

Parliamentary One Pager

The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24)

Summary



- ✘ The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Katowice, Poland in December 2018 established the rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and facilitated an international dialogue for climate action.
- ✘ Under the new international climate regime, all countries would have to report their emissions – and progress in cutting them – every two years from 2024.
- ✘ However, there was a clash over how to recognise the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on 1.5C and whether to clearly signal the need for greater ambition to stay below this temperature limit.
- ✘ Meanwhile, new research released at the COP showed global emissions were not decreasing, they were in fact increasing.

The Main Achievements

- ✘ COP24 succeeded in introducing for first time the 'People's Seat initiative', encouraging participation of the civil society through a digital COP.
- ✘ COP24 succeeded in adopting a "rulebook" that would provide key tools to hold countries accountable on how they deliver their already promised climate commitments, serving as a positive step towards transparency and accountability.

What Did Not Work

- ✘ Countries failed to agree the rules for voluntary market mechanisms, pushing part of the process onto next year's COP25 in Chile
- ✘ Governments were urged to embrace "grant equivalent" accounting when it comes to the financial aid provided by rich countries to poor ones—namely, avoiding treating both loans and grants as roughly the same when providing money for climate projects. The final decision made it voluntary for donor countries that provide climate aid.
- ✘ There is still a significant lack of country-contributed dollars for all the vital investments that would help cushion the effect of real-world climate impacts.
- ✘ COP24 also made weak progress on building a new round of government pledges to cut carbon emissions and step-up lifesaving measures to adapt to existing climate impacts.

Conclusion

- ✘ The Paris Agreement sets out 2020 as the next moment by which countries are encouraged to announce new pledges, but the decision in Poland doesn't provide a strong path forward for how robust that process can and should be.
- ✘ The final outcome reflects a lack of urgency in measures and hints at the need for more ambitious climate pledges before 2020 (leaving many NGOs disappointed at the lack of more forceful language)
- ✘ Climate justice: Poor people on the front lines of climate change can't wait for slow-moving diplomatic summits to deliver the relief and aid they need right now.