



Climate change rulebook will check whether countries live up to commitments

Chile wants oceans focus in December climate conference

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Starting from 2020 the world will have a transparent global framework for climate policies setting out what countries need to do and how, the President of the 2018 Katowice climate talks said in Geneva today. The conference agreed a rulebook on climate action monitoring.

In a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) debate on climate action and trade, Michal Kurtyka, Poland's environment minister, said the next round of top-level talks set for December 2019 in Chile still have to finalize steps for market mechanisms to reduce climate pressures but "starting from 2020 we have a global framework for climate policies".

'Katowice set a milestone'

In the negotiations since the Paris Agreement on climate control in 2014, countries had worked on scale, speed and durability of solutions. Katowice, known as CoP (Conference of the Parties)²⁴ had to tackle the technical complexity of the text (300 pages) and "strong headwinds on the global political arena". But the Katowice Rulebook had been approved and he could be seen leaping from the negotiating table in joy, he recalled. Kurtyka described Katowice as "a milestone just like the Paris Agreement" in 2014. "Paris needed Katowice."

Now the Paris Agreement countries have largely completed the framework it needs to act and to track its actions. "We know what parties have done and what they have neglected."

Good news and bad

The rulebook obliges countries to report on their emissions and on the resources they are devoting to climate control, he noted. "The good news is that we still have the global willingness" to take action. "The bad news is the complexity."

Links between climate and ocean change

Chile's ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Eduardo Gálvez said Chile wanted CoP 25 to produce "a better understanding of the link between climate change and ocean change". Chile sees five priorities for climate action: Antarctica, biodiversity (with a focus on forestry), new and renewable energy (including solar), and a circular economy, as well as climate and the ocean.

New coalitions on mitigation, carbon neutrality, resilience, transport, renewable energy and science

CoP25 in Santiago will try to organize a Head of States coalition for mitigation, promoting carbon neutrality, and a coalition on adaptation by promoting resilience. Ministers would also come together for coalitions on issues such as transport, renewable energy, and science.

Chile argues sea-level rise, coral reef degradation and ocean acidification should also be considered

He said Chile would consider the December get together a 'blue' CoP if it looked also at sea-level rise, coral reef degradation, and acidification of the oceans.

The one-week UN Trade Forum organized by UNCTAD is also designed to feed into the UN climate summit in New York on 23 September. It is discussing overfishing, biotrade, and ocean plastics as well as trade in climate mitigation efforts.