COP24 will be held from 02 – 14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.

Ahead of, and during COP24 the International Climate Politics Hub (ICP) is encouraging partners to:

- Keep pressure on Parties to conclude the negotiation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) to land a balanced and operational rulebook by the end of the COP24;
- Increase pressure on countries to clarify their domestic processes for preparing updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as well as mid-century strategies by 2020, and to announce their intentions to initiate this process at COP24;
- Encourage contributor countries to prepare to showcase progress on finance, in particular pre-2020, by giving concrete examples of where climate finance is positively impacting people’s lives and to signal their intentions to further provide finance through clarifying statements or new pledges during COP24;
- Engage business and investors to articulate the value of all major economies following common rules under the Paris regime, strengthening confidence in climate action with international markets.

**POLITICAL CONTEXT**

There are some significant components shaping dynamics going into COP24:

- **Going into COP24 there is a broad country consensus to deliver a rulebook outcome.** The adoption of the rulebook is in reach, but technical complexity and prevailing crunch issues will define the strength of its foundations and amount of future elaboration required;
- **The IPCC 1.5C report has raised expectations for climate action.** However government responses have so far remained muted and this is in contrast to momentum of subnational and non-state actors committing to net-zero 2050 plans and science-based targets;
- **Political confidence for increasing ambition is being undermined** by strengthening headwinds:
  - **Political dynamics:** “Progressive” countries are more fragmented in their approaches and inconclusive over whether to push for higher ambition now (AILAC, LDCs, AOSIS, some EU Member States like Spain) or first focus on implementing existing targets (some EU Member States like Germany, the EU Commission, Canada). It remains to be seen how much of their shared capital the “MOCA partners”, China, the EU and Canada, are ready to mobilise to land an ambitious agreement;
  - **In changing National dynamics:** The US mid-terms gave a platform to a more pro-climate and multilateralist House but did not conclusively reject President Trump’s
policies. Brazil, once a member of the ‘High Ambition Coalition’, is now raising concerns around backsliding on international climate commitments. Some countries are still wary of the effect of the Paris Agreement on their economies (e.g. oil exporting economies; Turkey);

c) In the global economy: Global emissions are increasing again after having been flat for a few years, low carbon investment is stagnating, and the escalating trade war, which will be the central issue of the upcoming G20 Summit (Buenos Aires, Nov.30-Dec.1st), is weakening major power cooperation.

• The Polish Presidency is gaining confidence but is focused on delivering its political declarations (Just Transition, Forests and E-mobility) and the COP process, rather than the politics needed to drive ambition.

• The Green Climate Fund (GCF) October Board session brought the fund back on track, alleviating the tensions which erupted at the summer session and deciding to open its first replenishment process next year. Without clarity on the target number and signals on donor mobilisation the likelihood that finance issues will flare at the COP remains high.

NARRATIVES THAT MAY IMPACT THE COP

Alongside the context presented in the framing above, the mainstreaming of climate change has extended the climate debate beyond the happenings of the COP process. Narratives that may impact the COP include:

• Impacts, Urgency and Fear: The lived reality of climate impacts and the urgency instilled by the IPCC report are highlighting the desperate need to accelerate climate action. At the same time the toxifying politics across the world, including those driven by issues likely to be exacerbated by climate such as migration, are simultaneously increasing a sense of helplessness amongst the aware public.

• The Growing Emissions Gap: Heading into COP the upcoming UNEP emissions gap report will highlight the fact that global emissions are rising again for the second year in a row. This perceived failure to start closing the gap is particularly stark when juxtaposed with the urgency highlighted by the IPCC 1.5 report. With frustrations over inaction mounting, it needs to be clear that Paris, and subsequent COPs, can only be part of the solution.

• ‘Just Transition’: With COP24 taking place in a coal region, the Polish Presidency is proposing to Heads of States a ‘Just Transition’ declaration. Reporting could focus on the importance of proactively managing the socio-economic challenges of transition for the benefit of all, or scapegoat climate policy for the fallout of unmanaged globalisation and other industrial transitions.

• Trade war and major power clashes: The shifting trade and economic landscape is impacting global confidence in international cooperation. A perceived hardening of geopolitical lines increases the attention on major power relationships in all fora.

• Hypocrisy of Vested Interests: Recent efforts by oil companies to sabotage US climate policy to a tune of $100 million are in stark contrast to their public statements in support of climate action. This is likely to reignite campaigning about the role and legitimacy of vested interests in international climate talks.

POLITICAL RHYTHM OF COP24

The raised expectations and media attention following a year of extreme weather and the release of the IPCC special report on 1.5 means the COP will be under more scrutiny than initially expect. With a lot of technical work to wrap up and suite of high-level events already on the agenda, the COP’s sequencing and choreography will have to be carefully managed to avoid mismatched expectations.
The Full UNFCCC Schedule can be viewed here.

**WEEK 0**
A number of external narratives are likely to hold foreign policy and media attention heading into the COP which may cause proceedings to start with low energy and with media coverage dominated by frustrations over the growing gap between what is required and what is being delivered. These include: the quality of the formal and informal climate outcomes around the G20; the outcomes of the planned bilateral between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping; the UNEP emission gap report, launched just days before the COP (27 November); and the unsettling findings of the IPCC special report still fresh in public consciousness.

We recommend ICP partners intervene to channel this frustration by increasing pressure on countries to use the COP moment to announce their intentions to instigate the domestic policy processes that can increase ambition.

Sunday 2\textsuperscript{nd} December:
- The COP opens early this year, just a day after the G20 leaders’ summit concludes in Argentina. This first day is dedicated to the opening plenaries of the various COP bodies.

**WEEK 1**
The first week will see negotiators making the most of the limited time to tackle the substantial work remaining to deliver a Paris rulebook. The positioning of major economies, including the US, EU, China, Brazil, India, and Saudi Arabia, will be under scrutiny during the first week of negotiations. Their respective positions will be indicative of their level of political intent to move beyond rhetorical affirmation of Paris, toward a common set of rules. ICP will track country positions and provide lines to take in our COP daily updates to support partner interventions.

With negotiators focused in on the technical work, week 1 is likely to see the media pick up these broader issues and narratives:
- The mismatch between what the world needs and what the COP can deliver is likely to carry through the first week – we recommend ICP partners intervene to channel this into increased pressure on countries to show how they are planning to contribute to closing the gap.
(a) Coal and Just Transition narratives are likely to see extensive pick-up in week 1 as narratives focus on the COP’s location in the Silesian coal region and the Presidency’s push for a Just Transition Declaration.

a. On coal, **ICP partners can intervene by highlighting the increasing competitiveness of renewables over coal**, as well as the Silesian regions efforts to deal with the air pollution caused by a historically heavy coal reliance.

b. On Just Transition, **ICP partners can animate voices, particularly from the global south, to express the importance of just transition** considering both the impacts of climate action and climate inaction on the most vulnerable communities, lives and livelihoods across the planet.

(b) Finance is likely to flare in week 1, as technical details over the predictability of finance are under discussion and donor countries reserve pledges and signals on finance flows for the high-level segments in the second week. ICP partners can help support a constructive narrative around finance by:

a. Engaging with donor countries on the **importance of predictability of finance for unlocking global ambition**.

b. Engaging with major economies to ensure that they are preparing opening statements which **acknowledge the importance of financial flows for action** on the ground, and where possible, initial signals around future finance flows (i.e. around welcoming the replenishment period of the GCF).

**Monday 3rd December:**
- The second day of COP is dominated by the **Head of State Summit in nearby Krakow**, where the Polish Presidency aims to present its declaration on Just Transition for signature. Two other declarations, on Forests and E-Mobility, are set to be launched at later points during the COP.
- The United Nations Secretary General has confirmed his participation, but Head of State participation is expected to be limited, with few developing country leaders confirmed to make the trip to Poland after the G20 leaders’ summit.

**Tuesday 4th December:**
- The **Global Climate Action Event** will run in parallel to rulebook negotiations. The UN Secretary General is expected to use this event to call on governments and non-state actors to do more for climate action.
- The technical session on the **IPCC special report on 1.5** will outline the growing risks of inaction; and delegates will be finalising preparations for the high-level events on the Talanoa Dialogue and the pre-2020 stocktake.

**Thursday 6th December:**
- Thematic days begin, kicking off with ‘Young and Future Generations Day’, the Talanoa Dialogue wraps up its preparatory phase, and the 2018 ‘Yearbook for Global Climate Action’ is launched.

**Friday 7th December:**
- Global Climate Action events continue with sessions on human settlements, industry, transport and water.

**MIDDLE WEEKEND**

**Saturday 8th December:**
- **Though the technical bodies negotiating the Paris rulebook are meant to close on Saturday**, it is likely that the COP stocktaking plenary will approve further negotiating time in...
week 2. By this time negotiators will need to have clarified the remaining crunch issues which require political guidance once ministers arrive in the second week. Additionally, countries should have begun working on roadmaps for elaborating on some elements during future sessions.

- **Global Climate Action events** continue with sessions on oceans, energy, and land use, as well as roundtables on sustainable consumption and finance.

**WEEK TWO**

Week two is likely to see a continuation of the technical rulebook negotiations, as the most political and technically complex issues are allowed additional time. While many ministers are still deciding on the duration of their stay in Katowice, much of their attention is likely to be absorbed by the numerous high-level events already in the schedule.

**Monday 10th December:**

- The Pre-2020 Stocktake starts the second week and can act as a vent for the frustrations around the perceived lack of response to the urgency outlined in the IPCC 1.5 report. The stocktake can also highlight the willingness of governments to deliver on promised climate action. **ICP partners are encouraged to engage major economies to highlight progress on delivering their domestic pre-2020 targets, acknowledge the need to do more, and outline measures being put in place to achieve domestic targets and support efforts in developing countries** (including progress on the $100 Billion and Capacity Building efforts). Major economies should also reach out in advance to middle-income, poor, or vulnerable countries to gather supportive voices welcoming progress in support.

- **The High-level dialogue on Finance** also kicks-off in week 2. Given the likelihood of finance flaring in week 1, major economies are advised to come prepared to showcase collective progress on the $100 Billion goal. Also, on the basis of the latest assessment of the Standing Committee on Finance, **it will be important they send positive signals around the upcoming replenishment period of the Green Climate Fund**, and, where possible, contribute to enabling further action in the most vulnerable countries by **making additional pledges to the Adaptation and Least Developed Country Funds**.

- Global Climate Action roundtable discussions continue with sessions on economic growth, fashion industry, resilience, land use, water and energy, oceans and transport.

**Tuesday 11th December:**

- The middle of week 2 is dedicated to the **political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue**. This is the main moment for countries to showcase their understanding of the need to do more and their willingness to put measures in place to prepare enhanced NDCs by 2020. To be successful, countries will need to engage in the Talanoa Dialogue in a forward-looking fashion.

- **Diplomatic outreach can help ensure an outcome which lays the foundations for an ambition debate in 2019**, including recognition of the 2019 UN Secretary General’s Climate summit as a stepping stone for raising ambition in line with carbon neutrality, and a reaffirmation of the deadline for updating NDCs and submitting mid-century strategies in 2020.

- Most importantly this is the moment when **countries can highlight how they are going to open the domestic conversation necessary** to determine what more can be done to contribute to closing the emissions gap.

- Tuesday is Gender Day and includes climate action sessions on sports, tourism, and infrastructure.
GETTING ACROSS THE LINE

The official outcomes from the high-level events will be formally adopted in the dedicated non-rulebook-focused closing plenaries on the Wednesday of week 2. ICP partners are encouraged to reach out to governments and support additional statements and press conferences which articulate next steps for 2019 including domestic discussions to prepare updated NDCs by 2020.

In the final days of COP24 ministers will be freed up to give final political guidance on outstanding issues impeding adoption of the final COP24 package (PAWP/rulebook, ambition, pre-2020, finance). The Polish presidency is intending to task ministerial pairs to address crunch issues as it is highly likely that political guidance will be necessary on issues including differentiation and finance. The extent of political guidance required will depend on how expansive the instructions received by negotiators are heading into COP and how much can be agreed at the technical level in advance of ministers’ arrival. ICP will keep partners updated on these developments in our COP24 daily briefings.

COP24 TALKING POINTS

There are some key components to describing and framing COP24 which can help situate it within the broader context and describe the main function of this COP:

- COP24 comes in the wake of the unsettling findings of the IPCC 1.5 report which shed new light on the need for urgent and immediate action
- Despite the fractious geopolitical climate, governments are poised to show their sustained commitment to global climate action by taking the next steps to implement the Paris Agreement at COP24.
- Governments will agree a set of rules that support countries to deliver decarbonised and resilient economies, enabling finance to flow, and facilitating increases in climate action every 5 years.
- Concluding the negotiation of the rulebook will be very difficult and there are still some major roadblocks, starting with finance. Countries will seek reassurance that “green” finance is flowing to the developing world, consistently with reaching the $100 Billion goal by 2020, and will expect signals that these flows will continue to increase.
- And whilst a single international meeting is only ever one part of the puzzle, countries can use the COP to take crucial steps which set up the conditions for a global debate on climate action in 2019.
- In 2018, at the Global Climate Action Summit and Climate Vulnerable Forum Virtual Summit, non-state actors and vulnerable countries are showing their commitment to increasing climate action, now all governments need to leverage their energy and revise their ambition upwards.
- Some countries will use COP24 to announce the launch of domestic processes to review their existing climate ambition; others will make such announcements at the Secretary General’s Climate Summit in September 2019; the challenge ahead of us is to ensure that most countries will submit revised NDCs, as well as mid-century strategies, in time for the 2020 deadline for updated contributions.