

15th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

18 to 22 April 2016

Written Statement from New Progressive Alliance

Main item of discussion...facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development goals with sub-items:

1. Ensuring prioritization and decision-making that is fair, responsive, inclusive, participatory and accountable at all levels.
3. Ensuring effective and innovative implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of the policies identified in support of the sustainable development goals.

The 15th session of Committee of Experts on Public Administration called for papers on the implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development goals. The two sustainable development goals the New Progressive Alliance would like to comment on are numbers 6 on water and 13 on climate. The two UN agents we would like to act are the World Bank and those monitoring the 2015 United Nations Committee of the Parties 21.

The World Bank's official goal is the reduction of poverty. The World Bank can aid in two areas. Financing projects that privatize water for profit instead of using water as a common resource make poverty worse and contradicts UN Sustainable Development Goal #6 on water. Water privatization, backed by the World Bank, has been devastating for the city of Nagpur, India. Residents face everything from contaminated water to irregular access to skyrocketing rate hikes. Despite this, the World Bank is promoting Nagpur's privatization as a success story -- to replicate in as many as 600 cities across India. In 2015 hundreds of thousands of people around the world rallied to protest the impending privatization of the water in Lagos, Nigeria. Fortunately, the World Bank's private investment arm dropped its water advisory contract with the Lagos government.

The second area the World Bank can help in is to stop financing fossil fuel projects. Previous U.N. reports have demonstrated this not only impedes progress on Committee of the Parties 21, it also worsens poverty.

Those monitoring the 2015 United Nations Committee of the Parties 21 can help by collecting two pieces of information.

2015 United Nations Committee of the Parties 21 provides, "Each party shall...provide...a national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals...of greenhouse gases..." (Article 13, paragraph 7) The first piece of information is an honest appraisal which should include subsidies to fossil fuels which are orders of magnitude greater than for renewable energy. Fossil fuels should include those which do not help the environment such as natural gas and nuclear in addition to coal, natural gas, and other fossil fuels which produce methane, carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases.

There is a huge cost to using fossil fuels quite apart from climate change. Worldwide global subsidies are \$5.3 trillion dollars (£3.4tn) a year, equivalent to 10 million dollars a minute, according to a startling new estimate by the International Monetary Fund. The \$5.3 trillion dollar subsidy estimated for 2015 is greater than the total health spending of all the world's governments. The costs to the United States alone is between ten and fifty two billion dollars a year and does not include health costs mentioned below as externalities.

These subsidies include tax breaks, incentives for production on federal lands (such as royalty fees that haven't been adjusted in 25 years) and tax deductions for clean-up costs. If state subsidies for oil, gas and coal production are also included, the total value climbs to \$21.6 billion for 2013. It is

estimated that the world will spend an extra \$8 trillion over the next 25 years to prolong the use of non-renewable resources, an estimate that may be way too conservative in light of the IMF's estimate of 5.3 trillion dollars in 2015 alone mentioned above. That cost would be completely eliminated by eventually transitioning instead to 100% renewable energy. 100% renewable energy is technically feasible.

More than just the costs of massively subsidizing the failed fossil fuel business model is involved. There are also externalities - such as healthcare costs due to pollution, government guaranteed loans, environmental destruction through mountaintop removal for coal, tar sands oil drilling, fracking for natural gas, and wars for oil and uranium. Also consistently ignored is the price for adjusting to the effects of global climate change - even if possible - is far far greater than the cost of stopping global warming at this stage.

Those monitoring the 2015 United Nations Committee of the Parties 21 can also help by giving a second piece of information. Giving the fossil fuel used by the militaries of the world would also help make an honest appraisal required by the 2015 United Nations Committee of the Parties 21. Certainly the United States uses the most because of its size and activities, but a significant amount is used by other nations as well.

Documentation about the above on the World Bank and COP21 can be found here:
http://www.newprogs.org/the_environment_under_the_democratic_republican_uniparty