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Lima: Global climate litmus test

High time for ambitious climate protection!

Demands

- ▶ Ambitious reduction goals
- ▶ Review mechanisms
- ▶ Assure adequate climate financing
- ▶ Linking climate protection with development goals

High time for ambitious climate protection!

The year 2015 can be a crucial turning point for the protection of our livelihoods and therefore also for combating poverty. We have the opportunity to redefine the foundations, principles and guiding parameters of sustainable development and establish them in international agreements. Not only is a climate treaty expected to be adopted in Paris in December (UNFCCC); already two months earlier, a decision will be taken on the “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG) – as the successors of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). For the first time, the Sustainability Goals are to apply to the industrialised countries as well. And already in March, the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) takes place in Japan. At this Conference, a new framework agreement is to be signed that stipulates how losses through extreme events can be avoided and how coping capacities and the resilience of societies can be enhanced.

The topics of these three processes are closely intermeshed: The impacts of climate change, which are already perceptible today, are not only threatening people’s livelihoods, but they are also raising the vulnerability of societies lacking sufficient adaptive capacities. Without comprehensive climate protection coupled with adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction, there will therefore be no sustainable development.

All actors are called on

So far, in the international climate process, state multilateralism has not proved to be a guarantor of societal transformation. In the negotiations, the states particularly responsible for climate change are too heavily focused on balancing ostensible conflicts in aims between economic interests on the one hand and climate protection and the conservation of natural resources on the other. The latter is still regarded as an obstacle to development. This is what makes it important for a further dimension of the international architecture of responsibility to come to bear in which global civil society – from the individual to the corporation – not only demands responsibility but also assumes it. A climate sensitive transformation of society only entails additional investments in the short and medium term; in the long run, it creates considerable reductions in costs for economies.

Nevertheless, most actors in international climate politics are still stalling progress. The European Union, for example. The emission reduction goals up to 2030 submitted to the EU Summit in October 2014 suggest a European compromise that ignores scientifically based needs and remains way below what is financially and technically feasible. Although the EU intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 at least 40 per cent compared to 1990 and raise the share of renewable energies generated by wind or solar power to 27 per cent and energy efficiency by 27 per cent, what would also have been truly ambitious as well as technically and economically feasible is a 55/45/40 formula. Above all, this would have considerably enhanced the credibility of the industrialised countries vis-à-vis the developing countries and emerging economies. The only good news is that Europe-wide investment programmes in more efficiency and the development of regenerative energies allow for amendments to the EU reduction target in the coming years.



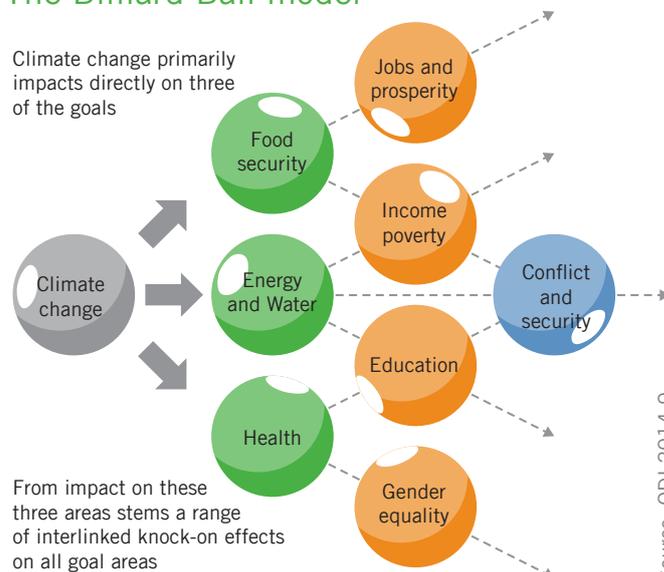
Like here in Pakistan the number of floods is increasing

Lima: a cul-de-sac or light at the end of the tunnel?

For the heads of state and government of countries party to the UN Climate Convention, the forthcoming 20th round of negotiations is, for the time being, the last opportunity for a stocktaking and control of progress made. Here, in preparation for the crucial summit in Paris, the states have to agree on a draft text combining voluntary and obligatory action that at least clarifies

- what ambitious climate policy action before and after 2020 looks like,
- what the rules and legal framework conditions of the Convention are,
- what the status of climate justice is, an issue that is of such key impor-

The Billiard Ball model



tance for the developing countries and emerging economies, which are under a particular threat, and how it is being discussed,

- how adaptation efforts and transformation processes towards low-carbon societies are financed,
- which regulations there are on forest conservation and land use changes.

In addition, the discussions in Lima must provide ideas on how climate protection goals and the Sustainable Development Goals are linked.

The chief cause of global climate change continues to be CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel sources. They are still on the increase, and the industrialised countries and emerging economies still bear the

greatest share of them. From an economic angle, climate change is therefore also referred to as the greatest failure of the market, for while emissions cause harm (and therefore costs), they are not borne by the polluters themselves. This is one of the reasons for today's patchwork of binding and non-binding emission reduction pledges.

What has to happen?

So far, a small group of industrialised countries have agreed on a second Kyoto Protocol commitment period, whereas another group of states have formulated non-binding emission reduction goals for the period up to 2020. While the achievement of the goals is to be monitored, no sanctions are provided for in the case of their not being achieved. So far, sixty countries have made corresponding pledges. However, scientists have calculated that the sum of all reduction pledges is far too low to keep global warming below the two-degree limit. The recent surprising declarations made by the United States and China are not going to change anything here either. In November 2014, the USA declared that it would reduce its level of greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent by 2025 in comparison to 2005, and China said it would increase its share of renewables to around 20 per cent by 2030.

In order to considerably increase the level ambitions the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), for example, suggests in its latest special report that the two-degree limit be operationalised in a binding capacity along the equality, risk reduction and polluter principle. This means that the states first of all submit their measures in climate protection up to 2025

The example of coffee growing

A recent survey shows that as early as 2020, there will no longer be any wild Arabica coffee in South Sudan. Many coffee plants are already diseased or withered today, there are hardly any new seedlings, the researchers write. In spite of irrigation and other compensatory measures, it could also become too warm to successfully grow Arabica coffee in other cultivation areas in the future.

The example of climate refugees

The island state of Tuvalu in the South West of the Pacific Ocean, northeast of Papua-New Guinea, which has a size of just 26 square kilometres, is just two metres above sea level on average. Through sea-level rise, the roughly 10,500 inhabitants are having to struggle with contaminated drinking water, failed harvests and floods. Now a family from Tuvalu have been given the right of abode in New Zealand. This is the first case of people being recognised as climate refugees.

and their decarbonisation roadmaps up to 2070 that are then harmonised with the two-degree goal through regular monitoring procedures. So in addition to the financing pledges for adaptation pro-

Which threats arise when the climate system is destroyed?

- loss of livelihoods and natural resources
- a considerable amount of damage through flooding and a lack of adaptive capacities
- damage to infrastructures and supply systems
- higher health and mortality risks, e.g. through great heat in urban areas
- threats to food security and collapse of food systems (e.g. droughts in regions with large shares for poor people)
- loss of livelihoods through water shortage and reduced agricultural productivity (smallholders, herds-men)
- loss of marine and terrestrial ecosystems and the corresponding ecosystem services

“As the host, Peru ought to set a good example and change its priorities”

– Enrique Fernández-Maldonado Mujica, Peruvian sociologist and climate activist

grammes, it is above all the settlement of agreements on intended national determined contributions (iNDCs) and agreements on monitoring procedures that are crucial for Lima. The reduction pledges themselves are to be submitted in March 2015.

With a view to adapting to climate change, the implementation of the measures and working programmes resolved from Nairobi through Cancún to Warsaw has to be continued. Financial resources and adaptation technologies have to be handed on for this purpose. From a certain increase in temperature on, the loss of habitats is highly probable to become irreversible. This is why states will have to prepare for local, internal and cross-border migration movements and assume corresponding responsibility. This also requires regulations.

A further elaboration of the Warsaw mechanism is crucial to trust-building between polluters and those affected. The mechanism provides for compensation for losses and damages already occurring and those that will be unavoidable in the future. While it does blaze a trail, against the background of focusing on research and consulting, it above all needs to be extended and put into concrete terms regarding the aspect of financing compensation for damages. A two-year working schedule has been submitted that yet has to be adopted by the states in Lima.

Strengthening civil society engagement: “Grupo Perú COP 20”

As a developing country and the summit host, Peru assumes an important role. After all, being in charge of the 20th Climate Conference offers the opportunity to play a crucial role in designing the agenda, course and result of the conference. Moreover, Peru is the first Andean state to organise a climate conference. It takes place at a time

in which the effects of climate change are becoming clearly perceptible in the country and the government's environmental policy is being criticised by its own population. In the Andes, where drinking water and water supply for irrigation depends on water from the mountains, the melting glaciers are a harbinger of the looming disaster. This is why more than 80 civil society groups joined forces in the “Grupo Perú COP 20” network in 2013. The network is organised by trade union federations, farmers' organisations, indigenous groups and environmental protection groups, and supported by Welthungerhilfe. It informs and sensitises the population regarding climate change, develops common positions and attempts to influence the climate negotiations and national policies. For in Peru too, the issue is how poverty can be combated, hunger can be eradicated, the living standards of the population can be improved and particularly vulnerable groups of the population and ecosystems can be protected without opting for economic growth based on the overexploitation of natural resources and the destruction of ecosystems.

Further reading

- **Green Alliance (Eds.):** Paris 2015: Getting a global agreement on climate change. London 2014
- **IPCC 2014:** Summary for policymakers, in: Climate Change 2014: Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of working group II to the Fifth Assessment Report. Cambridge, New York 2014
- **Overseas Development Institute (ODI):** Zero poverty ... think again. Impact of climate change on development efforts. London 2014
- **German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU):** Special Report. Climate Protection as a World Citizen Movement. Berlin 2014
- **Davis, A. P.; Gole, T. W.; Baena, S.; Moat, J.:** The Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Arabica Coffee (*Coffea arabica*): Predicting Future Trends and Identifying Priorities. PLoS ONE 7(11): e47981, 2012

Key Welthungerhilfe demands on the Climate Summit in Lima

- The industrialised countries would have to formulate far more ambitious reduction goals for the period between 2015 and 2020. The values have to lie at least 25 to 40 per cent below those of 1990.
- Minimum commitments have to be regularly reviewed and adapted.
- Developing countries and, above all, emerging economies have to present new or additional plans for the reduction of greenhouse gases.
- The industrialised countries have to present strategies with which, with increasing expenditure on development cooperation, they intend to ensure climate financing for the developing countries, including rising pledges for the Green Climate Fund.
- At least half of climate financing has to be allocated to adaptation projects in the developing countries.

Imprint

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