



A LOOK BACK AT THE COP22 WITH THE FWP: THE COP OF PREPARING FOR ACTION

The COP22 had been advertised as the COP where attendees would focus on taking concrete steps to implement the Paris Agreement. It will certainly be remembered as the COP where groundwork was laid for those steps by preparing a framework for implementation.

Much time was spent on the most vulnerable countries, particularly African countries. Negotiations were slow and difficult, but some progress was achieved. Two official documents were drafted during this COP (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>):

- The decisions of the CMA1 (Parties to the Paris Agreement) and of the COP22;
- The Marrakech Action Proclamation for our Climate and Sustainable Development: a political declaration that lays out the essential issues in the Paris Agreement in response to the election of the new President of the United States. The organization of this COP and the warm welcome shown by the Moroccan hosts was hailed by all quarters, and paved the way for smooth dialogue between representatives from around the world.

Results of negotiations

The discussions on the "facilitation dialogue" that will be held in 2018—and which is intended to clarify how State commitments will be strengthened and evaluated—did not result in a consensus. The debates on this subject have been postponed until the COP23, which will be held in Bonn in late 2017.

The COP in Marrakech (as well as the negotiations held there) followed a similar pattern to those held prior to the Paris Agreement.

This created a clear discrepancy between the political declarations made during the high-level segment from November 15 to November 17, which called for swifter action, and the actual results of negotiations. Another gap existed between the explosion of civil society activities, particularly in Morocco, and the negotiators. The hermetic seal between the Blue Zone (States and negotiators) and the Green Zone (civil society) seemed to serve as an obstacle to a meaningful understanding of

feedback from civil society stakeholders.

Several overarching issues that will affect the water sector:

- Developed countries reiterated their desire to raise US \$100 billion per year starting in 2020. However, there continue to be significant divergences between the expectations of countries in the developing countries and the reality of the credits implemented. There is also disagreement on the distribution of funds between actions in favor of mitigating or adapting to climate change.
- Developing countries pushed to make adaptation an essential focus of the debates. The Adaptation Fund received €80 million in pledges for the coming year, primarily from Germany.
- With regard to mitigation of climate change: negotiations on the price of carbon were intense, and it will take some time for a decision to be made.
- No consensus was reached following discussions on the preparation of a work plan for agriculture —the only sector considered in the negotiations. No other sectoral work plans were initiated.
- The revisions made to the Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change led to progress on taking into account the human losses related to catastrophes and cultural loss associated with migration. However, no decision was made regarding the types of financial assistance that could be set up in this sector.
- Reference terms were defined, leading to solid progress on the strengthening of capacities. African countries gave laser-sharp focus to the need for support from the international community to improve stakeholders' ability to transform voluntary contributions into programs for action on climate change, and to design projects that meet lenders' requirements. Lenders, in particular the French Development Agency (AFD), announced that they intend to offer better support to these countries in this respect. - The fourth pillar of the 2015 COP in Paris, the Action Agenda, was an interesting segment. The two Climate Champions, Hakima El Haite and Laurence Tubiana, launched the "Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action" (http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf) between Parties and non-state actors for the implementation of NDCs. They announced that a meeting will be held at the beginning of the year to review priorities and that regional dialogues between the stakeholders will be initiated. Laurence Tubiana's term has ended and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture is her successor.

What role did water play at this COP?

For the first time at a COP, water had a highly visible role—an entire day (November 9) was dedicated to it in the Blue Zone (http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/10038.php), as well as a half-day (November 8) in the Green Zone.

The following are the main points that were raised during the plenary session with these two Champions:

- Water is climate and climate is water;
- Water and energy (availability and safety) should be addressed together;
- Watersheds are the relevant scale for the management of water resources;

- A multi-sector approach is required;
- Finance, knowledge, and governance are the necessary pillars for efficient, sustainable access to water;
- Multiple initiatives have been launched, including Water for Africa and the implementation of an international network of parliamentarians for water. A large number of water-related events have been organized by stakeholders from around the world, in the Green Zone as well as the Blue Zone. The slogan "ClimatelsWater" was widely adopted in both zones at the COP, ensuring extensive visibility for this initiative and for the water sector.

The FWP's actions in Marrakech

The FWP itself held six events on a variety of themes, resulting in a number of promising ideas: Water and climate in island territories; The evaluation of solutions for adaptation in the water sector; The humanitarian consequences of climate change in the Sahel; Water and climate: better understanding for better management; Solutions from the French water sector for coping with climate change; and Cooperation between French and non-French basin organizations for better management of water resources.

The FWP also ran a stand in the civil society zone that attracted hundreds of visitors highly concerned about water-related issues and climate change. The FWP's brochure "Better Knowledge for Better Decision Making" was made available during the COP22 and received very positive feedback.

The active involvement of the French water stakeholders present in Marrakech was instrumental in the success of these activities and the visibility of their know-how.

The FWP had the opportunity to share its expectations with the President of the French Republic and Minister Ségolène Royal to ensure that France includes the subject of water in its negotiations in Marrakech and those held in the future. Information on the latest progress in negotiations should be exchanged more effectively in the future between members of the French governmental delegation and other French stakeholders.

The FWP strove to act as a messenger between the Green Zone and the Blue Zone. It engaged in informal discussions with negotiators from various countries and with members of the Adaptation Committee. Prior to this COP, the FWP successfully advocated for a French representative to be nominated to this Committee.

Conclusion

This COP22 was a COP of transition, where participants came away with an increased awareness of water issues and took better account of the need for adaptation. Unfortunately, negotiations did not result in a concrete framework for implementing the Paris Agreement. The fundamental goal of negotiations between now and 2018 will be to set up this framework to prepare the necessary tools for implementation. We need to reconsider the effectiveness of this type of UN-led process faced with the urgency of climate change. Fortunately, the enthusiasm of non-state stakeholders is already

a very positive driving force in achieving the goals set out in Paris. Finally, the COPs are proving to be a dynamic forum for action for the FWP and its members, and should continue to be so in the future. Find all the documents produced during this COP and the statements of States on the UNFCCC website (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>).