

Statement

GREENPEACE

COP21 Halftime report from Greenpeace

4 December 2015 (Paris) - Commenting on the state of the ongoing negotiations in Paris, Martin Kaiser of Greenpeace said:

“We’re at the halfway point of the summit, but in the push to get a decent deal we’re not yet halfway there. There’s a lot of heavy lifting still to be done when ministers arrive next week. At this point in Copenhagen we were nowhere, but here in Paris we’re in a much better position than we were six years ago. There is a constructive spirit and a determination among key players to get a deal.

“The tone was set at the beginning of these talks with the appearance of so many heads of government, bringing real political commitment to Paris. But at the end of week one we still have no agreement on the key issues. Greenpeace believes that the reluctance to set a strong long-term goal is unacceptable, and shows how hypnotised negotiators are by the power of the fossil fuel industries. We’ll continue to fight for the essential goal of one hundred per cent renewable energy for all by 2050 - a call that the most vulnerable countries have made as a matter of survival.”

In the negotiations themselves, some taboos have been broken – in particular, with the United States and loss & damage. President Obama addressed this in his meeting with vulnerable countries on Tuesday. Other taboos remain, particularly on the issue of long term financing and the need to provide further commitments by rich countries post-2020, building on the \$100bn floor.

“The vulnerable countries are the moral conscience of these negotiations, and they must be heard,” said Martin Kaiser. “When politicians and decision-makers arrive on Monday, they will have to get down to business very quickly, pin down the critical issues in the text, make it more ambitious and come to an agreement on a long term goal and the very difficult area of finance. They also need to create a mechanism so countries come back soon with better emissions targets, and come back again and again every five years with more ambition. The world is watching.”

The Greenpeace balloon last Saturday, rising up by the Eiffel Tower with the message “RISE UP FOR RENEWABLES” was a taste of what was to come this week. We’ve seen one thousand cities and global companies throw their weight behind calls for 100% renewable energy by the middle of this century, including some of the best-known cities in the world - Paris, Chicago, Berlin, Istanbul, Madrid, Montreal, Los Angeles, Bordeaux, Rio de Janeiro, Séoul, Dakar and Stockholm. We saw Africa launch the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, Bill Gates and others promise billions of dollars for investment into clean energy, and Google commit to sourcing another 0.8 GW of its energy needs from renewable resources. The future is clear, and it’s already happening.

-30-

For more information:

Tina Loeffelbein, Political Communications Lead - International Climate Politics,
M +49 151 167 209 15
skype tina.loeffelbein_gpd
@GPTina

Patrick Bonin, Greenpeace Canada Climate and Energy campaigner,
In Paris 06 77 70 37 60 /// +33 (0) 6 77 70 37 60