

Copenhagen 2009 – “fiasco” or “unprecedented breakthrough”?

*Louise Hicks, Partner
DLA Phillips Fox Melbourne
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



- Adopted 1992, in force March 1994
- 192 parties (including US)
- Objective to stabilise GHG concentrations

UNFCCC (cont.)

- Parties to UNFCCC classified as:
 - Annex I countries (developed and economies in transition)
 - Annex II countries (subset of Annex I with special obligations to provide financial and technological support to developing countries)
 - Non-Annex I countries (developing countries)

Kyoto Protocol

- Adopted December 1997
- In force, February 2005
- Binding reduction targets on developed countries
- 184 parties (not including US)
- First commitment period = 2008 – 2012

Kyoto Protocol (cont.)

- Kyoto flexible mechanisms:
 - Emissions trading/carbon market
 - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 - Joint Implementation (JI)
- Adaptation Fund

COP 13 – Bali Action Plan

- COP 13 December 2007 in Bali
- Adoption of the Bali Road Map and Bali Action Plan
- Bali Action Plan:
 - 2 year negotiating process culminating in COP 15
 - Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Co-operative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)
 - Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)

COP 15

- Held in Copenhagen from 7-18 December 2009
- Heads of State, Ministers and officials from 192 countries attending including US and China
- Aim for a politically binding agreement for post 2012 period

COP 15 - Who wanted what?

- Four key issues:
 - Ambitious emission reduction targets for developed countries
 - Growth in popularity of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions of developing countries (NAMAs)
 - Scaling up financial and technological support for both adaptation and mitigation (don't call it "sectorial")

COP 15 – The Outcome

- No consensus on key issues – one track/two track/build on or kill Kyoto
- Will the UNFCCC process survive – US, China, India, South Africa, Brazil now out of Accord
- Compromise – COP/CMP “takes note” of Copenhagen Accord, extends mandates of AWGs – LCA/KP

COP 15 – The Copenhagen Accord

- Not legally binding. Political statement of intent
- Recognition of need to limit increase to 2 degrees but no “peaking year”.
- Cooperate to have emissions peak ASAP
- Developed countries to provide “adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources” to assist adaptation in developing countries
- Each party to specify commitments/actions:
 - Annex I – economy wide emissions targets for 2020
 - Non-Annex I – NAMAs

COP 15 – The copenhagen Accord (cont.)

- Commitments/actions in NAMAs (developing) to be submitted by 31/01/2010 and included in Appendices to Accord – No 80% by 2050; no specified 2020 targets.
- US\$30bn “fast start” finance 2010 – 2012.
- Copenhagen Green Climate Fund – US\$100bn pa by 2020
- Review in 2015 – should 2 become 1.5 degrees? (2015 = peak year?).
- Parties to determine whether to “associate” with it (note taken – not adopted or accepted)
- So far 26 countries have “signed on”

COP 15 – What it means for Australia

- 2020 target 5% below 2000 levels
- Higher (up to 25%) if “substantial and verifiable action internationally”; global climate policies become “significantly clear” ie targets from developed + verifiable from developing.
- CCS = CDM?
- No impetus for CPRS. Regional ETS – NZ, PNG, Indonesia? Other methods to introduce carbon price? (Garnaut).
- UNFCCC process dead?

QUESTIONS





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