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Media Advisory / Backgrounder

Climate negotiators meet in Bonn October 19 to 23rd to prepare for Paris

OTTAWA - Climate negotiators will meet in Bonn, Germany from October 19th to the 23rd where the focus will be responses to the current draft of the negotiating text (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>). Groups working together through Climate Action Network globally have analyzed the text and identified key issues for media to monitor. See Backgrounder, page 2.

Two Climate Action Network representatives will be in Bonn, Patrick Bonin of Greenpeace Quebec and Christian Holz of ClimateWorks, both members of our Board of Directors.

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Link to Greenpeace Bonn Briefing note: <http://bit.ly/1LPYmFD>

Background

In a bid to spark substantive negotiations at the final UN climate negotiations session before the Paris meeting, the American and Algerian co-chairs have whittled down the draft agreement to 20 pages. While this was a necessary step the draft text does not seem to have harnessed recent emerging political convergences. In Bonn, country negotiators need pick up this text - which is weak and vague in places - and bolster the key elements, re-adding important concepts that have been dropped. The Bonn meeting is a chance for negotiators to finalize a set of clear options for the Paris agreement for discussion at upcoming high level meetings including the G20 and Pre-COP.

The co-chairs have restructured and streamlined the text which - with just five negotiating days left before Paris - needs to become the basis for substantive negotiations that have so far eluded the halls of the UNFCCC this year.

Climate Action Network has identified a number of key elements in the draft text that need to be strengthened (e.g. finance, loss and damage and adaptation), added back in (e.g. the language on decarbonisation as a source of emerging consensus around the long term goal), or clarified (e.g. the concept of scaling up ambition as part of regular reviews). Ultimately, negotiators need to finish the week in Bonn with a text - containing a few clear political options for each element - ready to present to ministers for decision-making at major events such as the G20 in Antalya, the Pre-COP and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Malta.

A shared understanding of the shape of the new climate agreement due to be signed in Paris this December is emerging at the highest levels. Heads of State who met with [UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon](#) last month agreed that the Paris package needs to have a long-term goal which would result in the decarbonisation of the global economy, a way to periodically ramp up climate action, support to meet that goal and a plan to increase our resilience. This emerging consensus bodes well for the Paris agreement but governments must now ensure these elements are codified in a way that is robust enough to avoid the worst climate impacts.

National climate action plans from 149 countries, that together produce 90% of global emissions, have been submitted towards the Paris agreement. Collectively, they go some of the way to our agreed threshold of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees C -



beyond which the climate could spin out of control. There's a clear need for the Paris agreement to contain the building blocks to ensure we'll make up the difference. With most countries expected to overshoot these pledges, they'll need to **rigorously review and scale up** their commitments well before 2020, and then every five years after that. Any longer, or any later, and they'll risk runaway climate change and they'll fail to capitalise on the [ever-increasing affordability of cleaner renewable energy](#). Onshore wind energy is now the cheapest source of electricity in many parts of the world and solar power is closing the cost gap on traditional fuel sources. At the same time, costs have gone up for gas-fired and coal-fired generation, sources of energy which also fuel health problems and [receive billions in government handouts](#) every year.

There's growing consensus that the Paris agreement can act as a signal that the age of fossil fuels is over, but to do so it needs to contain a strong long term goal to that end. The draft text is missing a call to "[decarbonise the global economy](#)", as well as a 100% renewable energy goal - language which came out of the lunch for 30 Heads of State hosted by UNSG Ban Ki-moon in New York last month. This goal should be a key measure of progress that will be assessed at the 5-yearly reviews, providing a clear target helping countries to limit warming well below 2 degrees C. To get the level of climate action that we need, the Paris agreement will must provide a package of financial and technical support for poorer countries to do more and a way to address the loss and damage caused by climate change. Current suggestions on these elements are flimsy and will need to be improved.