NAVIGATING UNFCCC CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

COP Negotiating Table for the Energy Sector: Group Activity

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Agenda

13.30 – Start
- Background to the UNFCCC
- UNFCCC negotiation history
- Negotiation blocs
- UNFCCC parties & observers
- The various COP meetings
- Outline of the Paris Agreement
- Role of Supplementary Body for Implementation
- Group activity
- Review

15.30 – Coffee/tea break
Background to the UNFCCC

- Aims to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".
- It has 197 parties and 165 signatories who meet annually at the Conferences of the Parties (COP).
- There are no binding limits and no enforcement measures.
- It instead leaves the parties to determine their own national emission reduction targets, called nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- Each new NDC must exceed the last, and through regular "stocktaking" the parties regulate themselves in relation to the achievement of the NDCs.
UNFCCC negotiation history

- UNFCCC (1994)
- Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997)
- Bali Action Plan (COP13, 2007)
- Cancún Agreements (COP16, 2010)
- Copenhagen Accord (COP15, 2009)
- Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (COP17, 2011)
- Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015)
UNFCCC negotiation blocs

- The UNFCCC is comprised of many negotiation blocs, allowing multiple countries to speak with one voice. The membership of some of these are looser, where one country can be a member of more than one bloc.
- The major blocs include:
  - G77 – mainly developing countries, currently 133 members;
  - Umbrella Group – loose coalition of non-EU developed countries;
  - Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – approx. 44 members;
  - Least Developed Countries – 48 members;
  - European Union – the EU28;
  - Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) – 5 members;
  - Arab Group – 22 Arab countries; and
  - Brazil, China, India and South Africa (BASIC).
UNFCCC parties & observers

- There are five groups in relation to the UNFCCC and the related agreements:
  - Annex I parties – 43 parties, sub-grouped into:
    - industrialised countries; and
    - economies in transition (EITs);
  - Annex II parties – 24 of the Annex I Parties, required to provide financial and technical support to the EITs and developing countries;
  - Non-Annex I parties – all parties to the UNFCCC not listed in Annex I, which may volunteer to become Annex I parties;
  - Least-Developed Countries – 49 parties given special status due to their limited capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change; and
  - Observers – non-parties to the UNFCCC, e.g. the Holy See, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
COP meetings

- The annual COP includes a number of individual meetings:
  - Conference of the Parties (COP);
  - Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP);
  - Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA);
  - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA);
  - Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); and
# Outline of the Paris Agreement

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Supplementary Body for Implementation

- The Supplementary Body for Interpretation (SBI) meets annually to implement the UNFCCC and related agreements, including the Paris Agreement.

- In the context of the Paris Agreement, the question is whether the SBI confines itself to strictly interpretation of the provisions, or whether it in fact supplements the provisions.

- Agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47), taking place from 6 to 15 November 2017 in Bonn:
  - Opening of the session;
  - Organizational matters;
  - Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention;
  - Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;
  - Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement;
Supplementary Body for Implementation (ctd.)

- Agenda for SBI 47 (ctd.):
  - Development of modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
  - Matters relating to the mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol;
  - Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements;
  - Matters relating to the least developed countries;
  - National adaptation plans;
  - Report of the Adaptation Committee;
  - Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
  - Development and transfer of technologies;
Supplementary Body for Implementation (ctd.)

Agenda for SBI 47 (ctd.):

- Matters relating to climate finance;
- Matters relating to capacity-building;
- Impact of the implementation of response measures;
- Ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Paris Agreement;
- Report on activities related to Action for Climate Empowerment;
- Gender and climate change;
- Administrative, financial and institutional matters;
- Other matters; and
- Closure of and report on the session.
COP negotiations

- UNFCCC COP negotiations have a number of unique features:
  - "On screen" negotiations;
  - Various parallel meetings involving large groups of parties;
  - Not all parties have same level of preparation going into meetings;
  - Language barrier;
  - Limited purview;
  - Large number of participants and need for negotiation groups to put joint positions forward;
  - Slow process due to number of parties involved;
  - Due to dynamics of parallel negotiations and text development, iterative rounds of negotiation required; and
  - Corridor position in interest trading.
Group activity
Review
Any questions?

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