

11-22 NOV., 2013
WARSAW, POLAND

COP19

COP PRESIDENT: MARCIN KOROLEC,
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF POLAND



Summit Kickoff:

More than 8,300 participants attended the nineteenth session of UN climate change negotiations including 4,022 government officials, 3,695 representatives of United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and 658 members of the media.

Governments' meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw eked out a modest package of decisions that keep the international climate negotiations on track but underscore the formidable challenges facing parties as they work toward a new global agreement in Paris in 2015.



The other major issues in Warsaw were demands from developing countries for increased climate finance and for a new mechanism to help –especially vulnerable nations– cope with unavoidable “loss and damage” resulting from climate change. Countries had agreed a year earlier to address “loss and damage” in Warsaw. The issue took on a new prominence when Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines just days before the conference.

Summit Conclusions and Recommendations:

- As part of the Copenhagen and Cancún agreements, developed countries pledged USD 30 billion in climate finance from 2010 through 2012 (the “fast start” period) and to mobilize USD 100 billion a year in public and private finance for developing countries by 2020.
- Developing countries, concerned by a lack of progress in ramping up finance, pushed in Warsaw for an interim goal of USD 70 billion by 2016, but developed countries refused.
- Developed countries did agree to begin submitting new biennial reports outlining their strategies for scaling up climate finance. To ensure continued high-level attention to the issue, the COP decided to convene a biennial ministerial dialogue on climate finance running from 2014 to 2020.
- Parties agreed to establish the “Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts” to share information and best practices, explore strategies to address loss and damage, and provide technical support to vulnerable countries.
- Guidelines for forest countries were adopted to develop “reference levels”, against which their efforts to reduce deforestation will be measured, a key step toward qualifying for increased funding.
- The Warsaw meeting underscored the tremendous distance still to be covered on core issues such as the legal character of a new agreement and the differentiation of developed and developing country obligations.