



Speech at EP SA delegations meeting 24th May 2011

About CAN-Europe

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E) is recognised as Europe's leading network working on climate and energy issues. With 141 member organisations in 25 European countries, CAN-E works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe.

The Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of more than 500 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government, private sector and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. CAN is based on trust, openness and democracy.

The vision of CAN is a world striving actively towards and achieving the protection of the global climate in a manner that promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment. CAN unites to work towards this vision.

CAN's mission is to support and empower civil society organisations to influence the design and development of an effective global strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure its implementation at international, national and local levels in the promotion of equity and sustainable development.

About me

Karim is Deputy Director and is responsible for development cooperation at CAN-Europe. She has worked at CAN since 2005, serving also as Communications Manager and Policy Advisor, and has been forging links between climate change and development policy for the network since 2007. Karim has been involved in many European climate policy processes and has followed UN climate change negotiations since 2004. Karim studied law and politics, specialising in EU law in the UK and Belgium focusing on European policy, development cooperation and international relations.

Introduction

CAN believes that a compromised or low-ambition outcome is not an option for Durban, and this is why we are setting the bar high but in every way achievable for COP 17. This is a historic challenge which requires new levels of solidarity and partnership to avert this pressing climate reality, by taking certain strategic steps now, we can ensure our economic, environmental and social future. We have a moral imperative to act.

Status of UNFCCC talks - where we are now in the climate change talks?

Cancun was a modest success as it buried the ghost of the failure of Copenhagen. However, the Cancun Agreements postponed important issues that underpin the success, or otherwise, of efforts to fight catastrophic climate change.

The Cancun Agreements provide real opportunities to advance global cooperation in adaptation, forests, climate finance and technology transfer. If all opportunities outlined within the Cancun Agreements are grasped, and parties take the necessary and logical next steps, it is possible that the Cancun Agreements can be a springboard to a fair, ambitious and binding global deal to tackle dangerous climate change in Durban.

COP17 in Durban should establish the basis for a fair, ambitious and binding global climate change regime. If this does not happen, if instead there is delay and lack of ambition, then we risk losing the chance to keep global warming below 1.5°C and we must face the catastrophic consequences this will bring in terms of loss of life, economic growth and natural habitat. Without adequate mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building we will have to accept that poor communities and countries who are already feeling the impacts of changing climate will be adversely affected.

Durban expectations - what should be the outcome of the conference in Durban?

Ambition, Ambition, Ambition is needed from the government of South Africa. I will state our wishes and hopes and then insert a few reality checks, please indulge me.

Some specifics:

- Legal questions. There is a lack of clarity around these. Ensure no gap in legally binding commitments, Kyoto Protocol parties commit to a second commitment period at Durban. Reality check: If closing the gap does not happen in Durban (it won't) a step forward on this is to agree clear a process and timetable there for it to happen. Clarity on legal questions could be something to push for now since KP will definitely be an issue there.
- Close the gigatonne gap. We would like to see more ambitious A1 mitigation targets at Durban and all the associated safeguards inserted. Developed countries should commit to targets of more than 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. The Cancun Agreements acknowledge the need to increase ambition and the 25-40% range of emission reductions for developed countries. However targets are unlikely to be upgraded in Durban. Reality check: As an initial preparatory step, parties should commission a technical paper on the scientific, technical and socio-economic issues relating to temperature increase of 1.5°C, to be delivered in 2012, workshops are not adequate to clarify the pledges properly.
- Establish adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building institutions with sound rules to ensure that they serve developing countries' needs and deliver real action on the ground. Reality check: Key political decisions on the Green Climate Fund, Finance Standing Committee, Climate Technological Centre, Adaptation Committee and C-building Coordinating body can be taken in Durban, such as Board appointments and rules on participation of CSOs, access etc.
- Establish a negotiating pathway to deliver the necessary finance to the new Green Climate Fund. Reality Check: not all the 100 billion will go through the

green fund, but important to identify the innovative sources that will deliver the 100bn of public finance.

- Modalities and guidelines for National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) should follow an inclusive and integrated country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and be flexible to address national circumstances, and to ensure that support will be delivered to implement NAPs. Reality check: Advance and potentially agree these in Durban.
- Linked to this and ahead of the next inter-sessional in Bonn we would hope to see an Agreement on a work programme on loss and damage (in Bonn) and Reality Check: achieve significant progress up to Durban, to enable a mechanism to be established by COP 18.

Role of COP presidency in general

Good things happening already but there is a need to scale up! Ensure that this is not considered a low-ambition COP. Role is more than just logistical (although logistics important too!) but also requires leading by example. Key things to keep in mind:

South Africa must not be neutral, the role and moment requires leadership. There is a need to build trust in the UNFCCC process for developing countries, hammered in Copenhagen, improved in Cancun. Problems from Copenhagen – lack of transparency and inclusiveness. What Cancun got right, huge diplomatic effort from the Mexican government and open transparent process leading up to the COP.

This is only the 2nd COP to be hosted in Africa. This needs to be an African COP – keeping in mind what developing countries need and want, putting the needs of the South and vulnerable at the centre of this discussion and ensuring their voice is heard. In addition as part of the BASIC group and Africa group makes the spotlight shine on South Africa and its government. What will the future geopolitical leadership look like? Will we see more ambitious leadership from these new leaders or will they repeat the same mistakes? This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Need to start planning and diplomatic efforts early; as yet the ambitions of South Africa towards this COP are not apparent. We would suggest SA to kick-start now a massive diplomatic effort to secure a deal or the elements for a deal. This should be backed up by ambitious domestic actions. What is South Africa's strategy and tactics towards this COP? There is a need to get out of 'listening mode' and move to 'action mode'.

Specific measures South Africa should undertake - as the host country (and e.g. as a member of the BASIC? (Brazil, SA, India, China) (grouping) - to guide the process forward to a positive outcome?

- Build progressive coalitions of countries who are committed to a legally binding deal, learn from diplomatic efforts of Mexicans.
- Domestic action is crucial for SA's credibility and puts pressure on countries to mirror your domestic climate mitigations efforts,

- Pressure governments to deliver on finance pledges
- Build domestic civil society support, engage the public, open up to CSO involvement/engagement
- Move forward with the ambitious goals regardless of US support

Role of the EU - how could the EU to assist South Africa in the preparations for Durban?

- The EU is the largest delegation to these negotiations by far, with experts and capacity on all issues.
- Clarify their position on legal form
- Messages on 2nd commitment period are not coherent,
- Improve commitments/pledges on mitigation, adaptation and finance (as stated above) to bring it all together
- Not make the EU position depend on US and China
- Act as good partner to SA, lend their support where needed
- Diplomatic channels exist and should be enhanced still this year. EU-Africa strategy on CC, should be enhanced, as well as the diplomatic channels through the GCCA enhanced.

What could a Durban package look like?

- Finance – secure agreement on Sources of funding – can't have a fund without money!
- Mitigation – developed countries will not increase their targets by Durban – close the gap through closing accounting loopholes? – and deal with targets during science review (2013-2015)
- Developing countries – put NAMA's in registry
- Adaptation – establish Committee and deal with loss and damage
- Legal form – secure mandate for legally binding agreement – deal with gap between 1st and 2nd Commitment Periods – Durban cannot be the death of KP!