Celebrating Climate Action Champions…

The last couple of months have been busy at Track 0.

We have been preparing for the next round of climate negotiations, which will be held next week in Bonn from 31st of August - 4th of September.

We have been keeping track of an increasing number of countries, cities, companies and individuals who have committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions to zero by mid-century.

And we have identified some key actors emerging as climate champions in the lead up to Paris.

Some significant recent developments:

1. Track 0 has compiled and published a textual proposal for a draft Paris Agreement

2. Islamic leaders launched the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, calling for the phase out of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the implementation of 100% renewable energy strategies

3. Brazil and Germany have joined forces, agreeing a clear long-term vision for a decarbonized global economy

4. A growing alliance of countries and companies are supporting the inclusion of a net zero emissions or carbon neutrality goal at the UNFCCC climate negotiations in Bonn

5. Track CEO Farhana Yamin featured in a recent RTCC podcast discussing the current state of climate negotiations and examining the prospects of a successful deal being concluded in Paris

We invite you to read on for more details.

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‘90 Pages to 9’:
Track 0 Writes A Draft Paris Agreement

Following the slow progress of the ADP 2-9 negotiating session in Bonn, Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin and two of Track 0’s advisors, Erik Haites and Niklas Höhne, compiled a textual proposal for a Paris Agreement representing one possible way in which the 90 pages of negotiating text could be whittled down to produce an ambitious, politically balanced and comprehensive agreement.

The Track 0 proposal uses only the textual proposals generated by Parties set out in the Geneva Negotiating Text released in February 2015, and focuses only on those elements that need to be in a legally binding agreement.

It is hoped that the Track 0 proposal can assist Ministers and negotiators to reduce the 90 pages of negotiating text down to a more manageable size.

You can read the full proposal here.
In Istanbul on August 18th, Islamic leaders from 20 countries launched a bold and ambitious Declaration on Global Climate Change that calls on the world’s 1.6 billion Muslims to phase out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and implement 100% renewable energy strategies.

The Declaration draws upon Qur’anic scripture to argue that humanity has a moral responsibility both to itself and to the planet to act on climate change. It is an inclusive message – one which emphasises that climate action can be taken by people everywhere, including national leaders, business people, corporations and the finance sector, and of course, Muslims all around the world.

The Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change follows the issue in June of an encyclical on the environment by the Catholic Pope Francis, adding another authoritative moral voice to the call for fair and urgent global climate action.
Brazil and Germany Join Forces To Tackle Climate Change

On the 20th of August, Brazil and Germany pledged strong bilateral cooperation on climate action with national leaders Angela Merkel and Dilma Roussef releasing a joint statement to affirm their support for the conclusion of an ambitious climate agreement at the Paris COP21 in December.

The two largest economies in Europe and South America are now on the same diplomatic page in the lead up to the Paris, with both countries sharing a clear long-term vision for decarbonisation of the global economy:

“[Germany and Brazil] share the long-term vision of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above preindustrial levels, which entails a transition towards energy systems based on renewable energies and the decarbonisation of the global economy in the course of the century”

Whilst underlining the importance of climate finance, both leaders emphasised the need for all countries – both developed and developing – to raise their level of ambition on climate action.

Track 0 welcomes the Germany-Brazil announcement and supports the strong political leadership displayed by both countries.
More Climate Champions Get On Track 0

The latest update to our Track 0 Business Report shows that 10 more companies have committed to net zero or 100% renewable energy long-term goals since April 2015 – these include major brand names and corporate superpowers such as Ikea, L’Oreal and Marks & Spencer.

Our latest countries tracking shows that 131 countries have voiced support in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) negotiations for the inclusion of a long-term goal in the Paris Agreement. Outside the UNFCCC, countries like Brazil, Germany, Mexico and New Zealand are also committing independently to net zero, carbon neutrality or deep decarbonisation pathways.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands submitted its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) in July, committing to economy-wide and unconditional emissions reductions of 32% on 2010 levels by 2025, and of 45% by 2030. The INDC the first to be submitted by a small island developing state, and the intended reductions are in line with a 2050 net zero emissions goal.

ADP 2-10 in Bonn…We’ll Be There!

Track 0 will be in attendance at the upcoming August/September negotiating session in Bonn. You can follow us on Twitter to receive live updates from the negotiations.

Our social media coverage will focus on statements in support of the inclusion of a long-term decarbonisation goal in the Paris text.
Is Optimism Ahead of Paris Justified?
Track 0 on ‘The Emissions Factor’ Podcast

Last week, Track 0 CEO Farhana Yamin joined Richard Black, Lisa Friedman and Ed King as a special guest on the first episode of a podcast series on climate politics to be broadcast by Responding to Climate Change (RTCC).

Key issues discussed include: what “success” might mean in the context of the Paris negotiations; climate finance for developing countries; and the importance of the inclusion of a long-term goal for emissions reductions in the Paris Agreement.

Farhana highlighted the importance of good political leadership to the success of the negotiations, acknowledging the recent efforts of the US delegation:

“I’ve never seen such a coordinated diplomatic effort from the top downward… it’s a huge part of their diplomatic effort overseas and at home. Barack Obama has spent his political capital to secure his climate legacy.”

You can listen to the full podcast here.

Thanks for reading. As part of the build up to Paris, we will publish weekly blog posts and provide monthly newsletters to keep you updated. Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter!

- Ana, Isabel and Farhana