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ACP SECRETARIAT NOTE ON THE KATOWICE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

(COP 24)

Katowice, Poland

2 – 14 December 2018

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place from 2nd – 14th December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.
2. The following sessions were also convened at COP 24:
 - The Fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14);
 - The Third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.3);
 - The Forty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 49);
 - The Forty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 49); and
 - The Seventh part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement. (APA 1.7)
3. COP 24, considered to be the most important since COP 21, focused on, inter alia, completing the work under the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP). In so doing, on Saturday 15th December 2018, Parties adopted the Katowice Climate Package, which contained, inter alia, a set of decisions needed to operationalize the Paris Agreement.
4. The Secretariat Note provides an overview of the outcomes of COP 24 with a focus on, inter alia, the important issues that were highlighted in the ACP Issues Paper on the Katowice Climate Change Conference.

II. BACKGROUND

5. The Paris Agreement, which was adopted on 12th December 2015 by decision 1/CP.21¹, is an ambitious, legally binding and universal agreement that builds a strong foundation for enhanced action on climate change post-2020.
6. The Agreement “aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to reduce poverty, including by:
 - a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
 - b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
 - c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”

¹ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1

7. COP 21 established the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) to oversee the implementation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) which emanated from the relevant requests contained in decision 1/CP.21 and for convening the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (CMA1) to the Paris Agreement.
8. COP 22, which was held from 7 – 18 November 2016 in Marrakesh, Morocco, convened CMA 1 and adopted a number of decisions related to the PAWP, including decision 1/CP.22², which welcomed the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4th November 2016. In addition, COP 22 requested the SBSTA, SBI and the APA to accelerate their work on the PAWP and forward the outcomes, at latest, to COP 24 in December 2018.
9. Bonn, Germany was host to COP 23 under the Presidency of Fiji in November 2017. It focused on making progress on the implementation of the PAWP and ensuring that pre-2020 implementation and ambition was given due attention. The COP adopted decision 1/CP.23³, entitled the "Fiji Momentum for Implementation", that welcomed, inter alia, the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, to be known as the "Talanoa Dialogue".

III. OVERVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES AT COP 24

10. Parties decided on a number of important issues at the Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP 24), including on, inter alia:
 - a) Paris Agreement Work programme (PAWP);
 - b) Talanoa Dialogue;
 - c) Pre-2020 implementation and ambition;
 - d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report;
 - e) Adaptation;
 - f) Loss and Damage;
 - g) Long-term climate finance;
 - h) Technology development and transfer;
 - i) Capacity building;
 - j) Local communities and indigenous peoples platform; and
 - k) Agriculture.

a. Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP)

11. The APA, the SBI and the SBSTA continued its work on the following areas of the PAWP:
 - Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of Decision 1/ CP.21;
 - Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication;
 - Modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework for action and support;

² FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1

³ FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1

- Matters related to the global stocktake;
- Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance; and
- Further matters related to implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of Decision 1/CP.21

12. COP 21 mandated the APA to develop further guidance on (a) features of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); (b) information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs, and (c) accounting for Parties' NDCs.
13. At COP 24, Parties noted that **features** of NDCs are outlined in the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement. One feature indicates that all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts taking also into consideration, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building, transparency of action and support. Another feature is that the least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emissions development, reflecting their special circumstances. Given that there was no agreement on further guidance on features of NDCs, the CMA decided to continue their discussions at its seventh session (2024).
14. The CMA decided that Parties shall provide the **information necessary for clarity transparency and understanding** when communicating their second and subsequent NDCs, as well as encouraged Parties to provide this information in relation to their first NDCs, including when communicating or updating it by 2020.
15. The CMA decided that in **accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their NDCs**, Parties shall account for their NDCs in accordance with the guidance contained in annex II to this decision. In addition, the CMA recalled that in accounting, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability, consistency and shall avoid double counting.
16. Article 4 paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement states that the CMA shall consider **common time frames** for NDCs. The Agreement requests those Parties whose NDCs contained a time frame up to 2025 to communicate by 2020 a new NDC, while those Parties whose NDCs contain a time frame up to 2030, to communicate or update by 2020 their NDC.
17. The CMA welcomed the progress made by the SBI, in the consideration of common time frames of NDCs and decided that Parties shall apply common time frames to their NDCs to be implemented from 2030 onward. The CMA also requested the SBI 50 (June 2019) to continue the consideration of common time frames, with a view to making a recommendation for consideration and adoption by the CMA.

18. Article 4, paragraph 12 of the Paris Agreement states that NDCs communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a **public registry** maintained by the secretariat. This issue was discussed by the SBI at COP 24 and focused on the development of modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry. To this end, the CMA, adopted the modalities and procedures and decided that the registry will contain two parts, comprising NDCs and Adaptation Communications.
19. Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement recognized that some Parties may choose **voluntary cooperation** in the implementation of their NDCs, to allow for higher ambition both in their mitigation and adaptation actions. The Agreement states that Parties shall, where engaging on a voluntary basis in **cooperative approaches** that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), towards NDCs, promote sustainable development and ensure environmental integrity and transparency, including governance, and shall apply robust accounting to ensure, inter alia, the avoidance of double counting.
20. COP 21 requested the SBSTA to develop and recommend guidance on cooperative approaches for the consideration and adoption at CMA 1, however, given that Parties were unable to agree on the governance options to ensure environmental integrity and transparency, the CMA, at COP 24, requested the SBSTA to continue its consideration of this issue, with a view to forwarding a draft decision for consideration and adoption by CMA 2.

Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication

21. Article 7, paragraph 10 of the Paris agreement states that each Party should, as appropriate, submit and update periodically, an adaptation communication, which may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating an additional burden for developing country Parties.
22. The CMA decided that Parties may, as appropriate, also submit and update their adaptation communication as a component of or in conjunction with the reports on impacts and adaptation as stipulated in Article 13, paragraph 8 of the Paris Agreement. The CMA also invited Parties that choose to submit an adaptation communication, to do so in time for each global stocktake.
23. The CMA recalled that the adaptation communication shall be recorded in a **public registry** maintained by the secretariat in accordance with the modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry.
24. The CMA decided to take stock of, and if necessary revise, the further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, as contained in this decision, at its eight session (2025) and invited the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to consider channelling support to developing country parties for the preparation and submission of their adaptation communications.

25. The CMA encouraged the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the GEF, the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) to continue channelling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communication.

Modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework for action and support

26. Article 13 of the Paris Agreement established the transparency framework for action and support. The CMA, at COP 24, adopted the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework and requested the SBSTA to undertake the first review and update, as appropriate, of the MPGs no later than 2028.
27. The CMA decided that Parties shall submit their first biennial transparency report and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines, at latest by 31 December 2024. Likewise, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), may submit, information referred to in Article 13, paragraphs 7,8,9, and 10, of the Paris Agreement.
28. The Paris Agreement also established the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to build institutional and technical capacity of developing country Parties, in order to meet the enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13. In this regard, the CMA requested the GEF to continue to support the operation of the Capacity building Initiative for Transparency.

Matters related to the global stocktake

29. COP 21 agreed that the CMA shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the [purpose](#) of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals. To this end, COP 21 requested the APA to identify sources of input and develop modalities for the global stocktake, with a view to making a recommendation to CMA 1 for consideration and adoption.
30. The CMA decided that the global stocktake will consist of three components including, (i) information collection and preparation, (ii) technical assessment and (iii) consideration of outputs. In addition, the CMA decided that equity and the best available science will be considered in a Party-driven and cross-cutting manner, throughout the global stocktake.
31. The CMA decided that the global stocktake will be conducted in a transparent, comprehensive, facilitative, effective and efficient manner, while avoiding duplication of work and taking into account the results of relevant work conducted under the Paris Agreement, the Convention and the Kytoto Protocol.
32. The CMA decided that the global stocktake will be a Party-driven process, with the participation of non-Party stakeholders and invited developed country Parties to mobilize support for capacity-building so that the LCDs, SIDS and other developing countries can effectively participate in the global stocktake.

[Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance](#)

33. COP 21 established a mechanism to facilitate implementation of and promote compliance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. COP 21 also decided that the mechanism consisted of a committee that shall be expert-based and facilitative in nature and function in a manner that is transparent, non-adversarial and non-punitive.
34. The CMA, adopted the modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee and decided to undertake, at CMA 7 (2024), the first review of the modalities and procedures on the basis of the experience gained with their implementation and taking into account any recommendations of the committee.

Further matters related to implementation of the Paris Agreement

[Adaptation Fund](#)

35. COP 24 decided that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement under the guidance of, and be accountable to, the CMA with respect to all matters relating to the Paris Agreement, effective 1st January 2019.

[Modalities for communicating information related to Article 9.5 of the Paris Agreement](#)

36. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement states that developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation and that they should continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance from a variety of sources, instruments and channels, noting the significant role of public funds.
37. To this end, the CMA requested developed country Parties to biennially communicate, starting in 2020, indicative quantitative and qualitative information, as applicable, including, as available, on projected levels of public financial resources to be provided to developing country Parties. The COP also encouraged other Parties providing resources to communicate biennially on a voluntary basis and decided to convene a biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance beginning in 2021.

[Setting a new collective quantified goal on finance](#)

38. COP 21, decided that the CMA, prior to 2025 shall set a new collective goal on finance. As result, the CMA decided to initiate at its third session (November 2020) deliberations on setting a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

b. [Talanoa Dialogue](#)

39. The Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP 23, under the Fijian Presidency, to assess progress towards the long-term temperature goal and inform the preparation of NDCs.

40. COP 24 acknowledged that the dialogue was an inclusive and participatory process that incentivized exchanges between Party and Non-Party stakeholders and invited Parties to consider the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue in preparing their NDCs and in their efforts to enhance pre-2020 implementation and ambition.

c. Pre-2020 Implementation and Ambition

41. COP 24 emphasized that pre-2020 implementation and ambition can build a strong foundation for enhanced post-2020 ambition, and urged those Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have not yet ratified the Doha Amendment, to deposit their instruments of acceptance with the Depository as soon as possible.

42. COP 24 welcomed the 2018 stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition and welcome its decision to convene another stocktake at COP 25. COP 24 also urged developed country Parties to continue to scale up climate finance in order to achieve the goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

d. IPCC Special Report

43. COP 21 invited the IPCC to provide a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways.

44. COP 24 welcomed the timely completion of the Report and invited Parties to make use of the information contained in the report during their discussions under all relevant agenda items of the subsidiary and governing bodies.

45. COP 24 requested the SBSTA to consider, at its fiftieth Session (June 2019), the Special Report, with a view to strengthening the scientific knowledge on the 1.5°C goal, including in the context of the preparation of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR 6) of the IPCC and the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

e. Adaptation

National Adaptation Plans

46. COP 24 acknowledged that developing country Parties have made progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), and notes that funding has been made available under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

47. COP 24 welcomed the progress made by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) in their respective engagement of the GCF on ways to enhance the process of accessing support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and requested the SBI to specify the actions and steps necessary to assess progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs at its fifty-fifth session (November 2021), with a view to launching the assessment not later than 2025.

Report of the Adaptation Committee

48. COP 24 welcomed the report of the Adaptation Committee⁴, including the recommendations and the flexible workplan of the committee for 2019-2021.
49. COP 24 urged Parties and non-Party stakeholders to mainstream gender considerations in all stages of their adaptation planning process, including NAPs and the implementation of adaptation action. In addition, Parties should apply a participatory approach to adaptation planning, so as to make use of stakeholder input, including from the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children and youth, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations in general.
50. COP 24 encouraged Parties to take into consideration and utilize, as appropriate, various approaches to adaptation planning, including community-based adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, livelihood and economic diversification and risk-based approaches, and to ensure that such approaches are not mutually exclusive but rather are complementary.
51. COP 24 invited relevant institutions under the Convention and non-Party Stake holders to strengthen support (financial, technical, technological and capacity-building) for adaptation planning, including collecting climate data and information, noting the urgent need for adaptation action to address current and short- and long-term risks of climate change.

f. Loss And Damage

52. COP 21 requested the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage to establish a task force on displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.
53. COP 24 welcomed the [Report of the Task Force on Displacement](#) and its comprehensive assessment of broader issues of displacement related to climate change as well as the decision of the Executive Committee to extend the mandate of the Task Force.
54. COP 24 invited Parties to consider developing policies, plans and strategies, as appropriate, and to facilitate coordinated action and the monitoring of progress, where applicable in their efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage.

g. Long-term Climate Finance

55. COP 24 welcomed with appreciation the continued progress of developed country Parties towards reaching the goal of mobilize jointly US\$100 billion annually by 2020, to address the needs of developing countries and urged developed countries to continue to scale up mobilized climate finance towards this goal.

⁴ FCCC/SB/2018/3

56. COP 24 urged developed countries to continue their efforts to channel a substantial share of public climate funds to adaptation activities and to strive to achieve a greater balance between finance for mitigation and for adaptation, recognizing the importance of adaptation finance and the need for public and grant-based resources or adaptation.
57. COP 24 welcomed the progress made by Parties to strengthen their domestic enabling environments in order to attract climate finance and requested Parties to continue to enhance their enabling environments and policy frameworks to facilitate the mobilization and effective deployment of climate finance.
58. The COP requested the Secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, to explore ways and means to assist developing countries in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity building needs, and translating climate finance needs into action.
59. COP 24 decided that the in-session workshops on long-term climate finance in 2019 and 2020, will focus on: (a) the effectiveness of climate finance, including the results and impacts of finance provided and mobilized; and (b) the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for their adaptation and mitigation actions, respectively.

Report of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

60. COP 24 took note of the guidance to the GCF prepared by the Standing Committee on Finance⁵ and welcomed the report of the GCF and the progress made during 2018, including:
- The funding approved by the Board which has reached USD 5.5 billion, including USD 4.6 billion in loans, grants, equities and guarantees in the past three years for the implementation of 93 funding proposals for adaptation and mitigation in 96 countries;
 - Efforts made to improve access to the GCF through the structured dialogues and the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme;
 - The increase in the number of entities accredited by the Board, including direct access entities;
 - The implementation of the simplified approvals process (SAP), including the approval of four projects worth USD 30.1 million in GCF funding.

61. COP 24 also reaffirmed the necessity to focus on implementation and to speed up disbursement of funds to already approved projects as a key element to the operations of the GCF.

Report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

⁵ FCCC/CP/2018/8, annex IV

62. COP 24 took note of the guidance to the GEF prepared by the Standing Committee on Finance⁶ and welcomed the report of the GEF as well as its seventh replenishment. However, it noted with concern the decrease in allocation to the climate change focal area, including the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), compared with the sixth replenishment.

63. COP 24 welcomes the inclusion of support for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in the seventh replenishment of the GEF, which enhances predictability of funding the Initiative. In addition, COP 24 requested the GEF, to manage the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity.

h. Technology Development and Transfer

64. At COP 21, Parties agreed that the Technology Mechanism, which is comprised of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), shall serve the Paris Agreement to enhance climate technology development and transfer that will facilitate low carbon and climate resilient development.

65. COP 24 encouraged the TEC and the CTCN to enhance their collaboration, including to ensure coherence and synergy of their work and took note of the collaboration of the TEC and the CTCN with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, constituted bodies under the Convention and other relevant organizations.

66. COP 24 welcomed the information provided in the annual reports of the TEC, the CTCN, the GEF and the GCF on their actions in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism. In addition, the COP welcomed with appreciation the increased engagement between the CTCN and the GCF with respect to using the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme of the fund.

67. The COP invited Parties to seek support from the CTCN to develop and submit technology-related projects, including those resulting from technology needs assessments (TNAs) and from the technical assistance of the CTCN, to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for implementation.

68. The COP invited the CTCN to consult with the GCF and the GEF to identify ways to enhance information sharing among national designated entities (NIEs), national designated authorities (NDAs) and the GEF Focal Points.

Technology Mechanism

69. COP 21 decided to undertake a periodic assessment of the effectiveness and adequacy of the support provided to the Technology Mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on matters relating to technology development and transfer.

70. COP 24 adopted the scope and modalities for the periodic assessment and decided that the assessment should be undertaken in a transparent, inclusive and participatory manner. It decided that the first assessment will be initiated at its fourth session (November 2021) and that the outputs shall serve as inputs to the global stocktake.

⁶ FCCC/CP/2018/8, annex V

i. Capacity-building

71. COP 21 established the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) to address capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, related to implementing capacity-building activities in developing country Parties. In addition, COP 21 requested the PCCB to prepare annual technical progress reports on its work, and to make these reports available at the sessions of the SBI coinciding with the sessions of the COP.
72. COP 24, welcomed the annual technical progress report of the PCCB for 2018⁷, taking note of the recommendations contained therein and invited Parties and relevant institutions to provide support and resources to the PCCB in implementing its rolling workplan for 2017 – 2019. The COP also requested the SBI to thematically align future meetings of the Durban Forum with the annual focus area of the PCCB, taking note of the recommendation of the Committee contained in its 2018 technical progress report.

j. Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

73. COP 23 decided that the overall purpose of the platform will be to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change. COP 23 requested SBSTA 48, to consider the establishment of a facilitative working group, with balanced representation of local communities and indigenous peoples and Parties.
74. COP 24 established the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) with the objective of further operationalizing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and facilitating the implementation of its functions.
75. COP 24 decided that the Working Group shall comprise of 14 representatives and shall meet twice per year in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the sessions of the COP.
76. COP 24 requested the Secretariat to organize a thematic in-session workshop, in conjunction with the fiftieth session (June 2019) of the SBSTA, on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

k. Agriculture

77. COP 24 welcomed the first in-session workshop from the Koronivia road map⁸ on the topic “Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work”, and looked forward to considering the report on the workshop at SBI 50 and SBSTA 50 (June 2019).

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2018/15

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2018/9, annex I

78. The SBI and SBSTA reiterated their invitation⁹ to Parties and observers to submit by 6th May 2019, their views on topics “Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits, and resilience” and “Improved soil carbon, soil health, and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management”, on which workshops will be organized in conjunction with SBI 50 and SBSTA 50.

IV. CONCLUSION

79. COP 24 operationalized the Paris Agreement, it is now left for all stakeholders, to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the areas of, inter alia, adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building in order to achieve the long-term temperature goal of the Paris agreement while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

⁹ FCCC.SBI/2018/9, paragraph 43