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SUMMARY

UNITED NATIONS



COP24 • KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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Special Edition

KATOWICE: UN climate conference COP24

COP24—held in Katowice, Poland from 2-14 December-- must unleash the full potential of the Paris Agreement by finalizing the Paris Agreement Work Programme. This will put into place the practical implementation guidelines needed to implement the historic agreement that aims to limit global warming to well under 2°C this century. The Work Programme must provide a way to track progress and ensure that climate action is transparent. This in turn will build trust and send a signal that governments are serious about addressing climate change. COP24 also needs to establish a clear way forward on climate finance to ensure greater support for climate action in developing countries.

Since the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992, parties have met at least once a year to further the implementation of the Convention. This year, the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 24 will take place in Katowice, Poland from 2-14 December. Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will also meet. The Katowice Conference will mark the third anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement, which was agreed to in 2015.

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What countries say in Poland will determine climate efforts and action for years to come. With high-level events, panel discussions and roundtables, COP24 should address three main issues: the rules and procedures for how countries will meet their commitments, how climate action will be financed, and "ambition"—what countries may be willing to do to exceed their Paris emissions-cutting commitments when they're updated in 2020. The Paris Agreement Work Programme will make the Paris Agreement fully operational by unlocking ambitious action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to empower developing countries.

In early October, the special report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that the world is already witnessing the consequences of 1°C of global warming. There is already more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes. Every bit of additional warming brings greater risks. There are clear benefits to limiting warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C: 420 million fewer people being exposed to severe heat waves, survival of some tropical coral reefs, loss of fewer plants and animal species, and the protection of forests and wetland habitats.

In September 2019, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a climate summit to mobilize political and economic efforts at the highest level possible to strengthen climate action and ambition worldwide. Even if all the commitments made by countries for the Paris Agreement are achieved, the world will still be on a course to warm by more than 3°C this century. In advance of the 2020 deadline for countries to raise their commitments in their national climate plans, the Summit will focus on practical initiatives to limit emissions and build climate resilience. The Summit will focus on driving action in six areas; namely, energy transition, climate finance and carbon pricing, industry transition, nature-based solutions, cities and local action, and resilience.

COP24: green, gender focus, as UN's crucial climate change conference gets underway

Katowice – 2 december- Days after the UN sounded the alarm on the unprecedented levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, the world is gathering to define how the 2015 Paris Agreement will be implemented and moved forward. Under the agreement, all countries have committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the global average rise in temperature to well below 2°C, and as close as possible to 1.5°C.

Cycling for the planet

Kicking off the two-week event in Katowice, which has historically been a coal-mining town in the south of Poland, a team of cyclists on electric bikes arrived from Vienna, having biked 600 km to demonstrate the value of renewable energy to reducing emissions. The expedition was supported by the UN Global Compact, a group of private sector companies committed to sustainable development. The cycling team, called "Moving for Climate NOW", made up of about 40 people from different institutions and countries, was welcomed by UN Climate Change Deputy Executive Secretary, Ovais Sarmad, and Jakub Gibek, Head of the Climate Policy Unit of the Ministry of Environment of Poland. "I commend the cyclists involved in this bike tour for inspiring the world to move in the right direction to fulfil the promise of the Paris Agreement," said Mr. Sarmad. "This is the most important COP since the signing of the agreement, and we need initiatives like yours to testify that governments, the private sector and individuals can work together to tackle climate change by committing to multilateralism."

A green conference

To limit COP24's footprint and achieve carbon neutrality locally, the conference organisers have taken a series of different measures. First, public transportation in the city is free of charge for the duration of the conference, for all participants. In addition, reusable materials have been used to set up the conference rooms, including carpets and backdrops. Recycled cardboard furniture was installed in all the main meeting spaces. The conference will also enforce a strict waste management policy: distinct recycling bins will be available in all meeting rooms; the packaging of electronic equipment has been saved and will be reused after the conference is over; the packaging of catering products is environmentally friendly; single-use plastic products are limited across the space; and overall, the conference is dispensing with paper as much as possible, with official documents available only in digital versions. To limit greenhouse emissions from vehicles, "virtual" participation is being encouraged and supported through live webcasts of the main events. Unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions due to the event will be tracked through a rigorous calculation by the organisers based on international standards. It is anticipated that COP24 will generate approximately 55,000 tons of CO₂. To offset this, the Polish Government has committed to planting more than 6 million trees, capable of absorbing the equivalent of the conference's emissions in the next 20 years.

Focusing on gender

Adopted at the previous COP, the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) promotes the mainstreaming of gender into climate policy and action at all levels. Half-way into the implementation of the GAP, parties, observers and the Convention Secretariat will showcase the measures they have taken to date. Regarding the gender representation in the conference itself, the UNFCCC Secretariat has been monitoring since 2013 gender balance in technical and decision-making bodies established under the Convention. For the first time this year, more than half of these bodies have female representation of 38 per cent or more. Furthermore, there is a record number of female delegates elected to the position of Chair or Co-Chair of these bodies – nine out of a possible 28 positions. Though these improvements represent steps in the right direction to achieve the goal of gender balance, much remains to be done.

The conference in numbers

This 24th COP will be hosting over 28,000 people. The figure includes: close to 13,000 people with the parties to the UNFCCC gathering to negotiate the Paris Agreement work programme, some 450 UN staff, over 7,000 observers from non-governmental organisations, and 1,500 media representatives. In addition to over 6,000 staff, the conference is employing about 500 volunteers. The conference space built by the Polish Government over the past six months, covers an area of close to 100,000 square meters. Nearly 2,000 people worked on its construction and outfitting. Well over 100 events will highlight action in transport, water, land-use, energy, the fashion industry, to name a few, representing the wide spectrum of climate action. They will include CEOs, mayors, governors and other leaders from civil society at large.

Four things the UN chief wants world leaders to know, at key COP24 climate conference opening

Katowice – 3 december - The two-week 24th conference in Katowice, Poland, of the parties to the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), technically started on Sunday, but Monday saw the high-level grand opening. It marks the deadline for the 197 parties that signed the Convention, to adopt guidelines for the implementation of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement. In the French capital, three years ago, countries collectively agreed to keep global temperature rises to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and if possible, to limit the rise to 1.5°C. Now, in Poland, they have to agree on how they will achieve this collectively. “We cannot fail in Katowice,” said UN chief Guterres. Kicking off the event, along with several other high-level representatives, he highlighted four key messages for the thousands of representatives of the world’s nations, non-profit organisations, UN agencies, and private sector companies gathered in Katowice.

1. 'We need more action and more ambition'

The Secretary-General started by noting that climate change is already “a matter of life and death” for many people, nations and countries of the world, and that the science is telling us we need to move faster. Citing various alarming UN reports – including one on rising global CO₂ emissions and another one on increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere – he called on nations to pay attention to the science and step up their pace as well as their ambitions. “Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption,” he stated. “Last year I visited Barbuda and Dominica, which were devastated by hurricanes. The destruction and suffering I saw was heart-breaking,” he explained, noting that “these emergencies are preventable”. He called on the international community to work to ensure that emissions must decline by 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030 and be net zero by 2050, and that renewable energy will need to supply half to two-thirds of the world’s primary energy by 2050 with a corresponding reduction in fossil fuels. “If we fail, the Arctic and Antarctic will continue to melt, corals will bleach and then die, the oceans will rise, more people will die from air pollution, water scarcity will plague a significant proportion of humanity, and the cost of disasters will skyrocket”, he warned the delegates ahead of their negotiations:.

2. Implementation guidelines are essential to build trust among nations

Stating that “we have no time for limitless negotiations”, the Secretary-General insisted on the need to operationalise the Paris Agreement, and reminded Member States that 2018 is the deadline that they set for themselves to finalise the guidelines for implementation. “We need a unifying implementation vision that sets out clear rules, inspires action and promotes raised ambition, based on the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances”, said the UN chief. “We

achieved success in Paris because negotiators were working towards a common goal," he added as he implored the delegates to maintain the same spirit of urgent collaboration to "ensure that the bonds of trust established in Paris will endure."

3. Adequate funding of climate action will be 'central'

"We need concerted resource mobilization and investment to successfully combat climate change," the Secretary-General told the delegates attending the COP24 grand opening, noting that three quarters of the infrastructure needed by 2050 for climate action still remains to be built. He insisted on the need to focus efforts on five key economic areas: energy, cities, land use, water and industry. "Governments and investors need to bet on the green economy, not the grey," he explained, stressing the need to embrace carbon pricing (i.e. charging emitters of CO₂ for their emissions), eliminate harmful fossil fuel subsidies, and invest in clean technologies. "It also means providing a fair transition for those workers in traditional sectors that face disruption, including through retraining and social safety nets," he noted, adding that "we also have a collective responsibility to assist the most vulnerable communities and countries – such as small island nations and the least developed countries – by supporting adaptation and resilience." In 2015, a total of 18 high-income nations committed to providing US\$100 billion dollars a year, by 2020, to lower-income nations to support their climate action. Mr. Guterres urged developed nations to deliver on this commitment. He also urged Member States "to swiftly implement the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund. It is an investment in a safer, less costly future".

4. 'Climate action makes social and economic sense.'

"All too often, climate action is seen as a burden," said the UN secretary-General, as he explained that "decisive climate action today is our chance to right our ship and set a course for a better future for all". The UN chief commended cities, regions, civil society and the business community around the world for moving ahead. "What we need is political will and more far-sighted leadership. This is the challenge on which this generation's leaders will be judged. According to the recent New Climate Economy report, "ambitious climate action could yield 65 million jobs and a direct economic gain of \$26 trillion US dollars compared to business as usual over the next 12 years". The UN chief stressed the need to ensure that this economic transformation is led with a commitment to gender equality, and the inclusion of youth. "We must start today building the tomorrow we want," the Secretary-General said.

'Audacity' and 'five times more ambition' needed

Echoing the UN Secretary-General's remarks, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Frank Bainimarama, who presided over COP23 called on the world to deliver "five times more ambition, five times more action" and avoid "becoming the generation that betrayed humanity." The President of the UN General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, called for "audacity" in climate action and noted that multilateralism is the only way to reverse the negative effects of global warming. As for the President of this COP, Michał Kurtyka, referring to the mining past of Katowice, he invited the delegates to "pursue a path of deep but just transition" when bringing the Paris agreement to life. Earlier, the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, presented a "Declaration for a Just Transition," During the grand opening, the World Bank Chief Executive Officer, Kristalina Georgieva, also announced that the World Bank would double its current five-year investments towards supporting climate change initiatives by allocating \$200 billion from 2020 on. This will include \$100 billion from the World Bank directly, half of which will be allocated to mitigation and resilience-building initiatives, and another \$100 billion from two World Bank Group members — the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency — and private capital. The event closed with an address by the world's people delivered by world renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough. The statement was inspired by thousands of messages posted by individuals on social media over the past weeks, urging world leaders for climate action. "Their message is clear: time is running out. They want you, the decision makers to act now. They're behind you, along with the civil society represented here today," he said.

Ambition, transformation, active citizenship: COP24 looks to next year's big UN Climate Change Summit

Katowice - 4 december "The Summit will focus on delivering three key outcomes: raising real ambition; transformative action in the real economy; and an unprecedented citizen and youth mobilization," said the UN Secretary-General, speaking to a room full of reporters and change-makers attending the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) of the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). Scheduled for 23 September 2019 at UN headquarters in New York, the event aims to galvanize support for urgent climate action at the highest political levels. "We are holding the event during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly to ensure we have as many heads of State and Heads of Government as possible in attendance," he explained. The UN General Assembly usually attracts well over 100 national leaders to discuss and set the global agenda for the following year. "The outcomes of the summit will be your outcomes," stressed Mr. Guterres who invited "all governments, businesses, sources of finance – public and private – and civil society organizations to join in the preparatory process." Asked by a reporter if the UN was planning to engage in dialogue with fossil fuel producers in the oil, gas and coal industry, he noted that interactions have already started and although "the dialogue with the industry is sometimes difficult and complex," these businesses were increasingly recognizing the need to switch and develop renewable energy strategies. The Summit will focus on driving action in six areas: transition to renewable energy; funding of climate action and carbon pricing; reducing emissions from industry; using nature as a solution; sustainable cities and local action; and climate change resilience. Last month, in order to lead the way to the Summit, the UN chief appointed Luis Alfonso de Alba as his Special Envoy. Also present in Katowice for COP24, he explained that one of his highest priorities in the coming months will be strong and deep engagement with each and every party to the UN Climate Change Convention, as well as other stakeholders, to raise ambition. "The intention is not to have a negotiated outcome, but rather to incentivise highest level participation, to be very selective in what goes to the Summit in terms of ambition and innovation... and then have a summary of the discussions during the meeting itself," said Ambassador de Alba.

COP24: A million lives could be saved by 2050 through climate action, UN health agency reveals

Katowice - 5 december As the world is coming together to define ways to move forward on climate action and the realization of the objectives defined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, WHO stressed that it's not just the planet that would benefit - an estimated one million lives could be saved through reductions in air pollution alone. "The Paris Agreement is potentially the strongest health agreement of this century," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO. "The evidence is clear that climate change is already having a serious impact on human lives and health. It threatens the basic elements we all need for good health – clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply and safe shelter – and will undermine decades of progress in global health." The report also shows that the economic benefits of improved health would be twice as high as the economic cost of mitigating global warming, and fighting air pollution. The return on investment is even higher in countries key to tackling global emissions, such as China and India. Exposure to air pollution causes 7 million deaths worldwide every year and costs an estimated US\$ 5.11 trillion in welfare losses globally. In the 15 countries that have the highest greenhouse gas emissions, the health impacts of air pollution are estimated to cost more than 4 per cent of GDP. By contrast, actions to meet the Paris commitment of keeping warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, would cost around 1 per cent of global GDP, said WHO. The main driver of climate change is fossil fuel combustion which is also a major contributor to air pollution, and an important cause of poor health worldwide. "The true cost of climate change is felt in our hospitals and in our lungs. The health burden of polluting energy sources is now so high, that moving to cleaner and more sustainable choices for energy supply, transport and food systems effectively pays for itself,"

says Dr. Maria Neira, Director of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health for WHO. "When health is taken into account, climate change mitigation is an opportunity, not a cost." Switching to low-carbon energy sources will not only improve air quality but provide additional opportunities for immediate health benefits. For example, introducing active transport options such as cycling will help increase physical activity that can help prevent diseases like diabetes, cancer and heart disease. The report includes recommendations for decision-makers on how to tackle climate action and public health issues at the same time, including: policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions and air pollution; the mobilisation of mayors to effect local change; investment in "climate-smart" health facilities; and the leveraging of the health community as powerful public advocates for climate action. "We now have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to protect health from climate change – from more resilient and sustainable healthcare facilities, to improved warning systems for extreme weather and infectious disease outbreaks. But the lack of investment is leaving the most vulnerable behind," said Dr. Joy St John, WHO's Assistant Director-General for Climate and Other Determinants of Health.

Taking fast road to 'e-mobility' central to a sustainable future: COP24

Katowice - 6 december The conference has brought together thousands of climate action decision-makers, advocates and activists, with the objective of adopting global guidelines for the 197 parties of the 2015 Paris Agreement, when countries committed to limiting global warming to less than 2°C – and as close as possible to 1.5° – above pre-industrial levels.

Transport emits a quarter of all greenhouse gases

Globally, transport accounts for one quarter of total emissions – 8 gigatons per year, according to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). This figure is 70 per cent higher than 30 years ago. It is estimated that over 1 billion passenger cars travel the streets and roads of the world today and, if we don't take urgent action, by 2040, the number of cars on the road could double.

"This is unsustainable, unacceptable and not compatible with the Paris Agreement targets," said José Mendes, Chairman of the Transport Decarbonization Alliance, a group of 20 countries, cities and companies committed to pushing for low-carbon transport.

Planet and public health: protecting two birds with one stone

When fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal – combust to power vehicles, that creates air pollution. This in turn causes health issues: according to a special report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday. Air pollution is now the fourth largest cause of death worldwide, with about seven million people dying each year from it. "The true cost of climate change is felt in our hospitals and in our lungs," said WHO's Dr. Maria Neira, who presented the report to COP24 participants. "The 2015 Paris climate agreement is really a public health agreement," she told UN News in an interview.

Electricity, yes, but only from renewable sources

The first electric vehicles were produced and sold at the beginning of the 1900s and sales peaked in the early 1910s. But technological developments and the discovery of large oil reserves displaced the electric vehicle in favour of the combustion engine. "Now, almost 100 years later, electric vehicles are coming back and need to increasingly displace the combustion engine in favour of reducing emissions and air pollution," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres, during a high-level electro-mobility event, held here at the conference in Katowice on Tuesday. There is one major caveat, he warned the hundreds in attendance: "The growth in electric vehicles will have a significant impact on electricity demand – and this needs to be kept in mind," he said, explaining that "if not managed carefully, the additional demand will create challenges across all sections of the energy system, particularly at peak times," and that e-

transport that is dependent on electricity made from fossil fuel combustion, could end up adding to the problem, not alleviating it. To prevent this from happening, investments need to be made into creating electricity from renewable sources, not from fossil fuels, and ensuring a solid supply chain. "The transition to e-mobility is clearly alive with opportunity," said the Secretary-General. "But the transition needs to be carefully managed so that the world can yield all the potential benefits in full."

Smaller and bigger steps towards e-mobility

"The growing awareness for clean air and climate change means that many governments around the world have begun embracing e-mobility," said the UN chief during an event dedicated to electric transportation at COP24. "Many are putting in place the policy frameworks and infrastructure needed for sustainable transport. A growing number of countries and regions have announced plans to phase out fossil fuel vehicles and to shift to e-mobility," he explained. A recent World Bank report lists some of the ideas and commitments by countries and cities to hit the road towards e-mobility. These are just a few of them:

- The United Kingdom and France intend to ban all new sales of petrol or diesel vehicles after 2040; this is also being discussed in China.
- South Africa is targeting a 5 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector by 2050.
- The capital of Ecuador, Quito, is betting on electric bus fleets.
- South Korea's Government plans to supply 1 million electric vehicles in the next two years.
- India is discussing the possibility of having 15 per cent of its cars to be electric by 2023.

At COP24, on Tuesday, various climate action stakeholders adopted a proposal by the United Kingdom and Poland named the "Driving Change Together" declaration, which the UN chief hailed as "an essential step towards a decarbonized transport system", urging "all actors to support it". "If we get [electric mobility] right, then a decarbonized transport system will be part of the solution," he stated.

COP24: Huge untapped potential in greener construction, says UN environment agency

Katowice - 7 december It's critical we have a big change over the next couple of years in how we do buildings and construction", said Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP. "We only need to look at the current norms and quality of many buildings to see that we can do so much better," she said, emphasizing that "we need to raise the bar in energy-efficient, green buildings and far better practice in construction." Currently, buildings account for close to 40 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and 36 per cent of all energy consumption. In the report, which was co-authored by the International Energy Agency (IEA), UNEP warned that "dramatic action will be needed by governments, cities and business if the global buildings and construction sector is to cut its carbon footprint in line with international agreements." Titled 'Towards a Zero-Emission, Efficient and Resilient Buildings and Construction Sector', the report was presented against the backdrop of ongoing COP24 negotiations on how to move ahead with the implementation of the climate action agreement adopted in Paris, in 2015, when 197 parties committed to limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The development of new techniques, tools, products and technologies – such as heat pumps, better windows, stronger insulation, energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy and smarter design – has enabled emissions to stabilize over the past few years. There are other encouraging signs. Several property, construction, cement and steel-manufacturing firms are among the 500 companies (representing trillions of

dollars in revenue) which have aligned their emission reduction targets with the Paris Agreement; and the 71-member private sector network, the World Green Building Council non-profit organisation, is advocating for all buildings to emit zero net emissions by 2050. There is huge potential to reduce the current level of emissions, but action has been too slow, environmentalists say. To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, hosted by UNEP, is targeting a 30 per cent energy use improvement in the buildings and construction sector.

Buildings are 'key driver of energy demand'

What will make things even more challenging, is that the number of new buildings is anticipated to grow rapidly in the coming years, especially in the urban areas of Africa and Asia. "Buildings are a key driver of energy demand, and developments within the sector such as the growing uptake of air conditioners are having a big impact on energy and environmental trends at the global level," said Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, which is an autonomous intergovernmental organization. The new report highlights a major gap between the amount of money spent on energy efficient solutions and the rapidly growing amount invested in building construction and renovation. "If we don't make buildings more efficient, their rising energy use will impact us all, whether it be through access to affordable energy services, poor air quality or higher energy bills," warned Dr. Birol. In particular, the data raises a red flag over the sharply rising demand for cooling systems and air conditioners; linked with improving living-standards in developing countries coupled with rising temperatures in many parts of the globe, due to climate change. Since 2010, the energy used by cooling systems has increased by 25 per cent and there are now more than 1.6 billion air conditioning units in service. One of the commitments of the Paris Agreement is for countries to develop and scale-up their own national climate action plans but, to date, only 104 plans mention specific actions to enhance energy-efficiency in buildings, building codes and energy certifications. Very few tackle the issue of construction materials – such as steel and cement – and the carbon emissions involved in their manufacturing. Another area of action recommended by the report is the need for building standards to evolve towards buildings that are more resilient in the face of climate change and extreme weather events, such as storms and hurricanes, floods, high winds and soaring temperatures.

COP24 addresses climate change displacement ahead of crunch migration meeting

Katowice - 8 december Changing weather, floods and droughts in many places increasingly threaten people's safety and livelihoods. That is leading a lot of families to have to consider whether they can stay where they are, or try to live somewhere else," said Koko Warner, who leads on migration issues at the UN climate change convention (UNFCCC) secretariat.

While it is very challenging to quantify the number of people who have been displaced by climate change, today, over 258 million people live outside their country of origin. Global warming is expected to increase this number as its impacts increasingly render some areas of the planet uninhabitable. "For example, if you're a farmer and the rains fail you for several years in a row, you may all of a sudden lose not only your access to food, but your entire source of income, and the well-being of your entire family can become very precarious," explained Ms. Warner. Currently, four times more people in the world are displaced by extreme weather events than they are by conflict. To address this, a set of recommendations to help countries cope with climate-change-related displacement was presented here at COP24, the key two-week meeting being held in Katowice, Poland, to define the way forward on the commitments made by all countries for climate action in the 2015 Paris Agreement. "We've come a long way. Climate change migration was more or less absent from discussions until 2010, in Cancún. In Paris, five years later, the countries asked for some recommendations on how to better prepare and respond to this phenomenon, and in Katowice, now, we are hoping they will adopt them," Ms. Warner explained. The various recommendations delivered to the 197 parties to the UN Climate Change Convention include proposals on contingency planning,

consultation and data analysis, and cooperation among countries. The document was prepared by a Task Force on Displacement and presented on Saturday for endorsement by the technical delegates of the Member States. Next week, they will be presented for adoption at ministry-level. "The goal is really to help countries understand the scale of what is coming and really prepare for it," UNFCCC's climate vulnerabilities expert noted. "It's really about finding ways to reduce the suffering and ensure the safety, dignity of the people at risk of displacement in the face of climate change." These discussions are taking place just two days before the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration – the first-ever UN global agreement for a common approach to international migration – to be held in Marrakech, this coming Monday and Tuesday. The recommendations vary in size and their criticality will depend on contexts. On planning, for example, one of the recommendations includes suggestions like forecast based finance which would enable communities who are facing natural disasters to prepare adequately. Another recommendation made is to focus on data collection and risk analysis to better map and understand human mobility. The document insists on the need to include and ensure the participation of affected communities every step of the way, so they feel empowered and well-informed when making decisions about their lives. "We are very pleased with how far this topic has moved in the discussions, and we hope the countries will use the recommendations," said Ms. Warner. "The real impact," she noted, "will only be measured through the steps countries take to avoid and minimize unnecessary suffering, and address the risks involved in climate-related displacement."

'Going green' is good business says private sector at UN's COP24 climate conference

Katowice - 10 december For years, sectors such as construction, transport, farming and retailing, have had the finger pointed at them for being major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions globally and for putting profit ahead of environmental protection. But increasingly, new technologies and models are transforming the private sector so that business leaders no longer have to choose between making money and taking better care of the planet. This is one of the key issues being discussed here at the COP24 conference, where negotiations are continuing on the implementation of the climate action agreement adopted in Paris, in 2015, when 197 parties committed to try and limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. "We are calling on all companies across sectors and regions, to set their science-based targets to a new level of ambition, one that aligns with the 1.5°C target," said Lise Kingo, who heads the UN Global Compact, a network of 9,500 small and large private companies which have committed to invest more in sustainable development. Speaking at a press conference at COP24, along with the heads of Maersk - the Danish global shipping company - as well as US confectionary giant Mars, and the French-based water and waste management conglomerate, Suez, she stressed that "this is the only way we can reach the ambition of the Paris Agreement and the UN sustainable goals by 2030". According to the Global Compact, nearly half of the Fortune 500 list of leading US corporations, have set clear energy targets or greenhouse gas reduction goals. Moreover, in 2016, 190 of those companies captured a total of US\$3.7 billion in savings thanks to their emissions reduction measures.

1000 solutions to protect the planet while making money

To make it easier for the private sector to adopt environmentally-friendly solutions while also boosting profits, one NGO – the Solar Impulse Foundation – has endeavoured to gather together 1,000 solutions already in operation, and vet them for their positive environmental impact and their profitability before presenting them to governments and the private sector at large. "This is where we can make a big difference for the protection of the environment... showing that it is profitable, that people can create jobs and make money with it," said the founder of the foundation, Bertrand Piccard, who was also the first person ever to complete a round-the-world flight powered only by solar energy, in 2016. Seeking to "bridge the gap between ecology and economy", the 1,000 efficient solutions initiative was launched over a year ago and, so far, more than 1,500 companies have joined, with over 600 projects in the pipeline. So far, 58 solutions having already received the Solar Impulse Efficient Label on sustainability and

profitability. "The point I'm trying to make is that the biggest industrial market and financial opportunity of the century is in transforming the old devices, systems and infrastructures which are inefficient and polluting, into efficient and clean and much more profitable industrial processes, devices, systems, technologies and solutions," Mr. Piccard told UN News in an interview at COP24. From solutions which make homes carbon-neutral, to developing cleaner cooling systems, or producing stainless steel more efficiently and more economically, the pioneer hopes the initiative will help make the case that climate action can happen now. He said it should not have to wait until 2050, and can be about "winning, not losing" - something he believes to be particularly critical for the poorer and more remote communities across the world, which are often dependent on others for all their energy needs. "Energy - if they make it locally with sun, with wind, with biomass, with waves, with hydroelectricity on a small river - would allow them to develop their wealth, their social stability and peace. They would not need to fight for energy, as they would produce it themselves," he explained, acknowledging that such a shift would require an initial investment by an external entity willing to share the profits with the communities. "Today we are seeing that the most profitable solutions need a little bit more upfront investment, and afterwards, they bring much more money back," noted Mr. Piccard. "Take electric buses: an electric bus is just a little bit more expensive to buy than a diesel bus, but over ten years, which is the usual lifespan of a bus, if it's electric, it brings about \$400,000 in savings."

Big clothing brands commit to showing the (run)way to sustainable practices

Along with the construction and buildings sector, as well as fossil-fuel energy producers, the fashion industry is often criticized for wasteful, polluting and highly unsustainable practices. To course-correct, on Monday, at COP24, dozens of leading companies in the fashion industry - including Adidas, Burberry, Esprit, Guess, Gap, Hugo Boss, H&M, Levi Strauss & Co., Puma, Inditex - which owns brands like Zara and Bershka, as well as retailer Target, signed the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, under the auspices of the UN Climate Change Convention secretariat, UNFCCC. "The fashion industry is always two steps ahead when it comes to defining world culture, so I am pleased to see it now also leading the way in terms of climate action," said UNFCCC chief Patricia Espinosa. The document, open for others to join, and aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement, presents a vision for the industry to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and defines issues to be addressed every step of the way in the life of fashion products, including: the use of environmentally sustainable materials, low-carbon transport; consumer awareness-raising; 'scalable' solutions through resource and political mobilization; and exploring ways to extend the life expectancy of fashion products as well as recycling possibilities. "I congratulate the signatories of this important charter, which represents a unique commitment and collaboration from an array of fashion leaders. The Charter, like the renowned fashion runways of the world, sets an example that I hope others will follow," noted Ms. Espinosa.

COP24 negotiations: Why reaching agreement on climate action is so complex

Katowice - 11 december "We cannot fail in Katowice," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres in the opening ceremony, on 3 December. A sentiment echoed by the President of COP24, Michał Kurtyka, who stated: "Without success in Katowice, there is no success in Paris." In the French capital, three years ago, countries agreed to do everything they could to keep global temperature rises to well under 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and as close as possible to 1.5°C. Now, in Katowice, Poland - with 2018 chosen by the parties themselves as the deadline for the adoption of implementation guidelines or a "work programme" to move forward with - the 197 parties of the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) are gathered to agree on how they will achieve the Paris commitments collectively, build trust among each nation, and bring the 2015 agreement to life. "Some might say that it will be a difficult negotiation. I know it is not easy. It requires a firm political will for compromise," said Mr. Guterres during the opening ceremony. "But, for me, what is really difficult is to be a fisherman in Kiribati seeing his country at risk of disappearing, or a farmer or herder in the Sahel losing

livelihoods and losing peace. Or being a woman in Dominica or any other Caribbean nation, enduring hurricane after hurricane destroying everything in its path.” Historically, multilateral climate negotiations have been difficult, as countries often attempt to protect their national interests, including economic ones. That is why the commitments made in Paris were hailed as groundbreaking in many ways. In addition to the 2°C/1.5°C target, the deal included commitments to: ramp up financing for climate action, including financial support from industrialised nations to developing countries; develop national climate plans by 2020, with self-determined goals and targets; protect ecosystems, including forests; strengthen adaptation and reduce vulnerability to climate change. Agreeing on how to make all of the above happen, is a politically and technically complex matter that sometimes conflicts with a variety of local realities, country categorisations, scientific questions, money issues, and ultimately, brings into question the ever-so complicated notion of trust among nations.

Here are five of the most major tension points:

1. A common goal, but different parties, different realities

The first point of tension here is that some countries feel the need for global action more acutely than others. Take the plight of small island nations, for example, and areas of extreme weather activity such as the Sahel or the Polar regions. In addition, industrialized countries are considered to have benefitted for decades from an economy that had no limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore, they should take the biggest responsibility when it comes to the global effort to reverse the trend. But then again, others contend that some currently developing nations, now have record emissions and that climate action responsibility should lie with them to a greater extent. The Paris Agreement achieved a delicate balance to bring all countries together. All countries, to varying degrees, have recognized that climate change is a global problem that requires a global response, and they have all showed the will to contribute to collective climate action efforts, as evidenced by the fact that 181 national climate action plans with self-determined targets have been submitted to the UN to date. However, as countries face different realities, with various levels of economic and social development, the actions and obligations of the 197 parties need to be differentiated accordingly, especially when it comes to the financing of climate action – these are known as “common but differentiated responsibilities”. At COP24, a lot of the discussion centres around how to accommodate and handle these different realities fairly for all parties, while ensuring that the greatest and most ambitious climate action possible, can be undertaken.

2. Country categories

The Climate Change Convention, adopted in 1992, divides its 197 parties into two main groups: the industrialized group of 43 nations, and the developing group of 154, including 49 “least developed countries”. The climate action contributions and responsibilities of each group differ with regards to how transparently and regularly they communicate their actions and provision of support; especially in terms of finance or technology-transfer, now, and in the long term. Because the two groups were established more than 25 years ago, and taking into account that national socio-economic situations have evolved over time, some parties feel that the composition of these groups should be reassessed as we look to implement the Paris commitments. However, there is no process to change this grouping – and none is planned or anticipated - another complex point for this COP.

3. 'Welcoming' or 'noting' the science?

To facilitate the political discussions and ground them in fact, various scientific reports are being considered at COP24. One of them is last October’s landmark Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), drawn up by hundreds of scientists from around the world. The report, commissioned as part of the Paris Agreement, states that limiting the rise in temperatures to 1.5°C by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial era, remains possible, but will require an “unprecedented” shift in every aspect of our societies. While all countries acknowledge the need to tackle climate change, one of the debates here at the COP is whether the IPCC report should be officially “welcomed” or merely “noted.” This seemingly small language technicality raises a

critical question: to what degree should policy be based on science? It also signals a difference on how urgently and intensely various countries want to engage in climate action moving forward.

4. The ever-so thorny question of financing

Climate action – which requires new technology, infrastructure and skills – represents a cost that some nations, especially the least developed and most vulnerable, cannot carry alone. In Paris, donor nations committed to mobilising \$100 billion every year to fund climate action in developing countries, starting in 2020. This figure would include public and private contributions, which renders the reporting quite complex... Countries are arguing on how close we are to meeting that target and whether it will be met by 2020. Another burning issue is the lack of clarity over what constitutes “climate finance”, as many countries report some of their “development aid” as “climate action aid”. This lack of clarity complicates the discussions considerably, and questions regarding reporting, transparency and accountability are on the table.

5. Guidelines for true trust among nations

All the countries recognize the need for guidelines to be in place, so they can move on to implementing the Paris Agreement, and they are all mindful of the 2018 deadline. However, if we are to course-correct fast and well, efforts and investments are required – including in economic transition, ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, technology exchange and knowledge-sharing. What it all comes down to, is the ephemeral trust among nations, an important element that can only be realized if tangible transparency measures are in place. “We have no time for limitless negotiations,” said UN Secretary General António Guterres. “A completed work programme will unleash the potential of the Paris Agreement. It will build trust and make clear that countries are serious about addressing climate change,” he stressed. The conversations on reporting and evaluation, with the potential set-up of peer review systems, are very challenging. The negotiations on all of these issues are meant to last until the end of the week. “Many political divisions remain. Many issues still must be overcome,” said the head of the UNFCCC secretariat, Patricia Espinosa, as she launched the high-level segment on Tuesday. “But I believe it’s within our grasp to finish the job,” she stated confidently to the dozens of decision-makers gathered together in the conference hall.

COP24: World sports join team UN in race against climate change

Katowice - 12 december COP24 is a two-week conference that has brought together the 197 parties to the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), as well as activists, non-profits organisations, and the private sector, to define the guidelines to implement the historic 2015 Paris climate action agreement, aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. The 17 that represent the starting line-up of the Sports Climate Action Framework, include major players like the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). Other signatories include the French tennis federation, Roland Garros, Formula E, the International Sailing Federation, organizers of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics, the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, the Rugby League World Cup 2021, and the World Surf League. “With its global reach, universal appeal and the power to inspire and influence millions of people around the globe, sport is uniquely placed to drive global climate action and encourage crowds to join in,” said Prince Albert II of Monaco, who chairs the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission, during the launch event in Katowice. “As countries here in Katowice prepare to turn their climate commitments into reality, we stand ready to leverage the power of sport to support their efforts,” he stressed. The sports industry bears responsibility for extensive carbon emissions on several fronts; including through travel, overall energy use, venue construction, and catering. With this initiative, it recognizes the need to unite behind a set of principles to get on track for a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. “We recognize the critical need for everyone to help implement the Paris Agreement and accelerate the change

needed to reach greenhouse gas emission neutrality in the second half of the 21st century," said FIFA Secretary-General Fatma Samoura. The sentiment is echoed by UEFA's President Aleksander Čeferin: "Climate change is the biggest challenge facing the planet. UEFA firmly believes that football, with its strong and ever-growing environmental conscience, in particular in areas such as sustainable event management, has a duty to play a role in addressing this issue." The result of a collaboration between the representatives of various sports organisations and the UN, the Framework not only aims to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emission stemming from sports operations, it also calls for leveraging the popularity of sporting role-models, and the passion of many fans, to help change public opinion about the dangers of irreversible climate change. "You know playing in five different World Cups for my country, it's one of those things. But at some point, as an athlete, you start to see the platform that you have, and you see your voice is for a reason, and the power of using it," former football goalkeeper and UNICEF Ambassador, Karina LeBlanc, told UN News. "Whether you have a reach of Cristiano Ronaldo with 360 million followers or you're a teacher who has a classroom of kids, it's about starting the conversation, on how we can all impact change... And the idea of being in a race, with everybody being in the same team, I think that's what inspires me," she explained. Some concrete initiatives have already seen the light of day. The IOC, in collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, has produced two guides: "Sustainability Essentials: Sports for Climate Action" and "Carbon Footprint Methodology for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games," meant to provide essential climate action guidance to sports federations and others. In early 2019, the adopters of the Sports for Climate Action Framework will be invited to form working groups to plan, pursue and enhance work under 16 principles laid out in the Framework.

Failing to agree on climate action would 'not only be immoral' but 'suicidal', UN chief tells COP24

Katowice - 12 december "In my opening statement to this conference one week ago...I warned that climate change is running faster than we are and that Katowice must — in no uncertain terms — be a success, as a necessary platform to reverse this trend," said Secretary-General Guterres. Since 2 December, the conference has brought together thousands of climate action decision-makers, advocates and activists, with one key objective: adopting global guidelines for the 197 parties of the 2015 Paris Agreement, when countries committed to limiting global warming to less than 2°C – and as close as possible to 1.5° – above pre-industrial levels. With only three days left at the conference for the negotiations, the UN chief regretted that "despite progress in the negotiating texts, much remains to be done". On Wednesday, given the complex state of discussions, the Polish Presidency of COP24 proposed a text to act as a "new basis for negotiations". "Key political issues remain unresolved," said Mr. Guterres. "This is not surprising—we recognize the complexity of this work. But we are running out of time," he warned, referring to the alarming special report on global warming issued in October by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). "Over the last 10 days", he said, addressing the country delegations which are locked in negotiations, "many of you have worked long, hard hours and I want to acknowledge your efforts. But we need to accelerate those efforts to reach consensus if we want to follow-up on the commitments made in Paris." He called on negotiators to boost their ambition, with regards to "predictable and accessible financial flows for the economic transition towards a low-emission and climate-resilient world." The Secretary-General reminded the audience that developed countries had a financial obligation to support the efforts of developing countries, as established by the UN Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), under which the Paris Agreement falls, and which was signed in 1992, more than 25 years ago. "It's very difficult to explain to those suffering from the effects of climate change that we have not managed to find predictable support for the actions that must be taken," he remarked. Mr. Guterres hailed various financial announcements made since the beginning of COP24, including by the World Bank, multilateral development banks, and the private sector. However, he urged developed nations to "scale up their contributions to jointly mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020", as laid out three years ago in Paris.

Balance the responsibilities 'of all countries' to beat climate change

In addition to increased resources, the UN Secretary-General also called for the development of a "flexible but robust set of rules" to implement the Paris Agreement – as 2018 was set by the UNFCCC parties themselves, as the deadline for these guidelines, so countries can move forward with climate action in a transparent way. "Countries have different realities, different capacities and different circumstances," noted the UN chief, as he explained that "we must find a formula that balances the responsibilities of all countries" and that is "fair and effective for all". To achieve this, Mr. Guterres stressed the importance of building trust through a "strong transparency framework to monitor and assess progress on all fronts: mitigation, adaptation and provision of support, including finance, technology and capacity building". The UN chief said we have the know-how, as well as "incredible momentum from all segments of society" adding that "what we need, is the political will to move forward". "I understand that none of this is easy. I understand some of you will need to make some tough political decisions," he acknowledged, "But this is the time for consensus. This is the time for political compromises to be reached. This means sacrifices, but it will benefit us all collectively." Challenging the delegates and ministers to overcome their national preferences and work "together" and "finish the job" with raised ambition "on all fronts", Mr. Guterres concluded: "To waste this opportunity in Katowice would compromise our last best chance to stop runaway climate change. It would not only be immoral, it would be suicidal."

Preparing Africa for ravages of climate change 'cannot be an afterthought' – COP24

Katowice - 14 december For two weeks, the conference has brought together thousands of climate action decision-makers, advocates and activists, with one key objective: adopting global guidelines for the 197 parties of the 2015 Paris Agreement, when countries committed to limiting global warming to less than 2°C – and as close as possible to 1.5° – above pre-industrial levels. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Director of UNDP's Africa Bureau made the tipping point analogy, while noting that despite major structural inequalities, nations across the continent have achieved "impressive economic, political and social growth in recent decades." But she argues that "climate change, droughts, floods, changing rainfall patterns and conflict have the potential to unravel efforts to reduce hunger and achieve the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The UNDP study shows that, should the world fail to limit global warming to less than 2°C, families will find it harder and harder to feed themselves, and the risk of famine and increased poverty will rise along with temperatures. Higher levels of poverty would further limit the capacity of communities to manage climate-related risks, according to the report, placing further stress on already overstretched coping mechanisms, and could translate into more risky migration patterns, serious epidemics such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak across West Africa, and greater political instability. Drawing on years of data from projects geared to enabling communities to adapt to a changing climate and build resilience, the report shows that as emissions continue going up, support for climate adaptation initiatives must be increased urgently and accelerated across the continent, especially across the 34 African "least developed countries." "They are among the most vulnerable to climate change, yet the least able to adapt. In many cases, they lack the technical, financial and institutional capacity to identify the best ways to build resilience," said Gustavo Fonseca, from Global Environment Facility, an institution that has been funding many climate adaptation projects in Africa.

Hunger rising along with temperatures

According to recent estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for the first time in over a decade, world hunger is on the rise, affecting 11 per cent of the global population. This is in part due to extreme droughts induced by an abnormally strong El Niño cycle, which led close to 40 million people in Africa to be in need of humanitarian assistance. "Taking reactive approaches to food security and disaster recovery costs the people of Africa billions of dollars in lost GDP, and syphons off government resources that should be dedicated to education, social programmes, healthcare, business development and

employment,” said UNDP’s Ahunna Eziakonwa. “It cannot be an afterthought.” “For me the critical component is knowledge and capacity-building,” said Rohini Kohli, who leads Adaptation Planning at UNDP. However, measures to enable communities to adapt to the changing climate is a costly matter that will require creative financial mechanisms and substantial engagement with the private sector to meet. It will require developed nations to make good on their 2015 Paris Agreement commitments to dedicate \$100 billion annually to supporting climate action in developing nations. The report analyses a number of noteworthy successes in climate change adaptation in Africa over the past decade, including projects aimed at improving food security in Benin, Mali, Niger and Sudan; supporting governments in having improved climate information and early warning **systems** to save lives from fast-acting storms; and empowering women to be effective climate action champions.

At COP24, countries agree concrete way forward to bring the Paris climate deal to life

Katowice - 15 december Following several sleepless nights, cheers and applause welcomed the COP24 President, Michal Kurtyka, as he opened the conference’s closing plenary meeting, which had been postponed close to a dozen times. He thanked the hundreds of delegates in the room for their “patience”, noting that the last night “was a long night”. General laughter followed when the room’s big screens showed a delegate yawning whole-heartedly; the meeting had been set to wrap up on Friday. “Katowice has shown once more the resilience of the Paris Agreement – our solid roadmap for climate action,” said Patricia Espinosa, who heads the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat and who was speaking on behalf of António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General. Mr. Guterres, who has made addressing the impacts of climate change one of the top priorities of his term as UN Secretary-General, came three times to Katowice in the past two weeks to support the negotiations but, given the repeated delays, was forced to leave before the closing plenary, due to prior engagements. The adopted guidelines package, called the “rulebook” by some, is designed to encourage greater climate action ambition and benefit people from all walks of life, especially the most vulnerable.

Trust and climate action financing

One of the key components of the ‘Katowice package’ is a detailed transparency framework, meant to promote trust among nations regarding the fact that they are all doing their part in addressing climate change. It sets out how countries will provide information about their national action plans, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as mitigation and adaptation measures. An agreement was reached on how to uniformly count greenhouse gas emissions and if poorer countries feel they cannot meet the standards set, they can explain why and present a plan to build up their capacity in that regard. On the thorny question of financing from developed countries in support of climate action in developing countries, the document sets a way to decide on new, more ambitious targets from 2025 onwards, from the current commitment to mobilize US\$100 billion per year as of 2020. Another notable achievement of these negotiations is that nations agreed on how to collectively assess the effectiveness of climate action in 2023, and how to monitor and report progress on the development and transfer of technology. “The guidelines that delegations have been working on day and night are balanced and clearly reflect how responsibilities are distributed amongst the world’s nations,” said Ms. Espinosa in a press statement. “They incorporate the fact that countries have different capabilities and economic and social realities at home, while providing the foundation for ever increasing ambition.” “While some details will need to be finalised and improved over time, the system is to the largest part place,” she added.

Article 6: the one major matter nations couldn’t find consensus on

Ultimately, the negotiations tripped on one key issue which will be back on the table at the next UN climate change conference, COP25, set to take place in Chile. This is the matter known in specialized circles as “Article 6,” regarding the so-called “market mechanisms” which

allow countries to meet a part of their domestic mitigation goals. This is done for example through “carbon markets” – or “carbon trading”, which enables countries to trade their emissions allowances. The Paris Agreement recognizes the need for global rules on this matter to safeguard the integrity of all countries’ efforts and ensure that each tonne of emissions released into the atmosphere is accounted for. “From the beginning of the COP, it very quickly became clear that this was one area that still required much work and that the details to operationalize this part of the Paris Agreement had not yet been sufficiently explored”, explained Ms. Espinosa, noting that the majority of countries were willing to agree and include the guidelines on market mechanisms but that “unfortunately, in the end, the differences could not be overcome”.

Other key COP24 achievements

In addition to the political negotiations among Member States on the Paris guidelines, over the past two weeks, the hallways of COP24 buzzed with close to 28,000 participants having lively exchanges, sharing innovative ideas, attending cultural events, and building partnerships for cross-sectoral and collaborative efforts. Many encouraging announcements, especially on financial commitments for climate action, were made: Germany and Norway pledged that they would double their contributions to the Green Climate Fund, established to enable developing countries to act; the World Bank also announced it would increase its commitment to climate action after 2021 to \$200 billion; the climate Adaptation Fund received a total of \$129 million. The private sector overall, showed strong engagement. Among the highlights of this COP, two major industries – the sports and the fashion worlds – joined the movement to align their business practices with the goals of the Paris Agreement, through the launch of the Sports for Climate Action Framework, and the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action. Many more commitments were made, and concrete, inspiring actions were taken. “From now on, my five priorities will be: ambition, ambition, ambition, ambition and ambition,” said Patricia Espinosa on behalf of UN chief António Guterres at the closing plenary. “Ambition in mitigation. Ambition in adaptation. Ambition in finance. Ambition in technical cooperation and capacity building. Ambition in technological innovation.” To achieve this, the UN Secretary-General is convening a Climate Summit on 23 September, at UN Headquarters in New York, to engage Governments at the highest levels.

Unipax

Multimedia Project

UNITED PEACERS - WORLD COMMUNITY FOR A NEW HUMANISM

The Author of this project is Orazio Parisotto (Past President and Founder member of UNIPAX), thanks also to the essential contribute of the Master Silvio Amelio, weighty sculptor and humanist responsible of the "Artists for the Peace" Department of the Unipax and also its Ambassador at UN.

Orazio Parisotto and Silvio Amelio launch an important social-cultural and ethical initiative, with the cooperation of the UNIPAX, that involves more than 100.000 associations, institutions, famous bloggers and opinion leaders from all the Countries.

This social-cultural initiative draws attention to the problems and the emergencies of the humanity, also thanks to the young people, worried about them future, who ideally address their requests to the Head of Government of all world.

The main work of this project consists in a interactive book named "The Global Revolution for a New Humanism".

The book is also available in e-book size. Unipax backs the promotion of the book, trough the collection of the adhesions, sharing and participations to the proposals and initiatives launched towards the Book. The aim of the book is to provide incentives in order that a peaceful revolution (Gandhi style) could be launched trough a general project that prefigures a "New Democratic Institutional Architecture", a "New International Ethical Economy" and a "Worldwide Regulation for the Civil Cohabitation" at the international level, specifying the "Ways Out" from the global crisis.

The general project aims to involve about 100.000 NGO and other organisms committed in the safeguard of the human rights and of the peace at international level, the project will be presented to the Head of the Government with a maxi petition (developed in 10 points).

The aim of the maxi petition is to ask concrete answers to cope with the problems that trouble the humanity and in particular the problems connected with the environmental safeguard, the social justice, the crazy arms race, the dangers produced by the use of the new technologies, the promotion of the culture.

The achievement of the "Artistic Cultural Current of the New Humanism" is part integrant of this project. The artists, the men of culture and the leaders of the associations of the social utility (that with their commitment are already contributing, as peacemakers, for change) will arrange this Document. Together with the young people, they can define a "Artistic cultural Decalogue of the New Humanism" that if properly widespread may launch the creative imagination of the men of good will from all over the World and from every culture.

It's a multimedia global project which aims to provide to the citizens and specially to the young people, the "ways out" from the current difficulties and new hopes for a better future demanding also their direct cooperation.

The entire project will be promoted with a multimedia advertisement during 3 minutes and will be backed by a Documentary-movie during about 30 minutes.

All will be carried out in two languages (Italian and English).

The international project **UNITED PEACERS - WORLD COMMUNITY FOR A NEW HUMANISM** is underway, which aims to foster collaboration between all those citizens and those associations that form the huge army of peacekeepers committed to respect the fundamental rights of the man and peoples on all continents.