



# COP15 Bulletin

Tuesday, 8 December 2009



## TEXT, TEXT, TEXT...

Multiple draft texts are being worked up on the margins of the official negotiating process, including the Danish text and a BASIC text (Brazil, China, South Africa, and India). The BASIC text was drafted by China, and was supported by Brazil, India and South Africa as an alternative to the draft proposal from Denmark.

In the hurly burly of final weeks of negotiations – with a flurry of competing texts being worked on – it is vitally important that poor countries are not squeezed out of the process. The Danish text is a moving target, but lacks essential ingredients needed for a FAB deal; the BASIC proposal reflects the position of the entire developing world negotiating bloc that they will not accept a deal that does not include a commitment to a second phase of the Kyoto Protocol. (NB The KP is the only agreement we have that binds countries to cut emissions in a way that enshrines principles such as common but differentiated responsibilities).

A leaked version of the Danish text (version 27/11/09) in The Guardian created a big media story. Below Oxfam's initial analysis:

- **Open up the process:** The Danes appear to have been talking to a limited number of countries. The perspectives and interests of all CoP member countries need to be reflected in the proposals for an outcomes declaration. Therefore, there needs to be an open process of participation by all countries in the development of the text. The processes need to be transparent and inclusive for an agreement to be acceptable to all Parties.
- **Raise the level of ambition:** The level of ambition in the draft needs to be higher. The goal should be to commit to stay well below 2°C (rather than aspiring to do so), and global emissions to peak no later than 2015 (rather than 2020). Oxfam's is calling for global emissions to be reduced 80% by 2050 (rather than 50%) from 1990 levels.
- **Finance:** It is crucial that there are real commitments to medium term finance, not aspirations ("shall" rather than "ought" co), and that the finance is additional to aid commitments from donors (not just additional to existing aid flows).
- **Safeguards for REDD:** There are no safeguards to ensure that there are strong social safeguards including protection for indigenous peoples and participation in decision making for affected people, or environmental safeguards to protect against large scale forest conversion.
- **Make it real:** There are still few specifics in the draft that will provide assurances that this is a real agreement. For example, there needs to be a binding commitment medium term finance, instead of an aspiration (bracketed in the text).
- There is not a single reference to the Kyoto Protocol in this document. While the text included national economy-wide emissions reduction commitments, it is unclear that these would come with the same kind of compliance that the KP includes.

## WATCH THIS!!!!

- ☰ **How to tackle climate change: bad ideas**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQtS0nrTtS8>
- ☰ **How to tackle climate change: good ideas**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwOz-8lAQU>
- ☰ **First video of Mr Green (Anchorman of CCTV in COP), with brief from Antonio Hill.**  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF\\_cZJn4Oc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF_cZJn4Oc)

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At the same time, the text included some good elements. The financing elements are pretty good: placeholders for scale needed for fast start, 2013, mid-point, indicative by 2020, though weak version of assessed contributions, and unclear on binding nature/compliance. There is language on the need for new and additional fund is very strong with equitable governance, predictable financing and direct access all under control of COP (though funds can also flow outside) and very good language on bunkers.

The BASIC proposal includes all of the main elements of the Bali Action Plan (i.e. things that need to be included in final deal such as shared vision on 2 degrees, mitigation and adaptation and finance). However there are some gaps to be filled to ensure it delivers the financial support which vulnerable developing countries urgently need and that it keeps temperatures below catastrophic levels. The top five gaps to be filled are:

- No finance figures – either one-off, fast start or predictable financing from 2012 – dependable financing sources, or even binding finance obligations these require for rich countries
- No aggregate emissions reduction targets – or basis for determining fair shares thereof
- No additionality on finance
- Steps backwards on representative governance of new funds and inclusion of the Global Environment Facility as the key body
- No social or environmental safeguards for deforestation initiatives

In a reaction, Oxfam said:

*“Like ants in a room full of elephants poor countries are at risk of been squeezed out of the climate talks in Copenhagen. As the talks ramp up and the big players put forward their proposals for the deal it is vitally important that vulnerable countries are part of the debate. The Danish proposal must not distract from the job at hand. There must be a laser like focus on the official text of the agreement over the next six days. With just a handful of days to go before a deal is signed all countries need to focus their efforts on the official process which offers the best chance of a fair, ambitious and binding deal. The Danish proposal falls far short of emissions cuts needed, and remains vague on the climate cash. One positive aspect is that it would put an end to the spaghetti bowl of channels which poor countries have to negotiate for financial help that mean only a fraction of the money available gets to those in need.*

*The proposal from China and other emerging economies offers a more balanced vision of a deal – but also needs significant work if it is going to serve the needs of the world’s poorest people and prevent a climate catastrophe. We need a strong deal that delivers the \$200bn in new money every year that poor countries need to adapt to a changing climate and reduce their emissions and sharp emissions reductions from rich countries.”*

Following the leaking of the Danish text, African civil society, including the Pan-Africa Climate Justice Alliance (an Oxfam partner), held a very vocal protest in the convention centre: "We will defend ourselves, we will not die in silence!". (See: <http://www.climaticoanalysis.org/post/african-nations-in-an-uproar-over-leaked-text/>)

On the formal agenda, official sessions were held for the implementation and scientific bodies of the convention, referred to as Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA), and informal sessions were held under the Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) and Kyoto Protocol (KP) negotiating tracks. Oxfam is not closely tracking discussions under SBI and SBSTA, however, it’s worth noting that some discussions are happening in the context of the SBSTA text that could influence how indigenous peoples’ rights are addressed in the context of REDD.

Drafting sessions were held under LCA on key issues, including adaptation, finance, technology, capacity building, and shared vision — these “informal” sessions are not open to NGO observers. The Oxfam policy team has insider access to informal LCA sessions because several Oxfam representatives sit on developing country delegations (these

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Oxfam staff members are referred to as “pink” badges – the colour of party badges at the negotiations). One of the key areas of focus was to influence delegations to get the LCA chair to assign a drafting group to address global emissions from transportation (a.k.a. “bunkers”) under the mitigation track because of the potential for climate finance to be generated from emissions trading schemes or levies in this sector. The concern is that this issue is sidelined in Copenhagen and picked up at a later COP, which could delay progress on a key source of international finance. Malawi, through strong support from Oxfam, advocated for continued discussions on bunkers in Copenhagen.

For complete outline of Oxfam COP15 resources and activities go to [www.oxfam.org/en/oxfam-in-copenhagen](http://www.oxfam.org/en/oxfam-in-copenhagen)

### **Also in the news**

#### **French announcement on financing and emission reductions**

The French environment minister, Jean-Louis Borloo, gave a strong speech last night in Copenhagen on financing for developing countries and France’s will to reduce their emissions by 30% by 2020, no matter what other countries might put forward.

Borloo stressed the need for rich countries to provide money to help developing nations adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change. He highlighted adaptation should be at the heart of the global climate deal.

France proposed to provide 30bn dollars per year (20bn euros) for the most vulnerable countries (least developed countries, poor islands states and Africa) in addition to the money that all developing nations should be receiving from rich countries to adapt to the changing climate and reduce their emissions – the EU agreed in October that developing countries should be getting 100bn euros.

Minister Borloo expressed his support for few ways to raise this money: a finance transaction tax on banks, a levy or tax on aviation and shipping fuel or the earmarking of revenues raised by auctioning emissions allowances in a new emission trading scheme for aviation and shipping. Oxfam estimates up to \$30bn per year could be raised in this way. Oxfam welcomes the French announcement and calls on France to put pressure on other EU countries to be more ambitious on both issues and to help global negotiations move forward. EU leaders are meeting on 10-11 December, in Brussels, to hammer out the details of their position, as key negotiating bloc in the Copenhagen talks.

#### **US EPA announcement**

The US Environmental Protection Agency ruled last night that greenhouse gas emissions are hazardous to human health, opening the door to regulation as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act. This is an important development but is no substitute for congressional action. This development adds another tool to President Obama’s Copenhagen tool kit, but he still needs Congressional backing for a global deal. The US Administration can regulate CO<sub>2</sub>, but such regulation cannot deliver the deep emissions reductions the world is waiting for - only legislation enacted by Congress can do that.

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For more information about the climate talks, go to:

- **ECO**, a daily newsletter written by Climate Action Network. Oxfam is member of CAN and contributed articles to the newsletter. You can download and subscribe to the newsletter at <http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco>.
- **ENB**, a daily report of the proceedings prepared by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. You can subscribe or download the edition at [www.iisd.co/climate/](http://www.iisd.co/climate/).
- The "**Fossil of the Day Award**" rewards governments or observers who performed "best" at blocking progress at the climate negotiations. It is a powerful tool to raise awareness and apply pressure. For more, go to: <http://www.fossil-of-the-day.org/>.
- **Essentials for a Fair, Ambitious and Binding Deal** (CAN) - <http://www.climatenetwork.org/>.



**Fossil of the Day**  
**Monday, 7 December**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYQQfZHDTNg>

#### Oxfam's campaign work @ COP15



#### **Feeling frustrated by Australia's lack of commitment to tackling climate change?**

Ever wished you could put words in the PM's mouth? Now you can!

Oxfam's innovative humorous new web site is now live.

You can create your own "Talking Kev" by arranging sound bites of the PM.

To save your bacon you have to rewrite his speech before he notices. While you are at it, why not use a little "creative licence" to write the speech YOU want Kev to make at Copenhagen?

Send a Talking Kev today. Create a speech, have a laugh, and at the same time help Oxfam spread the serious message that Australia must act to get a fair, safe and binding climate agreement in Copenhagen.

Go to: <http://www.talkingkev.com>

Oxfam Ireland marked the start of COP15 by displaying 100 human ice figures outside the Department of the Environment in Dublin. The 100 ice figures – one for every 100 people who have joined our campaign to call for a fair and safe global climate deal at the climate talks that commenced yesterday in Copenhagen – highlight the human impact of climate change and demonstrate that the public expect our Governments to play their part in ensuring that a fair and safe global climate deal is agreed in Copenhagen.



#### Latest news from the blog

##### **Going underwater to bring the reality of climate change to Copenhagen**

Oxfam campaigner simulates flooding at UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen  
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/applications/blogs/pressoffice/?p=8831>

Subscribe to Oxfam's blog, go to <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/climate-change>

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