



**24th Conference of the Parties
Katowice 2-14 December 2018**

Key Messages for COP 24¹

1) A Talanoa Dialogue conducive to accelerating progress on the 1.5°C long-term objective

The Paris Agreement (PA) set a long-term goal of containing global warming to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was asked to assess a scenario of 1.5°C warming, its impacts and related GHG emissions pathways, to assist Governments address climate change while pursuing sustainable development and working to eradicating poverty. The [IPCC Special Report](#) on *Global Warming of 1.5 °C* sheds light on the **urgency of higher ambition and profound transformation**.

Caritas organizations echo this finding and call upon all State Parties to the PA to follow on the engagements taken and ramp up their level of commitment by adopting ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At COP24, we call for a Talanoa Dialogue that is honest, participatory, based on mutual cooperation and serves the common good.

Equity, fairness, human rights and inter-generational justice must be guiding criteria for upcoming climate policies. Industrialized countries with historical responsibility must take on their just share, while most vulnerable countries must receive support as a matter of priority. The call for an **ecological conversion entails profound transformation of the current production models and lifestyles in all countries**, rather than relying on uncertain technology (e.g. geo-engineering) and “negative emissions” solutions.

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change (...) Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.” (Laudato Si’ 13)

The Caritas Confederation echoes this call and wants to contribute to COP24 with the will to rally a broad range of actors, everyone capable of achieving transformation, to act together for the sake of the common good. **We bring a message of hope to decision-makers: transformation is possible, but genuine political will is needed to make it happen!**

¹Caritas Internationalis is the Confederation of 165 Caritas organizations working worldwide on integral human development and emergency relief. In the last decade it has been participating in COPs with delegations of members coming from all continents.

2) A Paris Rulebook that protects Human Rights and opens up to people's participation

The *vision* embraced by the PA combined **climate action with sustainable development and poverty eradication in a virtuous synergy**. It stressed that Parties should, in their actions to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider their existing obligations on *human rights*, including the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as gender equality, food security, just transition, public participation and access to information, ecosystem integrity and protection of biodiversity, intergenerational equity.

In the transition required for a durable shift in global economies necessary to confront climate change, intrinsic human dignity and rights must never be compromised, but rather enhanced by forward-looking policies and at grassroots level. The **guidelines** which will be adopted for implementation at country level represent the tools best suited to promote this vision.

The PA Work Programme (“Paris Rulebook”), due to be adopted at COP24, will detail the rules for the implementation of the PA provisions. Much expectations are directed to COP24; the last Bangkok negotiation session revealed political sticking points, therefore **real success in Katowice will ultimately depend on political will to deliver a balanced Work Programme realizing the vision of the PA**. Maintaining **explicit references to human rights considerations in relevant sections of the guidelines** will help Governments integrate human rights and social justice objectives in the adoption of climate policies, share experience and avoid putting in place potentially harmful climate actions. This would realize the said virtuous synergy and encourage ramping up the achievement of both environmental and social objectives along the 5-years cycles established by the PA. To ensure policy coherence and global justice, the guidelines must foresee that all climate projects comply with human rights obligations not only domestically but also in third countries.

We call on State Parties to: 1) overcome political divisions regarding the scope of **NDCs**; 2) endorse guidelines on the **Adaptation Communications and on NDCs** that open up for participation, protection of communities, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, gender equality; 3) communicate on the social impacts of response measures, participation and other human rights aspects under the **Transparency Framework**; 4) include information about “efforts to eradicate poverty, food security, job creation, social justice, climate refugees and displaced people” in the **Global Stocktake**; 5) endorse references to human rights, public participation, grievance redress in the mechanisms set by **Art. 6** of the PA.

3. Agriculture for Food Security and agroecological approaches

The “Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture” will consider “Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change for agriculture”. Caritas organizations will follow discussions very closely to make sure agriculture is not just used for its mitigation potential nor to further the interests of large businesses at the expenses of poor farmers.

Instead, this workstream should promote **Food Security in its four dimensions**, i.e. physical **availability** of food; economic and physical **access**; **utilization**, i.e. healthy and nutritious quality; **stability**) thus contributing to eliminating hunger and achieving sustainable agriculture as per SDG2.

Agroecology should be especially promoted to ensure adaptation and resilience - including **water** conservation and sustainable management - especially for smallholder farmers, and as a model ensuring healthy consumption, human well-being and care for the environment.