INFORSE on COP25’s Outcome – December 16, 2019

From INFORSE we followed COP25 intensively. Hereby, a report of the outcome.

The COP25 ended on 15/12/2019, Sunday afternoon, 44 hours after schedule. Besides getting the record as the longest COP in history, its results are limited. Now, the future climate depends on the ability and willingness of countries to step up climate action and support during 2020, in advance of the Paris Agreement commitments that start in 2021.

On ambition, the countries agreed to emphasize the urgent need to address by 2020 the significant gap between existing commitments and what is needed to limit warming well below 2°C or 1.5°C. Unfortunately, they could not agree a plan with deadlines for updates of their climate plans (NDCs, nationally determined contributions) during 2020, to allow a stock-take of the new plans well in advance of COP26 at the end of 2020.

On finance, the countries welcomed the progress in achieving the 100 billion USD/year from 2020 in climate assistance from industrialized countries (even though progress could have much been better) and agreed to take stock of the progress at COP26. On long-term finance, not much progress was made as industrialized countries were not willing to commit.

On the rules to operationalize the Paris Agreement, most rules were agreed already at COP24, including the NDC guidelines, but little progress was made for the remaining rules. Most attention was on the “article 6” rules for international transfer of greenhouse gas allowances, so activities in one country can be used to fulfil a climate target of another country (this follows from article 6 in the Paris Agreement). Brazil, Australia and a few other countries wanted weak rules and to allow use of old allowances generated via the CDM mechanism to the Kyoto Protocol. Luckily, a group of both developing and industrialized countries lead by Costa Rica stood firm on strict rules, to limit the undermining of the Paris Agreement. Also on rules for the reporting of the NDCs, the countries could not agree as China and some other countries were against the proposed formats for transparency in this field. The negotiations will continue in 2020 on both issues.

On support for loss and damage from climate change, little progress was made, and no compensation was agreed to those in the developing countries that are hit by climate-change related losses from the industrialized countries that are responsible for most climate change.

At COP25, also some positive achievements were made, including the adoption of a 5-year Gender Action Plan and the inclusion of programs for land and oceans. And the COP25 gave space to many brilliant events with climate scientists, politicians as Al Gore, and civil society from INFORSE organisations and many others.

Many call COP25 a failure. The large countries are reluctant to take climate action, including USA, Brazil and Australia, so the results are very much a reflection of the current political situation. The real results are made between the COPs.

From INFORSE, we will continue to follow the negotiations. In 2020, we will have most focus on how countries can raise ambitions, including transition to sustainable energy and use of local solution in North and South.

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Read more about INFORSE’s activities incl. side event and exhibition at UNFCCC COP25 at www.inforse.org/cop25.php3 www.facebook.com/INFORSE