

# COP22: A TRANSRISK SUMMARY

## At a glance

**Thematic area** Climate Policy

**Key words** COP22

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**Summary** A TRANSrisk summary of key issues and outcomes from COP22.



Commentaries

## INTRODUCTION

The Marrakech Conference (COP22) marked the first session of the Conference of the Parties after 2015's landmark Paris Agreement. It was an opportunity for stakeholders and countries to identify concrete actions to implement the Paris Agreement, in order to provide a targeted and appropriate response to global warming. However, the detailed blueprint for action may take another 2-3 years to complete, the "Pre-2020 Agenda" (IFDD, 2016), and much therefore remains to be done (UNFCCC, 2016a). In the meantime, it is expected that "countries will work diligently and expeditiously to complete workload as soon as possible" (CarbonBrief, 2016).

The Marrakech proclamation calls for moving forward purposefully to reduce GHG emissions and foster adaptation efforts, supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (UNFCCC, 2016b). The main imperative is now to move the conservation of natural resources and human rights to the top of the agenda, ensuring that food and energy security can be achieved on a sustainable basis. This is especially important for indigenous populations and other marginalised groups, who's needs and voices can be lost in the high policy arena. However, there are still problematic issues to overcome before full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

## KEY ISSUES

Finance continues to be a controversial issue and a primary constraint. In Marrakech, countries were urged to continue scaling up their financial contributions towards the pre-agreed “\$100bn a year by 2020” goal, and to achieve a greater balance between adaptation and mitigation. Some recipient countries had hoped for stronger support, since adaptation has long trailed mitigation to the detriment of the most vulnerable countries (The Hindu, 2016). However, it is clear that having “big pockets” is not enough to achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement: capacity building in the poorest and most vulnerable countries is one of the most key challenges to overcome.

Two extremes of capacity building include:

- a) The so called “North-South technology transfer”, which has uncertainties regarding the identification and diffusion of specific technologies. This is because of the possible unsuitability of the North’s technologies, which might not address the needs of the country-recipient; and
- b) The development and implementation (including diffusion) of more suitable technologies, which might take into account the indigenous needs, aspirations and endogenous knowledge.

However, there are multiple variations of these, including the South-South technology and knowledge transfer and sharing strategies. These require greater participation from stakeholders (e.g. indigenous populations, communities, SME and medium and large firms, etc.) in the design and implementation of sustainable policies and strategies, in order to avoid “the regrets” in the short and long term.

The organisation of the “2018 facilitative dialogue” also proved to be controversial.

Countries agreed in Paris that they would convene in 2018 to take stock of climate action progress. This discussion is intended to inform the next round of national pledges, or NDCs. Moreover, Article 4 of the Paris Agreement deals with both the long-term “net-zero emissions in the second half of the century” goal, as well as the need for NDCs to provide “clarity and transparency”. A key theme of COP22 was debating how best to create a fair rulebook that all countries could share and have confidence in when assessing each other’s climate pledges. Discussion of the technicalities around implementation will likely continue into 2018 (CarbonBrief, 2016).

Additionally, there are uncertainties and concerns regarding Donald Trump’s victory in the US: during his campaign he proposed that America should pull out of the Agreement, which may weaken efforts to meet global targets. Experts say that pre-2020 action is vital. The UNEP Emissions Gap 2016 (UNEP, 2016) report clearly states that Paris commitments are not enough to prevent global temperatures rising above the 2°C stabilisation target. Moreover, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol is a critical target for containing global warming. Given that US is not a Kyoto Protocol party, the implementation process depends on the agreement and efforts of other developed countries. Therefore, dialogue and negotiations for ratifying the Amendment are needed (The Hindu, 2016, EcoFin Agency, 2016).

## MOVING FORWARDS

The success of the COP22 will not be seen in the short term, however it made some steps forward to implementation of some key objectives (IFDD, 2016):

- a) Certain progress was made towards the pre-2020 agenda;
- b) The need for an adaptation-mitigation agenda was highlighted (Paris Agreement-Sustainable Development Goals, Marrakech proclamation);
- c) Progress was made on discussion of the interactions and interlinkages of finance, capacity building and technology transfer; and
- d) Parties' ambitions to achieve significant GHG reduction were enhanced (i.e. NDCs).

However, despite this progress a massive workload remains to transform the Paris Agreement into specific "bottom up" actions, and engage the doers of the transformation process. TRANSRisk will help here by providing a new framework, with accompanying tools, to help decision makers evaluate low carbon technology options, and investigate the social, economic and environmental impacts of low carbon transitions pathways. Three examples from our case study work were presented during COP22, which you can read about on our [website](#).

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