



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 December 2019
(OR. en)

15172/19

CLIMA 335
ENV 1028
ONU 144
SUSTDEV 179

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: 25th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) (Madrid, 2-15 December 2019)
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 19 December 2019.

**25th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Conference
(COP25)
(Madrid, 2-15 December 2019)**

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission -

Chile presided over the **25th United Nations Climate Change Conference** (“COP25”) that took place from 2 until 15 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

As the primary annual global climate-related gathering of leaders from governments, business and civil society, COP25 provided a platform to present the ambitious **European Green Deal and the EU’s commitment to climate neutrality by 2050**. This was very well-received by stakeholders and other Parties.

The EU’s priority for COP25 was to complete the “Katowice Rulebook” agreed last year, with **rules to ensure robust accounting for the use of international carbon markets**, and the establishment of a new carbon offset mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The EU worked tirelessly with its negotiating partners to reach an agreement that would avoid double counting and ensure environmental integrity. The EU showed flexibility and solidarity with positions of the most vulnerable countries, by exploring ways in which carbon markets can voluntarily, but more effectively and predictably, raise resources for climate finance, including for adaptation.

However, the loopholes in the carbon market suggested by a small number of Parties, were too large for the EU and the remainder of the Parties to tolerate, as it would have seriously undermined ambition under the Paris Agreement. Hence, no compromise could be found at this session and COP25 forwarded an otherwise robust set of draft rules for Article 6 to the next negotiating session in Bonn and to COP26 in Glasgow, where Parties will try again to reach consensus.

Furthermore, COP25 completed the **review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage** associated with Climate Change Impacts, a result that provides for the enhancement of the capacity of the countries to mobilize and catalyse effective action for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

Other welcome outcomes of COP25 are: (a) the **extension and revision of the Gender Action Plan**, which strengthens gender considerations and women's participation in climate action and highlights the important role of women as agents of change; (b) the **successful review of the framework for capacity building** and the completion of the relevant institutional arrangements under the Paris Agreement; and (c) the **continuation of the work of the Global Climate Action Agenda** beyond 2020.

The EU also successfully supported the holding of a **dialogue on the oceans and climate change** to consider how to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action in June 2020, where the EU will raise the profile of the nexus between climate change and the importance and fragility of the oceans.

COP25 also saw a number of **high-level events**, i.e. the Global Climate Action High-level Event and a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition. Both high-level events and the multiple events under the Global Climate Action Agenda with the active participation by non-Party stakeholders showcased progress and presented opportunities in order to inspire and incentivise efforts by all stakeholders.

Looking forward, **next year must be the year of increasing ambition**. By COP26 in Glasgow, countries need to communicate or update their nationally determined contributions and submit their mid-century strategies, in line with the Paris objectives.

In this context, COP25, through its overarching political decisions, sends **an unequivocal message that all Parties will update their nationally determined contributions in a manner that reflects their highest possible ambition**.

The EU will continue to work with partners to raise global ambition and make sure that we all face head-on the urgent challenge of climate change.