



## Hotchpotch in Copenhagen

The mountain shook, a mouse emerged. Copenhagen has not resulted in an agenda for action, but a political compromise of questionable legitimacy.

The language of the '[Copenhagen Accord](#)' is tortuous, reflecting the last minute Friday night drama and the negotiation marathon that preceded it. Did Africa get what it wanted? Not really – but it was assertive.

There is no binding agreement on limiting emissions, or timeframe for peaking them. Recognition of the 'scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius' is hardly inspiring.

Developed countries will 'provide additional resources approaching \$30 bn for 2010–2012' and mobilise \$100 bn a year by 2020 to address needs of developing countries. It refers to fund arrangements with a governance structure providing for equal representation of developed and developing countries.

These commitments on financing are in line with [expectations set out by Meles Zenawi on behalf of the African Group](#), though there is no mention of his proposals that 40% of a start up fund and 50% of the long term finance be reserved for Africa, or that the AfDB play a role in administering them.

The AU welcomed the Accord. But there is a history of broken promises, and doubts are thickening about the integrity of international commitments, especially when western taxpayers are feeling the pinch. Needed now is a financial spreadsheet to which all commit.

Africa was taken seriously. Diverse interests did not prevent action in unison. South Africa was included with Brazil, China, India and the US in last minute consultations to save the conference from disarray.

But Copenhagen was not the decisive moment that the world needed. Business is disappointed, campaigners angry, the public bewildered. The planet is no safer, and the prospects, lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of vulnerable people did not change.

At best, Copenhagen provided a basis, thin and shaky, for moving forward. It exposed what is at stake, and the limitations of negotiators, politicians and mega-conferences. It made clear that the impetus for solutions must come from other quarters. Nothing less than a popular uprising may work.

## Copenhagen Talks

[The Copenhagen Accord](#), emerged in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour brokered by the US, China, India, Brazil and South Africa. The deal was seen by some as [a failure](#) and received heavy criticism for lacking ambition, but has been seen [as an important first step and a 'meaningful agreement' by others](#).

The [outcome of the COP15 has left many frustrated](#). Much work is left to be done in 2010 to arrive at a legally binding climate change agreement. The [US and China](#) have been criticized for the weak agreement, and others such as [Australia, Canada amongst others](#) have been called moral villains.

The [most tangible outcome of the Copenhagen Accord turned out to be the financing component](#). Despite [receiving support from many key actors](#) the details for the medium and long-term financing now need to be worked out, including the governance structure.

The [key actors at Copenhagen including Obama, Gordon Brown, China, the EU and Africa have been rated](#).

[Ed Miliband, UK's Environment Secretary, publishes his vision of what the world needs to do post-Copenhagen](#).

A [leaked UN report shows that emission reduction targets tabled at Copenhagen would lead to a 3 degree Celsius temperature rise](#), and not a temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius.

[How much 'Climate Aid' is enough?](#) The New York Times holds an online debate between six leading thinkers to discuss the crucial issue of climate financing.

Only two days into the negotiations, the [secret 'Danish text' was leaked](#), infuriating the developing world. This undermined the inclusive procedure of the UNFCCC and damaged all subsequent proceedings.

## World total

28.19bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

28% growth in carbon emissions, 1995-2005

World carbon emissions are up from 18.9bn tonnes in 1980 – and with rapid industrialisation in the developing world, those numbers will climb higher. The effect is delayed, which means even if we stopped emitting carbon now, it would go on increasing in the atmosphere

Source: *The Guardian, Carbon Atlas, 2007*



“The climate cannot be "fixed" on one continent and not another. Climate change does not respect national borders. We are all in the same boat; a hole at one end will sink us all.”

Former UN Sec-General Kofi Annan, 9 December 2009

## G20 Update

### AUSTRALIA

[Australia will provide \\$5m to help finance private sector activities and address the long-term food security needs of the Zimbabwean people](#).

### EU

[EU pledges to provide at least €7.2 billion to a three-year global fund aimed at helping poor nations adapt to the effects of climate change](#).

[The EU will provide about 460m Naira \(\\$3.1m\) to help improve access to energy in Nigeria](#).

### CHINA

[China says it is ready to contribute more to the development of Tanzania and other African nations](#).

### GERMANY

[Germany doubles its commitments for Malawi](#): it will continue to provide support in areas of health, education and decentralization.

[The German government will extend the mandate of its country's contribution to the anti-piracy Atalanta mission off the Somali coast](#).

### JAPAN

[Japan has pledged \\$5bn per year for the Climate Change 'fast-start' fund for developing countries if an agreement is reached](#).

[The Government of Japan will extend general project grant aid of a maximum of ¥324m to the Republic of Zambia](#) as a contribution to the implementation of a project for the improvement of medical equipments in the University Teaching Hospital.

[The Government of Japan will provide ODA loan of up to ¥2 billion to the United Republic of Tanzania](#) to help the country focus on economic growth and poverty reduction.

### RUSSIA

[The Russian Federation provided humanitarian medical assistance of \\$1m to the population of Somalia](#).

### US

[USAID has partnered with Coca-Cola Company to provide access to clean water and sanitation for more than 12,000 people in rural South Africa](#).

## News Review

[Proposed legislation in Uganda would impose the death penalty for gay men and women.](#) Friends and family could also face seven years in prison if they fail to report “homosexual acts” within 24 hours of occurrence. The UK and Canada have denounced the legislation, while Sweden has threatened to withdraw aid if the proposition passes.

Advocacy groups have vehemently decried the [recent ruling by the British High Court that forces Liberia to pay \\$20 million](#) to two vulture funds that acquired Liberian debt through secondary markets.

The former presidential guard chief who [shot Guinean junta leader Captain Moussa Dadis Camara](#) stated in an interview that he attempted to assassinate Camara because the leader allegedly planned to pin the killing of civilian protestors on 28 September upon him.

[A recent surge in violence has swept across southern Sudan](#) as the region gears up for the upcoming referendum on independence. It has been suggested that the northern Sudanese are arming various factions in a plot to usurp regional unity.

[Saharan activist Aminatou Haidar has been allowed to return home to Western Sahara after a hunger strike.](#)

There had been much international pressure on the Moroccan government after they had seized her passport and deported her after she was awarded the Civil Courage Prize by US President Barack Obama.

[Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has dashed hopes for a power-sharing government](#) after stopping planes from flying to Mozambique to collect the opposition leaders.

A new report warned that [Kenya's food stocks will run out in April](#), potentially stoking inter-ethnic conflict and resulting in widespread hunger. This follows an Oxfam report detailing the [failure of El-Nino rains across East Africa](#).

Secretary-General [Ban Ki Moon announced the cessation of logistical and financial support for units of Congo's National Armed Forces](#) (FARDC) that have been found to violate human rights.

[Drawings for the World Cup](#) saw South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana placed in a difficult first round for the 2010 World Cup finals, while Algeria and Cameroon have been placed in less difficult groupings.

## Opinions

[Mail & Guardian \(South Africa\): Saving Ourselves from Ourselves, 11 Dec. 2009](#)

To combat climate change, Kofi Annan calls for the formation of a global regime that limits temperature rise while providing clarity on financing for adaptation in developing countries. Without climate justice at the heart of the agreement, it will fail.

[Business Daily \(Kenya\): Africa's Needs Ignored in Climate Debate, 4 Dec. 2009](#)

Graca Machel, Mary Robinson and Wangari Maathai state that Africa is being marginalized within the context of major debates at the COP 15. They emphasize the consequences of climate change for African states, and call for the US and Europe to accept responsibility for global warming and provide support for adaptation efforts.

[All Africa: Chinese Economics – An Example for the Continent, 14 Dec. 2009](#)

The author believes that Africa could learn much from China's economic growth model. State-led, market-friendly incentives, coupled with emphasis on rural enterprise development, higher productivity and function over form, would contribute greatly to economic development on the continent.

[Financial Times \(UK\): How to Hold the Rich to Their Word, 15 Dec. 2009](#)

Author Jeffrey Sachs notes the ambiguous nature of climate financing under previous climate agreements and calls for a clear formula to determine funding sources for climate change adaptation in climate-vulnerable states: the “polluter pays” principle.

## UN & Multilateral

[FAO launches a new program to help developing countries adapt their agriculture industries to climate change.](#)

A new report by the World Food Programme, [“Climate Change and Hunger: Responding to the Challenge,”](#) summarizes the effects of climate change on hunger, as well as actions that can be taken to address the challenge.

The UNDP, WMO and UNISDR report that the preliminary disaster figures for 2009 [show that over three-quarters of the people killed, and 95% of those affected by natural hazards, have been a result of extreme weather events.](#)

[The WB has approved a \\$190m International Development Association \(IDA\) credit to help improve the connectivity and efficiency of the transport sector in Uganda.](#)

[IMF and EIB have agreed to enhance cooperation in the area of capacity building in sub-Saharan African countries.](#)

In aiming to achieve economic prosperity through regional integration, [COMESA, EAC and SADC member states have opened the first One Stop Border Post \(OSBP\) facility](#), expected to increase the region's trade and reduce cross border delays by up to 50%.



As featured in Mail & Guardian, Dec 2009

## Calendar

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|----------------|--|
| 11-12 Jan      | WMO Intergovernmental Meeting for the High-Level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services: Geneva, Switzerland |
| 11-29 Jan      | 53 <sup>rd</sup> session of OHCHR Committee on the Rights of a Child: Geneva, Switzerland                                    |
| 18-21 Jan      | 128 <sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians: Geneva, Switzerland                      |
| 21 Jan         | ECOWAS Summit of Heads of State & Government: Abuja, Nigeria   |
| 27-31 Jan      | World Economic Forum Annual Meeting: Davos, Switzerland  |
| 25 Jan - 2 Feb | AU Summit: “ICT in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development:” Addis Ababa, Ethiopia                                  |

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