



Climate Concern

Katowice Climate Change Conference Special Edition



Photo: World Coal Association

Overview

The 24th conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 2nd to 15th December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The conference was important as it was expected to adopt the implementation guidelines (rules book) of the Paris Agreement. The significance of the conference was increased due to the findings of the “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report of 1.5°C” which clearly calls for more ambitious emission reduction targets to limit the global warming to 1.5°C. The Katowice Climate Change Conference was expected to be the COP for shifting the paradigm of climate change from general negotiation, commitment regime to the climate action implementation regime.

The Katowice Climate Change Conference adopted the implementation guideline for the Paris Agreement. To a large extent, the COP24 delivered on its mandate sufficient enough to start implementing the Paris Agreement. Among others, the rules necessary to manage the market approaches for carbon trade (Article 6 of the Paris Agreement) is postponed for 2019.

What did Katowice Climate Change Conference delivered?

The key outcomes of the Katowice Climate Change Conference are:

- **Implementing guidelines for the Paris Agreement:** COP24 adopted the guidelines, for communication of NDC, adaptation activities, and rules to assess climate action presented by countries (Transparency Framework, Global Stock take and work of the committee on compliance)



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- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):** NDC must include mitigation component, and other themes including adaptation remain optional. Parties agreed to a list of information requirements that will be required for comparability, transparency and understanding NDC that will be applicable for the second round of NDCs. The information includes reference point of the targets; timeframe and implementation period; scope; planning process; assumptions and methodologies; how NDC is ambitious and how the NDC contribute to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. This should give confidence for countries to communicate new and updated NDCs by 2020.
- **Adaptation:** As per the Paris Agreement, Parties should “submit and update periodically an adaptation communication, which may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions”. It supports to increase the visibility and profile of adaptation, strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries, enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions, and provide inputs to the Global Stocktake. In Katowice, developing countries demanded different guidance for developing and industrialized countries' adaptation communication but the conference adopted equal voluntary standards with flexibility.
- **Transparency Framework:** Transparency Framework provides the reporting rules and process to review the reports but the challenge was to establish a reporting system for all Parties with providing flexibility to developing countries with capacity constraints. Parties in Katowice agreed to adopt common reporting rules apply to all countries by providing flexibility to developing countries with limited capacities.
- **Global Stocktake:** Global Stocktake gives the idea of cumulative efforts taken globally to achieve the target to keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C. This process will periodically (every 5 years starting in 2023) assess the collective progress of the Parties towards the goals of the agreement. The Global Stocktake will focus on three thematic areas- mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support.
- **Loss and Damage:** Though there was no dedicated space to discuss loss and damage, due to the strong stand of vulnerable countries, loss and damage have been included in the transparency framework and global stocktake, which means a report on loss and damage will be thoroughly reviewed and assessed.
- **Finance:** The indicative information to be provided on projected levels of public finance (Article 9.5 of the PA) remain most controversial where it was decided that countries will provide this information every two years starting in 2020. The Adaptation fund which was set up under the Kyoto Protocol now will also serve the Paris Agreement. Few developed countries also made some funding pledge at COP24.

- **Talanoa Dialogue:** The process ultimately concluded in Katowice with the ‘Talanoa Call for Action’, which calls upon all countries and stakeholders to act with urgency. The process also produced a synthesis report of all the inputs received and discussions held over the course of the year.

Nepal at the Katowice Climate Change Conference



President Bidhya Devi Bhandari addressing the COP24 | Photo: inheadline.com

The conference was highly prioritized by Nepal as the Nepali delegates attended the Conference under the leadership of Honorable President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari. Nepali delegates comprise Honorable Minister Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Ministry of Forest and Environment together with senior government officials and officials from line ministry, civil society, and media representatives. Government of Nepal conducts several consultations with multi-stakeholders including government agencies, civil societies, media groups for identification and finalization of Nepal’s agenda for the 24th session of COP to the UNFCCC. Ministry of Forest and Environment prepared the Country Status Paper for COP24-Katowice. Nepal actively engaged in the negotiation process based on the Status Paper.

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Key points from the statement delivered by Honorable President Bidya Devi Bhandari at the COP 24, Katowice, Poland



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- Nepal has been bearing the brunt of disproportionate impacts of climate change despite being a low carbon- emitting country.
- Himalayan glaciers are melting; snow-capped mountains are becoming dark and dull; the possibility of glacial lake outbursts is high, and the river- basin system is adversely affected. Avalanches, floods and landslides, and droughts have become more erratic than ever before. Main productive land of Terai, 'the granary' of Nepal, is frequently affected by floods and inundation.
- As Nepal is a country that has been immensely contributing to controlling global warming, Nepal feels as if it has been penalized for the mistakes it never made. I would like to reiterate that it is incumbent upon the international community to ensure that justice is done.
- Nepal believes that the commitment to maintain the threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius as outlined in the recent IPCC Special Report will further encourage the world community to traverse resolutely in the path of low carbon emission.
- With a view to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, Nepal is planning to review the Policy and update Nationally Determined Contributions to make them more relevant in the present context. A long-term strategy is being formulated for its implementation.
- Nepal is confident for the support and cooperation of the international community in mobilizing knowledge, skills, technology and climate finance in its efforts to promoting study of Himalayan hydrological sciences, supporting sustainable mountain economy, pursuing economic and social development for shifting into renewable energy, employment generation, and ensure access of all Nepal is to clean energy.
- Nepal remains committed to make the project implementation climate-friendly and development efforts compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals.



President delivering her speech in COP24
Photo: MOFE

- It is a collective responsibility to protect our own and that of the future generations' right to live in a clean and safe natural environment. Nepal is confident that COP 24 will find pathways for the effective and faithful implementation of the Paris Accord.

Note: Retrieved from <https://mofa.gov.np/statement-delivered-by-rt-hon-president-mrs-bidya-devi-bhandari-at-the-cop-24-katowice-poland/>

UNFCCC COP 24 Consultation Program



Presentation during UNFCCC COP 24 consultation program

Clean Energy Nepal in collaboration with the Ministry of Forest and Environment organized 'UNFCCC COP24 Consultation Program' on 18th November 2018. Mr. Manjeet Dhakal, Climate Analytics shared the key highlights and expectation from COP 24 while Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint Secretary and Chief of Climate Change Management Division, MoFE highlighted the preparation and priorities of Nepal for COP 24. Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary of MoFE indicated that COP24 was particularly important as there will be high-level participation from Nepal. He appreciated the contribution from the experts in preparing the status paper, during his response to the questions from the participants.

The program aimed to update the concerned stakeholders about Nepal's preparation for the 24th session of COP to the UNFCCC and take inputs for effective participation. It provided the opportunities for government, civil societies, academia, and media to interact on the status paper and agenda of Nepal for COP 24. The program identified climate finance, pressurizing developed countries for emission reduction, mountain economy and raising the voice of vulnerable as major issues of Nepal in COP24. The program was concluded with the commitment from Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary of MOFE to revise Nepal's status paper considering the suggestions provided by the representatives from multiple stakeholders in the program.



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Virtual Sharing from Katowice



Nepali delegates sharing the updates from Poland | Photo: Shankar Pd. Sharma



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“Road to Paris Agreement Work Programme; Tracking COP24 Progress” on 13th December 2018 at Katowice, Poland. Since the conference was very near to the end, the main objective of the program was to take updated on progress made by parties on the Paris Agreement Work Program.

With the objective to provide firsthand information and update about the 24th session of Conference of Parties (COP 24) to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), virtual sharing program was organized from COP 24, Katowice to Kathmandu on 10 December 2018. The program was also broadcasted through CEN Facebook live.

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Chief of Climate Change Management Division, MoFE together with Manjeet Dhakal, Climate Analytics, Mr. Raju Pandit Chhetri, Climate Change Council Member and Mr. Ugan Manandhar, Advisor of WWF Myanmar joined the program as the speaker to share the update and progress at COP 24.

Press Conference in Poland

Clean Energy Nepal organized the press conference titled: “Road to Paris Agreement Work Programme; Tracking COP24 Progress” on 13th December 2018 at Katowice, Poland. Since the conference was very near to the end, the main objective of the program was to take updated on progress made by parties on the Paris Agreement Work Program. The speaker of the program was Mr. Manjeet Dhakal, Climate Analytics, Mr. Sandeep Chamling Rai, WWF Singapore, Ms. Danae Epsinoze from Mexico and Mr. Ugan Manandhar from WWF Myanmar.



Speaker of the press conference | Photo: Shankar Pd. Sharma

Climate Action in Nepal in the Context of UNFCCC COP 24 Outcomes and Paris Agreement

A workshop was organized in Kathmandu on January 4 2019 with the objective to update the stakeholders about the key outcomes of the COP24 to the UNFCCC and discuss on domestic climate action in Nepal in the context of Paris Agreement and outcomes of COP24. About 70 participants from Government Ministries and Departments, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, Media, Networks, Researchers, Experts, and Youths participated in the program. Mr. Manjeet Dhakal shared the key outcomes of the Katowice Climate Change Conference focusing on Nepal's priorities such as an update of NDC and preparation of implementation plan, the role of local and provincial governments on climate change adaptation and low carbon development. Panelists

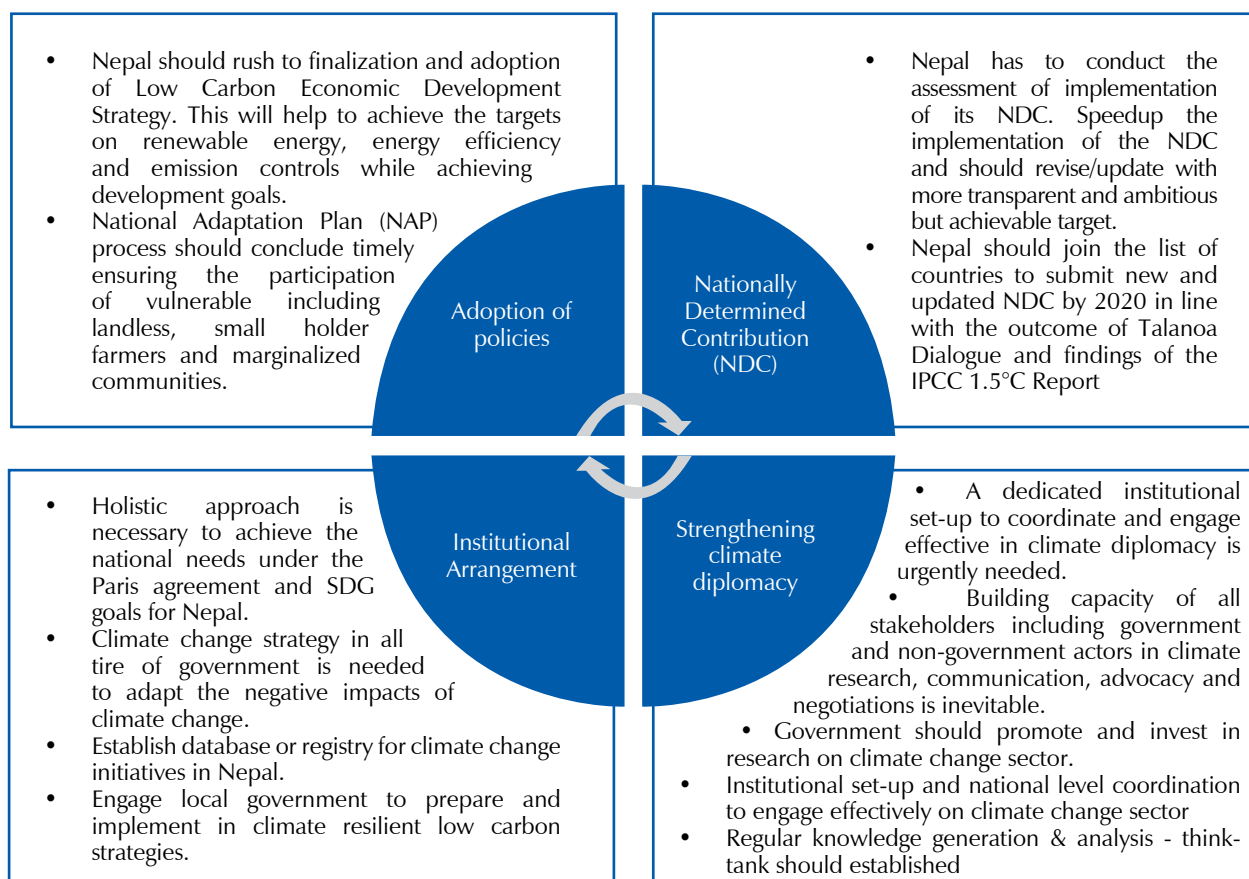


Panelist of UNFCCC COP 24 outcomes sharing program

and participants stressed on effective implementation of existing policies plans, national commitments and prioritization of low carbon economic development in Nepal. The program prioritized the climate actions needed in Nepal with specific to the need of stock-taking of climate initiatives, updates and implementation of policies and programs including NDC and promotion of renewable energy. The program was concluded with the commitment from MOFE to ensure the participatory approach in the climate change sector and update Nepal's NDC before 25th Session of COP to the UNFCCC.

Nepal's Do's in 2019

As a party of UNFCCC and a signatory of the Paris Agreement, Nepal has to priorities the following tasks in 2019.



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