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SWITZERLAND'S BULLY BOYS WIN FOSSIL OVER FINANCE THREAT

SWITZERLAND earned yesterday's first place Fossil of the Day for being a big bully.

Anyone who listens to civil society or climate scientists will know that we have to do much more if we want to keep temperature rise below the internationally agreed threshold of 2°C.

Predictable public climate finance that helps developing countries to scale up their climate actions is essential to get the ambition wheel turning. Switzerland, in an intervention on Tuesday, not only opposed any legally binding quantified commitments on finance, but also threatened developing countries that any such demands would jeopardise the outcome here in Lima.

Other developed countries, including the EU and the US came close to earning a fossil too as they didn't exactly paint themselves in glory either. To much disappointment, they also strongly rejected commitments on finance.

BRAZIL came in second after stating in the Framework for Various Approaches Contact Group that "there is no double counting in the CDM"(!!) As numerous scientists have documented, double-counting of emissions is a serious problem with the Clean Development Mechanism. New, robust accounting rules that stamp out such practices are seriously needed to ensure the integrity of our efforts to combat climate change. This statement undermines climate action and earned Brazil a second place fossil.

There was some hope though...

AOSIS received the Ray of the Day award yesterday for being the first group to directly support the complete phase out of carbon pollution by 2050 during this COP. What makes this statement even more powerful is that other countries added their voices to that of AOSIS, specifically AILAC and Norway. Achieving this phase out of fossil fuel emissions and a just transition to 100% renewable energy by mid-century is our only hope to stay below the 2°C threshold.

Countries also need to ensure that there is enough financial and technological support for developing countries' transition. Shifting investments and subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy is a good start.

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

Not only is spaceship Earth badly off the 2020 trajectory needed to stay below 2°C, it is just about to drift further away from the safe pathway. That was the message yesterday from UNEP in the Structured Expert Dialogue: the gigatonne gap looks to just grow as we approach 2025 and 2030. If you consider warnings by the IPCC and others that the 2°C limit may still be too high and risky, then the situation looks even worse.

But fortunately we do have the survival kit still within our reach.

As ECO learned from the IEA, 80% of the 2020 gigatonne gap in the energy sector could be bridged with measures that have no impact on GDP in all regions (!!). Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the most important survival tools in the short and longer term.

UNEP also emphasised the importance of energy efficiency, which in almost all cases is the option where you have many wins and no losses So really, Parties? What are you waiting for? To quote the IEA presenter yesterday: it really shouldn't be that hard.

What's the course we need to plot? Zero carbon, emissions phase out and decarbonisation were much-used vocabulary yesterday. Having this long-term goal in mind, the World Bank said that this should be the basis for policy.

How long is the long-term? Well, with all GHG, we'd have to be in zero by about 2080 to 2100, says UNEP, if we are to stay within the 2°C limit. For the main culprit, CO₂, zero emissions will need to be achieved sometime between 2055 and 2070. And for a 1.5°C limit we'd obviously have to bring carbon emissions to zero even faster.

The Expert Dialogue also discussed negative emissions: the more we delay action, and the later emissions hit zero, the more negative emissions we'd have to achieve in the future to stay below 1.5°C or 2°C warming levels. ECO was pleased to finally hear a reality check conclude that the main carbon removal technology assumed in present models - biomass with CCS - is pure theory and very little is known how broadly it could actually be implemented, given the multiple barriers, problems and limiting factors that exist in the real world (ECO recommends to check out the useful info box in the UNEP report).

The reality is that IF carbon dioxide removal technologies aren't broadly available (as is generally assumed in models), emissions will have to be brought down to zero even faster.

The IEA reminded Parties that investors are looking for some clear signals from Paris. What's a safe investment? Is it (still) high-carbon or low-carbon technology?

After carefully listening to the experts, ECO is convinced even more than before that the signals the Paris agreement needs to send are: a complete phase out of fossil fuels by 2050, and a just transition to 100% renewable energy for all. And to get there in time, this fossil fuel phase out must start today.

CHANGE THE SYSTEM, NOT THE CLIMATE

**ECO apologises for printing an incorrect version of this piece yesterday. Please find the correct piece below.*

Peruvian civil society organisations and grassroots movements are seizing the hosting of COP20 by Peru to join efforts in elevating environmental issues on the government's agenda, particularly as part of the country's development policies.

Climate change impacts have already reached Peru. People in Peru are already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change such as water scarcity, thus adding to existing environmental and social challenges.

While the Presidency of the COP20 should have been an opportunity for the Peruvian government to show leadership in environmental issues, its recent national policies show that the environment has become less and less of a priority. For example, in July this year the government approved the so-called Ley 30230 (also known as 'Ley Paquetazo'), which reduces the importance of environmental standards with the aim to attract investment in the extractive industries.

The promotion of extractive industries has already led to cases such as that of Maxima Chaupe, a female farmer. She was sued by Yanacocha – one of the biggest gold mining companies – for living on the land where Yanacocha was planning its Conga extraction project. Maxima and her family were not only ordered to leave the land, they were also asked to pay Yanacocha a compensation fine of about US\$2,000. Other injustices have even led to fatalities: Edwin Chota, Jorge Ríos, Leoncio Quinticima and Francisco Pinedo, indigenous awajun, were killed by illegal loggers when trying to protect their community forest near a conservation area in the Amazons of Peru.

COP20 is an important milestone on the way to Paris, but it remains a closed space for people like Maxima and Edwin who claim justice and call for a new, climate-friendly and sustainable development pathway.

ECO is happy to announce two events aiming to change this. Firstly, from the 8th to the 11th of December, the Cumbre de los Pueblos (People's Summit) will take place in Lima. It will be an open space for people to attend, get informed, make proposals, and call for urgent action to be conducted by their governments. Secondly, civil society and social movement organisations are also organising the Marcha Mundial en Defensa de la Madre Tierra (People's March), which will take place on the 10th of December in Lima. Around 15,000 people are expected to participate

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----- FROM YOUNGO ----- WHAT FUTURE WILL YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO HAVE IN 2050?

HOW TO FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE AT THE UNFCCC

A guide for negotiators and ministers

Today is Young and Future Generations day. To celebrate YOUNGO has put together some simple instructions on the fight of our lifetime. You are never too old to learn and never too tired/disgruntled/bored to fight for the future.

1. We are the citizens of your countries, and we demand that you make our nationally determined contributions ambitious. We can stand to bear the responsibility of your past mistakes, but your decisions about the future need to be just and fair: these decisions affect our homes, our communities, and our lives.
2. Our life's work will be to phase out carbon emissions to zero. Your job is simple: make the commitment to a clean and just phase out of fossil fuels, and a phase in of 100% renewables starting now and to be achieved no later than 2050.
3. Don't discount our future and that of future generations. You consistently tell us you can't afford it, but we know you have your sums all wrong: you are not counting on us having a future at all. Invest today, which for industrial countries includes paying your climate debts. And get the message to your finance ministries.
4. We all know that 80% of the known reserves of oil, coal and gas have to stay in the ground. Our money would be better invested in a community-owned, low-carbon transition, including education. We want to hear you answering the question: when will our country stop extracting fossil fuels?
5. We are fully aware of the games some of you play in this process—the manipulation, and the appropriation of voices of the vulnerable, including the youth. We recognise your divide and rule tactics and want to make this clear: young people are uniting and you cannot stop us, you can only join us.