

ecbi Annual Report

2014-2015



ecbi

European Capacity Building Initiative

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Benito Müller

Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy

The reporting year ending on 31 March 2015 has been elating, but at the same time very demanding. We celebrated the tenth anniversary of the ecbi, and a number of key achievements both in the context of the on-going ADP negotiations and concerning the international climate finance regime. At the same time, this period was the last year of Phase III of the ecbi, so we were heavily engaged in the design and the fundraising for Phase IV (2015-2020). In this context I am extremely pleased to note that, at the time of writing, we have an approval in principle for a contribution by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and we have been shortlisted for a contribution by the German International Climate Initiative (ICI). With these two contributions, the ecbi could once again run both its flagship programmes at full speed, and demonstrate what can be done in building capacity and trust with predictable longer-term funding.

As concerns our achievements, the idea of a ‘Dynamic Contribution Cycle’, developed under the ecbi, for example, has become a prominent and promising option in the negotiating text for the 2015 Paris agreement. The ecbi Fellowship Programme and the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU) played a symbiotic role in this achievement: the proposal for a Dynamic Contribution Cycle was first discussed and designed at the 2014 Oxford Fellowships, and was evolved further in an ecbi publication ([*A Dynamic Contribution Cycle: Sequencing Contributions in the 2015 Paris Agreement*](#)). It has since become the basis for a number of submissions by Parties (including Brazil, and the Asociación Independiente de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, or AILAC) to the UNFCCC, and is now part of the negotiating text for Paris.

On 13 October 2014, the eve of Eighth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board (GCFB) we organized a GCFB Caucus seminar to discuss the findings of an ecbi Policy Brief on [*Devolved Access Modalities: Lessons for the Green Climate Fund from Existing Practice*](#). It was widely acknowledged that this was very helpful and conducive to the Board’s decision to request the Secretariat to prepare Terms of Reference for operationalizing an Enhanced Direct Access pilot phase. Subsequently, we were able to have certain suggestions based on two ecbi Policy Papers ([*Consolidation and devolution of national climate finance: The case of India*](#) and [*Engaging Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in developing countries*](#)) reflected in the GCF Secretariat document on [*Additional Modalities that Further Enhance Direct Access: Terms of Reference for a Pilot Phase*](#) (published on 5 March 2015).

Despite limited funding for the training and support programme last year, we organised a pre-COP training workshop for junior LDCs prior to the COP 20 in Lima, under the guidance of the Chair of the LDC Group. The workshop was very well received by the participants, with many rating it as “excellent” and very useful. In addition, ecbi partner institution Legal Response Initiative organised a training workshop for lawyers and negotiators from developing countries in Lusaka, Zambia, on 14 & 15 May 2014. The training was tailored to suit the learning needs of participants, and included a mix of presentations and practical exercises focused on international environmental law, treaty law and the UNFCCC process.

We also co-hosted a discussion meeting with the Heinrich Böll Foundation - North America on 7 December 2014 (during UN Climate Conference in Lima, Peru) to discuss how the role and function of existing adaptation funding instruments might shift in the future, with a special focus of the conversation on the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund. The event was very well received and has since led to a close collaboration with the Adaptation Fund Board Chair and Secretariat on these matters.

Having participated [in the 2014 Oxford] ecbi Seminar, the discussions proved to be particularly innovative in addressing some of the more complex issues involved in the climate change negotiations, and arriving at promising solutions, as we strive to a new climate change agreement. As the ADP co-chair, though not participating in that capacity, I was struck by the candour and out-of-box thinking that can only augur well for arriving at consensus and full agreement. This Seminar has proved once more, and even more so this year, its critical role in bringing some of the major individuals in a common format to arrive at greater understanding in the climate change negotiations.

Kishan Kumarsingh

Co-Chair ADP, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Trinidad & Tobago

Once again I wish to thank and congratulate you on having organized such a successful and fruitful Seminar. It not only provided the participants a platform to exchange views, but also a unique occasion to inspire each other. At a time when every person is working hard for the success of the negotiation of the 2015 new agreement, undoubtedly, the excellent discussion we have had in Oxford will leave its footprints. During the whole process, the unique role you have played was not only making us sit and talk together, but even more importantly, steering the discussion and putting our ideas together. I believe that every colleague in the Seminar was highly impressed by your rich knowledge and experience on the climate change issues as well as the excellent skill of leading the discussion.

Zhang Xumin

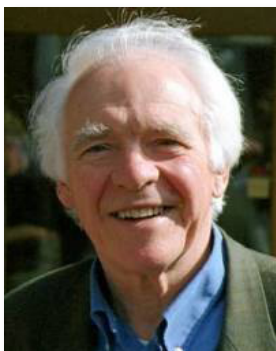
Director of Climate Change Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

It was my great pleasure to participate in the climate Seminar at Oxford. The ecbi did a remarkable job in getting together exactly the right people in the right ambience talking about the right subjects. It is with the help of this ecbi Seminar that we, who are working on a global climate agreement, were able to express our thoughts and opinions, discuss our differences and explore possible common positions. And all of this in a safe environment, outside the formal negotiations. The ecbi Seminar is therefore an important element in reaching global agreement on climate change.

Michel Rentenaar

Climate Envoy, Kingdom of the Netherlands

MESSAGES FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



Bo Kjellén

Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute and former Chief Negotiator, Swedish Ministry of Environment

As all governments are preparing intensely for the important negotiations leading up to the crucial Paris climate conference later this year, it is very satisfactory to see that ecbi has greatly contributed to moving the negotiations forward through presenting new ideas and creating venues for high-level discussions outside the negotiating rooms. I believe that we understand better every year that the complicated process needs delegates who are not only able to defend their national interests and instructions. As a former negotiator I can see the increasing necessity for careful joint consideration of the many complicated problems in an open dialogue, aimed at testing possible openings for agreements.

During the past year, a Sida-funded general evaluation of the Phase III of the ecbi led to a thorough consideration by Sida on its continued support for the Oxford Fellowships and Seminar, which has just been concluded with a favourable result. In this process, a paper with testimonials and a report on accomplishments 2005-2015 greatly helped to make funders and other interested parties better understand the unique characteristics of ecbi.

I have had the privilege of being actively engaged in ecbi from its very start, and I think that its secret is the combination of serious research, manifest in a series of topical and high-quality reports, a deep – and all the time deepening – knowledge of the realities of the positions of the different countries, and the capacity to organize informal sessions between key negotiators where the atmosphere is always light and constructive. This easy-going atmosphere is a great asset and has also attracted leading negotiators.

Furthermore, in reading this report you will see that ecbi has concentrated its efforts to some of the most central areas of negotiation. Examples are the financial issues, the adaptation fund, and the facilitation of some other central areas for the ADP, such as differentiation and the dynamic contribution cycle.

All these represent central issues in trust-building between key negotiators, and between chairpersons of central negotiating bodies. But we should also remember that ecbi is making important contributions to capacity-building in organizing seminars for young negotiators from developing countries, thus paving the way for future negotiations.

All these features are to a large extent due to the personality of Benito Müller and to his hard work and that of his highly competent small staff.



Pa Ousman Jarju

Special Envoy on Climate Change, Republic of the Gambia

This report reflects the good work the ecbi continues to do under the dynamic leadership of Benito Müller.

As the world prepares for the Paris Conference on climate change, the willingness and enthusiasm shown by the political and business leadership to limit the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial level is very encouraging.

With three sessions of negotiations scheduled for negotiators to streamline and reduce the Geneva text of 900 pages with 550 options between now and Paris, the need for trust and confidence building is paramount.

Despite the strong and diverse positions reflected in the negotiation text, I am confident that the critical role the ecbi has played in creating a conducive environment for honest and frank discussion on contentious issues through the Bonn Seminars and Oxford Fellowships will contribute immensely towards trust and confidence building in the road to Paris.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Benito for his strength and energy in pursuit of innovative ideas, to find solutions and consolidate the trust and confidence between developed and developing country Parties in the UNFCCC process.

I would also like to thank the funders of ecbi, notably Sida and GIZ, for their continued financial support.

The ecbi Fellowship provided a unique opportunity for the participants to share ideas and be creative. Having time to think and to share proposals informally contributes not only to progress in the negotiations at the conceptual level, but to building stronger trust relationships between negotiators, which are at the core of achieving ambitious agreements. The Fellowship provided a privileged space for achieving this objective, both with fellow colleagues from developing countries, and with colleagues from European countries. It can contribute to positive outcomes in the negotiations.

Isabel Cavalier Adarve
AILAC

ECBI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The ecbi governance structures and modalities have evolved over time to reflect programming changes, and to ensure maximum transparency and country-drivenness of the ecbi outputs. The governance structure comprises two Committees; three Lead Member Institutions including Oxford Climate Policy (OCP), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the Legal Response Initiative (LRI); two Programmes (the Fellowship Support Programme and the Training & Support Programme, or TSU); and a cross-cutting Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU).

The Executive Committee

The Lead Member Institutions nominate a representative for the ecbi Executive Committee, which in turn appoints the ecbi Director and the Programme and PPAU heads. The PPAU, which serves a crosscutting function by meeting the policy needs of both Programmes, is jointly managed.

The Executive Committee includes the ecbi Director and the Programme and PPAU Heads as ex-officio members. This Committee has the following tasks:

- Allocate ecbi core funding to the three funding windows, with advice from the Advisory Committee.
- Elect the ecbi Director. The ecbi Director is the spokesperson for the ecbi, and is responsible for common activities. S/he chairs the Executive Committee, and is an ex-officio participant at Advisory Committee meetings.
- Provide guidance, if requested, to the two Programme Heads for day-to-day Programme management.
- Appoint the Head of the PPAU, and take decisions on PPAU activities.

The Executive Committee is collectively responsible for the overall administrative and financial management of ecbi. It takes decisions by consensus. Where that is not possible, the decision is referred to the Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee provides strategic guidance for the content of the initiative. The Executive Committee appoints the Advisory Committee members, keeping in mind the need to have both gender and North-South balance in addition to proven expertise in international climate negotiations. Funders can also nominate a representative to the Advisory Committee (although the Committees may set a minimum contribution in this context). Membership is for the duration of the funding Phase, and can be renewed.

The Advisory Committee has two Co-Chairs (one from a developing country and the other from Europe) chosen by the Committee members from within the membership. The Director is responsible for operational support to the two Co-Chairs.

The Advisory Committee also oversees the external monitoring and evaluation of the ecbi activities and may, with approval from ecbi funders, approve changes in budget lines. The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee meet at least once annually, usually during the June meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

ECBI ACTIVITIES

Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship Programme organised six events during the year: the **Bonn Seminar**, the **Oxford Fellowships and Seminar**, and four **Ad Hoc Seminars**.

Bonn Seminar 2014

The Bonn Seminar was held on 9 June 2014 in the Altes Rathaus in Bonn. It was attended by over 45 negotiators and representatives from developing countries and Europe, including the two Chairs of the Ad-Hoc Group on the Durban Platform (ADP), the key negotiating body for the future climate agreement.

Discussions were held on: financial support for climate change; whether or not the post-2015 climate Agreement should differentiate expected engagement of countries by using ex-ante country lists (Annexes); and how to ensure a just outcome, both with respect to equity (intragenerational justice) and ambition (intergenerational justice). In this context, participants discussed procedural lessons from the Berlin Mandate, options for using Quantified Emission Limitation and Reduction Objectives (QELROS), and the potential for a 'Southern Solidarity Fund'.

Bo Kjellén, Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and chaired the sessions. The proceedings began with the reading of a message from the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Jürgen Nimptsch, who praised the ecbi for "opening doors for trust and understanding in the global climate debate by advancing an exchange between ... North and South".

The first session, on who should contribute to financial support, discussed the idea of a Southern Solidarity Fund (SSF). Benito Müller, ecbi director, said some developing countries might be opposed to contributing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) because such contributions could be viewed as an admission of responsibility for climate change. However, he said, a lot of South-South cooperation does take place – up to the tune of US\$ 10 billion in 2011. He proposed "depoliticizing" the option of developing countries contributing to climate finance under the UNFCCC, by creating a GCF operated SSF for voluntary contributions by developing countries. This would allow the developing country contributions to take advantage of the GCF infrastructure, Müller said, and provide an option for countries to do as much as they would wish to, but without unacceptable political implications.

The discussion highlighted that the SSF is only needed if developing countries feel it would be inappropriate to contribute to the GCF itself, but may wish to use its amenities to disburse South-South funding consolidate funding streams, instead of using bilateral channels.

The next session discussed one of the most controversial issues under the ADP: the issue of "differentiation", or how the difference between "developed" ("richer", "more capable", "more responsible") and "developing" ("poorer", "less capable", "less responsible") countries should be reflected in the new Agreement. At the Bonn Seminar, ecbi presented two options for the agreement: introducing a new annex (Annex "P", where P stands for Paris) with an ex-ante list of "developed" countries; or, less controversially, a more flexible use of the terms "developed" and "developing" in conjunction with terms such as "appropriate to national circumstances" to express differentiated expectations on what countries are meant to do, without associating an ex-ante operational listing of these categories. This session also discussed how legally binding contributions could be part of the new agreement, how pledges could be translated into more binding formats, and ways to ensure compliance.

In a session on lessons from the Berlin Mandate, Kjellén listed a number of lessons from the process leading up to and beyond the 1995 Mandate, including the need for clarity on process, substance, and the eventual goal (for instance, whether it should be a protocol); agreement on all but the central issues before the final conference, leaving only a few outstanding political points for negotiation between ministers; and ensuring continuity of processes, by having the same Chairs for the negotiations until the end.

More details of the Bonn Seminar discussion can be found [here](#).

Throughout the last years the ecbi capacity-building Seminar has been providing an excellent opportunity to understand each other's positions better and to learn more about the rationale behind them in an open and conducive environment. The mixture between facilitated substantial debates on the most important and pressing climate change issues on the one hand and social events on the other hand constitute the unique character of the ecbi Seminar. Therefore the ecbi forms an important input to move the international climate change cooperation and negotiations forward which should not be underestimated.

Ilka Wagner

Deputy Head of the delegation to the UNFCCC, Germany

Outcomes from the Bonn Seminar

There are at least two instances where the discussion from the Bonn Seminar (later elaborated in ecbi publications and in the Oxford Seminar) may have directly influenced the negotiations.

In the context of the discussion on using a more flexible terminology to differentiate between countries, the Non-paper on elements for a draft negotiating text by the ADP co-chairs, published on 11 November 2014, uses the notion of “Parties in a position to do so” in a very similar manner to that proposed by the ecbi. The paper refers, for instance, to resources that are “to be mobilized by developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so”, or to commitments to be taken on by “non-Annex I Parties that are in a position to do so”. The [Lima Call for Action](#), the outcome document from the 20th Conference of Parties (COP 20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, also includes an annex on Elements for a draft negotiating text which refers to the provision of support and finance by “Developed country Parties and/or Annex II Parties and/or all Parties in a position to do”. ecbi has a reasonable claim to having supported and facilitated this outcome if this formulation prevails in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The second instance of possible impact relates to the SSF proposal. At the Climate Summit in New York in September 2014, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli announced that “China will work hard to promote South-South cooperation on climate change. I wish to announce here that starting from next year, China will double its annual financial support for the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change.” This fund will clearly provide China with the sort of instrument envisaged in the ecbi publications, which demonstrates South-South Solidarity without compromising China’s development status. Speaking at a [high-level forum on South-South cooperation on climate change](#) in Lima, Xie Zhenhua, China’s chief negotiator and vice-chair of the National Development and Reform Commission, made it clear that this was the intention, and invited other countries to participate.

ecbi Fellowship Colloquium and Oxford Seminar

The ecbi Fellowship Colloquium took place from 25-27 August 2014 in Merton College, Oxford, followed by the Oxford Seminar on 28 & 29 August 2014. During the Fellowship Colloquium, 13 senior negotiators from developing countries discussed key areas of concern including general architecture of a future climate agreement, mitigation, finance and adaptation. Two special sessions considered gender issues and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

Sixteen negotiators from Europe joined the Fellows during the Oxford Seminar. Participants included: the COP Presidency's Director of the Environment; both Co-Chairs and the Lead Coordinator of the ADP; the Chair of the Africa Group; lead negotiators from Europe; senior representatives from Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and key office holders in bodies of the UNFCCC, including members of the Adaptation and Compliance Committees, a Co-Chair of Work Programme on Long-term Climate Finance, and a National Focal Point.

The discussions during the Seminar focused on: the general architecture of the 2015 Paris Agreement; the cycle of contributions; mitigation; finance; and adaptation.

On the general architecture of the 2015 Paris Agreement, participants discussed: the term 'legally binding' and its application in the Agreement; whether the Agreement should make it possible for contributions to be bound by international law; and expectation of differences in engagement under the Agreement between developed and developing countries.

During the Fellowship, developing country negotiators had a discussion on the following questions:

- What should be the purpose of the cycle of commitments/contributions referred to in section IX of the [ADP co-chairs' non-paper](#)?
- Should there be a review of commitments/contributions?
- What should be the time period of mitigation commitments/contributions?

This discussion resulted in the development of the concept of "Dynamic Cycle of Contributions", which was presented to the European negotiators during the Oxford Seminar. Introducing Figure 1 (below), the Fellows said that it would be desirable to have five-year contribution terms. For instance, in the case of the term from 2025 to 2029 (blue rectangle), an **ex-post review of the performance** in the preceding term (2020-2024) would take place during the first two years of the term (2025/2026). In the third year (2027), countries would determine their final Nationally Determined Contributions for the next term (2030-2034) on the basis of that review, and of an **ex-ante assessment in 2023/2024 of the intended (2030-2034) figures**. At the end of the third year (2027), they inscribe these NDCs, and simultaneously submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) for the term after (2035-2039). The latter will undergo an ex-ante assessment during the last two years (2028/2029) of the term.

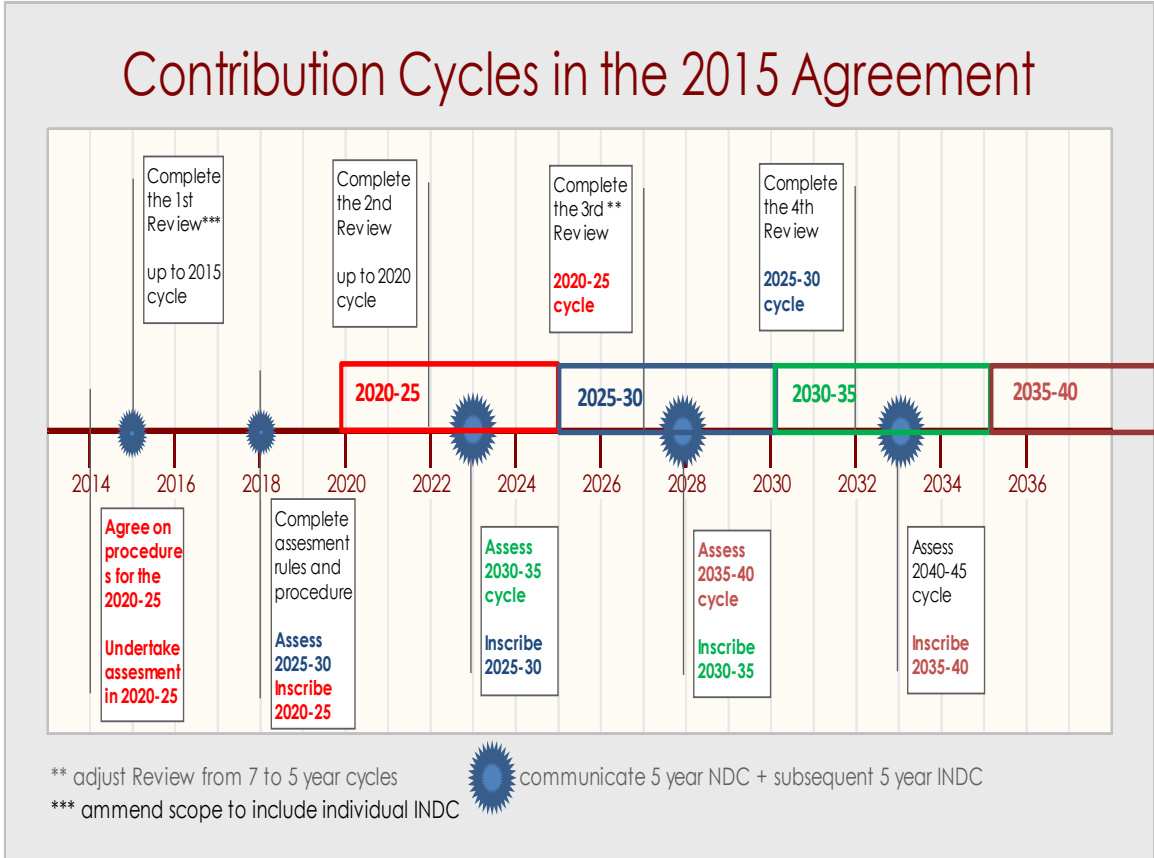
Another excellent meeting organized by ecbi: well attended by many key players; a genuine exchange of innovative ideas; and a uniquely convivial and non-confrontational atmosphere. A very worthwhile event.

Peter Betts

Director for International Climate Change, Department of Energy and Climate Change, UK

It was explained that once a country puts forward a contribution that has been agreed at the highest level nationally, it becomes difficult for the contribution to be changed on the basis of any ex-ante review carried out internationally. A dynamic cycle, such as the one proposed, would allow countries to overcome this problem by putting forward indicative figures for the five years after the next term at the same time as they inscribe the contributions for that next term. Once the future indicative figures are assessed ex-ante, they can go back to the national level for potential revision and adjustments on the basis of this ex-ante assessment and the ex-post review, before endorsement at the highest national level.

Figure 1: Contribution cycles in the 2015 Agreement



One Fellow noted that the proposal was based on the experiences of the sulphur dioxide cap-and-trade programme in the US, which considered two-term cycles at one time. He said a big flaw with the Kyoto Protocol was that it only took one commitment period into account, and added that a five-year cycle is likely to be in step with government planning cycles in most countries.

On mitigation, participants discussed: how to ensure mitigation ambition; the substantive forms of mitigation INDCs that should be included in the Agreement; the legal nature of mitigation INDCs that should be included in the Agreement; whether there should be differentiation in the handling of transparency of action; and whether long-term and collective aspects of mitigation be reflected in the 2015 Agreement.

On finance, participants discussed: what legal nature and substantive form of financial contributions should be made available in the Agreement; whether there should be overall financial contribution figures, and how these figures could be evidence-based and predictable; whether there should be differentiation in who contributes

and who receives; how to enhance measuring, reporting and verification of support; how to ensure that a significant amount of adaptation funding goes through the GCF; and who should pay for developing INDCs.

On adaptation and loss and damage, participants discussed possible substantive and legal forms of adaptation contributions that should be made available in the Paris Agreement; whether the institutions that have already been created on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework should be inscribed into the Paris; and further arrangements for loss and damage in the Paris Agreement.

More details of the discussions can be found in the report of the [2014 Oxford Seminar](#).

I was very grateful to attend this year's ecbi Oxford Fellowship for climate change negotiators. I am convinced that this has been a very valuable exercise, both for its intellectual appeal and its practical implications in the negotiation process. The focused issues, the small number of participants and the provocative facilitation of the discussions contributed greatly to going beyond the already well-known concepts and national positions. On some issues, I believe the dialogue produced ideas which could be usefully brought to the formal negotiating settings. Of course, the casual, week-long interaction with colleagues from developing countries has also strengthened confidence among us. Furthermore, the discussion with our European counterparts has also allowed us to identify some emerging convergences. Clearly, as a Peruvian, representing this year the Presidency of COP20/CMP10, the Seminar has provided me with a timely and valuable capital of new insights and friendships.

Rómulo Acurio

Deputy Representative of Peru for Climate Change, Peru

Feedback on the Oxford Fellowship and Seminar

The Fellowship Colloquium and Seminar was received a high rating in the feedback forms marked by participants. The format of the Fellowship colloquium was cited several times as the key to the event's success in the feedback and evaluation, with one Fellow noting that "it brought together representatives from different groups to discuss issues... there are very few opportunities to do this." Another said that it was a "space to truly brainstorm and think, rather than negotiation". Another appreciated the "brainstorming and thinking outside the box..[that] allowed for .. creative approaches to[find] solutions".

As with previous Fellowships, the informal tone coupled with the Chatham House Rule was highlighted as useful: it gave a "chance for participants to explain to each other and to reason with each other in a very civilised way", while "allow[ing] participants to take their national hats off and ... move beyond their official red lines to have a candid and constructive engagement". One of the European Seminar participants agreed, saying that "in this informal setting, it was possible to get out of negotiators-mode and ... have long conversations with colleagues from China and LDC's that are normally much more difficult to approach".

Several European participants had suggested, in 2013, that they would also like the opportunity to stay at Merton College alongside the Fellows, rather than in hotels in Oxford. This option was offered and taken up by 80% of the participants in 2014. This was also appreciated by Fellows: as one remarked, "the programme made a significant improvement this year by having developed country participants accommodated on site. This allowed for more social interaction, which was in turn conducive to better discussions". Another added that "the Seminar itself was very interesting but the most important part is the socialising. It helps enormously to get to know each other outside the UNFCCC in order to understand each other better".

The quality of the venues, accommodation and hospitality were also commended by respondents, with the academic environment being “inspiring”.

Attending the Oxford Seminar is an opportunity for negotiators from all groups and regions to focus discussions on opportunities rather than barriers, on solutions rather than problems. It is a forum where delegates attend and listen to each other with an aim of understanding the underlying reasons for respective positions. Negotiation is, to a large extent, about managing expectations and the Oxford Seminar plays a vital role in allowing for delegates to meet and to work towards the same level of expectation and it does so in a context and an environment which allow for negotiators to, in spite of different positions, seek a way forward towards a common goal.

Johanna Lissinger Peitz

Head of Section, Division of Eco-management and Chemicals Ministry of Environment, Sweden

Outcomes from the Oxford Fellowship and Seminar

The idea of a Dynamic Cycle of Contributions, developed at the Oxford Seminar, was formally proposed by Brazil and the Asociación Independiente de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (AILAC), and is currently part of the negotiating text for the Paris Agreement. This section briefly explains how the idea came to be included in the negotiating text.

During the 2014 Fellowship, it was agreed that some of the Fellows and the ecbi Director would write an [OCP/ecbi Concept Note](#) describing the idea of the Dynamic Cycle of Contributions. A review draft of this concept note was disseminated by the authors and contributors in the run-up to, and also during, the Informal Meeting held by the Government of Peru in Lima 1-3 October 2014.

At the October session of the ADP in Bonn, Brazil, supported by South Africa, proposed the Dynamic Contribution Cycle in a plenary intervention. The lead authors subsequently continued the discussion with European colleagues at a small dinner hosted by ecbi during the meeting.

On 6 November 2014, Brazil made a [formal submission](#) to the UNFCCC, explicitly proposing the Dynamic Contribution Cycle. This proposal was subsequently included in the updated [Non-paper on elements for a draft negotiating text](#), in the section on Time frames and process related to commitments/contributions.

During the negotiations of the ADP Elements Text, AILAC proposed the inclusion of text that clearly reflects the Dynamic Contribution Cycle: “Decides that Parties shall [...] communicate to the secretariat their intended nationally determined contributions on mitigation for 2020 to 2025, including an indicative contribution for 2030, [...]”. While this language did not survive, the idea was still significantly reflected in the section on Time frames and process related to commitments/contributions/Other matters related to implementation and ambition of the Elements Text, which was appended in the [Lima Call for Climate Action](#). Indeed, the idea was actually more prominent than in the original non-paper by the Co-Chairs.

It became apparent in Lima that the idea of the Dynamic Contribution Cycle was finding favour among Parties, as it accommodates the main concerns of the negotiations, reflected in the call for 5 year vs. 10 year cycles previously, and regarded as mutually exclusive options. The most recent ADP session, which took place in Geneva from 8-13 February 2015, retained the Dynamic Contribution Cycle Options, and also introduced an explicit reference to the “dynamic contribution cycle”: “The Conference of the Parties shall review the adequacy of

the sum of individual commitments by Parties, the relation of the aggregate effort for keeping temperature increases to below 2 / 1.5 °C, and the equity of relative efforts. The review shall be an integral part of the dynamic contribution cycle (section J). On the basis of this review, the Conference of the Parties shall take appropriate action, which may include the adoption of amendments to the commitments.”

As always, the ecbi Seminar brought together a range of key negotiators from developing and European countries to exchange freely, enabling us to understand each other's ideas and needs for the 2015 Paris Agreement, to start to explore ways we might recombine proposals as we work towards an agreement. The Seminar dinner took place in the Ashmolean Museum, surrounded by classical statues. We learnt that despite initial appearances, many had been patched up over the years, repaired more or less well, sometimes with pieces from other works like a statue of a man with a woman's feet. I guess that illustrates quite well the nature of ecbi, to take apparent opposites, things that you might not expect to find together, pieces from here, pieces from there, and realize that they might, in fact, work together. Now we need a sculptor!

Paul Watkinson

Head of Climate Negotiating Team, France

Ad-hoc Seminars

Four ecbi ad hoc seminars were held during this reporting period, targeted towards specialized groups, to discuss: Enhanced Direct Access under the Green Climate Fund (GCF); the Dynamic Cycle of Contributions; and the future role and function of existing adaptation funding instruments, with a special focus on the Adaptation Fund. The fourth seminar was organized for the African Group of Negotiators.

On 13 October 2014, on the evening before the eighth meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board (GCFB 8) in Barbados, the ecbi organised an ad hoc seminar for the GCF Caucus on the topic of Enhanced Direct Access, in particular, the findings of the ecbi Policy Brief [*Devolved Access Modalities: Lessons for the Green Climate Fund from existing practice*](#). There were participants from Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Germany, India, Mali, Norway, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA. While many of the suggestions made by ecbi were reflected in a paper prepared by the GCF Secretariat for consideration by the Board, the outcome and final Board decision on the EDA pilot will be decided at a future Board meeting.

A week later, on 21 October 2014, a small group met in Bonn to further develop the Dynamic Cycle of Contributions, first discussed at the Fellowship in August. Participants included the Lead Coordinator of the ADP and negotiators from Belgium, Brazil, the EU, South Africa and the UK.

On 7 December 2014, during twentieth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 20) to the UNFCCC in Lima, the ecbi, in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, arranged an ad hoc seminar on the future role and function of existing adaptation funding instruments, with a special focus on the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund. It was attended by senior negotiators from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belgium, Burkina Faso, the EU, France, Germany, Ghana, Samoa, Senegal and Switzerland. Among them were the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and the Chair and members of the Adaptation Fund Board. The presentation and subsequent discussion were very well received. It was agreed with the outgoing and incoming Adaptation Fund Board chair, and the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, that the ecbi would hold a similar event for all the Adaptation Fund Board members at the next Adaptation Fund Board meeting in April 2015.

Finally, a seminar was convened for the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) on 11 February 2015, in Geneva. It was attended by the AGN Chair and ecbi Fellows and members of the African Group of Negotiators, and negotiators from the DRC, Egypt, South Africa, Sudan and Togo.

Being involved in the UNFCCC process for a decade now, having experienced the coordination of G77 and China, and now chairing the AGN, I found [the ecbi Seminar for the AGN] may be the most appropriate setting to discuss some of the key issues in the climate change negotiation and build understanding on their technical aspects. Now I understand why the Fellowship has contributed to shaping some of the issues under the negotiations (finance). I also found it a very unique opportunity for us as a group (AGN) to improve other Parties' understanding, and get some critical feedback on some of our key proposals (e.g. adaptation goal, adaptation INDCs). Finally, I would like to commend your leadership and ability to stimulate and facilitate the discussion all the time, even during coffee and meal breaks. I think you should continue this programme till we safely manage to achieve our 2°C global temperature goal.

Nagmeldin Goutbi Elhassan
Chair of the African Group of Negotiators

Training & Support Programme

Training

The ecbi Pre-COP Training Workshop for new LDC negotiators at COP 20 took place at the Los Girasoles Hotel, Lima, on 30 November 2014. It was attended by 20 junior negotiators, including eight women, from Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DRC, The Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda. The workshop covered the history of the LDC Group; an introduction to the UNFCCC negotiations; and key issues for LDCs in the COP 20 agenda. Most participants rated the workshop as “excellent” and “very useful” in the feedback forms. More information is available in the [workshop report](#).

LRI held a legal training workshop for climate negotiators in Lusaka on 14 and 15 May 2014. Shula Mwamba, a member of the local partner, the Focus Climate Network, described the event as a rare opportunity to strengthen the knowledge and skills of negotiators, lawyers and politicians in Zambia. She said: “This means that the representatives of Zambia will go to UN negotiations on climate change in Germany next month better equipped to negotiate a solid outcome for our country and our people.”

The workshop focused on the practical legal skills that government officials need to have not only to influence the global agreement on climate change that all nations are set to sign in 2015, but also to understand what the UN agreement will mean for the law at home in Zambia. On the second day a group of law students joined the meeting. [Zambian TV broadcast a report](#) on the workshop.

ecbi has been a welcoming and safe space to jointly nail down areas of discord or contention and look at them under a magnifying glass. The atmosphere created by ecbi leads to a deepened understanding and deepened friendships and trust – all key factors for any success in global negotiations.

Kasia Snyder
Head of Negotiations Team, Poland

Support

Last year, ecbi extended its list of “ecbi caucuses” – informal groups on specific subjects for members from particularly vulnerable countries to share experiences and exchange views – to include the SCF and GCFB.

The ecbi Director informally interacted with caucus members during SCF and GCFB meetings, which he attended as adviser to LDC members. He was directly involved the organization of a discussion on “Country Ownership and Enhancing Direct Access” convened by the Indonesian host in advance of GCFB 6 in February 2014.

Feedback on this support notes that the advice provided on country ownership, access modalities and resource allocation resulted in influencing decisions. For example, the resource allocation for LDCs, small island developing states (SIDS) and African countries was adjusted upward; and further direction was provided by the Board on the basis of this advice, to advance the issue of enhanced direct access.

In the process of climate change negotiations, fundamental positions are, generally, sufficiently established by the Parties. But between the different positions are substantive differences, so it is crucial to look for ideas that are innovative, but also balanced, to contribute to the necessary consensus. The main space for it is the negotiation itself, but it is especially helpful to have other moments like this Seminar, where the seeds of some ideas can be fed in an objective and transparent manner, using these ideas as bridges, not barriers, without prejudging positions on the negotiating process.

The ecbi Seminar is a creative space, a respectful forging of ideas, allowing a fluent and flexible mood of work that does not negate the different visions, but facilitates talking frankly, and being able to move from the dialogue to the design of elements that can be considered in the negotiation.

Personally, I watched this process develop since the Seminar in 2010, with the developments of ideas around what would become the Standing Committee on Finance. I know, from the history of the Seminar that other initiatives have been also originated here. The fact that it happens in the course of a week, attests to the conducive climate that the Seminar provides, the transparency with which it operates, and the real commitment of the organizers and participants. This becomes all the more important at the gates of a new climate agreement. Since this agreement is to be adopted in its general architecture in 2015, but will require a deeper understanding and development of specific aspects, between 2015 and 2020, the role of the Seminar, far from diminishing, increases, and I hope that it can continue to contribute to our common goal, on fighting climate change.

Orlando Rey Santos

Member of Compliance Committee, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba

The Oxford Seminar 2014 was a great occasion to better understand developing countries' views and concerns based on an informal and frank exchange. Interesting new ideas were raised and discussed, and it was encouraging to see some potential common ground emerging. The timing of the Seminar in the beginning of the autumn and the run up to Lima-COP in December was excellent!

Harri Laurikka

Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Finland and Chair of Nordic Working Group on Global Climate Negotiations (NOAK)

Publications and Policy Analysis Unit

Once again this year, the symbiotic and successful relationship between ecbi's programmes and publications was in evidence. The proposal for a Dynamic Contribution Cycle for the 2015 Paris agreement is an example: the idea that arose out of the 2014 Oxford Seminar, was evolved further in the Bonn Seminar and in an ecbi publication ([*A Dynamic Contribution Cycle: Sequencing Contributions in the 2015 Paris Agreement*](#)), and in turn, became the basis for a number of submissions by Parties (including Brazil and AILAC) to the UNFCCC. The ecbi Note was co-authored by the ecbi Director and a number of negotiators, including from the countries that submitted the proposal (Xolisa J. Ngwadla from South Africa, Jose D. G. Miguez from Brazil, Isabel Cavalier Adarve from Colombia, Carlos Fuller from Belize, Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu from the DRC, and Nagmeldin G. Elhassan from Sudan). The proposal for such a Dynamic Contribution Cycle is now part of the negotiating text for Paris (more details are included in Section 1 of Outcomes and Emerging Impacts).

A number of ecbi publications this year have focused on the GCF, which is in a crucial formative phase. Publications such as [*Consolidation and devolution of national climate finance: The case of India*](#) and [*Engaging Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in developing countries: Enhanced Direct Access and the GCF Private Sector Facility*](#) aim to encourage GCF Board members to consider the functioning of the GCF from a bottom-up perspective, and take into account national needs and circumstances as they design the operational policies of this new and crucial Fund. The aim and intent of the ecbi publications has been, once again, to be a step ahead of the negotiations and discussions, and to have material ready to influence and inform negotiators and Board members when the issue arrives on the agenda. Once the GCF is functional, for instance, the issue of rationalizing the climate finance architecture is likely to arise. The future of the Adaptation Fund, for instance, is likely to be discussed. [*The Adaptation Fund at a Crossroads*](#) is an ecbi publication that aims to inform negotiators of their options as and when this happens.

Finally, the ecbi has found, over the years, that meeting reports can serve an important function that goes beyond simple reporting. When written and produced well, such reports can serve as food for thought, and inform a much broader audience of the state of play of the negotiations. Even while adhering to the Chatham House rule, the reports serve as a critical insight into what different negotiating groups are thinking on a particular issue, and what issues they are likely to prioritise.

The list of ecbi publications for FY 2014-2015, presented below, therefore includes a mix of cutting-edge ideas; prescient analysis; and clearly presented information, as in previous years. PPAU published 14 ecbi branded publications.

The outreach mechanisms that have been most successful for ecbi policy analysis include presentations to senior negotiators at events organized by ecbi and others; distribution of the Policy Briefs at these events; and the inclusion of negotiators in the process of writing / reviewing the report to ensure better ownership.

ecbi provides an important space for both developing countries and European colleagues to better understand their views and to test new and innovative ideas to advance the negotiation process. The richness of the discussions has often been proven relevant to craft proposals that advance the negotiation process in many ways. More than that, the unique selling point of this programme that surpasses any of the others that aim at building capacity for negotiation is that it places the human perspective at the heart of its agenda. This is obviously an important dimension that could not be neglected, if one is expecting to find a consensus on climate change issues. Happy 10th anniversary!

Sandra Freitas

Technical advisor to the LDC group, Delegation of the Republic of Togo

Annotated List of Publications

1. *Oxford Seminar 2014 – ecbi Tenth Anniversary Special*. The 2014 ecbi Oxford Seminar took place on 28 and 29 August 2014 in the University of Oxford Examination Schools. The ecbi celebrated its tenth anniversary during the Seminar. A three-day Fellowship Colloquium took place before the Seminar, from 25-27 August, in Merton College, Oxford. The 15 senior negotiators from developing countries who participated in the Fellowship Colloquium were joined by 18 senior negotiators from Europe during the Oxford Seminar. The discussions focused on the general architecture of the 2015 Paris Agreement, mitigation, adaptation and finance. During the Fellowship, developing country negotiators also came up with a “contribution cycle” for the 2015 Paris agreement, which was discussed with European colleagues during the Seminar. An agreement on these issues will be a keystone in Paris Agreement architecture.

2. *ecbi Annual Report 2013-2014*. FY 2013-2014 marked the penultimate year of the current Phase III of the ecbi, a time for taking stock in order to plan for the future. A Sida funded independent evaluation of the activities between 2011 and 2013 found that the ecbi fulfils a need not met by other initiatives, and has become an established presence in the climate change negotiation field. The initiative is set apart by its participatory, impartial, developing country-led approach, which is rooted in negotiation experience.

3. *Bonn Seminar 2014*. The 2014 ecbi Bonn Seminar took place at the Altes Rathaus in Bonn, Germany, on the afternoon of 9 June. The Seminar was attended by over 45 negotiators and representatives from developing countries and Europe, including the two Chairs of the ADP, the key negotiating body for the future climate agreement. Discussions were held on: financial support for climate change; whether or not the post-2015 climate agreement should differentiate expected engagement of countries by using ex-ante country lists (Annexes); and how to ensure a just outcome, both with respect to equity (intra-generational justice) and ambition (intergenerational justice).

4. *Establishing a GCF operated Southern Solidarity Fund: Legal Options and Challenges*. A new ecbi Legal Note by Charlotte Streck and David Rossati explores the options for establishing such a Southern Solidarity Fund as a separate, ring-fenced funding entity operated by the GCF.

5. *South-South Solidarity in Climate Finance: A GCF Operated Southern Solidarity Fund*. This Concept Note by Benito Müller introduces the idea of a Southern Solidarity Fund, to be operated by the Green Climate Fund, which would allow solidarity contributions to climate finance by developing countries as part of South-South collaboration.

The ecbi Fellowship and Seminar provide a unique space for fruitful exchanges among negotiators and scientists. Usually, negotiators find themselves in rigid settings that are unfortunately often not conducive to finding common ground among a diverse set of countries. The ecbi Seminar overcomes this problem by promoting innovative, at times daring, thinking and open discussions. The ecbi Fellowship and Seminar 2014 will certainly not be the last of its kind to leave a lasting impact on climate negotiations by promoting common ground and forward-looking solutions that are in the interest of us all.

Stefan Ruchti

Head, Environment and Sustainable Development, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

6. *QELROs in Paris: How to Create Room for Legally Binding (Mitigation) Obligations in the 2015 Climate Agreement*. A new ecbi Legal Note by Wouter Geldhof, Tom Ruys, and Benito Müller which considers the legal options for creating such a space for QELROs in the Paris Agreement. In particular, it explores the legal feasibility of having an annex to a Treaty/Protocol where Parties could inscribe targets, which would automatically become legally binding.

7. *Reflections on the Berlin Mandate: Process and Substance*. As Chief Negotiator for Sweden, Ambassador Bo Kjellén participated actively in high-level informal consultations before COP 1 in Berlin. In this paper, he reflects on his experiences as Chair of a high-level working group on the Berlin Mandate, to provide an insider's view of the Berlin Mandate process, and draw lessons for the ongoing negotiations for a post-2020 climate regime.

8. *The Adaptation Fund at a Crossroads*. What is the future of adaptation financing under a new global climate agreement and beyond the UNFCCC? What role will an actor such as the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund, which strengthened country ownership by pioneering direct access, play as a result of ongoing efforts to rationalize the global climate finance architecture with the full operationalization of the GCF as a new major player? These are some of the questions that were put to the participants of a discussion meeting convened by the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America and ecbi on 7 December 2014 (during UN Climate Conference in Lima/Peru).

9. *Consolidation and devolution of national climate finance: The case of India*. National and international finance is increasingly becoming available in developing countries to address climate change for both mitigation and adaptation. However, existing (domestic) arrangements for climate finance are often dispersed and fragmentary, and lack clear goals and strategies, therefore allowing for neither efficiency nor accountability.

This ecbi Policy Brief by Anju Sharma, Benito Müller, and Pratim Roy examines the governance arrangements for climate finance in India, and proposes the creation of an Indian National Climate Fund to pool climate finance from different national and international sources, to channel it to the State and local levels. The Brief finds that the Fund should seek to “consolidate without centralisation”, and to devolve decision-making on the use of climate finance to local governments.

The Brief aimed to inform the GCF Board on potential options for improving the impact of the Fund on the ground, and influence national policy making in this respect. Written after extensive consultation with policy makers in India, it resulted in a request from the GCF Board Member from India for a wider consultation later in 2015, to discuss national climate finance governance arrangements. It has also been circulated to GCF Board members, who have appreciated the guidance the Brief offers in terms of suggestions for in-country accountability and transparency mechanisms.

10. *A Dynamic Contribution Cycle: Sequencing Contributions in the 2015 Paris Agreement*. In their Scenario Note on the sixth part of the second session of the ADP, the ADP Co-chairs emphasized that “it is essential to use the October session to make significant progress in clarifying and advancing the content of the 2015 agreement, to build bridges and to work together on outstanding issues. In particular, it will be important in the October session, to further clarify and flesh out the operational aspects of the agreement. Key challenges that will need focussed attention in our work include: deepening the understanding on the longer-term cycle of contributions/ commitments, including its periodicity (length) and the functions of the steps proposed, such as any periodical consideration or assessment and review”. This ecbi/OCP Concept Note by Benito Müller, Xolisa J. Ngwadla (South Africa), Jose D. G. Miguez (Brazil) with Isabel Cavelier Adarve (Colombia),

Carlos Fuller (Belize), Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu (DRC), and Nagmeldin G. Elhassan (Sudan) introduces the idea of a Dynamic Contribution Cycle as a contribution to the debate on these issues.

11. *Capacity Building is not only “Training”: Lessons Learned on the Provision of Advice as “Capacity Building” for Climate Change Negotiators*. A note from Benito Müller in response to a Working Paper on Supporting international climate negotiators: Lessons from CDKN. The paper includes the Climate and Development Knowledge Network’s theoretical approach to “amplifying the voices of the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries”; yet at the same time reveals some tensions between what practice requires and what funding rules permit. This Note discusses some of these tensions based on lessons learned providing support to international climate change negotiators.

12. *Country (Adaptation) Funding Needs in the GCF: Operationalising the “Country Needs” Investment Criterion*. In this submission to the GCF Investment Committee, Benito Müller considers how country needs can be taken into account while allocating adaptation resources.

13. *Engaging Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in developing countries: Enhanced Direct Access and the GCF Private Sector Facility*. Given that engaging local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at scale is critical to achieving sustainable low carbon growth in developing countries, this Working Paper puts forward a proposal for testing different nationally determined models of an in-country nationally consolidated and guided, but domestically devolved funding architecture for MSMEs under the GCF’s pilot phase for enhanced direct access.

14. *ecbi Pre-COP Training Workshop for LDCs*. The ecbi Training and Support Programme and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) organised a Pre-COP Training Workshop for LDC negotiators at the Los Girasoles Hotel in Lima, Peru, on 30 November 2014, in advance of COP 20. The full-day Workshop, attended by over 20 new LDC negotiators, sought to provide participants with a roadmap to navigate the complex, but crucial, two weeks of the COP. Participants rated the meeting as extremely useful in their feedback comments. “It has been very, or should I say extremely, helpful in bringing light on all the issues of this COP,” wrote one participant. “The meeting was informative and eye opener to me,” another participant wrote. “I have acquired the knowledge I needed to go through COP 20.”

ECBI Gender Strategy

The ecbi is fully cognizant of the importance of the participation of both women and men in every stage of the climate change negotiations and during implementation.

Of the total number of ecbi Fellows in the last five years, 28% were women. This ratio of participation in ecbi events depends on the gender ratio in national delegations, as ecbi Fellows and other Seminar participants are either chosen from among senior country negotiators, or choose to attend themselves (in the case of self-selection, when an ecbi event such as the Bonn Seminar is open for participation by negotiators from developing countries and Europe). The ratio of participation is comparable to participation in the UNFCCC, where 12-15% of Heads of Delegation and 37% of all UNFCCC Party delegates are women.

ecbi has actively encouraged group Chairs, who recommend and select participants based on their expertise on the topics on the agenda, to include gender balance as a primary consideration. While there have constraints such as the overall lower levels of participation of women in climate change and related fields, continued progress has been observed in the systematic integration of gender considerations in all ecbi activities.

ecbi's efforts to improve integration of gender considerations go beyond simply ensuring balance in participation in its activities. The Oxford Fellowship included a presentation on "Gender and Climate Change" in a Special Session, which was attended by all Fellows. In June 2014, ecbi nominated a Gender Strategy Monitor, launching internal and external discussions to identify options and opportunities for enhanced integration of gender in the ecbi activities, with some incremental additional steps in the context of the current programme, and planning for more comprehensive approaches in the context of the implementation of ecbi's Phase IV activities.

As incremental steps, ecbi collaborated with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) before COP 20 in Lima. This led to collaboration between IIED/ecbi-funded activities and GGCA activities for training and capacity building of women delegates at the COP.

Climate change negotiations are about finding effective pathways to a low-carbon future. Such global transformations require intense cooperation, based on mutual understanding and the development of common strategies. Bridge building among negotiating parties to the Convention is therefore of unquestionable importance. In this context, Benito Müller's initiative succeeds not only in bringing together many of the key individuals to the UNFCCC negotiations in a common setting, but to have them working together on possible innovative solutions. As a first-time participant in the ecbi Seminar, I can only highlight the outcome-oriented atmosphere between participants as well as the frankness of the discussions. With many crucial climate change negotiations still ahead of us, innovative thinking and cooperation will be two key elements of success, making the Seminar an event not to be missed in the future.

José Delgado

Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria