



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

COP24 Policy Brief November 2018

Partnering for greater dialogue, ambition and urgency

Context I The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) will be held in Katowice, Poland, 2-14 December 2018. The theme of this year's COP is 'Changing Together' with a focus on preparations for 2020, when the Paris Agreement will come into force.

During the COP24, the rules for the implementation of the Paris Agreement must be adopted to apply comparable international standards and create a reliable framework for progress. We do not expect that this year's negotiation round will get us where we need to be in terms of ambition, however, we do see multiple initiatives that are looking promising. We believe 2019 will be an important year where the level of ambition needs to be built further.

This year's COP will take place against the backdrop of the recently published Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 degrees report, which states, "the next few years are probably the most important in our history". The report makes the urgency required to "accelerate the global response to climate change to avoid exceeding the 1.5C limit" very clear.¹ This COP will be a critical opportunity to raise ambition not just on greenhouse gas mitigation but also on adaptation for the most vulnerable in light of the rising risks. Jointly with Switzerland, the Netherlands, Fiji, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Climate Action Network, Partner for Resilience and the IFRC organized a *Humanitarian and Scientific Dialogue* in Geneva shortly after the release of the IPCC report, which discussed the likely humanitarian impacts of 1.5°C and 2.0°C rises in the global temperature by the end of the century. Representatives of nearly 30 states as well as UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and academic staff and students, took part in this dialogue, and as the IPCC report sets the scene for COP 24, also the outcomes of this dialogue will be taken forward.

There are several highlights organized by PfR at COP24, such as the high-level global climate action roundtable on resilience: *Scaling up investments in climate resilience to meet the needs of vulnerable people*, which we have co-designed with multiple partners. This event will discuss how we can scale up the public, private and blended finance for climate resilience to meet the needs of most vulnerable people and countries. In addition, PfR is again part of the organisation of the annual Development and Climate Days, our well-known event at the COP, drawing together around 300 people to help shape and strengthen linkages with humanitarian and development processes in interactive and dynamic ways, alongside the UNFCCC talks. Lastly, PfR engages in multiple events, such as on the urgent need to scale up investments in safeguarding and restoring peatlands, mangroves and other wetlands² for climate change mitigation, adaptation, sustainable development, and for peace and security building. We have a dedicated side event *Getting to 50/50: Achieving Gender-Transformative Adaptation and Resilience*, we organize a special meeting with CSOs and the Dutch Minister Kaag, and a session in the BENELUX Pavilion on *Joining forces: climate adaptation through linking southern local action to coherent global policy making*.

Who are we? | The Partners for Resilience (PfR) alliance started its collaboration in 2010 and continued its work under the strategic partnership facility of the Netherlands government in 2016. The global PfR alliance consists of about 60 partner civil society organisations (CSO's) worldwide - active at grassroots, national, regional and global level, represented in the Netherlands by Cordaid, Care Netherlands, Wetlands International, The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the Netherlands Red Cross.

PfR is supported by, and connected to many other stakeholders, who jointly contribute in creating safer environments for all: individuals, private sector, institutions, civil society organisations, community-based organisations (CBO's) and local groups. PfR contributes to the resilience of communities by integrating climate change adaptation (CCA) and ecosystem management and restoration (EMR) into Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). With this Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approach, communities strengthen their capacities to reduce the impact of disasters. PfR believes a community approach will be strengthened if the institutional environment can be made more conducive to climate and ecosystem DRR, and if we engage with civil society and government stakeholders to apply combined approaches.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/news/unfccc-secretariat-welcomes-ipcc-s-global-warming-of-15degc-report>

² For a full overview of side events of Wetlands International, please visit: <https://www.wetlands.org/event/agenda-unfccc-wetlands-climate-resilience/>

Partners for Resilience work in solidarity with those on the forefront of climate action: local communities, vulnerable groups, cities, private sector, civil society and governments, who all have a critical role to play in this effort. Working across scales is critical to mobilize capacity at the local level, to contribute to policy and budgeting at the national level, and to call for international support for increasing ambition and fairness at the global level.

Partners for Resilience has been heavily involved in UNFCCC's Talanoa Dialogue, which aspires to share of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling, already presents a strong set of key examples and messages from a wide range of stakeholders. It guides the implementation of the Paris Agreement and, in particular, it supports the global efforts to increase ambition. It will deliberate the collective progress of countries in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, as it enters into its political phase. Also the new Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) will play an important role. Partners for Resilience and the IFRC are collaborating with the GCA to connect community action to global ambitions.

PfR Principles: Integrated Risk Management

Putting people centre-stage, building on local and traditional resources and knowledge

- *Ensuring gender inclusiveness in planning and financing*
- *Decentralizing and localizing planning processes and financing mechanisms for community resilience*
- *Linking humanitarian, development and environmental domains by focusing on livelihoods*
- *Addressing risk on the larger scale of landscapes*
- *Managing and restoring ecosystems*
- *Working on different timescales to ensure adaptive planning and investments*
- *Linking local realities with global processes*
- *Integrating disciplines and approaches to encompass different risks*
- *Partnering with communities, civil society, governments, knowledge centres, the private sector, the media.*

During the COP24, PfR calls for the following:

Investments in Resilience must increase

- By 2030 without significant investment to improve the resilience of cities around the world climate change may push up to 77 million urban residents into poverty. Globally only 16% of the finances is spent on adaptation to growing impacts, while 84% is for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Only about 10 per cent of the climate finance available from international donors is channelled to the local level, and vulnerable communities are not receiving finance at the volume or pace needed to adapt effectively.³
- Across all international frameworks (Sendai FDRR, SDGs, UNFCCC and New Urban Agenda), resilience building is agreed on as the way forward to reduce risks, however a fundamental shift is needed. We need more practice that is locally anchored, multisector and multi-actor, that removes the silos between different disciplines. We need large scale initiatives that can transform whole landscapes, rural and urban, into safer and more prosperous places.
- Resilience investments must be scaled up to increase tangible projects to scale up at community level.
- There should be special attention to the key role of biodiversity for enhancement of resilient landscapes by adhering to core biodiversity conservation and restoration principles.



PfR Kenya, Camel Caravan

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/only-about-10-available-climate-finance-reaches-local-level-nap-expo-told>

National adaptation plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to include a much stronger focus on the most vulnerable people.

- It is important to focus not only at the level of vulnerability of a country, but direct policy and resources to the people who are likely to suffer the most from the humanitarian consequences of climate change. NAP and NDC planning processes must therefore include participatory and interactive ways to ensure local risk perceptions, needs and solutions are included.
- Certain segments of society have less ability to adapt to climate change due to a combination of vulnerabilities that exceed that of the general population. National Adaptation Plans and National Determined Contributions should consider, as a priority, ways to identify and protect those most vulnerable, especially poor women and girls, and to assist the inclusion of their views in UNFCCC processes and implementation of the Paris Agreement in order not to leave them behind.
- NDC's, NAPs and National Sustainable Development Goals can be key 'entry-points' to include better policies and investments in Nature-based Solutions and Integrated Risk Management.
- States need to speed their progress towards resilience, including through more comprehensive disaster risk management laws and policies and climate-smart innovations like [Forecast based Financing](#).
- Increase finance for adaptation and resilience, in order to strike a balance with finance committed for mitigation. Preliminary estimates on finance flowing to adaptation show that this area has received a smaller share of public climate finance from 18%, on average, from 2013/2014 to 16% from 2015/2016.⁴ Of that, only a small fraction is being used to address the humanitarian implications of climate change.



PFR Uganda 2017

Ensure the Global Stocktake invites contributions from all stakeholders

- Effective implementation of the Paris Agreement that builds the resilience of the most vulnerable communities cannot be achieved by states alone. It is only through collaborative action between states, civil society, private sector, academia and others that we will achieve the ambitions set out in the Paris Agreement. The ambition needs to be increased up by all stakeholders through the Global Stocktakes, and we hope that we can count on an inclusive process. In particular, the Global Stocktake should include active participation of civil society and other non-Party stakeholders in planned events and activities such as submissions, a dedicated series of side-events and workshop slots, as well as technical and regional events.

Non-state and local actors

- Recognize and enable the work of non-state and local actors in implementing the Paris Agreement, including through promotion of decentralised access to climate finance
- The actions of local actors, including municipalities, civil society actors will be crucial to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- In order to facilitate the work of local actors, decentralised climate finance should be allocated to local civil society actors in their efforts to support implementation of the Paris Agreement. This should include both more direct access to global adaptation funding and "sub-contractor" relationships with governments receiving international funds. We can mobilise and empower partners across sectors and governance levels to take and report on climate action.
- Well networked with local actors, we have the capacity to channel knowledge and data as well as finance from the global to local level, reaching the most vulnerable and ensuring support is tailored to their practical needs and contexts.

More info at www.partnersforresilience.nl

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⁴ <https://climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-Global-Landscape-of-Climate-Finance.pdf>