



CEN Newsletter
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Climate Concern

Fiji-Bonn Climate Change Conference Special Edition



Overview

The 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23) was held in Bonn, Germany from 6-17 November 2017. The COP23 was expected to make substantial progress to complete the remaining work in finalizing the “rulebook” of the Paris Agreement which is mandated to be completed by 2018 at COP24. Also, COP23 was important as it was the first COP led by a small island nation – Fiji.

The two weeks of negotiations was observed as significant steps in driving forward the framework for different elements under Paris Agreement. To facilitated the discussion over next one year, the Fijian and Moroccan COP Presidencies presented “Talanoa dialogue”; a year-long roadmap for raising climate ambition with an aim to reach temperature limitation target of 1.5 degree Celsius. With this, COP23 outcomes call for faster action and higher ambition to keep Paris Agreement on track and concluded with the decision called "Fiji Momentum for implementation".



The Talanoa Dialogue is structured around three questions- Where are we? Where do we want to go? And how do we get there?

What is Talanoa Dialogue?

Talanoa is a traditional Fijian word to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. Initially the Paris Agreement establishes a 'facilitative dialogue' to be held in 2018 to take stock of collective progress and inform the preparation of next round of NDCs that the countries will be submitting in future. Later, at the COP22 (2016) in Marrakech, the COP 22 and the incoming COP 23 Presidencies were mandated to undertake inclusive and transparent consultations with member countries on the organization of the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018. In accordance to that and to make this process more inclusive, participatory and interactive, Fijian Presidency introduced a term Talanoa and named the process as “Talanoa Dialogue”.

The COP23 agreed to launch the dialogue immediately and to start from January 2018, which will consist of Preparatory and political phase. The dialogue is structured around three questions-where are we? Where do we want to go? And how do we get there? The dialogue will be conducted in a manner that promotes enhanced ambition. At the end at COP24 in 2018, the dialogue is expected to make concrete recommendations in raising ambitious to achieve to limit the temperature rise to 1.5 degree C temperature goal.

Pre 2020 Action

The pre-2020 actions refer to existing obligations by developed countries under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol also known as Doha Amendment, including commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. The Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol will enter into force with ratification of 144 countries. However, till the date (27th Dec. 2017) only 108 countries have submitted their ratification. Further, COP23 agreed



to organize stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP24 (2018) and COP25 (2019), including two assessments of climate finance (to be published in 2018 and 2020). Also, it is agreed that the joint letter from the COP President and UNFCCC Executive Secretary to Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have not yet ratified the Doha Amendment, urging countries to deposit their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible.

Rule making process of the Paris Agreement

The ongoing work to develop more technical rules and processes needed to fulfill the Paris Agreement's ambition has to be completed at COP24 (2018) at Poland. Currently, Parties are discussing on designing the framework of country action and pledges (Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs), reporting of adaptation efforts, procedures of transparent reporting of action, modalities of the global assessment of such action in 2023, and how to monitor compliance with the Paris Agreement

The Bonn conference made some progress on enriching the content of the discussion and agreed on a plan for the next session. Most of the topics under the Paris Agreement work programme was able to produce an informal notes capturing discussions and progress made on respective topics which should serve as basis to take forward the work from the first session next year in April 2018.



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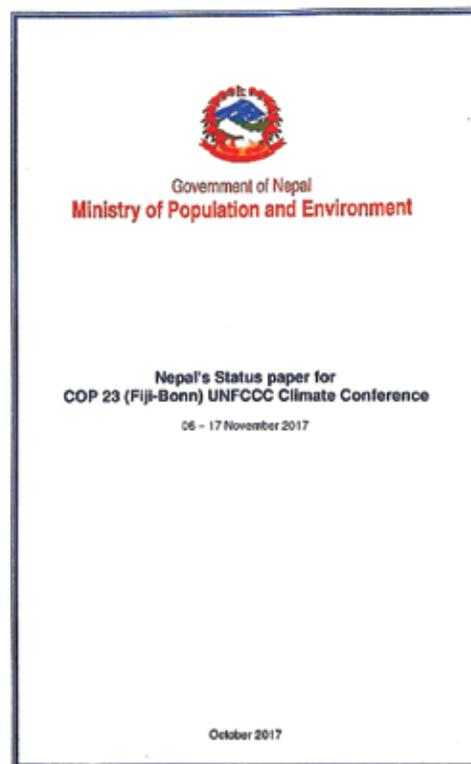
Snapshot of COP23 Fiji

COP23 Fiji Output	Implications & possible future strategy
Implementation of the Paris Agreement and development of its rules book	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progresses were made on the elements of the work programme of the Paris Agreement that are captured as informal notes. A 'Reflection note' will be released by early April 2018 with an overview of the outcomes of the session and to suggest options for the way forward. 	<p>The preparation of the rule book of the Paris Agreement has to be completed by 2018. Therefore, the future sessions in 2018 and before COP24 will be crucial in making progress for the draft text on rule book to be ready by COP24 for adoption.</p>
Talanoa Dialogue and Pre 2020 actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Facilitative Dialogue is to be known as the Talanoa dialogue (TD) and will be conducted throughout the year that will be composed of two phases - a preparatory phase and a political phase. The COP President and UNFCCC Executive Secretary will send joint letters to countries that have not yet ratified the Doha Amendment, urging them to deposit their instruments of acceptance as soon as possible. A stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition will be convened in 2018 and 2019. 	<p>Successful organization of Talanoa Dialogue will be important as it is mandated to inform preparation of next round of NDCs that aims to achieve 1.5 degree temperature limitation target.</p> <p>Developed countries should fulfill obligations in raising ambition and mobilizing finance. It will also be important for Nepal to ratify the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol after the formation of the new parliament.</p>
Adaptation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At COP23 some level of progress were made on the discussion on guideline for adaptation communication for the Paris Agreement. Likewise, implementation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was another main focus that will be further explored through Adaptation Committee and LDC Expert group and by organizing NAP Expo in April 2018. 	<p>Global negotiation has set up initial process for the implementation of NAPs and further support mechanisms are expected to be established in future, therefore it is crucial for Nepal to finalize NAP formulation immediately and initiate accessing resources for its implementation.</p>
Loss and Damage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An expert dialogue named the "Suva Expert Dialogue" will take place in April-May next year to explore further on ways to implement actions and to prepare a technical paper elaborating on the sources of financial support. The Clearing house for risk transfer and named it the 'Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer' was launched. 	<p>The real need on Loss and Damage is to address knowledge gap by feeding information from ground and implement actions. Therefore it will be important for Nepal to prioritize further on knowledge generation and piloting L&D related activities so as to provide inputs for ongoing expert meeting and negotiations.</p>

Finance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision was made that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement (PA) subject to and consistent with further details to be agreed in 2018. GCF related decision includes timely disbursement of approved funding, to simplify and facilitate access for direct access entities and private sector actors. The matters related to the prior information to be provided by developed countries on projected level of public financial resources to developing countries to improve the predictability of financial flows will be further discussed to be concluded by 2018. 	<p>For Nepal, it is important to formalize the provision of 'direct access' to financial mechanism at the national level, for which Nepal has to expedite the finalization of accreditation process of national direct access entities for both Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund. Engagement with national level stakeholders for identifying national priorities to access resources from such funds will be important.</p>
Agriculture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement reached to take forward the discussion on agriculture as "Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture" by further calling for submission and with emphasizing on how to address socio-economic and food security dimensions. 	<p>Global climate negotiation on agriculture has moved to new phase. In this context it will be important to have further national level consultations to engage agriculture experts to discuss on national priorities and plan for implementation of actions.</p>

Nepal at the COP23 Fiji

Nepal, as a party to the UNFCCC has been regularly attending the regular sessions of. This year the Nepali delegation participated the conference under the leadership of Hon. Minister Mithila Chaudhary, Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) together with Hon. Member of National Planning Commission, senior government officials and representatives from civil society organization and media. Prior to the COP23, series of preparatory meetings were held in Nepal, which further guided the preparation of **Nepal's Status paper for COP23**. From the beginning of the conference, Nepal started working actively in collaboration with the Group of Least Developed Countries and G77. Nepal also organized a side event to disseminate country's best practices, local climate change issues and progress in achieving SDG and implementation of NDC. Apart from that representatives from Nepal were invited in several panel discussions related to forest and climate change, loss and damage, National Adaptation Plan and to highlight national priorities on climate change. Nepal's delegation also attended the high level South-South cooperation session organized by ICIMOD and delivered a presentation on urgency of South-South collaborative support to addressing the impact of climate change in mountainous region.





Side event of Clean Energy Nepal

On November 7, 2017 Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) together with Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), Action Aid International, Bread for the World, World Council of Churches (WCC) organized a side event “Addressing Climate Induced Displacement/Migration and non-economic L&D in the Asia – Pacific region” at COP23. Mr. Rajan Thapa from CEN as one of the panelist for the side-event highlighted the Nepal’s specific concern for loss and damage. Further he urged for a dedicated and adequate financial support for loss and damage (L&D), through operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and its Protocol.



Dedicated and adequate financial support through operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and its Protocol is essential to respond the loss and damage (L&D) issue of Nepal

Ground action during COP23 in Nepal

Every mid Saturday during the COP, people around the globe celebrates “Global Day of Action” to highlight concerns and to pressurize the world leaders to take actions on climate change. To mark the global solidarity, this year the Global Day of Action was celebrated on 11th November 2017 in Nepal. The major activities observed in Nepal include Flash mob, Street Drama, climate song and Documentary screening. These activities were the key instrument for bringing Nepali youths together to demand for the climate justice.

As a part of ground action, two sessions of virtual sharing was organized to share the latest updates from COP23, Bonn Germany. Nepali delegation in Bonn, Germany including Hon. Member of National Planning Commission and senior officials provided a virtual briefings and updates to the participants in Nepal at Clean Energy Nepal.



Road to COP24, Katowice, Poland

The agreement reached in Paris, in December 2015 plays a critical importance in the climate negotiation process. However, the challenge of implementation of Paris Agreement still remains and the next steps are very crucial in transforming the collective vision and ambition into reality while drafting the rule book of the Paris Agreement. Nepal as Party country to the UNFCCC is implementing several plans and policies at National and local level, there are several challenges ahead while processing for COP24, Poland. Since UNFCCC has already urged parties to ratify the "Doha amendment of the KP", first step for Nepal would be appreciate the appeal made by secretariat and ratify the second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Responding climatic impacts in a very limited resources is always a key challenge for Nepal. Thus, Nepal should speed up the processes for the accreditation of direct entities to Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF). It is also important to take stock of progress of nationally-determined contributions (NDC). As such, only increased cooperation with developed countries and donor agencies, Nepal can access financial, technological and capacity-building support. Moreover, regular discussion on national priorities for upcoming meeting with wider stakeholder at national and international level are key steps while processing for COP24 Poland.



Since UNFCCC has already urged parties to ratify the “Doha amendment of the KP”, first step for Nepal would be appreciate the appeal made by secretariat and ratify the second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol.



List of meeting before COP24

Date	Event
31 March 2018	Deadline for submission of views on agriculture to UNFCCC
April 2018	Second Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA) meeting
1 May 2018	Deadline for countries to submit additional information on pre-2020 action
30 April – 10 May 2018	UNFCCC intercessional in Bonn (the 48 th session of Subsidiary Bodies)
12 – 15 September 2018	Global Climate Action Summit, California
October 2018	IPCC special 1.5C report
3 – 14 December 2018	COP24, Katowice, Poland (Finalization of Paris rulebook and Talanoa Dialogue)



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