Loss and damage in COP24

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The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Polish city of Katowice, from 2 to 15 December 2018. Determining implementation modalities for the Paris Agreement – the so-called rulebook for the Paris Agreement – was one of COP24’s main goals. While several decisions were adopted, around which a rulebook can be structured, these decisions are unlikely to drive the much-needed increase in ambition of national commitments. This note outlines the nature of the engagements made during COP24 with regard to loss and damage. The description is based on the text of the various decision drafts, accessed from the UNFCCC website in the week of 17 December 2018. It also draws on daily reports, as provided in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. With regard to loss and damage, COP24 resulted in a consensus about workable options for implementing the ‘transparency framework’ and the ‘global stocktake’, two key elements of the Paris Agreement (respectively, articles 13 and 14 in the Paris Agreement). Additional relevant outcomes of COP24 concern the “Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts” (WIM).

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