

Closer than ever? Staying focuses and engaging in a constructive dialogue

by Andrzej Błachowicz*

At the moment of writing these words (mid-November 2014) the international community seems to be inching forward in bits and pieces towards a “successful” outcome at Paris COP21. The European Union – despite its internal differences – managed to agree on an ambitious climate and energy package; China and the US – two world’s largest emitters – made an announcement specifying the peaking year and its emission reduction target, respectively.

All the above is certainly creating a good atmosphere for constructive negotiations. But the macro level reduction numbers, however crucial in showing the political will, are not enough. THE (so much expected) DEAL to be reached in Paris at the end of 2015, if it is to make a real impact, needs to have mitigation targets that aim to appropriately address the key objective of the UNFCCC – to avoid dangerous climate change, as well as lay down clear implementation strategies such that the outcomes are both fair and effective.

We are realists and know that Paris will most likely deliver only elements of such a deal – with lots of further work to be done in the years to come. However we strongly believe that we can do something to IMPROVE THE QUALITY of the deal. Our vision is to create a science-policy interface – an informal dialogue where top-class academics and analysts present their vision how to overcome major roadblocks before Paris. ‘Crowdsourcing’ innovative policy solutions, so to speak.

With this short reflection piece we intend to inspire and invite you to work together with us on this challenging concept – the sections below present activities we intend to undertake between December 2014 and July 2015:

Our first step will be a side event held in the second week of COP20 in Lima where we intend to introduce some of the narratives, which – in our view – will play a key role in reaching agreement in Paris. Those are: managing the climate-development nexus, deep decarbonisation and its impact on competitiveness, technology mechanism to facilitate a global technology transition, framing the equity discussion, ambition and closing the gaps, and finance. We would like to have a constructive brainstorming on such themes (or others that may be important to climate action), on the most severe roadblocks and on how researchers and analysts can contribute to removing them. The side-event will be a first step towards broader inputs on these issues from the research and analysis community in the spring of 2015.

Our second step will be the Global Climate Policy Conference, which we intend to host in India in late April 2015. GCPC2015 will bring together key researchers from developed and

developing countries and policy-makers to present and discuss these roadblocks and possible solutions identified in the spring 2015. The conference will include small brainstorming workshops, interactive discussions, presentations and summary sessions. It will aim to produce an output that could contribute positively to Paris Scientific Conference and well as to a general debate pre-Paris.

The third step would be a dedicated session at the Paris Scientific Conference *Our Common Future under Climate Change*, scheduled for July 2015, where we are hoping to host a special, dedicated “innovation” session within the Economics and Social Sciences workstream.

The final step before the COP21 will be a publication under a working title: “Analysts’ Guide to the Paris COP”, intended to disseminate the ideas generated under the entire project and their justification among policy-makers and other stakeholders.

We would like to very warmly invite all the readers to interact with us on this fascinating journey. You will find more information on the Climate Strategies website as well as in our exhibit during the second week of COP20 at Lima.

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