



# News from COP22

18 November 2016

## Most vulnerable countries start chain reaction on ambition

We warmly welcome the action by the Climate Vulnerable Forum representing the country's most vulnerable to climate change as they plan to ramp up their ambition to tackle climate change – they are responding to the evidence of science, and they demonstrate to the rest of the world the urgency of keeping global warming below 1.5°C.

They are committing to take domestic action for 100% renewables as soon as possible, and they commit to revise and scale up their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reflect the 1.5C degree goal.

Their leadership will surely be the start of a chain reaction as the climate talks draw to a close in Marrakech.

A common theme in Marrakech has been the urgency for action, and the eagerness to see concrete results of plans and targets.

Climate finance, and especially the support to increased resilience, has been a central theme at the COP. Developed countries presented a roadmap, indicating how they want to mobilise climate finance towards 2020, and developing countries responded, with critique about the lack of acknowledgement of previous climate agreements.

We are grateful for the prophetic voice provided by our faith leaders from different religions who have been present throughout the COP. Bishop Ingeborg, from the Lutheran Church of Norway, said:

“As people of faith, we have trust in God. He has given us the responsibility, as well as the energy and ability, to take action. We act in faith, and believe that necessary action is possible. This is also our message to leaders of the world. Turn ambitious words from the Paris agreement into projects and activities which can help with the transition towards a clean and resilient future”.

## Long term adaptation strategies needed in Africa

The majority of smallholder farmers in Africa have been adverse impacts of climate change. The recurrence of severe droughts and other major hazards in the dry lands of sub-Saharan Africa suffering and restraint to pro-poor development endeavors, particularly in pastoral and agro-pastoral systems.



Photo taken from ACT Alliance member EECMY lighthouse project in Ethiopia

Drought induced famines are further exacerbated by limited coping mechanisms and inadequate contingency planning for drought mitigation and the threat of climate change. Many rural households have finding it difficult to survive without resources to seasonal or permanent migration in search of wage employment.

Long term adaptation strategies and climate induced insurance schemes have to be promoted and supported by the international community. Major strategies should employ projects such as:

- conservation of the natural resources base
- raising the awareness level of the target communities
- introducing alternative safe energy sources, and
- promoting integrated watershed development

Small holder farmers need to be supported in adjusting their livelihood strategies to the unavoidable impact of the disaster coming from the changing climate. Indigenous farming practices need to be supported by scientific knowledge to engage vulnerable farmers in various income generating schemes. Small scale irrigation practices, local level renewable energy promotion and youth employment generation schemes will reduce the vulnerability of small holder farmers.

Having long term adaptation programs, insurance schemes and early warning systems in place will minimize the number of environmental refugees and the need for emergency drought relief.

## The human face of climate change

ACT Alliance and its Members were very active in week two of the COP. Our stunts highlighted critical issues to delegates and the media.

“Clean Energy Access Now” as our call on Africa Day we celebrated progress towards renewable energy in Africa, together with the Pan African Climate



Justice Alliance (PACJA). Mithika Mwenda said: “The continent of Africa is blessed with immense potential for renewable energy. However, millions of its populations have no access to energy and urgently need it. We demand financing for a renewable energy revolution in the continent that gets clean energy to people who most need it. However, all energy project investments must adhere to international human rights such as right to land. The urgency of Paris and 1.5°C means we cannot subsidize fossil fuels any more.”

A living exhibition on Climate Justice Day highlighted “The human face of climate change”, and the urgency of keeping global warming below 1.5°C for survival. Our “1.5°C is key” key rings that were given to delegates were the talk of the COP.



We held a #HungryforAction FAST for the Climate, and together with fasters from Islamic Relief we protested in the Green Zone and brought our faith voice to the Blue Zone. The fast was in solidarity with those affected by climate change in Africa and suffering from hunger, to show world leaders that inaction is costing lives and that we are #HungryforAction!



All #COP22 Act Now for Climate Justice videos from the actions can be seen [here](#)

## Coverage of side events

Bread for the World with the Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation held a side event “Loss & Damage, Warsaw International Mechanism and the Paris Agreement: How to Ensure Climate Justice?” at the Green Zone. The event analysed loss and damage issues, such as climate migration, non-economic losses and financing. It also addressed the Warsaw International Mechanism

as well as other solutions that have been established to deal with with loss & damage, such as. InsuResilience.

Loss and damage was also addressed at the side event, “Addressing Loss and Damage in Developing Countries: Need for a Global Agricultural Insurance Mechanism”, that ACT Alliance and the Centre for Science and Environment in India (CSE) hosted on 18 November. A wrap up of the loss and damage talks at COP22 were presented, with a special focus on how solutions can be found. A possible solution presented by CSE was a global agricultural insurance mechanism. You can see the [webcast here](#).

WCC, the Quakers and Brahma Kumari’s side event addressed “Trust and Peacebuilding Approaches for ambitious Climate Action”. It evaluated how peacebuilding approaches can lead to more fair, sustainable and effective climate action. The discussions included transitional justice and rights-based approaches and ended in meditation to calm the soul after two weeks of work at COP22.

## A Call to Action

We’d like to share the vision of a future that Rachel Kyte of SE4ALL offered at the 100%RE for 1.5°C event where affordable, reliable, decentralised renewable energy is within reach of the 1.1 billion people who currently live without it.

This is a future where:

- health clinics in remote communities are well lit and are able to refrigerate their medicine
- homes are lit in the evenings, and people can cook on clean stoves that do not fill their lungs with smoke
- children can return from school and do some further study in well-lit rooms.

We have worked hard at COP22 to lobby our governments, to campaign and to bring our moral and ethical voice, because we know about the suffering caused by climate change in the communities with whom we work.

But it doesn’t have to be like this, and the transition from fossil fuels to decentralised clean energy is within our reach and can happen within our lifetime.

No matter what obstacles are put in our way, we will work towards this vision. Please continue to walk this path with us.