Beyond the Climate Talks

When the countries meet for the 18th time to discuss actions within the UN Climate Convention (UNFCCC), the scene is set for slow progress. With the current level of ambition, new agreements are not likely to limit global warming to 2°C. The current emission path is more likely to reach a disastrous 6°C of global warming. To limit global warming to 2°C, the world must agree to make global emissions peak by 2015, and must reduce emissions fast thereafter. New actions are needed to realise this, inside and outside the COP18.

All countries should adopt ambitious low-carbon development strategies that use sustainable means (as promised in the UNFCCC negotiations). Countries with ambitious plans, such as a transition to 100% renewable energy, should form coalitions and just go ahead. There are many benefits for leading countries in reducing climate change.

The industrialised nations must take the lead, but with the increasing emissions in some developing countries, they also have to increase actions. As China’s per capita emissions are now level with those of the EU, it is not evident that China should continue to increase emissions. It is also in the own interest of China to reduce emissions, reducing both fossil fuel imports and climate change.

To succeed, we have to think beyond the current paths of cooperation. When, for instance, the debts of indebted industrialised countries are paid with loans from some developing countries, the latter could set requirements for the loans in the form of energy transitions. If the indebted countries reduce their fossil fuel imports, they will also be better able to pay back the loans.

In some countries, the leaders cannot and will not imagine a fast transition to renewable energy and a low-emission society. Here, NGOs must join forces with scientists, progressive local authorities, and businesses to develop and to promote plans for transition to renewable energy. INFORSE is eager to be involved in this process.

Adopt the 2030 Target of Energy for All

While the poor are hardest-hit by climate change, and climate mitigation is crucial for them, strategies must also focus on reduction of poverty, including increases in energy services. This must include the proposal of providing sustainable energy for all by 2030. Many INFORSE organisations have long, practical experience in ways to realise this.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
Editor & INFORSE Regional Coordinator (Europe)
Crucial Climate Decisions Ahead

The UN Climate Convention (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP18) has crucial decisions on the agenda, including:

- A second period of the Kyoto Protocol must be agreed, as the current period ends with 2012. More than 30 European countries as well as Australia have committed to join the second period and to limit their emissions.
- There must be progress on global climate agreements, concluding issues of the negotiations started in 2007 on Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) and turning into reality the decisions made in Durban at COP17 last year to secure a global agreement by 2015.
- The agreed Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) must be launched.
- The Global Climate Fund (GCF) must start working.
- The international climate funding must increase from 2013 onwards, including via the GCF.

To mitigate climate change sufficiently, the level of ambition must be increased, and there must be reduction commitments from industrialised countries as well as from developing countries with substantial per-capita emissions.

New Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN)

The countries decided at the COP17 to create the CTCN. Since then, the UNFCCC’s Technology Executive Committee (TEC) have pursued the process of selecting a host organisation. The resulting proposal is that the Center should be hosted by the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) together with partners.

The tasks of the CTCN shall be to respond to requests from developing countries for technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Center will have a director and a small staff in UNEP. Funding shall come the GCF and other sources.

With an agreement at COP18, the Center can start its work in 2013.

For the success of the CTCN, clear guidelines are crucial on the sustainability and safety of the technologies with which it shall work. COP18 must agree on such guidelines.

6°C Global Warming?

Scientists have warned that without adequate global climate action, we are heading for global warming of maybe 6°C - and catastrophic climate change. Now the transnational auditing company Price Waterhouse Coopers have joined them. In its “Low Carbon Economy Index 2012”, it states “businesses, governments and communities across the world need to plan for a warming world - not just 2°C, but 4°C, or even 6°C.” To avoid this, we have to step up the de-carbonizing of economies from 0.7-0.8%/year to as much as 5.1%/year.

Read more: www.pwc.co.uk/sustainability-climate-change/publications/index.html.
East African Civil Society Engages in the UN Initiative “Sustainable Energy 4 All - SE4ALL”

The SE4ALL is a partnership led by the UN Secretary General with main objectives, to be reached by 2030, as follows:

- Ensuring universal access to modern energy services
- Doubling the global rate of improvements in energy efficiency
- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania have already embraced the SE4ALL initiative and are among the “eight first movers” on the African continent. These countries are now finalizing gap analysis and national SE4ALL implementation plans.

According to the draft SE4ALL gap analysis, access to electricity is very low in the countries; for instance, it is just 12% in Uganda and, in its rural area, only 5%.

The goals of Kenya’s SE4ALL analysis and plan are to improve household connectivity (electricity access) from 23% to 40% by 2020 and to 100% by 2030; to increase use of efficient fuel-wood stoves from 4% to 30% by 2020; and 13 other targets.

Although these are all recommendations still in draft, there is a high sense of recognition of the need to address key barriers such as inadequate supply, regulatory barriers, and financing deficits. Priority is given as well to embracing technology changes and to involving different players – public, private investors, communities, leaders, NGOs.

Engaging the Civil Society in East Africa

Described as the “third pillar” of the initiative, civil society’s participation and ability to influence the initiative in East Africa have been limited so far. Recognizing this, Practical Action in East Africa has teamed up with Hivos International and other East African civil society organisations like the Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation (TATEDO), CDI/INFORSE East Africa, EATDEN - Uganda, and SCODE in a one-year civil society advocacy cooperation. The cooperation is described as “Catalysing Civil Society Action to Deliver Sustainable Energy for All”. The objective is to ensure that the UN SE4ALL recognizes and addresses the full range of poor people’s needs and priorities.

To facilitate this an East African Regional CSO Meeting was organised in October 2012. The meeting was attended by over 25 CSO participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. The participants emphasized how CSOs can popularize the SE4ALL initiative and build national political momentum. CSOs felt that there is need to get actively more involved in the consultative processes leading to the development of gap analysis and national implementation plans.

The meeting reflected the need for CSOs to engage in this process early enough. CSOs have a role to play in establishing a new energy narrative, one which recognizes the full range of services that poor people want, need, and have a right to receive, ensuring that this message is reflected in the definition and delivery of energy access at the country level.

Many people in Africa are using diesel generators for their electricity needs, but rising diesel prices are making this option more expensive.

In the country of Senegal, where 24% of the rural population has access to electricity, many villages are supplied by small power companies that operate mini-grids with diesel generators. Increasing diesel prices are causing these power companies to have economic problems. Many have reduced operation to 6 hours/day and 52 stopped operating last year as they could not pay for the diesel. Most of these are now operating again with national diesel subsidies, but this is in many ways not sustainable for Senegal, where oil imports are as much as 19% of all import costs.

With the reduced prices for solar PV, there are now cheaper options than diesel generators for Senegalese villages: solar electricity and the combination of diesel and solar in hybrid systems.

The graph below shows the cost of supplying villages in Senegal with mini-grids. For the smaller villages the hybrid systems yield the cheapest power, while for larger villages a mini-grid with just PV panels and batteries is the cheapest.

In the hybrid grids, the diesel generators are only running about 4 hours/day, during the evening peak, while solar and batteries supply power for the remaining 20 hours/day.

Some mini-grids are also equipped with windpower. Further, consideration is being given to replacing diesel with locally produced biodiesel or plant oil.

In 2012, 70 hybrid mini-grid systems are being installed for Senegalese villages.

Today, the choice for rural electrification in Senegal outside the larger grids is between mini-grids and solar home systems. The solar home systems are cheaper than mini-grids, but they provide fewer opportunities for village industries and institutions. They also require more maintenance for the families, as each must maintain a battery and a charge controller.

Source: Ousmane Fall Sarr, ASER, Senegal. The full presentation is available on www.uneprisoe.org/SE4All Powerpoint Presentations.aspx.
While traditional fishing in Africa requires very little external energy, smoking the fish, a traditional method to preserve fish in Africa, often uses a lot of wood. The current tradition in Senegal is to use ovens of cement bricks, but often the ovens are wrongly sized, leading to high wood consumption, problems with product quality, and risk of burns for the operators, who are mainly women.

Improved stoves are now being introduced. They are made of reinforced concrete and are sized more optimally. They use substantially less wood, increase the quality of the smoked fish, and improve working conditions for their operators. Source: ENDA-Energies, Senegal.

A lack of trained technicians at the local level is affecting solar energy programmes initiated by the Government of India’s Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

To fill this gap, funding from MNRE enabled All India Women Conference (AIWC) to train women and teenagers in 2010. One group of trainees were identified by the President of the ‘Waste Pickers Association’ from Rangpuri Pahari in total about 40 women and 20 teenagers (college- as well as high-school-students).

They became experts in assembling, installing, maintaining, and dismantling solar devices e.g., solar lanterns, solar home-lighting systems, solar box-type cookers, and parabolic solar cookers, as well as vermicomposting systems. Now they are in a position to start their own income generation from Solar Services Centres. Source: AIWC, India.
"Southern Voices" Continues

The Climate Capacity Building Programme “Southern Voices” that supports the INFORSE network, in particular the INFORSE regions in East Africa, West Africa, and South Asia, will continue for another 1½ years.

The support from the Danish DANIDA for the Programme has been approved for the second phase of Southern Voices, August 2012 - December 2013.

With this support INFORSE participates in the climate COP18 and COP19. INFORSE regions in Africa and South Asia are also working on a large number of regional activities.

The "Southern Voices" are coming from 30 networks e.g. CLACC, FEMNET, WANET-CSD, CAN and INFORSE.

Bio-Centers: toilets, offices and biogas in one building

The Bio-Centers are three-storey multifunctional buildings, which include sanitation facilities (i.e. toilets, showers, water), offices, meeting rooms, and space for education.

Estimated 1200 Users per Day
The primary users are the 600-700 students and teachers of the schools at which they are constructed. It is estimated that the families living approximately 100 meters from the Bio-Centers will use the facilities on a daily basis, which means another 500-600 users. Finally, the improved and safe sanitation facilities will attract other users from the surrounding communities.

The students can use the Bio-Centers free of charge. Other users will pay a nominal fee decided by the bio-center management group. The income from the bio-centers is shared by the community groups and put into a communal development fund for further investments.

Biogas Production
The human waste is collected in situ in a biogas reactor beneath the Bio-Center to produce biogas for heating water and for use by the school kitchen. The biogas will replace firewood as fuel and will reduce the overall expenditures by 15%-20%.

In the long run, the project is designed to make use of the biogas by establishing a central biogas-storage facility and composting plant to be managed for profit. The products, biogas for cooking and organic fertilizers, will be marketed and sold to restaurants and commercial farms or farming cooperatives, respectively.

The overall objective of the project is to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), to increase income for vulnerable communities in informal urban settlements, to increase the use of organic fertilizers in agriculture, and finally, to create income-generating activities for the stakeholders.

The Bio-Centers are under construction in Kenya in the framework of a DANIDA supported project in 2010-2014.

Source: SustainableEnergy, Denmark.
New EU Energy-Efficiency Directive and the Missing Efficiency

The EU countries and Parliament have agreed a new Energy-Efficiency Directive (EED) that will require them to save 1.5% energy/year nationally, to energy-renew 3% of governmental buildings every year, to give consumer information on energy efficiency, to make cost-effective combined heat and power plants, and to take other measures.

The Directive is the main instrument to reach the 20% energy-savings target by 2020 upon which the EU-countries agreed in 2008. The main compromises were reached in June 2012, and the final directive was endorsed by the countries and the Parliament in October, 2012. A large part of the implementation is now up to the countries that shall implement the directive. If they only implement the mandatory parts, only half of the “energy efficiency gap” to reach the 20% will be met by 2020, as shown in the graph.

To reach the energy-efficiency target, ambitious implementation of the EED is important, but if it is not enough to reach the target, new initiatives will be needed. Planned reviews will show whether this will be necessary.

Ecodesign & Labelling

The planned labelling and energy-efficiency requirements for oil- and gas boilers, heat pumps, and water heaters have been delayed further.

The agreements are now expected in the beginning of 2013 instead of September 2012.

The delays are caused by disagreements over the proposed label for boilers by the boiler industry, which feels that the proposal favours the more efficient heat pumps.

In the meantime, development of energy-efficiency and air-pollution requirements as well as of energy labelling is progressing on solid-fuel (wood and coal) boilers, ovens (gas, wood, coal), other heaters (electric and gas radiators, open fires, and solid-fuel cookers), and ventilation systems.

In parallel, the regulation for TV’s is being updated because of the fast development in the field, and the final step of the energy-efficiency requirements for light bulbs have come into effect in September, 2012, requiring higher efficiency for the “40 Watt” light bulbs than provided by the traditional incandescent light.

Lithuanian No to Nuclear

On October 14, 2012, there was a referendum in Lithuania on the construction of new nuclear power plants. In spite of the strong support for nuclear by the government, 64.7% of the voters were against.

The referendum is not binding, so the government might still go ahead with its nuclear plans.
INFORSE Brings Dialogue

Belarus: Engaging Citizens
In September 2012, a new two-year NGO cooperation project was started in Belarus with support from Europe Aid and from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). INFORSE-Europe is coordinator, and the project partners are Centre of Environmental Solutions (CES) in Belarus and Skåne Energy Agency (SEA) in Sweden. The name of the project is “Engaging Citizens in Sustainable Energy to improve Environment and local Economy” (ECSE). The planned activities to benefit three local areas include:
- Public presentations, local and national seminars
- Training tours to North and Central Europe,
- Assessment of the local situations and potentials,
- Plans and strategies,
- Feasibility studies, and
- Small demonstration systems.
Alongside the ECSE Project, INFORSE-Europe is a partner in a complementary project, “Advice” led by SEA and supported by Sida. This project is providing support to CES to promote sustainable energy by establishing and running a free advisory centre, including updating and running an existing mobile exhibition unit.

Poland: New Ways Breaking Ice
Social participation in local energy planning is the focus of a new ice-breaking project in Eastern Poland in 2012-14.
Civil participation is a challenge in Poland. A European comparison of several social participation indicators like engagement index, average turnout at election, and trusting each other show Poland as one of the lowest.
These low figures have historical reasons, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Since 1990, public consultation became compulsory in certain cases and it has been used. New technics, workshops, and forums can make the civil society more active.
The project is coordinated by the Polish organisation Institute for Sustainable Development.

Denmark: Dialogues, Festivals, Role Play Game
INFORSE-Europe and its Danish members are promoting dialogue and information on EU energy policy in Denmark.
In 2012, the activities include organising public debates with politicians on energy and climate policy, along with development of a role-playing game on EU climate negotiation.
In 2013, there will be participation in a big Danish political festival on the island of Bornholm as well as in a festival on the Danish “100% renewable energy island” of Samsø. These activities will be supplemented by a publication that will highlight sustainable energy scenarios in the bi-monthly magazine “Sustainable Energy”.
The Danish INFORSE members are the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, SustainableEnergy, NOAH, and the Samsø Energy Academy.
The activities are supported by the Danish Europe-Board in 2012-14.

INFORSE-Europe is providing input based on its work on sustainable energy scenarios. It is also sharing its experience from a NGO-researcher cooperation project where stakeholders’ dialogues were used towards low-carbon scenarios in France and Germany.
The Field of Dialogue Foundation contributes input from their experience in engaging citizens in Poland.
The project is supported by a grant from Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the Enlarged European Union.

An example of new participation techniques: 3-D models in public space in Poland.
Women Constituency got Full Status
The UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency was formally recognised with full status just before the COP 17 in Durban in 2011. It is a result of an active effort of a working group consisting of five women’s organisations, i.e., GenderCC, ENERGIA, LIFE, WEDO, and WECF. The focal point is GenderCC, and it works according to its Charter, which outlines the goals and principles.

The Women’s Constituency is one of the 8 Civil Society Constituencies. The other Constituencies are the environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO), youth (YOUNGO), indigenous peoples (IPO), business and industry (BINGO), local government (LGMA), research (RINGO), and trade unions (TUNGO).

Increase Women’s Participation
Women account for only between 10-15% of all Heads of Delegations at the UNFCCC, and around 20-30% of all party delegates. Recognizing the need for increased access and participation of women in this process, the Women Delegates Fund (WDF) was established in 2009 by WEDO, GGCA, and UNDP with the support of the Government of Finland, and since 2011, the support of the Government of Iceland. It is administered by WEDO. The WDF provides support to women delegates from developing countries, and specifically from the least developed countries, to participate in the UNFCCC negotiations.

The UNFCCC also launches a new initiative called “Momentum for Change: Women for Results” at the COP 18 in Doha, Qatar. The aim is to highlight the role of women in responding to climate change by supporting activities to inform governments, media and the public about climate change activities led by women. The initiative is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation for a three-year period.

Read more:
GenderCC Women for Climate Justice: www.gendercc.net and INFORSE Gender Theme: www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm

Women at UNFCCC COP18

Daily Women’s Caucus
During climate meetings, the Women’s Caucus is organised on a daily basis similarly to the other caucuses of major groups.

UNDP Report
"Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability." The report provides evidence that gender equality in access and control over resources ensures environmental sustainability and improves lives. Published by UNDP in September 2012; 212 pages. www.undp.org

Gender Day - COP18 UNFCCC
27 November 2012, Doha, Qatar.

In the image:
A/Women participants of the Women Major Group at Rio+20.
From left to right: Sheila Oparaocha (ENERGIA), Judit Szoleczy (INFORSE), Ananya Dasgupta, (AINC), Lilian Bodboom (ICJW), and Sascha Gabizon (WECF).
40% Women in Boards in EU by 2020?

Across the EU, company boards are currently dominated by one gender: Only 13.5% of board members are women and only 2.5% of the chairpersons are women. Despite an intense public debate, statements of good intentions, and many promises, the situation has not changed significantly in recent years.

Progress is only visible in countries where quota laws were introduced. For example, after adopting a quota in January 2011 aiming for 40% by 2017, France has seen the number of women on boards increase from 12 to 22% in the space of a year. Another example is Norway, which has successfully enforced a 40% quota since 2009.

Women and men should have the same opportunities to take leadership positions. This principle was clearly set out in the European Commission's 2010 Strategy for Equality between women and men. In the Commission’s Work Programme for 2012, a legal instrument was announced to improve gender balance on company boards by the end of 2012.

New EU legislation is on the way insisting on 40%-female quotas for company boards across Europe with stiff penalties for non-compliance by 2020. The proposal is heavily debated.


The World We Want- Post 2015

The UN Campaign “The World We Want post 2015” aims to gather inputs to a new development agenda to be launched in 2015. The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be set for 2015-2030. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015), will be replaced with new goals from 2015.

The collection of inputs is to be facilitated by:

- 50+ national consultations organised by UNDP resident coordinators,
- 9 thematic consultations led by various UN agencies. The Climate and Energy theme belongs to “Environmental Sustainability”. The UN leads are UNEP & UNDP. The sponsor state is France.
- A global conversation led by the UN Millennium Campaign is to be facilitated by a web platform launched in July 2012 at www.worldwewant2015.org.

Civil Society Participation

Additionally to the UN consultations, where individual NGOs can make inputs several NGO coalitions are putting together position statements for each of the UN thematic consultations. These include:

- “Beyond 2015” Campaign, which presently brings together 380 organisations. It is organised by a committee of 12 civil society organisations (CSOs) and has a secretariat at CONCORD, a European confederation of relief and development NGOs. The “Environment and Sustainability” theme is lead by CAN-International. It is open to join at www.beyond2015.org.
- “People’s Goals for Sustainable Development” (PGSD) Campaign, which is a ‘South’-led NGO Campaign launched in November 2012 and has reached about 80 organisations already in the same month.

The initiators are 16 networks and 8 national organisations. The focal point is IBON International, which communicates through the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS). It is open to join at www.iboninternational.org/cpgsd.
- The Women’s Major Group of Rio+20, which prepares a Women’s Position Paper. Inputs are welcome to Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), www.wecf.eu.

WEST AFRICA
Burkina Faso: ANAR, CEAS - Burkina - Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, Burundi: CADIC.
Sierra Leone: Sustainable Technology Development Group. Togo: FoE Togo.

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA
Mozambique: ADEL-Sofala, Livaningo.
Tanzania: TaTEDO. Uganda: CDI - Climate and Development Initiatives, INED, IRDI, JEEP, UCSD.

LATIN AMERICA

NORTH AMERICA

East Asia & Pacific

South Asia

East Asia & Europe

The regional coordinators are highlighted with bold and italic.