

"AFTER COPENHAGEN AND THE ROAD MAP TO MEXICO CITY:
RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT FOR NIGERIA" BY PRINCE LEKAN
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- I believe that before talking after Copenhagen there is need to have a brief on the pre and the COP 15 activities. This should serve as the foundation for proper understanding of the subject matter.
- Copenhagen provided the venue for COP 15 the 15th Summit of Conference of Parties to deliberate on Climate Change. The Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen December 7 – 10, 2009 reinforced a view that Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and that urgent action must be taken to address it.

Pre Copenhagen activities

In looking at the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit it must be recognized that there have been about 18 previous meetings since 1990 with an objective of forging an acceptable Climate Change regime. Copenhagen was the 15th Conference of the Parties, since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) came into effect in 1994.

- The COP 15 was intended to be the culmination of a two-year negotiating process that was agreed to in Bali Indonesia in December 2009.
- In 1990 negotiations began that led in 1992 to opening for signature and ratification of the UNFCCC. The Treaty does not contain binding green house gas (GHG) emissions limitations for countries but nevertheless includes numerous other binding national Climate Change obligations.
- The objectives of the International Climate Regime originally set out in UNFCCC included that the parties to the UNFCCC agreed that:
 - They would adopt policies and measures to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system
 - Developed countries should take the first steps to do this
 - Nations have common but differentiated responsibilities to prevent Climate Change
 - Nations may not use scientific uncertainty as an excuse for not taking action
 - Nations should reduce their GHG emissions based upon equity.
- The UNFCCC had 192 parties as at December 2009 including the United States of America and Nigeria. The UNFCCC is a "framework" convention because it has always been expected that additional requirements would be added to the framework in updates that are known as "protocols" or in annual decisions of the Conference Of the Parties.

- The first major addition to the UNFCCC was the Kyoto Protocol which was negotiated in 1997 because the international community had been convinced by emerging Climate Change knowledge that developed nations needed to be bound by numerical emissions reductions targets. The Kyoto Protocol came into effect on February 16, 2005 with United States being the only developed country that never ratified the Kyoto Protocol (KP).
- Under KP the developed countries agreed to reduce their overall emissions of six green house gases by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels between 2008–2012. The developing countries had no binding emissions reductions obligations under Kyoto.
- The Copenhagen negotiations were necessary because the emissions reductions obligations of developed countries set out in the Kyoto Protocol expire in 2012.
- At the Bali COP 13 in 2007 parties to the UNFCCC agreed to replace the KP with an agreement that would create a second commitment period under the UNFCCC and would include binding emissions reductions for developed countries and new programmes on adaptation for developing countries, deforestation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building. This Agreement is called the “Bali Roadmap”.
- The Bali Agreement also recognized that developing countries could make contributions to solving the Climate Change through the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigations Action (NAMAS) that is Climate Change strategies for developing countries.

- The parties also agreed on a two year negotiating process to achieve the objectives of the Bali Roadmap. Under this Action Plan, nations would proceed on two negotiation tracks namely UNFCCC and (ii) Kyoto Protocol. The first track was known by AWG – KP – Adhoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol. The second track was referred to as AWG – LCA – Adhoc Working Group on Long-term co-operative Action.
- The Bali Agreement also included a deadline for concluding these negotiations in Copenhagen in December, 2009. Between Bali and Copenhagen 2007 – 2009 intense negotiations took place including four separate meetings in 2009. Many contention issues surfaced – strong disagreements about the extent of emission reduction commitments of developed countries, institutional arrangements and funding amounts for financing developing countries needs for technology co-operation, adaptation, reducing emissions from and capacity building.

Technology Transfer

It needs to be stressed that little progress was made on major issues and particularly on commitments for GHG emissions reductions and funding for adaptation, deforestation programs and technology transfer.

CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) 15

COP 15 was attended by 110 Heads of State, hundreds of ministers, privates sector, non-governmental organizations, media and other stakeholders.

The Summit despite pleas to resolve most of the contentions issues could not do so. Copenhagen turned out to provide a platform for people hoping that it would meet all their expectations.

The Copenhagen Outcome

- There was a decision to take note of a document called "Copenhagen Accord"
- Decisions to extend the mandates of the KP and LCA to COP 16 with work continuing on the basis of draft texts.
- No clear cut view – confusion, speculation and mixed feelings
- Emergence of a new Group BASIC consisting of Brazil, South Africa, China and India
- Draft finalized by 5 convention parties (US + BASIC)
- Accord was not legally binding
- National – level targets for developed countries
- Funded mitigation action for developing countries
- Short and long-term funding and creation of a Green Climate Fund (but no clear funding priorities)
- REDD + Technology Mechanisms
- Continued use of markets – market determined mechanism
- The Copenhagen Accord will not solve the Climate Change crisis. It does not contain commitments necessary to avoid dangerous Climate Change nor deal adequately with other issues including GHG gases coming from deforestation and adaptation issues.
- The Accord triggered disputes among world leaders, academicians, journalists, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders as to whether it was a failure or a more towards addressing the Climate Change challenges.

- The US is insisting that major emitting developing countries assume mitigation obligations under the Bali Agreement. This could be an issue that needs to be addressed.
- The COP 15 put the Climate Change in the centre of world politics
- It showed that there is need to improve the negotiation process
- Showed that underlining issues of interest was evident as developed countries individually and collectively have to decide where the pendulum was to swing bearing in mind their internal domestic problems e.g. US and China's role
- Showed that Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges of our time.
- Revealed that each nation gets what he can do with the knowledge acquired at COP 15.
- Showed that there is a new approach to world diplomacy. It is definitely a new ball game where the name is take care of your interest and get the best out of every negotiation.

Activities Since Copenhagen

- Parties submit pledges to Appendix 1 and 11 in compliance with 31t January "deadline"
- Parties submissions on way forward for AWG-LCA in 2010
- Meetings of parties in smaller groups
- April meeting of AWG-LCA discussed process for 2010.
- Different events globally since COP 15 may have great impact in the events leading to COP 16. There is serious concern to how resources and environment impact on sustainable livelihood.

- The earthquakes and strange weather in recent times are sending signals to human consciousness.
- On January 24th, 2010 – The second meeting of Ministers of the four BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) Group countries met in New Delhi, India. They re-emphasized their commitment to work together to ensure an agreed outcome at the COP 16 in Mexico.

The Road to Mexico

- There is need to rebuild trust and ensure proper engagement
- US will not sign Kyoto, efforts must be made to find an alternative way to bind US.
- Work out a process for the work of the AWG-LCA
- Need efforts to ensure agreement on form of the outcome
- Prioritising issues for example Funding, REDD, technology transfer mechanism
- Adaptation decision.
- A lot needs to be done to build negotiation skills, employ effective advocacy and carryout various studies – NEEDS, Vulnerability etc.

Prospects for Nigeria

- Climate Change is real and its impact is much faster than was earlier thought by the environmentalists, scientists and sustainability experts.
- The good news is that we can do something because Climate Change has created challenges and opportunities in the areas of financing sustainable development, emissions trading, clean energy

finance, catastrophic bonds and advancement in research and technology.

- Opportunity for Nigeria to set up strategic Climate Change Fund by government, local government, private sector and others.
- The Business and Investment opportunities and the Green Programmes during COP 15 showed that Climate Change can be the catalyst for job creation, entrepreneurial development, carbon trading, clean development mechanism, sustainable projects and greening of the environment.
- Nigeria must key into this new world – Copenhagen showed that the future belongs to a low carbon economy. Government needs to provide the environment
- Opportunities for job creation in environmental, finance, insurance, risk management need to be explored and investment in these areas will overtime yield handsome reward.
- Addressing the issues of NAMA and producing a clear Blueprint on Climate Change and Environmental Policies
- Opportunities to address regulatory, framework and required policy to lead Nigeria to a low carbon economy.
- Development of Energy Efficiency projects and renewable energy.
- Investment in creating awareness and building capacity to build a green conscious society. The Dutch designed houses that can float on water to mitigate sea – level rise under Climate Change. The Mega City project can tap into this and explore the possibilities.

- Japan paves the road to a low carbon society by introducing energy saving appliances, Batteries, Solar Mobiles, LED Maps, washing Machines etc. Today the Japanese energy consumption and CO₂ emission per GDP is the lowest in the world owing to various energy conservation measures taken from the respective sectors.
- One of the key sideshows in COP 15 was the Local Government Climate Roadmap. The objective was to develop and implement robust plans to prepare, withstand and recover from impacts of Climate Change. The Initiative showed that public support is crucial and if well mobilized citizens can become veritable tool as sustainability drivers.
- The development of Jetropha and other plants for biofuel and conservation can lead to positive diversification of the economy. The efforts of Lagos State Government and others need to be commended for addressing the greening issue by planting 500,000 Jetropha trees in the State. The Sahara Green Wall for example can be a goldmine for investors.
- We can learn from other countries – China's program for low carbon growth that promotes low carbon energy use; providing electricity to 99 percent of the population through linking agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods to the expansion of small hydropower plants.

- Developing an integrated and Implementable National Plan of Action – mitigation and adaptation
- Mainstreaming environmental concerns into National Development Plans – Vision 202020
- Commercialization of eco-technologies and green products
- Investment in waste to wealth projects
- Awareness and advocacy programmes that can tailor social corporate responsibility towards the Climate Change Challenges.
- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provides opportunity for gas reduction to be converted into viable projects.
- “Think carbon projects” in order to earn traded carbon credits in foreign currency.
- Development of carbon marketing
- Opportunities to develop our youths on the future low carbon society – making ultra high efficient use of energy homes, offices and environment.
- Using the hydro and dams for development of commercial agriculture.
- Challenges
- Address vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts.
- Vulnerable Sectors include Water, Health, agriculture, Biodiversity
- Implementation and effective compliance of regulations and laws.
- Funding – inadequate and unpredictable funding of the key issues – mitigation, adaptation.
- Poor access to technology and progress on effective management of intellectual and technology transfer agreements

- Weak scientific and technical capacity
- Capacity Building and Skill development – poor capacity to take advantage of opportunities e.g. CDM
- Continuity of policies and domestication of conventions and laws.
- Get more Banks and the Business sector to “buy into” the Climate Change programme.
- Institutional weakness -
 - Political awareness of threats
 - Political institutional framework needs to properly and adequately establish.
 - Broader public awareness of vulnerability and measures
- Need for sharing knowledge, improving rural livelihoods, empowering local governments and community to improve access to information.
- Strengthen the capacities of the communities to address the challenges and opportunities of Climate Change.

Conclusion

Copenhagen ended with a wake-up call for all countries to address the challenges of Climate Change.

The issues of medium – term emission cuts by industrialized countries to limit the growth of their emissions, finance to implement action, equitable governance of the Climate regime, the less dependence on fossil oil, the road to low carbon economy and each country to take advantage of the challenges and opportunities of Climate Change are now at the center stage of global discuss.

Nigeria must build consensus, discuss strategies and action needed to address Climate Change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, health and other areas. We must encourage "ideas market place" to provide an informed opportunity for dialogue, information and knowledge exchange.

We must ensure a hope in Climate Change by addressing the challenges and tapping on the benefits.