UN Climate COP27 and What Next?



A short overview of the results of COP27, November 2022 and some next steps by Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE

Sunday morning 20/11-2022, COP27 ended with a remarkable decision of establishing a fund for responding to loss and damage from climate change. Now a Transitional Committee will develop specific proposals for the funding arrangements for an agreement next year at COP28. Then the fund could be operational in 2024. It will be exciting to see where the new fund will get its funding from and who will benefit. In the COP27 decision is specified that funding should be "new and additional" (to existing development assistance and humanitarian aid) and that the transitional committee shall consider the need for support from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources. There are no details regarding the kind of innovative funding to look for. During COP27, EU proposed levies on aviation and shipping which could be part of this new, innovative funding. Regarding who will benefit, the fund shall assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to (climate induced) loss and damage. There is no limitation to for instance the least developed countries.

The COP27 also discussed funding for mitigation and adaptation. The promised climate finance of 100 billion US\$/year 2020-2025 are not fully provided and part of this finance is loans, diluting its value as climate finance. COP27 expressed series concern that this target has not been met and urged developing countries to provide enhanced support. The countries also asked multilateral develop banks to scale up climate funding and also to allow simplified access to climate funding. In parallel, the countries negotiated for a new goal for climate funding after 2025, negotiations that are planned to continue until 2024. All in all, COP27 did not make a breakthrough for the level of climate funding.

The COP27 agreed a "work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation". The work programme shall work with the sectors defined in IPCC Guidelines: energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry and land use, waste. Activities will (as a minimum) include two global dialogues, regional dialogues, investment focussed events to unlock climate finance. We are all invited to submit by 1. February 2023 proposals for topics for the work programme.

Following dialogues at COP27, in the coming year a main process will be the Global Stocktake of climate action with evaluation of the current national climate plans (NDCs), that shall inform the countries in updating and enhancing their climate actions and support, as well as enhancing international cooperation on climate action. In INFORSE we work to include local, sustainable energy solutions and policies for sustainable lifestyles in this, both of which can enhance climate actions and lead to additional reductions of emissions.

The COP27 agreed a total of **55 documents**, including further **rules** for how countries can transfer rights of emission reduction between each other, **allowing some countries to pay others to reduce emissions rather than doing it at home.** There is a risk that this can weaken climate action, as we have seen in the past within the Kyoto Protocol. The countries also discussed climate adaptation, including progress in the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation.

A contentious issue was the proposed **call for a phase down oil and gas use, similar to the call from COP26 to phase down coal use**. This was rejected by several oil producing countries. Instead, the countries called for adoption of policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems, rapidly scaling up clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts to phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. The countries also emphasized the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions including through increase in low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships and other cooperative actions. It is unclear what clean power generation and low-emission energy stands for, in addition to renewable energy: it can be fossil fuel use with carbon capture and storage (CCS), for some it is fossil gas, or biomass, or nuclear power.

The COP27 had a record number of both fossil and nuclear lobbyist, including the UN International Atomic Energy Agency that was promoting nuclear power for poor African countries as Ghana. Since the countries allow this destructive lobbying, we must try to stand up against it, as we did with some of our actions from INFORSE.

Read more in INFORSE at COP27 at www.inforse.org.cop27.php

This document: www.inforse.org/doc/INFORSE on COP27 What Next.pdf