



# 20<sup>th</sup> Upper Management Report on Climate Change

*Summary of the 14th Conference of the  
Parties to the United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change (COP 14)*

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March, 2009

## COP 14



Photo Courtesy: IISD

The discussions during the COP 14, which took place on December 1-12 2008 in Poland, addressed mainly topics such as adaptation to climate change, financial resources for technology transfers, and emissions reduction due to avoided deforestation, especially in tropical regions. More complex discussions, such as the definition of what should happen after 2012, in post-Kyoto Protocol, will be objective of the negotiations in the COP 15, on December 2009 in Copenhagen.

The discussions on the topic «adaptation» to climate change, directed to the creation of financial mechanisms to support projects in vulnerable countries or regions that suffer the consequences of this change, must take place regardless of mitigation efforts. Discussions on casual relation between extreme climate events (hurricanes, droughts, and floods) and global warming, as well as on the eligibility criteria for the access to generated resources by a rate of 2% on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, were intense but inconclusive.

The creation of financial mechanisms to compensate the Emissions Reductions by Deforestation and Degradation of forests (REDD), as well as the way of assumption of these reductions, were one of the main objectives of the discussion. Several volunteer movements and investments in REDD were highlighted and the topic was present in the regime negotiations for future commitments. Current rules should not be altered up to 2012, however, there was a consensus on the inclusion of mechanisms and methodologies for REDD in the agreement to be defined in 2009, and these must

consider the indigenous communities and local economy. While some countries support that the mechanism should work through the purchase and sale of credits, others believe that the most appropriate way is to create an international fund for countries. Brazil strongly supported the second option.

In the case of forests under the CDM, Brazil requested on December 1989, a review of the interpretation of the eligibility request of forests, regarding the non existence of forests in the area subject to the project. Therefore, Brazil requested that industrial forests that are in condition of biological depletion be considered as eligible, although previous to said data. At the end of each cycle of planted forests, a new investment decision on the area use should be made. The topic was one of the most discussed in the CDM sub group; there is an expectation to take a decision by the end of 2009, in Copenhagen. The importance of this decision lies in the potential of CDM projects in thousands of hectares of planted forests in Brazil.

In relation to the post 2012 regime, negotiations were cold, and some nations are still beginning to P





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position. The EU presented its 20-20-20 proposal, which considers 20% of emissions reduction with basis on 1990, 20% of energy efficiency, and 20% of renewables in energy matrix, with an automatic trigger of increase in emissions reductions of 30% for the others large emitters. USA and the BRIC's (Brazil, Russia, India and China) are in this group, without Russia, which is signatory of Kyoto. In the case of BRIC's it is unlikely that they assume international commitments, limiting to local voluntary commitments instead, such as Brazilian Climate Change National Plan, that predicts the Amazons deforestation reduction to 70% up to 2018, among other voluntary actions.

In relation to the discussion on eligibility of Carbon Capture and Storage projects (CCS) to access to CDM resources, the topic was submitted to plenary for the first time, getting support from UE, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Norway and Japan, while Brazil, Venezuela, Jamaica, Micronesia and NGO's remained reserved mainly due to the uncertainty in relation to guarantee of remaining and responsibility for long term projects. Finally, no decision was approved and the topic will still be subject to evaluations and negotiation at the COP 15.

Regarding, «technology transfer» there was a redefinition, turning the «Poznan Strategic Plan for Technology Transfer» to request the GEF (Global Environment Facility) to enlarge investments and to



facilitate projects' implementation, considering the need for treatment of existing lagoons in GEF operations and the impact of private sector investment projects. However, this topic does not consider a shared vision together with business sector yet.

Before all the difficulties inherent to complexity, Poznan was useful to open ways for new approaches and also for revision of existing proposals in the field of future regime of climate change. It is expected that a proposal for new commitments be achieved along the year, to be negotiated in the next COP 15, in Copenhagen. In this sense all the economic, politic, and social agents should find ways to join the process and influence in it.

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