



Call for Submissions | February 2020

It's the End of the COP as We Know It!

Expert Workshop

The Wuppertal Institute in collaboration with the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) will host an expert workshop to discuss how the nature of the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC may be shaped to make the best use of what has become a global focusing event for climate action.

Workshop Dates

*26 and 27 May 2020,
Wuppertal, Germany*

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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



**Wuppertal
Institut**

Call for Submissions

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP24, the UNFCCC has mostly completed the regime building process around the ground-breaking Paris Agreement of 2015. For more than a decade the negotiation of first the Copenhagen Accord (COP15)/Cancún Agreement (COP16), and subsequently the Paris Agreement (COP21) dominated the annual UN climate conferences (COPs). While some issues entail further negotiation business beyond the recent COP25, the imminent conclusion of the regime building process represents a critical juncture for multilateral climate governance. Specifically, it opens a new chapter for the UNFCCC and the organization of its annual COPs as the focus shifts from negotiation to implementation. Indeed, the negotiating capacity that is now being freed up should be refocused to facilitating implementation, monitoring progress and, crucially, raising ambition.

Already, the global climate governance landscape has changed considerably. A host of new institutions have entered what has been described as a global climate regime complex. Within this complex, global climate governance is no longer exclusively addressed by states. A plethora of non-state and subnational actors have come to the fore to engage in various forms of transnational governance initiatives, to push for greater ambition and to advance interlinkages between climate policy and sustainable development. Different ways have been explored to engage the UNFCCC as an “orchestrator” within the climate governance landscape. The extension of the mandate of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action at COP25 has strengthened further the momentum to redefine the COP and its functions within the climate regime complex.

Over the course of the last decade, the annual COPs have become a much different event than at the outset of UN climate change negotiations. It now brings together a wide range of experts and stakeholders and has become a global focusing event for climate action. The public attention and agenda setting power it thus generates needs to be harnessed to maximize the UNFCCC’s ability to guide climate policy across sectors and at all governance levels.

With this Call for Ideas we invite proposals how the UNFCCC could take advantage of the opportunities created by the conclusion of major negotiation streams. These could for example include ideas on the following aspects:

- How can the COP support the implementation of NDCs at the national level beyond the established transparency and stocktaking processes?
- How could the COP make better use of the policy information contained in Parties’ national reporting to facilitate policy learning among countries?
- How could the COP enable UNFCCC to interact more closely with pertinent international processes and institutions such as the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the emergent Global Biodiversity Framework or the world trade regime?
- How could the COP help to advance decarbonisation from a sectoral perspective, for example in transport or emission intensive industries?
- How could the COP better connect non-state and subnational climate action with intergovernmental processes?

Please present your ideas as an extended abstract of no more than 500 words!

We intend to publish the outcomes of the workshop in an appropriate format

Submission Deadline:

20 March 2020

Please send submissions to

lukas.hermwille@wupperinst.org

Wuppertal Institute and / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) will invite a selection of the ideas submitted to the workshop. Results of the selection process will be communicated by 17 April 2020. Limited funding may be made available to cover travel expenses for participants from the Global South.

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