



PRESS RELEASE

20th Cairo Climate Talks

**February 18, 2014 at 6:30pm
German Science Center (DWZ) 11 Al-Saleh Ayoub St., Zamalek, Cairo**

“From Warsaw to Paris: Negotiating Global Climate Change”

The 20th [Cairo Climate Talks](#) brought together experts, government officials, and other stakeholders from Germany and Egypt to discuss crucial and often contentious negotiations to reach a global agreement on climate change.

“From Warsaw to Paris: Negotiating Global Climate Change” opened a critical discussion on the failures and successes of the last United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)) Conference of the Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw, Poland in 2013, and the goals for an international agreement at the upcoming talks in Paris (COP 21) in 2015.

Unlike the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which imposed greenhouse gas emissions reductions on wealthy, developed nations only, the COP 21 in Paris is expected to go a step further and include contributions by all nations that will take effect in 2020. As countries around the world work to prepare their contributions, they face a host of difficult questions, such as what types of emissions reductions targets each state should commit to, how binding agreements can be reached, implemented and enforced, and how the financial cost of climate change mitigation and adaptation can be fairly distributed.

H.E. Michael Bock, the German Ambassador to Egypt, opened the event, urging Germany, Egypt and all nations to come together to reach a meaningful agreement in Paris before the harmful effects of climate change become irreversible.

“I think this chance to get our act together is probably the last chance to act in common on an international level,” he told an audience of more than 150 officials, NGOs, scientists, press and public. “We all — including Egypt, Germany and other countries — have committed to put forward contributions in the first quarter of next year. This is the reason it is high time for all of us to prepare to get the numbers right and define sectors and measures where greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in an effective and efficient way.”

H.E. Dr. Laila Rashed Iskandar Kamel, Egyptian Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, urged Egypt to be forward-thinking and focus on a long-term vision which would include further development of one of its greatest natural resources — solar energy — and other renewable energy sources, rather than turn to coal or other fossil fuel imports.

Opening remarks were followed by a panel discussion featuring H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Samir Samy, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Camilla Bausch, Senior Management and Senior Fellow at the Ecologic Institute in Germany; and Eng. Lama El Hatow, Co-founder of the Egyptian National Climate Change Coalition and a Climate Policy Officer for IndyACT.

Ambassador Samy, who is Egypt's lead negotiator at the UNFCCC international climate change negotiations, said the government is in the process of gathering emissions data from each sector before preparing its plan for COP 21.

"We on our own are seriously lacking a lot to get to the point where we can decrease emissions and at the same time keep the economy going," he said, citing funding and know-how among the obstacles Egypt faces in implementing green technology and energy efficiency measures.

The government also needs to do more to increase public awareness of the disastrous potential impacts of climate change and how they can conserve energy and water use at home, Ambassador Samy said.

In response to developing nations' calls for funding, Dr. Bausch said that if countries such as Egypt put forth clear visions and goals for climate change measures or environmentally-friendly initiatives, Germany, as well as other European nations and multilateral institutions such as the UNFCCC or the World Bank, offer opportunities for financial and technical support.

Climate change negotiators from various states should not lose sight of the people they are representing and the very real impacts on their daily lives, said Ms. El Hatow, who has represented civil society groups at international climate change negotiations. Farmers in Egypt, for example, are already losing a significant portion of their annual harvest to rising temperatures.

"Ironically every time we've gone to negotiations it's on the brink of a natural disaster, but even with those, we still see this deadlock [of parties] and for me coming from civil society it's very frustrating," she said.

"Domestically we need to be accountable in terms of where our financing mechanisms are going ... there are things we can do domestically to incentive projects and one of the things we need to do is incentivize renewable energy by removing fossil fuel subsidies."

Dr. Bausch agreed that governments around the world need to reach compromises to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change.

"If you don't deliver, it's the people who are going to pay ... I hope we'll be clever in going to Paris with ambition and also a feeling of what we can achieve together and that will not repeat the mistakes of the Copenhagen conference in 2009," Dr. Bausch concluded.

Background Information:

The Cairo Climate Talks are conceived, organized and hosted as a cooperation between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs (EEAA), the German Science Center (DWZ), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Egyptian German High Level Joint Committee for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection (JCEE). For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact press@cairoclimatetalks.net.

About the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
https://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php

Panelist biographies:

Ambassador Mahmoud S. Samy has a long and varied career in diplomacy and has represented the Egyptian government at home and abroad in several capacities from legal services to foreign affairs and environmental issues. He is currently Egypt's Deputy Assistant Minister for Sustainable Development and Environmental Affairs, prior to which he served as Ambassador to the Netherlands from 2009 to 2013. He has also acted as Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and a legal advisor to Egypt's mission to the United Nations. In addition to the Netherlands, he has worked in Egypt's diplomatic missions in the United States and Rome.

Dr. Camilla Bausch works in the Senior Management and as Senior Fellow at Ecologic Institute. With respect to her research work, she focuses on the negotiations on the future UN climate regime after 2012, and on various aspects of international, European and national climate and energy policy. Trained as a lawyer, she has a strong background in legal and institutional analysis, complemented by several years of experience working in interdisciplinary and international settings. She is the Associate Editor of the quarterly journal "[CCLR - Carbon & Climate Law Review](#)", which covers climate regulation and the carbon market. She received her PhD in law from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), after writing her thesis on grid access regulations in the liberalized electricity market of the European Union (EU) with Prof. Dr. Schwintowski. Dr. Camilla Bausch also holds a diploma as a Russian teacher. In 2008 and 2009 Dr. Bausch took a sabbatical to work for Congressman [Edward J. Markey](#) (D-MA) in the [US House of Representatives](#). There she worked on climate and energy policies, and contributed to the "[Waxman-Markey-Bill](#)" ([American Clean Energy and Security Act](#)), which passed the House of Representatives in June 2009.

Lama El Hatow is an Environmental Specialist focused on climate change and water issues. She is the co-founder of the Egyptian National Climate Change Coalition (ENCCC), an umbrella coalition for organizations and initiatives working on climate change in Egypt. She also volunteers as a climate policy expert at IndyACT, an NGO working on climate campaigning in the Arab World. Lama has been attending the UNFCCC COP negotiations for the last five years since COP15, and is a member in the Climate Action Network (CAN) International, an umbrella organization of over 500 NGOs around the world focusing on climate campaigning. Lama is also currently a PhD Candidate in Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, doing her thesis on climate change impacts on water resources in Egypt.