

Climate: From Bangkok to Copenhanguen

Saturday 7 November 2009, by [AGUITON Christophe](#) (Date first published: 10 October 2009).

In Bangkok, the UNFCCC (Spetember 28 - October 9 2009) was unable to do a positive step toward the COP15 in Copenhagen.

The main debate was about the Kyoto protocol with the agreement from the European Union to merger the two negotiations tracks, the Kyoto protocol and the Long term convention (coming from Rio in 92, with all the countries, including those, as such as the USA, which didn't sign the Kyoto protocol). The group of the 77 + China, representing all the developing countries, protested again a proposal which would have as consequence to abolish the difference of responsibilities between the developed countries (the Annex 1 of the Kyoto protocol) and the developing countries and to abolish any kind of constraint for the developed countries.

The most probable result in Copenhagen is today not to have a treaty but a political statement giving a mandate for negotiation to the UNFCCC with tree main points:

- a clear and ambitious target for the annex 1 countries,
- a commitment from the main economies among the developing countries to stop the growth of their greenhouse gazes emission,
- an "acceptable" mechanism to redistribute and transfer funds to the poorest countries for mitigation and adaptation.

Inside the UNFCCC, different actors representing the "civil society" are recognized as part of the discussion, even is the final signature belong to the states: CAN (the main environmental NGO), the Indigenous Caucus, the ITUC (main Unions), the women caucus, the BNGO (the corporations...), the local authorities and CJN! (Climate Justice Now, with Friends of the Ear th, Via Campesina, Jubilee South, Focus on the Global South, ATTAC, etc.). Those groups have different concerns and try to lobby and work with states or groups of states

in order to push their issue in the discussion. As ATTAC we should have a strategy on the main issues we want to defend in this process, in particular with our allied of CJN!.

ATTAC France proposed to focus on three issues, knowing that very important issue as the target of reduction will be defended by a huge group of actors, the Indigenous CAUCUS, CAN, etc:

- the acknowledgement of the specific responsibility of the developed countries, which means all the ecological debt issue, the transfer of technology (as "common good" instead of intellectual property rights), and the funds for reduction and mitigation,
- the rejection of the offset, CDM and all the greenhouse gases markets... in this issue, CJN is the only group to have a clear position,
- to have the World Bank and the INF out of all the funds repartition mechanisms.

Outside of the UNFCCC, in Bangkok, Climate Justice Now! had a strategy meeting with more than 90 participants coming from 30 countries (Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Salvador, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom, United States). The most important delegations were coming from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and United States and, regarding the networks, a strong presence of FOE, Via Campesina, Jubilee South and Focus on the Global South. ATTAC was represented by people from France, Japan and Togo.

This seminar was really interesting because most of the participants came from Social movements or "global justice" movements, and they were really committed to bridge climate and environment issues with social and justice issues. It was a little bit like at the end of the 1990 when Social movements were entering in the field of the critic of Globalisation in which one NGOs were until this date the main actors (Jubilee 2000, etc.). You'll find on the Annex 1 the report from this meeting. The main decisions for Copenhagen were:

- to propose to Social movements, Klimaforum,

CJA (Climat Justice Action), etc. to form a common block for the big December 12th demonstration under the banner "System change, not climate change",

- to organise December 13th an important debate inside Klimaforum on "what is Climate Justice From Bangkok to Copenhagen Now, and what next",

- to be part of the different non-violent actions organised during the COP15 and to co-organise with CJA the "Reclaim the Power" action the 16th,

- to support the people tribunal on climate debt.

Copenhagen, preparation of the mobilisation

The 16th, 17th & 18th of October, several international meetings were organised in Copenhagen.

The first one was the CJA meeting, CJA is the network which organised several international meetings for the COP15 <http://www.climate-justice-action> which plans several actions including the "Reclaim Power" 16th of December. In the 1st ATTAC letter for Copenhagen we included a report for the June CJA meeting which give several information about this network.

At the mid-October meeting several international networks were present (FOE, Via Campesina, Jubilee South, Focus) with different European groups (from Germany, Netherland, UK, France & Italy). From Denmark, several groups were there, including Klimax and Climate Collective <http://www.climatecollective.org/en/start/>. ATTAC France attended the meeting.

A lot of organisational issues were discussed, and one political issue was deeply debated: what to do during "Reclaim Power" the 16th of December. The idea is to have a non-violent block marching until the fence of the Conference Area and to have there a gathering with people and activists coming from inside the Conference to set up a "People Assembly" the day where the Chief of States are supposed to arrive.

The 18th several meetings were organised with Klimaforum <http://www.klimaforum09.org> <<http://>

www.klimaforum09.org/> and the organisers of the big 12th December demonstration <http://www.12dec09.dk/> <<http://www.12dec09.dk/>> . During the morning a delegation from CJN met the Klimaforum board to discuss the guidelines (Klimaforum's missions and political orientations) and the declaration process, cf. attached files in annex).

During the afternoon an open meeting was organised to present to the international groups and networks the preparation process:

- on food, "climate collective" is preparing thousands of cheap meals (around 3€) accessible in different locations in the city,
 - on accommodations, there are different solutions, some of them for the people staying for several days (hotels, expensive, people hosting representatives of civil society...) and for the people coming only for the 12th and the 13th (schools and sport facilities),
 - Klimaforum venue, an important sport centre very closed to the central station
- Klimaforum program:

a/ several meetings from the 7th to the 10th to finalise the declaration,

b/ a forum with activities under the responsibility of different organisations,

c/ a important open meeting organised by CJN the 13th afternoon,

d/ two daily briefings, one at 11am to prepare actions and activities during the day, the other one from 7pm to 8pm to have a common evaluation on the inside process (UN conference centre) and outside activities,

e/ several cultural activities, concert the 12th evening, theatre, cinema, etc.

12th of December demonstration, the demo will start at the Danish parliament and will finish closed to the Bella centre (where the UN conference will be held), 3 people are supposed to speak at the beginning and 6 at the end of the demo.

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For more information:

_u Climate Action Network

<http://www.climatenetwork.org>

Caucus des peuples indigènes

<http://www.ipcaucus.net/>

Via Campesina sur laConvention-Cadre des Nations-Unies sur les

Changements Climatiques

http://www.viacampesina.org/main_fr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=357&Itemid=1