



CEN Newsletter
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Climate Concern

Chile Madrid Climate Change Conference Special Edition



Credit: UN News

Overview

The 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place from 2nd to 15th December 2019. Although held in Madrid, with the logistical support of government of Spain, this COP took place under the presidency of the Government of Chile. COP25 was expected to complete the implementation guidelines (known as rule book) for the Paris Agreement, to speed-up the implementation of the Agreement by 2020 onwards. Additionally, it also aimed to raise ambition in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The world average surface temperature has already risen by over a degree since the pre-industrial period, and according to the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, climate related risk will be lower if temperature increase is to be maintained at 1.5°C. Implementation of the national commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, while not enough, will bring us close to realizing this goal. COP25 was, therefore, crucial to completing the technical guidelines of implementation for when the Paris Agreement starts its full implementation from 2020 onwards.

Because this COP did not complete the technical guideline, particularly on carbon market and was unable to bring in sufficient commitments to raise mitigation ambition, it was considered a disappointment by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, the participants and many media outlets. Much of these setbacks were a result of repeated obstructions from key polluting governments like the USA, Australia, China, India and Brazil who deliberately tried to subvert any climate action.

Key Outcomes of the Negotiations



Credit: Earth Observation



... according to World Resources Institute's 2020 NDC tracker, 108 countries including Nepal, responsible for only 15.1% of the global emissions, have signaled this ambition. The only major emitter among these countries to increase ambition was the European Union.

Mitigation: The United Nations Environment Programme's 2019 Emissions Gap Report states that our business-as-usual emissions puts us on a track for the 3°C pathway of warming. Even implementing the current ambitions outlined in the NDC would put 2030 emissions at 38% more than what is needed to reach the 1.5°C goal. In COP26, at Glasgow, United Kingdom in 2020, nations are required to submit their enhanced NDCs and it is expected that they increase their climate ambitions.

While there was no formal mandate to update mitigation commitments in this particular COP, it was expected that countries would signal intent to increase their ambitions in the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) document, which is scheduled to be submitted next year. However, according to World Resources Institute's 2020 NDC tracker, 108 countries including Nepal, responsible for only 15.1% of the global emissions, have signaled this ambition. The only major emitter among these countries to increase ambition was the European Union.

Carbon Markets and Transparency: Much of the Paris Rulebook was finalized in COP24 in Katowice, Poland, and some outstanding issues regarding carbon markets (Article 6 under the Paris Agreement) and transparency (Article 12) were left to be pursued at COP25. It was crucial for nations to finalize these issues so that the Paris Rulebook would be ready to guide the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which is set to begin in 2020. However, because of lack of consensus on various details, these issues have been pushed to COP26 in 2020.

Finance for climate action - Mitigation, Adaptation and Loss and Damage: Different countries have different contributions to climate change, and different capacity to help mitigate and adapt to it. Therefore, the UNFCCC calls for developed nations to help developing ones meet these targets through financial, technical and capacity-building support. While there are several financing mechanisms within the UNFCCC, key among them is the Green Climate Fund which aimed to mobilize USD\$100 billion in financial support annually starting 2020. However, this goal is far from being realized. As of now, developed countries have only pledged \$10 billion to the fund.

There is no dedicated funding mechanism right now within the UNFCCC to address unavoidable climate-induced losses and damages. The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) has mostly been used to understand the science behind the issue but has provided no financial, technical or capacity-building support. During this year's revision of WIM's mandate, nations came to an agreement to create an expert panel to support loss and damage. A 'Santiago network' has also been created to facilitate technical support. However, no agreement was made regarding the provision of new and sufficient sources of L&D funding.



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Nepal at the Katowice Climate Change Conference

A) Virtual sharing of UNFCCC COP25 from Madrid to Kathmandu

A live, virtual event was organized at Madrid to share the trajectory of COP25 negotiations with interested stakeholders in Kathmandu on the 6th and 12th of December 2019. Speakers in the event included the Minister for Forests and Environment, Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet; Member of National Planning Commission, Hon. Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli; Ambassador of Nepal to Spain, H.E. Dawa Futi Sherpa; Nepal's UNFCCC focal point, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal; Co-chair of the Local



Nepali delegates addressing the virtual conference during COP25 | Credit: Shreya KC, NYCA



... Hon. Minister Shakti Basnet showed appreciation of the Nepali delegated active engagement during COP but highlighted the need to mobilize global finance quickly to meet the needs of climate vulnerable communities in Nepal.

Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli emphasized the need to break the financial stalemate on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal informed everyone that Nepal was able to deliver a strong message to the global community.

Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIP) in the UNFCCC negotiations and Executive Director at Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED), Dr. Pasang Dolma Sherpa; Board Member of CEN, advisor to the LDC Chair and Head of LDC Support Team at Climate Analytics, Mr. Manjeet Dhakal; and youth delegate and Network Coordinator of Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA), Ms. Shreya K.C. In addition to this, many other Nepali delegates were also present at the conference. More than 50 stakeholders from Kathmandu joined this conference via. Skype including other social Medias.

During the event, Hon. Minister Shakti Basnet showed appreciation of the Nepali delegated active engagement during COP but highlighted the need to mobilize global finance quickly to meet the needs of climate vulnerable communities in Nepal. Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli emphasized the need to break the financial stalemate on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal informed everyone that Nepal was able to deliver a strong message to the global community. Mr. Manjeet Dhakal emphasized the need to meet the 1.5 °C ambition and explained the challenges presented by the carbon trading and transfer mechanism.

B) Press conference in Madrid

Clean Energy Nepal, together with the Government of Nepal, organized two press conferences in Madrid during the negotiation. The first press conference entitled 'Nepal's Agenda and Status in COP25' was organized on 6th December 2019 in Madrid. The conference aimed to share the updates of first week of COP. Nepal's UNFCCC focal point, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal; and Board Member of CEN, and advisor to the LDC Chair, Mr. Manjeet Dhakal; Under Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Mr. Kailash Raj Pokharel; and Network Coordinator of Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA), Ms. Shreya KC addressed the press conference. Dr. Dhakal stressed the need of mechanism for carbon trade that benefits the least developed countries but Article 6 should not compromise environmental integrity while trading the carbon in international market.



Nepali delegates addressing press conference at COP25 | Credit: Shankar Prasad Sharma, CEN

The second press conference entitled ‘COP 25: From the Perspective of Climate Vulnerable’ was organized on 12th December 2019 in Madrid. The conference was organized to share Nepal’s view on the progress and outcomes of COP 25. The conference was addressed by Minister for Forests and Environment, Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet; Member of National Planning Commission, Hon. Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli; Ambassador of Nepal to Spain, H.E. Dawa Futi Sherpa; Nepal’s UNFCCC focal point, Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal; and Board Member of CEN and advisor to the LDC Chair Mr. Manjeet Dhakal. Hon. Basnet focused on need of special consideration of mountain communities who are highly vulnerable due to climate change and its own geographic setting. He requested parties to enhance transparency framework and for seeking additional finance mechanism for implementing Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage beyond existing ODA grant financing mechanism.



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C) Side event during COP 25

Clean Energy Nepal, together with the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Environment, Practical Action and Prakriti Resources Center, organized a side event on 11th of December 2019 in Madrid entitled “Loss and Damage in South Asia; Towards an Inclusive Assessment and Action”. Through the side event the examples of losses and damages in the region including the examples of inclusive assessment and actions to address the losses and damages were shared while also highlighting the specific cases that are being faced by the climate vulnerable communities, landless people and smallholder’s communities in Nepal and other South Asian countries. Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Minister of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal, Hon. Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Member, National Planning Commission of Nepal, Dr. Reinhard Mechler, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis were the speaker in the program including other experts from different Countries.



Speakers in Side Event | Credit: Shankar Prasad Sharma, CEN

Pre- and Post-COP Events Organized in Nepal by Clean Energy Nepal

A) Panel discussion on climate change: 'Voice of Climate Vulnerable'



Presentation during CEN's pre-COP event | Credit: Lalmani Wagle, CEN



Ms. Saraswati Subba, President of National Land Rights Forum stressed how landless people were not considered stakeholders in the climate change sector, despite their high vulnerability. Mr. Nawaraj Basnet, President of National Farmers Group Federation of Nepal, shared the challenges farmers faced due to increasing climate stress.

Clean Energy Nepal (CEN) organized a program entitled "Panel Discussion on Climate Change; Voice of Climate Vulnerable" in Kathmandu on 21st of November, 2019. Mr. Lalmani Wagle, program officer at CEN, talked about the challenges faced by climate vulnerable, land less and small holder's farmers due to climate change. Dr. Maheshwor Dhakal, presented Nepal's preparation and priorities for COP 25. Ms. Saraswati Subba, President of National Land Rights Forum stressed how landless people were not considered stakeholders in the climate change sector, despite their high vulnerability. Mr. Nawaraj Basnet, President of National Farmers Group Federation of Nepal, shared the challenges farmers faced due to increasing climate stress.

B) Nepal Climate Discussion: COP 25 from the perspectives of climate vulnerable

In this program organized on the 30th of December 2019, the outcomes of COP25 and Nepal's participation in the event were discussed extensively. The program was addressed by the Minister of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet; Hon. Dr. Krishna Prasad Oli, Member of National Planning Commission; Secretary of MoFE, Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli; and Board Member of CEN and Head of LDC Support Team at Climate Analytics, Mr. Manjeet Dhakal. Hon. Minister Shakti Bahadur Basnet, stressed that "while adaptation and mitigation should be considered parallelly in the global arena, Nepal should prioritize adaptation issues." Mr. Manjeet Dhakal shared the key outcomes of the COP25.



Presentation during CEN's post-COP outcome sharing event | Credit: Shankar Sharma, CEN

Dr. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, Co-chair of LCIP in the UNFCCC; Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, UNFCCC Focal Point of Nepal; and Kumar Raj Kahrel, Joint-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also shared their views regarding COP outcomes and Nepal's priorities in the panel discussion. During this discussion, audience members had the opportunity to present their queries and suggestions. Topics discussed included prioritization of climate vulnerable communities and countries in the global climate negotiation, promotion of sustainability, Visit Nepal 2020, the NAP process, nature-based solutions etc.

Nepal's Do's in 2020

- The Government of Nepal (GoN) must form a dedicated team for the country's effective presence at climate change related multilateral process. A system shall be in place for proper institutional record, to avoid loss of information with frequent changes of officials in the ministries.
- A dedicated team for climate negotiation should form with the engagement of relevant ministries and departments including other stakeholders working on climate change and international climate negotiations under the coordination of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE). This can lead to effective and outcome oriented engagement of Nepal in global climate negotiations.
- Timely stocktaking of all the initiatives in climate change regime and their proper documentation including the lesson learnt have to be done. Nepal can share such cases in global platform as best practices.
- Preparation of Status Paper, is appreciable effort of government of Nepal but the timely publish and distribution of status paper should ensure. An analysis of effectiveness of Status Paper should be done.



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The ongoing National Adaptation Plan formulation process shall be accomplished as soon as possible prioritizing the climate vulnerable communities and ecosystem including the land less people, small holder's farmers and marginalized groups, women, children and people with disability.

- It's important to increase investment in research to ensure that there is ample scientific understanding on climate change scenarios and impacts in different sectors. Needed adaptation and mitigation strategy as well as Nepal position in global negotiation on these sectors shall be developed based on such scenarios.
- Implementation of climate change policies, plans and programs must consider other major global policy instrument such as UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Sendai Framework on DRR and Sustainable Development Goals including others sectorial policies at the federal and provincial level.
- The ongoing National Adaptation Plan formulation process shall be accomplished as soon as possible prioritizing the climate vulnerable communities and ecosystem including the land less people, small holder's farmers and marginalized groups, women, children and people with disability.
- The GoN should conduct annual and periodic review of national policies, plans and programs, focusing on climate vulnerable communities and ecosystem and enhance the implementation accordingly.
- Timely completion of enhanced and ambitious NDC should be ensured. While updating the NDC of Nepal, it seems necessary to cover all the GHG emitting sectors as identified by the latest GHG inventory conducted.
- Capacity enhancement of all tiers of government and other relevant stakeholders including private sectors as well as formulation of implementation plan for proper NDC implementation is prerequisite.
- Realizing the important role of the Provincial and Local government in implementing climate action, the federal government must provide support in formulating and implementing the required policy, programs and plans including mobilization of financial and technical resources.
- Capacity enhancement and engagement of vulnerable community shall be strengthened with specific to policy and plan formulation and implementation including other decision making. The GoN and other stakeholders shall ensure that they put their utmost efforts to ensure that the decision making including other interventions on climate change are participatory, accountable, vulnerable centric and transparent.



For further details

Clean Energy Nepal

Pragati Path, Talchikhel, Lalitpur, Nepal
G.P.O. Box 24581, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: +977-1-015538660
Email: info@cen.org.np
Website: www.cen.org.np

Supported by:



Contributor: Lalmani Wagle, Sneha Pandey, Shankar Prasad Sharma
Reviewer: Manjeet Dhakal and Mangleswori Dhonju