

COP 24 Wrap Up Edition

2 – 15 December 2018





The Katowice Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 24) took place on 2 – 15 December in Katowice Poland and brought together over 18,000 participants, including over 5,000 non-governmental organisations. The COP 24 was expected to finalise and adopt the rulebook for the Paris Agreement. The Parties to the UNFCCC mostly delivered on this task, produced the [Katowice Climate Package](#), that includes decisions on nearly all topics mandated to be included in the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP). However, issues related to the sustainable development mechanism, market mechanisms and non-market approaches in the implementation of the Paris Agreement have not been resolved at the COP 24. They will be addressed in the coming year in order to adopt them at the next UN

Climate Change Conference (COP 25), which will be held in Santiago de Chile.

Talanoa Dialogue

The year-long Talanoa Dialogue process led by Fiji concluded at the COP 24. The Talanoa Dialogue served as the first collective stocktake of Parties' collective efforts in relation to progress towards the long-term temperature goal referred to in the Paris Agreement. The preparatory phase of the dialogue ended in the first week of the COP 24 with the [IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C](#) as a major input together with a Synthesis Report of the inputs received through the [Talanoa Dialogue Platform](#), to provide a foundation for the political phase during the second week of the conference. The political phase consisted of an opening meeting,

21 Ministerial Talanoas and a closing meeting. Non-Party stakeholders, including regional and local leaders were able to participate in the Ministerial Talanoas, with nrg4SD member the State of **São Paulo** being one of them.



At the closing session of the Talanoa Dialogue, the [Talanoa Call for Action](#) was delivered by youth champions Timoci Naulusala from Fiji and Hanna Wojdowska from Poland calling for stepping up ambition in order to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Initiatives by the Polish Presidency

The Polish Presidency issued three declarations in the framework of the COP 24:

[The Driving Change Together Partnership for Electromobility and Zero Emission Transport](#) is dedicated to technological and organisational change towards zero emission transport. Maintaining the current rate of development, including the development of urban agglomerations and megacities, while keeping the current model of transport and the dominant types of propulsion and energy sources, is incompatible with the promotion of a sustainable





transport model and the reduction of dependence on fossil fuels. The [Declaration on fair transformation under the motto: Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration](#) is dedicated to ensuring a fair and solidarity-based transformation that will help to protect the climate while maintaining economic development and jobs.

Development should be economically, socially, environmentally and climatically responsible. That is why the path we want to follow is socially and environmentally sustainable development, with an emphasis on modernisation, technological change and the implementation of innovations enabling a more efficient and

environmentally friendly use of resources.

The [Silesian Ministerial Declaration "Forests for Climate"](#) on the conservation and increase of carbon stocks in greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs until 2050 indicates the key role of sinks and will help to achieve the objective set out by the Paris Agreement.

Highlights for Regional Governments

While for the Parties COP 24 was mainly technical work to finalise the PAWP, for observers and other stakeholders it was the chance to call for increased ambition before the next submission of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020.

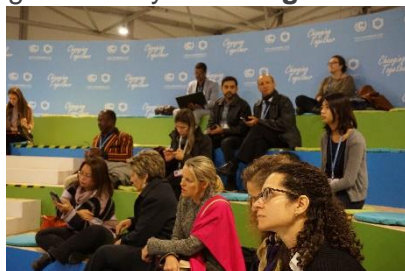


UN Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the COP plenary twice during the two-weeks negotiations, urging for more ambitious climate action and the IPCC Special Report, released before COP 24, confirmed once more that this is needed. This was also the call from non-party stakeholders at

COP 24, engaging in numerous events and activities.

Global Climate Action

The [8-day programme](#) of the Global Climate Action saw a high-level opening in the main plenary, highlighting the importance of cooperation between state and non-Party actors, the publication of the [2018 Yearbook](#), the [Summary Policy Makers](#) and the [Good Practices Report](#), as well as a number of thematic events, including the Marrakech Partnership Human Settlements Action Event, which was co-organised by the [nrg4SD](#) as



focal point of the human settlements group.

The Katowice Climate Package

Key outcomes of the negotiations for regional governments include:

Talanoa Dialogue

- The COP recognizes efforts and actions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders
- The COP Invites 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, which constitutes an opportunity for regional governments to be actively involved in the revision of NDCs

Paris Agreement Work Programme

- Mitigation: If an NDC of a Party includes an adaptation action and/ or economic



diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits should inform about inter alia adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover key sectors, including human settlements

■ Technology Framework:

- Under the section on collaboration and stakeholder engagement it is noted that enhanced engagement of stakeholders at the local, regional, national and global level will be beneficial for the Technology Mechanism.

- One of the actions and activities in this area of work consists in enhancing engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including local communities and authorities, national planners, the private sector and civil society organizations in the planning and implementation of Technology Mechanism activities

■ Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the Transparency Framework:



- With regards to information on climate change impacts and adaptation Parties should provide information on *inter alia*

- adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans (e.g. national adaptation plans and subnational plans), strategies, policies, priorities (e.g. priority sectors priority regions or integrated plans for coastal management, water and agriculture), programmes and efforts to build resilience

- Stakeholder involvement, including subnational, community-level and private sector plans, priorities, actions and programmes.

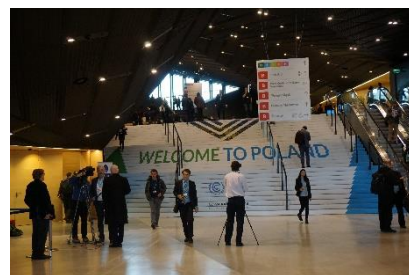
- With regards to monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes Parties should provide information related to their effectiveness and sustainability, including information on the alignment of adaptation actions to national and subnational policies

- Developing country Parties should provide information on capacity-building support received at the national and, where appropriate, sub-regional and regional level, including priorities, participation

and the involvement of stakeholders.

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

- Recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage: continue supporting efforts of Parties and other actors, in-



cluding with and for communities and local actors, in order to avert, minimize and address displacement related to climate change impacts, at all levels, including the community, national, regional and international levels.

Action for Climate Empowerment

The COP encourages Parties to foster public participation and collaborate with, inter alia, regional as applicable and local authorities to scale up the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).

Summary of nrg4SD activities

The **nrg4SD** members and the Secretariat had the chance to share their experiences, positions

and achievements through a number of events throughout the two weeks of COP 24, starting on

Wednesday, 5 December. On this day, the **nrg4SD** was part of the session “**Smart City and eco-**



development” at the European Economic Congress Green. The session discussed trends in sustainable urban development and urban policy, especially regarding transport and mobility and air quality. The **nrg4SD** highlighted the importance of considering cities within a broader context, as many of the urban aspects exceed the city boundaries. In this regard, it was stressed the crucial role of regional governments in terms of strengthening the urban-rural linkages, connecting different local governments, with stakeholders, civil society, communities and all appropriate policies.

On Friday, 7 December, the **nrg4SD**, as one of the focal points of the human settlements group within the Marrakech Partnership, held the **Human Settlements Action Event: “Integrated and Multilevel Action to Raise Ambition, Panel 1: Integrated climate action for low-carbon and resilient societies”**. Participants



included representatives from nrg4SD members **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes**, **Centre-Nord** and **São Paulo**, as well as UN-Habitat, the City of Hobart, Australia, and the Society for Promotion of Area

Resource Centres. **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes**, France, shared information on an ambitious policy on the environment and climate change, that centres around four axes, including the promotion of technological innovation, the preservation of natural resources and the consideration of sustaina-



ble development in all political elements. The policy aims to be cross-cutting to be incorporated in every sector. Further, **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes** shared how they aim to reach the goals of their policy, namely through acting on clean energy, circular economy, air quality and adaptation to climate change. The region of **Centre-Nord** in Burkina Faso gave insights the work with local communities and women in order to help adapt people to climate change. The region is analysing vulnerabilities, risks and capacities of those communities to implement adequate actions plans. Further, the region developed flood maps to correct the issue of people living in at-risk areas, as well as works on water management and irrigation to ensure agricultural production also in summer. In addition, **Centre-Nord** is very active in awareness

raising of climate issue among the population, as well as public authorities. The State of **São Paulo** addressed the importance of regional governments, especially when national governments are lacking political will and ambition. Regional governments are key players, even if they need to follow national law, because they connect different stakeholders from different fields and therefore could initiate action and comply with the Paris Agreement’s standards.

The event was broadcasted live and is available as [video](#). More information, including the outcome document can be found on the UNFCCC [official website](#).

The same day, the State of **São Paulo** participated in the side event **“Implementation of non-state climate policies and targets”** co-organised by nrg4SD partner, the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3). The event addressed recent developments and the way forward in the implementation of climate policies and targets by non-state actors. **São Paulo** had the chance to showcase their climate actions, stressing the importance of focusing not only on the city but its surroundings, as well.





This event was also broadcasted live and is available as [video](#).

Afterwards, **São Paulo** and the **nrg4SD** Secretariat, participated in the NDC Partnership Pavilion event “**The role of networks of local and regional governments in multilevel action - Talanoa Dialogues**”, organised by ICLEI.



Participants shared their experiences with regards to the Talanoa Dialogue, with special attention to the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues.

The last event on this day was the event “**RegionsAdapt - Capacity-building through cooperation**” as part of the events of the UNFCCC Paris Committee on Capacity-building Hub. The **nrg4SD** Secretariat presented the opportunities that arise for regional governments when participating in the RegionsAdapt initiative. The Secretariat was joined by two of the RegionsAdapt partners, the Basque Centre for Climate



Change (**BC3**) and the Institute of the Francophonie for Sustainable Development (**IFDD**).

On Saturday, 8 December, the “**Launch of the RegionsAdapt 2018 Report: Multi-Level Governance in Climate Change Adaptation**” took place at the UNFCCC Action Hub. The **nrg4SD** presented the key findings of the report that could be realised also due to the financial contribution from the government of **Québec**. In addition, **Québec** and the Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador (**CONGOPE**) talked about their experiences with developing and implementing regional adaptation strategies. It was stressed that the



territory is very important, adaptation actions need to address the special circumstances of each territory and regional governments are key actors in this regard.

The launch event was broadcasted live and is available as [video](#). The RegionsAdapt 2018 Report can be downloaded [here](#).

The second week of COP 24 also saw participation of the **nrg4SD** and its members. On Tuesday, 11 December, the State of **São Paulo** took part in one of the 21 **Ministerial Talanoa Roundtables**. In the Pacific tradition of

storytelling **São Paulo** shared the realities for the City of Santos, where more than 50% of the beaches are at risk or at high risk of coastal erosion due to climate change and extreme weather events. As a reaction to this, a commission was put together comprising of all levels of government, civil society, academia and the private sector, in order to develop an adaptation plan. In addition, capacity-building activities for public administrators is carried out in nine cities in the area of Santos to identify vulnerabilities and propose adaptation measures.

The event was broadcasted live and is available as [video](#) (03h 09min – 03h 13min).

On Wednesday, 12 December, the **Basque Country** was interviewed by the UNFCCC the Climate Action Studio. The importance of observers to the UNFCCC and more specifically regional governments was stressed, as they raise ambition, connect the local to the national level and vice versa, work with a number of other stakeholders and can drive the unprecedented social change that is needed to fight climate change.

You can find the whole interview [here](#).





The last day of nrg4SD activities at COP 24 was Thursday, 13 December. First the official side event **“Integrating adaptation and the SDGs – The potential of multi – level governance”** co-organised by **nrg4SD**, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the



Government of Bangladesh took place. Participants of the event included representatives from the **Basque Country** and **São Paulo**, from SACEP, the GIB Foundation, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The **Basque Country** showcased its “Klima 2050” strategy, which was developed to address the issue of climate change through mitigation and adaptation. It was pointed out, that such strategies need to be updated regularly as climate change and the fight against it is very dynamic. Further, a specific project of the **Basque Country** government was presented, the Urban Klima 2050. **São Paulo**

introduced its “Nascentes” Programme, which was established to maintain and restore riparian forests in the state. The success of the programme lies in the integration of policies, as well as the multi-stakeholder approach that it aspired.

The event was also broadcasted live and is available as [video](#).

On the same afternoon, the **nrg4SD** Secretariat, together with the Institute of the Francophonie for Sustainable Development (IFDD) presented the results of the scientific writing contest of the Youth Initiative to Combat Climate Change. In the framework of the initiative, the IFDD, in collaboration with the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi ([UQAC](#)) and the RegionsAdapt initiative, launched a call for papers in the areas of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, with a view on sustainable development. The



RegionsAdapt was part of the scientific committee for the papers’ evaluation and the results were presented during COP24 in the Pavilion of the Francophonie with the attendance of the successful contestants.

After a busy year 2018 and an important run-up to 2020 before us, we would like to congratulate all nrg4SD members for their hard work, engagement, leadership and contributions in 2018 and at the COP 24. Let us continue to work together to reach a more inclusive global decision making, implement the Paris Agreement at all levels and seek involvement in the formulation and implementation of the NDCs. Working together, makes us stronger and determination will be guiding our work, so let us keep raising ambition in the fight against climate change!

For any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us.

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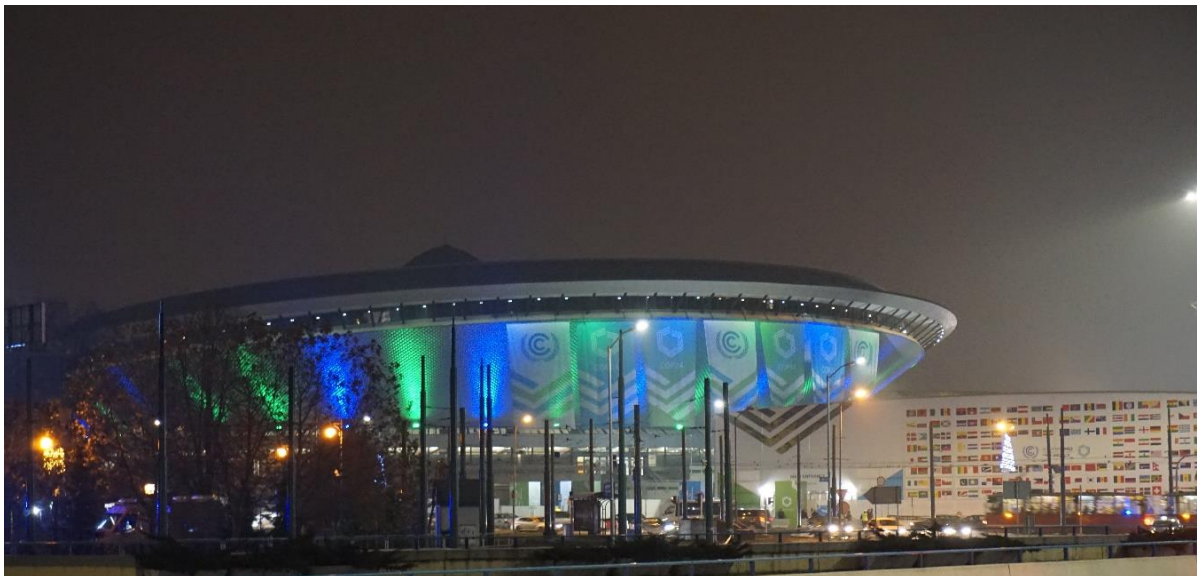
Click here to see COP 24 photos at flickr



Upcoming events

A series of international events and conferences on climate change are already scheduled:

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| 14 March, Nairobi (Kenia): | One Planet Summit https://bit.ly/2DgzmzG |
| 6-8 March, San Sebastian (Spain): | International Conference on Climate Change “Change the Change”
http://bit.ly/2yaN3v3 |
| 18-22 March Accra (Ghana): | Africa Climate Week |
| 28 March, New York (U.S.): | High-level Meeting: Climate Protection for All https://bit.ly/2S6RuPu |
| 22-23 May, Heidelberg (Germany): | International Conference on Climate Action Vertical Integration for
Climate Action https://bit.ly/2rEPVwF |
| 17-27 June, Bonn (Germany): | 49th sessions on the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies http://bit.ly/2PpELGf |
| date tbd July (Shenzhen, China): | Asia Pacific Climate Week |
| 8-19 July, New York (US): | High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
http://bit.ly/2IJGkwc |
| 23 September, New York (US): | UN 2019 Climate Summit http://bit.ly/2NBqvJ6 |
| 11-22 November, Santiago (Chile): | UNFCCC COP25 http://bit.ly/2PpELGf |



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