasters. He highlighted the findings of a report from National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine released on March 11, 2016 confirming that science can now link climate change with some extreme weather events. He said that unless appropriate actions are not taken urgently, the mere discussions on Paris Agreement will not be able to save the world from the climate change crisis.



Mr. Chandrabhusan from Centre for Science and Environment said that India is in a position that even if it does not take any action it will be able to meet the Paris commitments. The only challenging pledge India made in its INDC is to remove 2 billion tons of carbon from the atmosphere. He said that within India a false narrative is that the adaptation is the responsibility of the states while the centre will take

care of the climate change mitigation. Highlighting the failure of the UNFCCC to deliver, he said that the next year UNFCCC is going to complete its 30 years and it is the time for us to ponder if the Convention is required to remain as such or need to break down in number of sector specific conventions. He added that different sectors require different rulebooks and only one Paris Agreement does not provide manageable negotiations.

Mr. Souparna Lahiri from All India Forum for Forest Movements said that very few CSO's are able to follow REDD+ within the GCF. He stated that instead of REDD+ forest people need policy and financial support from the state and national governments. He added that decentralization of the forest governance through recognizing and restoring the rights of the commons through Forest Rights Act can help a lot. With regard to REDD+ he said a benefit sharing plan and clarity on land tenure should be required when REDD-plus would be implemented in indigenous peoples' territories and forest dependent communities, and this must be included in the scorecard.

Session II delved deeply into major issues of negotiations at Bonn and was chaired by Mr. Sanjay Paswan (former Union Minister) and Mr. Soumya Dutta from Beyond Copenhagen. Mr. Vaibhav Gupta from Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) spoke on Transparency, Accounting and Reporting Mechanism. He said that with regard to NDC reporting the biggest challenge is that the countries have reported their emission reduction targets in so many different ways and that there is no workable definition of climate finance. He added that India should support a quantifiable format for NDC reporting to bring in more responsibility from the developed countries.

Ms. Garima Maheshwari from Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies spoke about the issues of access and transfer of climate smart technologies, the mechanism it follows and the kind of policy support CTCN should provide for it.

While talking on 'the state of carbon markets and the new market mechanism Ajita Tiwari from INECC



emphasized the need to have binding emissions targets, stable carbon pricing and emphasis on sustainable solutions to make the market mechanism to succeed.

Mr. Sanjay Vashishtha from CANSA talked on facilitative dialogue that will take place in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goals of the agreement and global stock take(GST) that will happen in 2013. He mentioned that United

States and EU have committed to reduce only 20% of their fair share in the Paris Agreement. Facilitative dialogue will have a focus on raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation of the parties. He added that

the GST in 2023 will be very comprehensive and will include technology and finance transfer, mitigation and adaptation.

Session III highlighted some areas of contestation within climate negotiations including nuclear energy, agriculture and food, gender, indigenous populations and farmers. The session was chaired by Mr. Sreedhar Ramamuthy (Envionics Trust) and Mr. Nagraj Adve from India Climate Justice Network. Mr. Kumar Sundaram, founding Editor, Dianuke.org Nuclear Energy, said that it is dangerous to think nuclear energy as a green form of energy as its average carbon footprint is 66g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh. This is above the limit set by the Committee on Climate Change. He added that globally nuclear industry faces a terminal crisis because of adverse economics, safety issues, and emergence of efficient and competitive alternatives, popular protests, land acquisition and nuclear liability. In this scenario India should also review extending its nuclear power capacity.



Ms. Vibhuti Joshi from CEOEDECON highlighted major issues of contest related to agriculture and food. She highlighted the policy gaps, shortcomings in Paris agreement with regard to agriculture system and urgent needs. She emphasized on strategies with focus on small farmers and decentralized & democratic food production, distribution and

consumption for food security and food sovereignty.

Ms. Kalyani Raj from All India Women's Conference showed her concern to the fact that gender issues have not been included in climate change discussions in India and that the country's National Action Plan on climate change does not mention gender. She added that the lack of availability of gender segregated data and the obvious absence of finance in programs and plans where 'gender' is a main component are few issues that need to be taken seriously.

Mr. Abhay Xaxa from Indigenous populations said Indigeneocracy - Indigenous democracy 'Adivasiyat' is a set of values practiced by indigenous community and this is also at the core of efforts to sustain in the time of climate change. He further added that degrowth of over consuming class, a system where rights of the indigenous class can be assured and an action plan to find out why there is so much disparity between consumer and struggling class are some of the measures of utmost importance in light of impending climate change.

Ms. Supriya from India Youth Climate Network said that average age of Indians by 2020 will be 29 years but there is no voice from youth in the climate negotiations. She highlighted that a space need to be created for youth constituency to engage in the governments functions. Mr. Harinarayan Sutrakar, a farmer from Rajasthan said that the condition of farmers is grave due to scarcity of water. He highlighted that the farmers have already sown mustard thrice this year but water scarcity and changing climatic conditions are not letting it grow. He further added that the farmers are not able to get back even the invested money in agriculture. According to him PM Fasal Bima Yojna proved more helpful to the Insurance companies than farmers as they reaped huge profits.



Mr. Stephane S. Enevoldsen from Embassy of Denmark commented that in order to become self-sustain, Denmark way back in 1970s invested in renewable energy. The country is in profit in terms of the co-benefits of green safe energy. He emphasized on localization of solution and decoupling of energy requirement from growth as the pillars of Denmark's success.

Approximately 70 representatives from the CSOs, media, academia, research organizations, think tanks and some of the foreign missions in New Delhi participated in the Consultation. The Consultation ended with vote of thanks by Ms. Aparna Sahai, from PAIRVI.