

Canadian Environmental Network

CONSULTATION REPORT FORM

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Title of Consultation: Policy Dialogue with Civil Society on the UNFCCC Negotiations: Canadian Considerations in the lead-up to COP 15: "Carbon Markets: The Role and Profile of International Market Mechanisms in a Post-2012 Regime"

Date(s) held: May 19, 2009

Location: Montreal

Delegate Name and Affiliation: Mary Richardson, Crooked Creek Conservancy Society of Athabasca

Number of ENGO Delegates at Consultation: ...two chosen by RCEN; several from other environmental and health groups chosen by Climate Action Network.....

What was the purpose of the consultation?

This was the second of four consultations with civil society concerning the design of the post-2012 climate regime, in the lead-up to the COP-15 meeting in Copenhagen in December, 2009. Environment Canada was to discuss possibilities for Canada's negotiating position on the role of market mechanisms, and civil society representatives were to share their knowledge and perspectives on these mechanisms.

The day consisted mainly of a panel discussion to discuss the future of the Kyoto mechanisms (international emissions trading and project-based mechanisms such as Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanisms) and other possible post-Kyoto mechanisms. In the afternoon, Michael Martin, Canada's Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change provided an update on the negotiations and answered questions from the participants.

What were the outcomes of the consultation?

This meeting was organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). It was called at very short notice, and no information was provided to participants in advance except an agenda. Power point presentations were made during the day, but they were not available in paper form, and have not been provided since the meeting, despite requests. Two papers were circulated at the meeting:

Deborah Murphy, John Drexhage and Peter Wooders, *International Carbon Market Mechanisms in a Post-2012 Climate Change Agreement*, May 2009. www.iisd.org

and

Deborah Murphy and John Drexhage, *Status of the UNFCCC: Outcomes of the Bonn Climate Change Talks, March 2009*, May 2009. www.iisd.org

Both of these were useful, but did not help to clarify Canada's negotiating position.

It was clear from the presentations of the panel and the chief negotiator that Canada is changing its position on climate change dramatically in order to align with the emerging position of the United States, especially with respect to a North American carbon market. However, officials were not able to provide any specifics whatsoever, so the meeting, while interesting, was frustrating as well.

Since the meeting, the federal government has published the details of its domestic carbon offset system for greenhouse gases for public comment:
http://www.ec.gc.ca/creditscompensatoires-offsets/92CA76F4-7A25-42F4-A1E0-E8361655A09D/Offsets_Overview_June_11_final_e.pdf This document says more about Canada's approach to offsets (domestic first, then possible harmonization with other North American offset systems, and possible mutual recognition of credits among systems) than we heard at the meeting.

What are the implications of the outcomes of the consultation?

It is very hard for the public to tell what Canada's negotiating position is going to be. Thus, it is very hard to prepare a campaign to galvanize public opinion in case Canada continues to block certain aspects of the negotiations, such as demanding commitments from developing countries while not committing to financing for mitigation and technology transfer for those most adversely affected. However, see below.

What action, in your opinion, should be taken by the ENGO community in the aftermath of this consultation?

Many Canadian and international ENGOs already have strong, well organized climate change programs in place, including a detailed blueprint for a new international climate agreement, produced by an international coalition of ENGOs . "*Copenhagen Climate Treaty version 1.0* describes the path the world must follow to keep the global temperature increase well below well below 2 degrees C. It sets a global cap on emissions, outlines how both industrialized and developing countries can contribute according to their means and responsibilities, and shows how the poorest and most vulnerable on the planet can be protected and compensated. Copies have been distributed to all 192 national negotiating teams." (see <http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/climate-action/c/2009-06-11.html>)

I would like to see North American groups take up the concept of Greenhouse Development Rights (GDRs). The idea of “a climate framework designed to support an emergency climate stabilization program while, at the same time, preserving the right of all people to reach a dignified level of sustainable human development” is appealing. (see <http://www.ecoequity.org/GDR>) It satisfies the ethical requirement of equity in climate change actions, which has been missing from the Canadian approach.