



Climate Change & Environment Network Special Newsletter, November 2013

This special newsletter of SDC's CC&E Network aims to provide members and SDC staff with information on **the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It highlights important events and news from a Swiss perspective. A more processed analysis of COP 19 will follow in the next regular newsletter. The COP 19 took place in Warsaw (Poland) from 11-22 November 2013.

Background

The last session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties took place almost a year ago in Doha, Qatar. The so-called **COP 18** was considered a bridge-builder between the old and new climate regimes. It consolidated the gains of the last years of negotiations and opened the gateway to the much needed greater ambition and action.

Since then, the urgency to act has become more evident with the partial publication of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report is the most comprehensive scientific review of climate change to date. One of the key messages is that the world is running out of its "carbon budget", i.e. the amount of greenhouse gas that can be emitted before the effects of climate change become irreversible and catastrophic.

In a nutshell, the goal of the ongoing negotiations is to design an agreement which commits developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions substantially and requires developing countries, especially major emitters to make an effort as well. The overall target is to come to a comprehensive and legally binding agreement at COP 21 in 2015 in Paris, so that it enters into force in 2020. Therefore, the COP 19 in Warsaw is the continuation on the pathway to that goal. As highlighted by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Christina Figueres, reaching this goal requires progress in five key issues during the Warsaw negotiations: 1) ratifying the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol; 2) ensuring prompt implementation of the existing finance and technology agreements to support developing countries to reduce their emissions; 3) operationalising the Green Climate Fund (GCF); 4) creating mechanisms for assessing loss and damage claims; 5) clarifying which elements will be included in the international agreement to be drafted at the next COP.

At the next COP in December 2014 in Lima, state parties will continue discussing commitments, equity issues, finance, and accountability, but progress must be made in Warsaw so that the state parties can do their homework at the national level and arrive in Lima prepared to negotiate a draft agreement.

More on COP 18 in the [10th CC&E Network newsletter](#) and background information on the UNFCCC process on the [UNFCCC website](#)

Daily Highlights from the COP 19

Monday (11 November)	Saturday (16 November)
Tuesday (12 November)	Monday (18 November)
Wednesday (13 November)	Tuesday (19 November)
Thursday (14 November)	Wednesday (20 November)
Friday (15 November)	Thursday (21 November)

Swiss Position

The negotiation mandate of the Swiss Delegation in Warsaw is outlined in a paper produced by the Federal Council in October 2013. The task of the Swiss Delegation is to promote the strengthening of the **current climate regime** (2013-2020), while contributing to the development of an agreement for the period after 2020. Regarding negotiations on improving the current regime, Switzerland advocates for measures that contribute to real **emission reductions**. A further concern is to push for a transparent and precise definition of voluntary commitments. Accordingly, industrialised states that did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol should commit to voluntary emission reduction targets similar to those of state parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Also, the Swiss Delegation is advocating for broad based and transparent climate financing for the implementation of the new climate regime. In this respect, Switzerland would like to see the **GCF** become operational. In order to achieve this, some working modalities need to be clarified in Warsaw. This is crucial, as the GCF is expected to mobilise USD 100 billion from private and public sources to support the implementation of climate policies in developing countries.

Concerning the **post 2020 climate regime**, Switzerland supports the principle that all countries must reduce their emissions and that they should commit to this unconditionally. Emission reductions in the new regime should be binding, clear, quantifiable, measurable, and verifiable (based on standardised rules). At the negotiations in Warsaw, steps should be taken towards defining the national reduction commitments of state parties to the Convention.

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard agreed to participate in the plenary session of the Ministerial Summit from 19-22 November. More on the Swiss position (including Mrs. Leuthard's statement) on the website of [UVEK](#) and [BAFU](#) (both in German)

SDC Participation at the COP 19

SDC was part of the Swiss Delegation in Warsaw. It focused on the issues under the UNFCCC that are closely linked to development cooperation. Two such issues are financial mechanisms for supporting developing countries and adaptation. The transversal issue of **gender and climate change** also received close attention and support. Regarding **climate change financing** mechanisms, several side events (described on the next page) were supported by SDC. Concerning adaptation and more specifically **loss and damage** (L&D), Switzerland recognises the challenges this causes especially for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The extent of L&D depends on the level of successful climate change mitigation and adaptation. SDC stressed that: while climate related hazards are growing, socio-economic factors are also increasing risks people face due to climate change, e.g. ecosystem decline, poverty, unplanned urban development and deforestation. An integrated approach is required due to the close link between risk management and adaptation. Consequently, strategies and activities to address L&D should go hand in hand with adaptation efforts to climate change. Recognising this complexity and cross-sectoral nature of the issue, SDC (as member of the Swiss Delegation), supports an institutional arrangement in the framework of adaptation to climate change, in order to ensure that L&D is addressed in a comprehensive manner.

Gender and Climate Change

Women are at the centre of the climate change challenge. Not only are they disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change, they also play a role in combatting it. This reality is recognised by stakeholders at COP 19. The agenda includes several specific events on gender and climate change (including a workshop on gender in the UNFCCC), especially on 19 November which was declared **gender day**. An **Environmental Gender Index (EGI)** – a tool (developed with co-funding from SDC) to monitor progress towards gender equality in the context of global environmental governance – was launched at the COP 19. Also, the Women's Carbon Standard (a set of women-specific project design and implementation requirements that complement existing carbon standards and measure social benefits) was renamed the **W+ Standard**. More on the [workshop](#), on women as agents of change in the [factsheet](#) of the Global Gender, on the [EGI](#) and on the [W+Standard](#)

Swiss-Supported Side Events

Comprehensive Climate Finance: UN Discussion on Capacity Building to Scale-up Climate Action in Developing Countries (14 November)

This side event on climate finance is a reaction to increasing requests from UN member states for good practices on capacity building for comprehensive and broad-based approaches to climate finance readiness. The United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank (WB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) co-hosted this event to share their experience in the Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Mozambique and Lebanon. [More](#)

Developing Countries in the Driver's Seat for Accelerating Green Finance (16 November)

This side event hosted by Switzerland focused on trends and lessons from green finance driven by developing countries, e.g. South-South cooperation for financing green climate policies. The following issues were discussed: characteristics of green finance, policy levers used to generate private sector investment and how developing country finance can influence the design of the GCF. More on the [website](#) of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and in the [report](#) on South-originating green finance presented at the event

Demystifying Private Climate Finance – the Transformational Potential of the GCF (19 November)

This event was part of a forum organised by Caring for Climate (the world's largest voluntary business and climate initiative) and hosted by the UN Global Compact, UNEP and the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. It emerged from the recognition that tackling climate challenges requires more concerted efforts by business, civil society and governments. The session

on the GCF tried to clarify where and why private finance is crucial for achieving the mitigation and adaptation objectives of developing countries and how the GCF could mobilise appropriate types of finance to meet those needs for low-carbon and climate-resilient development. More on this [event](#) and on the [Caring for Climate Business Forum](#)

Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (18 / 21 November)

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched in 2012 by six governments and UNEP to advocate for considerable reductions in short-lived climate pollutants – the initial focus being on black carbon, methane and some hydrofluorocarbons. According to scientific evidence, fast action to reduce these pollutants could slow down global warming by up to half a degree between 2010 and 2050, prevent more than two million premature deaths each year and reduce annual crop losses. At a side event on 18 November CCAC partners shared their experience with related initiatives and how to take more action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. As a partner of the CCAC, Switzerland was represented at the High Level Assembly on November 21. More on [CCAC](#) and on the [side event](#)

Climate Finance as the Enabler for a 2015 Deal: What do Developing Countries Require for Action? (21 November)

This side event organised by the Principality of Liechtenstein and the University of Zürich, revolved around the question how climate finance (including the GCF) needs to be structured in order to incentivise developing countries to adopt firm emission reduction targets in 2015.

Building Skills to Address Climate Change – Lessons from the UN Climate Change Learn Partnership (22 November)

The objective of this side event was to give Governments, NGOs and International Organisations space to share their experience with the national development component of the UN CC: Learn initiative. The National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCMDL) of the Dominican Republic and the NGO Sur Futuro in collaboration with the Governments of Indonesia, Benin, Malawi, Uganda, and the UN CC:Learn Secretariat hosted the side event. Through this event, the hosts hope to inspire other (donor and recipient) countries to implement article 6 of the UNFCCC, e.g. by preparing climate change learning national strategies. The event marked the end of the Swiss funded pilot phase. More on the [side event](#) and on [UN CC Learn](#)

"We must stay focused, exert maximum effort for the full time and produce a positive result, because what happens in this stadium is not a game. There are not two sides, but the whole of humanity. There are no winners and losers, we all either win or lose in the future we make for ourselves."

- Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

This newsletter in English is directed at an audience that is interested in receiving the latest news on activities related to climate change and development cooperation carried out by Swiss actors, key international actors and the most extraordinary innovators. It is one of the instruments of the **Global Programme Climate Change** and the **Climate Change and Environment Network** of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to facilitate the access to information in the area of climate change and development as well as encourage dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between all political, administrative and operational actors involved in this crucial crosscutting issue.

The newsletter caters to both the needs of quick readers who are interested in getting the latest news in a minute and those who want to get more in depth information. The latter group can do so by clicking on the links that take them straight to the relevant background documentation. Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme on Climate Change](#) (GPCC) for articles you do not have access to or to **subscribe to the distribution list**.

We appreciate your [feedback](#) on how to improve this newsletter. **Please also send climate change and environment relevant news you consider essential for the SDC to daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch (CC&E Network Focal Point) or nara.zanes@gmail.com (Newsletter Editor) for the next newsletter!** However, please note that in order not to exceed **4** pages, we need to screen the news and make a selection. Help us in the pre-selection by already translating your articles to English, shortening, possibly simplifying text, and adding links - that way you will have a greater chance of finding your news in the next newsletter.
