

# CLIMATE, POSITIVE OUTCOMES AT COP19 IN WARSAW

UNFCCC/COP19 (WARSAW, 11-22 NOVEMBER 2013) LED TO SOME POSITIVE RESULTS. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS MADE ON HOW TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT MORE ACTION IS NECESSARY TO LIMIT DAMAGES CAUSED BY EVER MORE FREQUENT EXTREME EVENTS AND TO PROTECT THE POOREST COMMUNITIES.

From 11 to 22 November 2013, Governments and stakeholders gathered in Warsaw to continue building the international community's response to climate change. The National Stadium, transformed into a conference center, provided the right setting to reiterate to the world the importance of a multilateral rules based system to address what is certainly no game, namely a global framework to reduce emissions including from deforestation, adapt to a changing climate, address loss and damage and provide support for necessary actions on the part of developing countries.

In the months leading up to the Warsaw COP, Governments had a clear vision as to what needed to be agreed to in COP19; three issues were key for a positive outcome:

1. finance
2. loss and damage
3. advancing work towards the 2015 agreement or, in climate change language, the ADP.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change left the Polish capital having achieved the tasks they had set out for themselves and with a clear timeline on how to reach an international agreement in Paris in 2015.

What were some of the main outcomes?

**On Finance:** governments provided more clarity on mobilizing finance to support developing country actions to curb emissions and adapt to climate change. This includes requesting developed countries to prepare biennial submissions on their updated strategies and approaches for scaling up finance between 2014 and 2020.

Warsaw also saw concrete announcements of significant contributions to public climate finance in support of developing country actions.

Statements to that effect were made by, among others, Norway, the UK, EU, US, Republic of Korea, Japan, Sweden,



Germany and Finland; some of these funds will help the initial Green Climate Fund (GCF) capitalization.

Lastly, arrangements between the COP and GCF were clarified, ensuring accountability and guidance by the international body, and governments moved the Green Climate Fund a step nearer to its effective operationalization. The COP also called for developed countries to provide ambitious and timely contributions by next year's conference in Lima (Peru).

**Loss and damage:** building upon the decision taken in Doha in 2012, Governments were ready in Warsaw to advance to the next phase on loss and damage, and came out of the Conference with very clear progress. The impacts of extreme weather events in 2013 underpinned the need for an international mechanism to provide the most vulnerable populations with better protection. The establishment of the *Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage* will allow providing that protection. In 2014 Governments will have to take the next step and move to detailed work on the mechanism, which will complement

and engage with other bodies and expert groups under the Convention to support developing countries in the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow on-set events.

**ADP:** decisions under the negotiation track for a 2015 global agreement, the *Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)* moved into a higher gear. After two years of initial exchanges and important ground work, in Warsaw governments decided to advance the timeline of key milestones; there are:

- elaborating the elements for a draft negotiating text by March 2014
- preparing the draft agreement for consideration in Lima in December 2014
- making the negotiating text available before May 2015
- undertaking the domestic analysis required to identify the contributions they will make to the global effort, and to make those public at the latest in the first quarter of 2015
- enhancing their efforts for the pre-2020 period, including the implementation of

policies, practices and technologies with high mitigation potential, in other words, intensifying technical work.

An additional and important outcome on pre-2020 ambition gap is the decision to hold two in-session high-level ministerial dialogues in 2014, in June during the meeting of the subsidiary bodies and in December in conjunction with COP20. In this regard, governments walked out of Warsaw knowing their next step is to go home and do the necessary internal analysis, so that they are in a position to put their national contribution on the table towards a global solution.

## Ever more frequent extreme events, a faster pace is needed

During the two week Warsaw COP, Parties also took important decisions on long-standing issues under consideration such as:

- cutting emissions from deforestation: after eight years of work on the methodological aspects and modalities for forestry based mitigation efforts, Warsaw was the stage for approving seven landmark decisions that together provide a comprehensive rulebook for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, or as otherwise known REDD+, which account for around one fifth of all human-generated emissions.

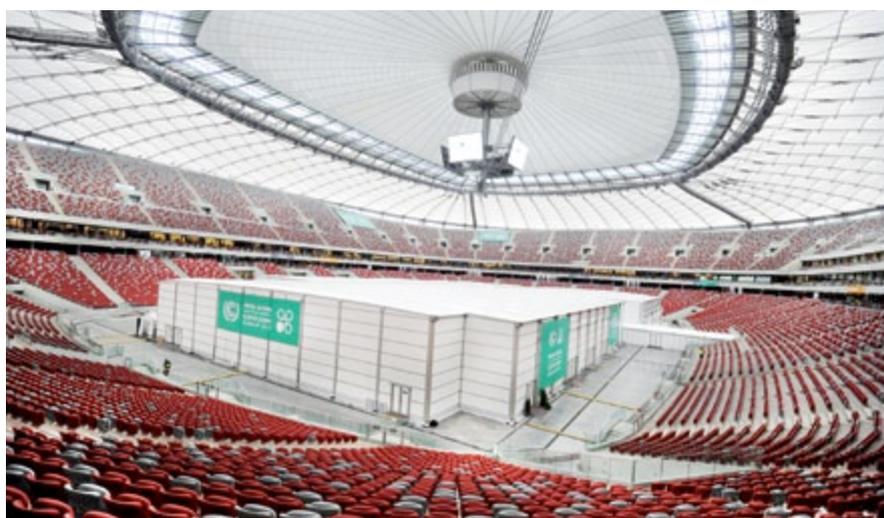
Of particular significance is the decision on results-based finance for developing countries implementing activities on REDD+ which will allow developing countries to start receiving funds for protecting their forests. The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ is backed by pledges of 280 million dollars financing from the US, Norway and the UK

- Governments also agreed on coordination of support of mitigation actions in the forestry sector, on safeguards and on improvements for national forest monitoring systems

- in addition, governments in Warsaw were witness to the attainment of an important milestone, the completion and submission of National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPAs) of the all 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which are Parties to the UNFCCC.

These plans allow poor countries to better assess the immediate impacts of change, for example drought and floods, and what they need in the way of support to become more resilient to climate change impacts.

On technology, Parties gathered at COP19, agreed on the modalities and



procedures of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and its Advisory Board, bringing the CTCN to full operationalization.

The CTCN will work closely with the Technology Executive Committee (the policy component of the Technology Mechanism established by the COP in Cancun at COP 16) in order to ensure coherence and synergy within the Technology Mechanism.

The CTCN is now ready to assist developing countries with their technology transfer requests and will be engaging with institutions around the world as they become part of the Network.

Warsaw also saw the launch of the *TEC Briefs*, which address topics related to technology needs assessment (TNAs) and technology roadmaps.

Aware of the importance of incorporating other stakeholders into the response to climate change, the COP19 presidency, organized a series of ministerial dialogues with key stakeholders.

These events held at the conference venue, provided an opportunity for a frank and needed exchange and showcased that

climate action is happening at different levels and sectors. COP19 thus became a showcase for climate action by business, cities, regions and civil society.

COP19/CMP9 was *All in all*, a climate change conference that finalized with good outcomes and the progress achieved after marathon session of work set the world one step closer to addressing climate change; however, in the words of the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC: “*We have seen essential progress. But let us again be clear that we are witnessing ever more frequent, extreme weather events, and the poor and vulnerable are already paying the price*”.

More action and faster pace is needed; 2014 and 2015 will be key years.

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The Italian version of the article was published on *Ecoscienza*, 6/2013, pp. 6-7.