

SYNTHESIS OF THE NOTE

MAKING THE COP21 WORK

From international to national scope: the impact of climate negotiations on public action

How to appreciate, when the time comes, the results of the COP21? What are the elements that can make it truly useful? La Fabrique Ecologique and CliMates, on the basis of an exclusive and meticulous international survey underline them: the important part of an efficient climate action does not always rely on what we believe. The most influential aspect will be the commitment to future objectives and steps, strong principles of transparency and the extent of real domestic commitments for a new development strategy.

A few weeks ahead of the COP21, what can we really expect? It is very likely that, as for the previous COPs, there will be an agreement, but we still need to see if it will be satisfactory.

Facing the extent of the climate challenge and the complex negotiation, it remains urgent to have a clear and precise vision of what this international conference could bring. To measure it, La Fabrique Ecologique and CliMates have led an exclusive survey on the impact in recent years of the annual meetings of the COPs on climate policies of 16 States and 5 local authorities.

This survey shows several paradoxes: the legally binding character proved to be not so binding after all; the sense of failure sometimes hid real successes; the negotiation itself having a strong impact on its results. It enables to identify the most important factors which have already led to action: the creation of shared knowledge and transparency standards, the obligation of setting an example for countries willing to be included in the negotiation, the search of economic and social co-benefits of climate action with a view to a new development strategy, the emergence of a global climate civil society.

Far too often, the COP21 is presented as a deadline, a final date to solve the most complex and global challenge Man has ever faced: climate deregulation. Presented as the umpteenth “last-ditch conference”, the Paris negotiation might generate many “climate resigned people”, although it is aligned in a long term process which should be understood as a whole. This is why the note ends on two proposals:

1) The first one is to make known the main aspects of an interpretive framework of the COP21's results, enabling to realistically measure whether if this conference positions climate action on the right path.

Beyond the obviously major issue of financing, three of them are essential in an agreement that obviously needs to be universal and accepted by all countries:

- A commitment as accurate as possible on the long term objective and the future steps;
- An agreement on strong principles of transparency and measuring, including on financial proposals;
- The extent of real measures announced in domestic contributions for a new development strategy

2) The second one insists on the necessity of dealing with, inside or outside the agreement, little addressed but essential issues in the negotiation process itself.

It is essential that the international community addresses the issue of fossil resources and more particularly the current very low price of fuel and raw materials, for example during the Summit of Heads of States which will open the conference.

Besides, it would be very useful to strengthen the dynamics of local authorities, with the principle of a common measuring system, and companies.

The note offers eventually that the sectoral commitments are planned and encouraged for the period up to 2020, which will not be covered by the agreement anyway.