



What Was Decided at COP24? –

- an Overview of Main Results

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After 2-week negotiations - the last day on extended time - the UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice, Poland ended Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, just before midnight with an agreement between 196 countries of the world.

The good news is that the countries agreed on a Rule Book for the implementation of the Paris Agreement to limit climate change and called for revision of the national climate plans (NDCs) and for strengthen actions by 2020.

The bad news are that there are still missing pieces of the Rule Book that the countries could not agree on, and it remained a big question what kind of climate funding will be included in the USD 100 billion for the developing countries by 2020.

The new rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement include:

- **Guidelines for national climate plans (NDCs)** that combined shall ensure that man-made climate change will only increase the global average temperature well below 2°C, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Among others, each NDC shall, with some exceptions, include information on:
 - How the country has estimated the greenhouse gas reductions from its actions.
 - How the NDC is the country's fair share of global efforts.
 - **The planning processes and implementation plans of the NDC** including any *public consultations, engagement with local communities and indigenous people, in a gender responsive manner, and relation to contextual matters*, including:
 - *sustainable development and poverty eradication*
 - contextual aspirations and priorities in the Paris Agreement (which is a reference to the preamble of the Paris Agreement that includes human rights, just transition and others that some countries including USA, did not wanted directly in the text)

Unfortunately, on the last day **disappeared paragraphs** that should have ensured that the NDCs also indicate any use of **emission reductions to compensate for aviation emissions and for emissions in other countries**. In both cases such transfer of mitigation outcome would be an income for the country. The lack of references to such transfers increases the risk of **double counting**, where the same reductions are both counted as part of national NDC and are sold to compensate for emissions outside the country.

A question on timeframe of NDCs was not agreed, so it still up to the countries to decide if the NDC shall be 5-year or 10-year.

Attempts **to include human rights** was also not successful, except for the above-mentioned indirect way with reference to the Paris Agreement.

- **National Adaptation Plans.** The countries are invited to develop national adaptation plans and present them according to a template, including plans, progress, barriers, and need for support, as well as inclusion of indigenous people and women. The adaptation plans can be presented with the NDCs.
- **For support to climate actions to developing countries**, it is agreed that the developed countries shall indicate how much they expect to support with public support, technology, etc. They shall also explain how the support is new and additional, how it is distributed between mitigation and adaptation, etc. This shall be reported every second year. Unfortunately, it was not agreed that climate finance shall be reporting according to its grant value, so developed countries can include loans fully that have much less real value than grants.

As part of finance, it was also agreed that the Adaptation Fund of the UNFCCC will serve the Paris Agreement. Otherwise it should close when the Kyoto Protocol ends. Finally, it was agreed that the future level of climate finance will be discussed in 2020, after the level is agreed to reach US\$ 100 billion/year.

- **The Technology Mechanism** continues with its Technology Executive Committee of the Climate Technology Center and Network. In addition to technology transfer and capacity building, the activities shall in the future also include support for innovation in the developing countries
- **The Transparency Framework** for climate action and support got detailed rules for reporting every second year. The reports shall, among others, include reductions in greenhouse emissions, mitigation actions, adaptation, support from developed to developing countries, and climate change related loss and damage. There are detailed rules for the reporting. This includes that countries shall indicate if reductions are used to compensate for emissions outside the country (transfer of mitigation outcome); but it seems that the rules are made in a way where countries might avoid this and not adjust their NDCs when they do this. Another problem is that accounting rules for forest and land-use are open for exaggeration of emission reductions. This is not a new problem, but COP24 did not manage to address it.

The first reports are due in 2024.

- **Global Stocktake.** Every 5th year the climate actions shall be assessed compared with the target of limiting global warming, support for climate actions in developing countries, etc. The first stocktake shall take place in 2022-2023, and then the countries shall present their new or revised NDCs for 2026-2030.

The agreements at COP24 include a large number of detailed rules, including for different committees, such as the **Compliance Committee and a Forum for Response Measures** (requested by the oil countries etc.) on the problems that climate actions can give, for instance **for producing oil countries** that cannot sell so much oil.

A number of issues were not covered by the COP24 agreements, including:

- The article 6 in the Paris Agreement stipulates that countries can **cooperate reductions**, so one country can pay reductions in another country and include the reductions in its own NDC. It was not possible to agree rules for this that could effectively avoid double counting. Thus, no agreement was reached on this. Negotiations will continue in 2019.
- The small island states wanted that climate change related **“loss and damage”** would have its own sections in the rules and that there would be possibilities for compensation. The developed countries were against that.

Increased Ambitions

With the new rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement, *there is a better framework for increasing climate actions, but how much the countries will do that is **entirely up to the countries***. After USA, Russia, and others during COP24 **rejected the proposal to “welcome” the IPCC 1.5°C report**, it was hard to agree on a strong urge to all countries to reduce emissions. The countries, however, **agreed to stress the urgency of enhanced ambitions** to ensure the highest possible mitigation and adaptation efforts of all countries. They also repeated *invitations to countries to submit **revised in NDCs by 2020***, and to submit mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies by 2020.

Finally, the countries welcomed the initiative of the UN Nations Secretary-General to convene a **Climate Summit in September 2019** and they called on each other to participate in the Summit and to demonstrate with such participation their enhanced climate ambitions. That will be the first time to see the increased ambition.

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