

CLIMATE CHANGE LAW NETWORK BLOG POST #1 (2022)

BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (SB56)

In this short blog post, two members of the IUCN WCEL Climate Change Law Network – [Alessandro Monti](#) and [Ana Stella Ebbersmeyer](#) and [Fatima K. Hosein](#) share their experience attending the Bonn Conference (SB56) in June, as well as some of the event's outcomes and important elements.

This blog post is the first in a series that aims to map the different conferences, events and panels related to Climate Change Law around the year.



Picture available at: <https://enb.iisd.org/bonn-climate-change-conference-sb56-14jun22>

1. REVIEW BY ALESSANDRO MONTI AND ANA STELLA EBBERSMEYER

In-session workshop under Article 6.8 Paris Agreement

On 7 June the in-session workshop under Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement provided parties with an opportunity to exchange views on non-market approaches. In particular, parties discussed the potential of existing non-market approaches, including the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism by the African Development Bank, as well as the development of a web platform to match funders and project proposals. Yet, the discussion also revealed that there are still very diverging perspectives on what can fit within the category of non-market approaches and on how to ensure their

effectiveness. In particular, several parties expressed their concerns with respect to including finance mechanisms as part of non-market approaches, arguing that these should instead be covered under the provisions on market mechanisms (Art 6.2 and 6.4 PA).

Side event on Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems

On 9 June, a side event took place on the topic of ‘Recognising contributions of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems in climate governance?’. At this event Indigenous women, men and youth from the Arctic, Asia, Africa and Latin America presented and discussed rights-focused recommendations for State Parties, the IPCC and the UNFCCC. They highlighted several key issues, including the fact that there are few indigenous authors, especially lead-authors; that Indigenous Peoples are often seen as a homogenous group; and that an analysis is lacking non-material losses and damages for Indigenous Peoples. Further, they recommended that climate action should be based on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to self-determination and that free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a prerequisite for any action taken. The panellists also emphasized that a meaningful, ethical and equitable collaboration and co-production of knowledge is necessary. On this topic, Lisa Koperqualuk from the Inuit Circumpolar Council highlighted the organization’s new report, entitled ‘Circumpolar Inuit Protocols for Equitable and Ethical Engagement’.

Structured Expert Dialogue

On 8 June the Structured Expert Dialogue provided country representatives with the possibility to interact with experts from the IPCC Working Group III, who presented key findings from the Sixth Assessment Report. A topical point of discussion concerned the issue of international bunker fuels. On this matter, the representatives from Brazil and Saudi Arabia argued that bunker fuels do not count among the most important sources of emissions in the energy sector. Therefore, they asked for clarifications with regard to the importance of decreasing emissions from international bunker fuels, which is highlighted in AR6. In response, IPCC experts argued that bunker fuels represent a sector in which emissions have been rapidly growing and are projected to increase significantly, whereas few technological changes have yet taken place. Moreover, further discussions concerned the issue of climate finance, on which several developing country parties, including India, claimed that Article 2.1(c) has not yet served the purpose of providing developing countries with multilateral finance and investment for low-emissions projects, whilst a larger amount of finance is still provided from developed countries to fossil fuel projects. In response, the representative from the European Union objected that the Expert Dialogue is not the forum for political statements and requested the co-facilitators to ensure that the discussion remains on the scientific content of the report.

Fourteenth meeting of the SBSTA Research Dialogue

On the same day, the SBSTA research dialogue took place which provided a setting to discuss needs for climate change research and research-related capacity-building. Posters related to the topics of "Near term climate projections and regional modelling", "Ocean and Cryosphere", "Carbon Dioxide Removal" and "Integrated solutions for adaptation and resilience" were on display in the foyer during the day and were discussed at a poster session in the afternoon. This event provided a further opportunity to advance in the science-policy interface by recounting research findings and lessons learned from different research programs and projects.

Personal reflections

We attended SB56 from 7-9 June as observers from the University of Copenhagen. In this relatively short time frame, we could only follow a small part of the conference and it was certainly not possible to gain a full overview of the ongoing negotiations. Nevertheless, we were able to attend a wide range of meetings and side events and get a sense of the role played by a wide range of stakeholders. Among others, we witnessed a colourful and high-volume protest by a group of youth activists just outside the plenary hall, calling for a higher prioritization of loss and damage finance on the negotiation's agenda. We also attended the inauguration of the Climate Tower, which will host the new offices of the UNFCCC Secretariat at the United Nations Campus Bonn.

Overall, at SB56 we appreciated the commitment of numerous stakeholders, both inside and outside the climate regime, to lay the groundwork for negotiations at COP27 in Egypt. At the same time, we also experienced the difficulties related to the interface between climate science and policymaking, along with the remarkable divide among developed and developing countries on numerous substantial issues, including climate finance and non-market approaches. With respect to the role of civil society, many questions were asked by non-party observers during the various sessions, but these largely remained unanswered. We certainly hope that the Egyptian Presidency will make efforts to ensure that the concerns of civil society are taken into greater consideration at the upcoming COP27.

Alessandro Monti and Stella Ebbersmeyer

2. REVIEW BY FATIMA K. HOSEIN

A diversity of topics has been discussed in the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) which is looking to obtain information, and follow the actions, strategies, weaknesses and, progress that has been obtained in relation to the reduction of the effects of climate changes, also look to know the status of the challenges that already exist, new challenges, and possible new challenges that are being perceived at this moment, how is and will be possible to combat and surpass those challenges.

The review of commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement constitute one of the most delicate and controversial points of discussion of the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), from which emerges the question: Why are the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement one of the most controversial points of discussion of the 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)? The answer to this question can be evaluated from multiple perspectives, situations, and even weaknesses now of compliance with them, some countries have manifested their doubts, questioning the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and the desire to not continue working with the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Besides the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the Gender, matters, actions, strategies, and finance it was other points that were mentioned, perhaps with less focus but with a great percentage of relevance such as the training, education on climate change, the impacts, consequences, the involvement in the combat and reduction of climate change demonstration the importance of participation not only of government and international organization but also from all the people no matter the status, education, age, everyone is important.

How to increase education? How to reach the major number of people? How to reduce the challenges that face the education, and training in relation to climate change? Some of the questions that required the implementation of strategies that combine technology and not technology tools, as the compromise, initiatives, imagination, and motivation to reach, involve, and obtain the expected results.

For further information on the Bonn Conference SB56 see <https://unfccc.int/SB56>