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Welcome to your latest edition of COPservations, the Pew Environment Group's daily coverage of the international climate talks in Copenhagen.

Talks are down to the wire as diplomats try to reach a framework of an agreement before heads of state arrive later this week. Formal negotiations were delayed for part of Monday in the wake of objections from Group of 77 countries over the legal architecture of a final agreement. Many world leaders have staked their political reputation on the outcome and will be under pressure to close a deal. At the same time, developing country leaders have made it clear they will not sign an agreement unless they believe it is stringent enough to halt the worst impacts of climate change. Security restrictions this week will create another challenge for public interest groups as they try to steer the delegates toward a favorable outcome.

## **Africa Concerns Delay Talks**

On Monday, negotiations were delayed after African countries raised fears that discussions were headed in the wrong direction. African countries led by Algeria, with support from South Africa and Nigeria, worried that the conference's two negotiating tracks would merge into one. These countries, along with many other developing nations such as China and India, want to preserve the existing Kyoto Protocol track, which sets binding emissions targets on industrialized nations other than the United States. A separate negotiating track would establish a broader framework for other parties.

African negotiators also worry that if there is no second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, which covers about one-third of global emissions, climate change impacts in Africa could increase rapidly. Negotiations began again after conference leaders provisionally agreed to continue the talks on two separate tracks. Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, told reporters that not just African countries, but "the vast majority of countries here want to see the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol."

## **Leaders See Deal Within Reach**

In a briefing for non-governmental organizations, conference president Connie Hedegaard said interest groups need to keep up the pressure in order to "give us the result that the

world deserves." She raised the concern that parties were spending too much time on procedural disputes and should turn to the substance of a final agreement. Hedegaard said it would be difficult to conclude a legally binding agreement this week, but that parties should work out all the key elements of a deal, including commitments on emissions reductions and finance, and set a firm timeline to finalize it within a year. "I don't believe anything gets easier by postponing it," she said.

In a direct response to the concerns from developing countries, Hedegaard made it clear that a deal in Copenhagen would carry both negotiating tracks forward, one to extend the Kyoto Protocol and another to bring in the rest of the world. "I foresee, definitely ... that we will have one package but there will be clearly identified two tracks," she said. "We all very well know why that is also a challenge because there are some people not wanting these two tracks."

## A Global Clean-Energy Plan

Secretary of Energy Steven Chu [announced](#) in Copenhagen that the United States will dedicate \$85 million toward a \$350 million international plan to deploy clean technology in developing countries. The Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative, a 5-year effort by industrialized countries, will aim to lower the costs of solar home systems and lanterns; enforce quality control for these products; and coordinate international standards, labels and incentives for high-efficiency appliances. This will include everything from putting solar lanterns in poor households to promoting advanced energy-efficient appliances worldwide, Chu said.

Joining Chu was Italian Environment Minister Stefania Prestigiacomo, who said Italy will contribute \$30 million; and Australian Department of Climate Change Secretary Dr. Martin Parkinson, who announced a \$5 million contribution. Indian Environment and Forest Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh applauded the efforts of the developed countries and welcomed their partnership. The United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland are all expected to contribute as well. Secretary Chu invited counterparts from around the world to the United States next year to a first-ever "clean energy" meeting at the level of ministers or cabinet secretaries.

## International Business Weighs In

Representatives of the international business community stated on Monday that they want a regulatory framework to address climate change which emphasizes good governance, transparent and uniform enforcement of regulations, protection of intellectual property rights, and free and open markets. Dr. Brian Flannery, Vice Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Environment and Energy Commission, said strong regulatory incentives were critical to advance a clean-energy economy. "Where nations have cap-and-trade programs, they should look for ways to link them, to spread them," he said.

Businesses are interested and supportive of a global climate agreement. Richard Wilder of Microsoft stressed the importance of intellectual property rights protections to induce R&D investment and emphasized the role that information technology can play in improving

energy efficiency technologies. Jean-Yves Caneill of Electricité de France asked the global community to find a new policy instrument to decarbonize the electricity sector. He referred to emissions trading schemes and the clean development mechanism as examples of the types of mechanisms that can “help mature technologies come on board.”

ICC's support for cap-and-trade and other legislative frameworks on climate change contrasts sharply with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce position. Although the U.S. Chamber has recently expressed support for some aspects of a recent proposal in the Senate, they strongly opposed Senate legislation in 2008 and testified against the cap-and-trade legislation that passed the House in 2009.

## Canada Pranked by “Yes Men”

A fake press release was circulated midafternoon on Monday announcing a new proposal from Canada called the “Agenda 2020.” This plan included a stringent carbon emission reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. It also introduced a new instrument, known as the “Climate Debt Mechanism,” to fund developing countries facing the direst consequences of climate change.

The hoax was so complex that it included a fake press release from Uganda in response to the announcement, and fake web sites which look nearly identical to the real web sites on which they were modeled.

The hoax was created by the Yes Men, a group of activists who practice what they call “identity correction” by pretending to be powerful people and spokespersons for prominent organizations. This group of pranksters even went as far as staging a fake *Wall Street Journal* article on a site modeled after the real web site. Later in the day, the Canadian delegation released a genuine press release explaining the hoax, stressing the cruel nature of the prank upon the Ugandan delegation. “It is the height of cruelty, hypocrisy and immorality to infuse with false hopes the spirit of people who are already, and will additionally, bear the brunt of climate change's terrible human effects,” said Jim Prentice, Canada's Minister for the Environment.

Canada has yet to put forward meaningful carbon emission reduction goals. Provincial leaders in Quebec and Ontario have pressed for more stringent emission reductions.

## Climate summit participants get cold feet...literally

by Laura Angela Bagnetto

Access—or lack thereof—was the buzzword on everyone’s lips today, no matter who you were. Non-governmental organizations, members of delegations, press and even dignitaries were not spared the biting cold outside as they waited to get their identification badges. Even many who had already registered still saw significant delays. Some attendees never even made it into the convention center and either missed the side events they were coordinating or were turned away by security after spending hours in line.

According to official UN statistics, a total of 36,676 people, including delegations, NGOs and media, are registered to attend the conference in the Bella Center, which has a capacity of 15,000. The UNFCCC has restricted access to the conference to 1,000 members of NGOs on Thursday and only 90 NGOs on Friday when all heads of states are expected.

Throughout the day, The Pew Charitable Trusts came to the rescue of those left out in the cold or gearing up to brave it by passing out red polar fleece mittens with a message (“Our Climate: Your Hands”) written on the palms of the gloves.

