

Summering av vecka 1

Nedan hittar du en övergripande summering från vår UNFCCC-representant **Sandra Hanni**, som företräder det globala näringslivet i förhandlingarna.

COP28 | INSIGHTS FROM THE GROUND - WEEK 1

It is halftime at the “Superbowl” of climate change talks here in Dubai, negotiators & Observers, and over 100,000 registered delegates, have hopefully enjoyed a well-deserved day of rest before heading into what looks like to be a very difficult final stretch of negotiations.

Here are some key insights “from the ground” from the 1st half.

OPENING & CLOSING PLENARIES WEEK 1

30 November

The UNFCCC Opening Plenary of COP28/CMP18/CMA5 and SBSTA59/SBI59 on Thursday, 30 November, was marked by the swift adoption of the agendas and, most importantly, the unexpected adoption of the decision to operationalise new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage and the fund established at COP27 in Sharm – one of the big ticket items for this COP.

Heads of delegation, after extensive discussions in the days leading up to the start of the Summit, averted an agenda fight over a series of new, contentious agenda items proposed across the five agendas.

The newly elected COP28 President Dr Sultan Al Jaber urged Parties to start this COP with a “different mindset” and adopt a “no-nonsense approach” guided by trust, partnership, and pragmatism while never losing sight of the 1.5°C target.

6 December

The Closing Plenary convened by the Subsidiary Bodies Chairs, Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) yesterday evening was marked partly with great dissatisfaction with the state of negotiations on a long list of items.

Texts and process are now in the hands of the COP28 Presidency that is aiming to resolve the outstanding issues on the ministerial level. We understand that negotiations will take place in form of consultations facilitated by Ministers, further technical talks, and Presidency-led consultations. The exact balance among these three formats will be presented tomorrow when the COP28 Presidency will unveil his plans in a plenary session taking place at 10:00am in Plenary AI Hairat.

The UNFCCC Business and Industry Constituency had the opportunity to deliver its opening and closing statements, a copy of which is attached. We would like to particularly thank

Ester Biaget, CEO, Novozymes for delivering the business statement at a very late hour in the Opening Plenary.

KEY ISSUES IN NEGOTIATION ROOMS

Global Stocktake

The first Global Stocktake at COP28, that got underway at COP26 and will conclude next week at COP28, is seen as a critical tool and most important agreement to land here in Dubai and aims to provide the global community with the framework to “course correct” and set forward the pathways and actions on mitigation, adaptation, and finance and other means of implementation.

In a joint SBSTA/SBI contact group co-chaired by UK and Singapore, we saw very tough talks over the elements and building blocks to be INCLUDED OR NOT into the final GST package.

A 24-page draft published on Tuesday makes clear the battle lines and key areas of contention. It offers a long list of options with alternative wordings and “no text” options, for all important blocks of the draft: Preambular, Mitigation, Adaptions, Finance, Technology Development & Transfer, Capacity Building, Loss & Damage, Response Measures, International Cooperation as well as a 29 bullet-list for the Way Forward section – certainly one of the most important section.

Very difficult discussions are expected to take place over the coming days on two options, that currently exist for language on fossil fuel phase-out and an option to scrap it completely. The middle ground includes qualifiers “accelerating efforts” to phase out “unabated” fossil fuels and their ‘use’ — without mentioning “production”.

Please refer to [current draft text](#) forwarded to the COP28 Presidency as a “not agreed text” and “work in progress”. A new and 3rd iteration of the draft text is expected to be issued in the early hours of tomorrow morning.

Mitigation

The Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, established in Glasgow, further progressed at COP27 and implemented in 2023 through the organization of two global dialogues and investment-focused events, is seen by many countries as the central piece for scaling up mitigation efforts this decade.

Despite the seven meetings held the first week, co-facilitated by New Zealand and Belize, discussions proved to be very contentious, with Parties’ positions on core elements presented in this text being diametrically opposed.

The key contentious elements include: strong mitigation messages in the preamble, notably through a placeholder for elements decided under the GST, and the inclusion of substantive

elements on reflections and improvements of the work programme, as opposed to maintain only procedural elements.

The draft conclusions proposed by the SB Chairs to the COP for consideration this week can be found [here](#).

Article 6

Article 6 discussions on cooperative market approaches under Article 6.2 as well as on rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6.4 kicked off as planned under the authority of the SBSTA Chair.

In informal consultations co-facilitated by Saudi Arabia & Norway for 6.2 and Australia & Bhutan for 6.4, we saw Parties engaging on a number of outstanding issues related to the operationalisation of Article 6 mechanisms – with more or less willingness to advance work here in Dubai.

On Article 6.2 – that defines the internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (called ITMOs) that Parties can trade bilaterally or multilaterally – key outstanding details for review, reporting are still to be agreed on.

With regards to Article 6.4, Parties were invited to consider the annual report of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body ([FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/15 and Add.1](#)) issues last month, that provides a vital guidance to operate the 6.4 mechanism as well as to support its implementation.

While Parties engaged relatively constructively earlier this week, our group is disappointed by the lack of progress made over the past days. We are also deeply concerned to see some Parties trying to introduce new barriers for the implementation of cooperative approaches under 6.2, by introducing a too prescriptive definition of “cooperative approaches” and overly complex authorisation requirements.

In addition, we have heard concerning interventions from Parties saying that they wish to open up the recommendations forwarded to CMA on methodologies and removals after extensive work throughout the last year by the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body.

Draft conclusions for [6.2](#) and [6.4](#) were forward by SBSTA to the COP28 Presidency in the Closing Plenary yesterday evening, under the strict understanding that much of the language does not represent consensus.

FINANCE

Loss & Damage

The unprecedented decision on the new funding arrangement and the fund for responding to loss and damage on Day 1 of this COP was followed by a series of developed countries’

announcement of pledges for the new fund, worth over \$700 million.

Many are hopeful that this historic move, prepared in the run-up to the Summit, restores some confidence in the process and enable progress and an ambitious outcome on the remaining high stake issues on the agenda.

While certainly an important decision, we understand that the myriad details on the modalities and governance for the funding arrangements and fund will need to be agreed on by the Board that is its decision-making body. The Board will have responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the Fund and for the Fund's governance and operational modalities, policies, frameworks and work programme, including relevant funding decisions.

Our expert teams are currently analysing the [draft decision](#), that will be adopted in the Closing Plenaries, and we will share more details in due course.

NCQG, Long-term Finance

This first week saw numerous intense discussions on finance, most importantly: (i) New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG); (ii) Long-term Climate Finance; (iii) Standing Committee on Finance; (iv) Report of, and Guidance to, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund; and (v) Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund.

We heard strong calls from developing countries for full delivery on promises made under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement and the annual USD100 billion commitment to rebuild trust as well as the imperative of making progress on the amount and timelines for the new collective quantified goal on climate.

Several high-level Ministerial Dialogues on finance were convened, most importantly on NCQG, where Ministers outlined their expectations for the new goal, such as combination of a short-term actionable and a long-term aspirational goal for 2050.

We also heard a strong emphasise that in order to scale to the trillions needed for financing of the NDCs, private sector participation in both the financial system and real economy will be critical.

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Regardless of the high level of priority that adaptation represents for many Parties at this COP, they have had significant difficulties working together on the different agenda items focusing on this topic.

During informal consultations on the [Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the GGA](#) co-facilitated by Sweden and Belize, Parties could not agree on the different iterations of the text proposed by the Co-Chairs, as some emphasised a lack of balance in the text.

The main areas of divergence that were raised in discussions this week were around whether to include the principles of the Convention and Paris Agreement, particularly equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as strong provisions on means of implementation and quantifiable finance targets and accountability mechanisms.

During the Closing plenary, the SBs adopted the [proposed conclusions](#) and recommended that the work continue in the second week. Several groups of Parties, including the African Group, EU and the US, intervened during the plenary to express their concern on the lack of progress to develop a framework under the global goal on adaptation, and invited the Presidency to work on this item as a priority in the coming days.

Just Transition Pathways

The highly observed and tense negotiations under the Work programme on just transition pathways – established at COP27 with the mandate for Parties to develop a draft decision to be considered and adopted at COP28 – started on Friday, co-facilitated by Ethiopia and Germany. Parties agreed on the importance of including all stakeholders in these discussions.

Following the refusal from many developing countries to engage on the first iteration of the co-chairs draft text, motivated by the fact that their views were not reflected and by a feeling of injustice, a second iteration was prepared and Parties engaged on a much longer text, which they agreed needed to be streamlined.

Parties discussed in different meetings the timeline, institutional arrangements and modalities, interlinkages, and outcomes of the work programme. Despite the intense work through the week, important divergences remain, in particular on the scope of the work programme. The SBs adopted [procedural conclusions](#) to the CMA for its consideration next week.

Agriculture

The first week of COP28 also saw an important number of discussions related to agriculture, under the “[Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security](#)” established at COP27, which progressed particularly slowly and could not reach any agreement.

Divergent views came up from day 1, with Parties not even agreeing on the proposed text as basis for negotiations. Divergences continued to emerge through the week, on the workplan, modalities, and the creation of a coordination group on agriculture, proposed by G77+ China. It was pushed back by several developed countries, that highlighted the lack of clarity on cost, role, and logistics of this group.

The inconclusive discussions resulted in the adoption of [procedural conclusions](#) by the SBs, in which they agreed to continue the consideration of the matter at SB60 in Bonn in June.

Technology

On the Joint Annual Report of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Parties were able to work very constructively through the week, under the guidance of co-facilitators from Austria and Sri Lanka, to enhance climate technology development and transfer to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Traditional issues emerged in the discussions, among which the language on lack of resources for the TEC and CTCN and the lack of deployment of technology as well as more specific issues on the gender data gap in the deployment of technology. The SBs adopted conclusions, which contained draft decisions for the COP and CMA, which can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

We wish you a good week 2 ahead and look forward to having you with us in-person and virtually during our **business briefing tomorrow, 9:00-10:00am**.



Få löpande
uppdateringar
från konferensen
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