



Implementing COP21

Partnering for Implementation

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22 March 2016



THE RAMPHAL INSTITUTE

Who we are and what we do

A not-for-profit organisation

- Working on social and economic policy, governance and the environment.
- Undertakes policy research and outreach, combining its technical research capabilities and links with decision makers to help:
 - bring about policy reform needed to advance sustainable development and a fairer world
 - make international and national policy and regulatory environments more conducive to sustainable development and the advancement of equity and good governance.

Why Sir Shridath Ramphal

Named after its mentor

- It continues his pioneering work to advance sustainable development and global justice
- It emulates his
 1. **courage,**
 2. **vision and**
 3. **willingness, when required, to challenge the status quo and orthodox and moribund approaches.**

The Institute functions across a broad spectrum of areas and sees safeguarding the environment as an intrinsic element of sustainable development.

Agriculture is most threatened by Climate Change. Last year we surveyed and consulted broadly with Small farmers; who dominate the sector in many ACP SIDS and LDCs.

What Farmers reported

Changing weather and climate patterns with

- Erratic rainfall patterns
- increasingly frequent extreme and sometimes cataclysmic weather events
- creeping sea level rise threatening to swamp low lying islands and coastal regions.
- the emergence of new pests and diseases

Impact:

- Affect productivity, costs and competitiveness.
- Jeopardise already precarious income and livelihoods of these most vulnerable countries
- In some cases actually threaten their very existence and ability to support human life.

A Sad Irony

It seems a most cruel irony that those countries that

1. **have** made the least contribution to the climate crisis;
2. **are** least able to safeguard themselves from its adverse consequences;
 - ***are the ones bearing the brunt of its negative impact.***

Being so starkly confronted with the reality of Climate Change, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) had little option but to be active at COP21.

They feared that if the current temperature increase of just 1°C is already causing so much damage, then the impact of higher levels, even 2°C would be catastrophic

Getting a deal at COP21

President Hollande exhortation to the delegates

“It is rare, in life, to have the opportunity to change the world; you have that opportunity to change the world. Seize it, for the survival of our planet, mankind, and life itself.”

The deal-

To hold global average temperature rise to “*well below 2°C*” and “*pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C*”

But are the agreement and the 186 country pledges adequate?

- They will not cut GHG emissions sufficiently to enable meeting the 1.5°C target
- New and deeper commitments to ultimately reduce net GHG emissions to zero are needed.

Contribution of SIDS to the breakthrough

- Effective negotiation and consensus building was led by the French with their Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and the 20 Ministerial Facilitators
- Small Islands are not normally central players in international negotiations, but at the Paris Summit, their contribution was active and substantial:
- On the Facilitators' Team, the Small Island representative James Fletcher, along with Norway's Tine Sundtoft, was responsible for "Ambition".

SIDS were vocal and skilfully coordinated and leveraged their efforts with other partners and activists . An important lesson.

Symbolic Contribution: *the Canary's warning*

The rest of the world and powerful leaders took note of the plight of little islands; understanding what it foreshadowed for the future of their own countries.

An analogy:

- ❑ In the olden days, canaries were taken down the mines since they would collapse as soon as the air began getting poisonous. This way, the bird gave early-warning to the miners of the impending danger facing them.
- ❑ Small Islands, which are fragile and vulnerable are more quickly affected by climatic changes. They can therefore be likened to the canary in the mine.

Maybe history will cite COP21 as the occasion when the world heeded the canary; finally came to its senses and began to apply the brakes on Climate Change, but it will also tell of the debt of gratitude owed to Small Islands for their clear and forceful warning.

After Paris

Will COP21 be the important first step for slowing and hopefully eventually reversing the destructive path along which the world is headed?

On their own, obligations and commitments have no impact; they are just noble and well-meaning words.

What is needed:

- A new mind-set and attitudes with a collective recognition and acceptance of the value of the environment and our commitment to conserve rather than squander, waste and abuse the precious and finite environmental resources entrusted to our generation.
- Concrete measures by all to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now and in the future.
- Prepare to have COP22 Consolidate and build on the achievements of last year's conference.

What can ACP countries do?

Like other countries the ACP need to make commitments to reduce emissions, but for most their GHG emissions and hence contribution to global warming is minimal.

Their priority therefore has to be focussed on **adaptation and resilience building**.

But with small economies, limited resources and technological capacity most cannot, on their own, undertake and fund this formidable task. They need therefore to

- Continue to sensitise the international community to the serious predicament and challenges that they face as a result of Climate Change that is exacerbating their already tenuous economic positions, and is itself jeopardising their ability to deal with its direct and indirect impact.
- Remind the international community and donors of their specific commitments
- Identify themselves, the specific resilience building measures required (rather than leaving it to the international community, no matter how well intentioned)
- ***Prepare for COP22 and not lose momentum***

Examples of some specific support needs: (agriculture sector)

1. Given the inevitability and increasing frequency of catastrophic weather and climatic shocks funding for properly constructed and maintained **infrastructure**: feeder roads, bridges, coastal and flood defences.
2. Viable, adequate and affordable crop **insurance** for small farmers so that livelihoods are not jeopardised whenever disaster strikes.
3. Support for diversification and climate-smart agriculture, with targeted advice to farmers support for investment, research and marketing aimed at
 - Replacing less profitable crops with those that are more profitable and sustainable.
 - Researching and switching to crops that are more suited to the changing weather and climatic patterns.

Particularly for SIDS, successful diversification requires successful export to overseas markets.

- To be able and market their goods competitively, farmers need help, to fund investment and secure credit, obtain market intelligence and monitor and comply with product standards and requirements
- An end to all discrimination against LDCs and SIDS in the management of national SPS arrangements; because of the limited numbers of their annual consignments
- Exemption of LDCs and SIDS agricultural exports from any safeguard measures or quantitative restrictions that they impose.

Farmers' economic viability is an essential prerequisite for their adaptation and resilience to climate change

Other

Water management

The availability of water is already a serious problem for most small farmers, more erratic rainfall patterns and more frequent droughts can make rain-fed agriculture untenable.

- Funding needed for creating management systems including, rainwater harvesting, conservation and plant hydration and adequate drainage.

Renewable Energy:

Developing and harnessing renewable supplies from such sources as solar, wind, biomass, biogas etc. On certain farms, micro plants for generating power might be feasible.

- This might not only generate savings but also reduce the carbon footprint of the farm.

Conclusion

- The challenge for ACP countries is to secure support and genuine partnership for GHG reduction
- International understanding of their own need for financial support for their adaptation and resilience building
- Ensure that the support is adequate and conforms to their own particular needs and circumstance. Climate finance is distinct from development aid, hence this support has to be additional, rather than diverted from pre-existing aid budgets.
- Prepare for COP22 and not lose momentum

I thank You

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