

## SUMMARY OF RIGHTS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS AT COP19

23 December 2013

This briefing paper analyzes key human rights issues addressed during the negotiations and in the decisions adopted at COP19 in Warsaw, Poland. Members of the Human Rights & Climate Change Working Group contributed to this paper, focusing in particular on: ambition (short-term mitigation); Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); gender; Green Climate Fund (GCF); public participation; and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

### *Ambition (Short-term mitigation)*

*(contribution by Alyssa Johl, Center for International Environmental Law and Sébastien Duyck, University of Lapland)*

Although we recognize the need for long-term mitigation action, there is a general consensus among high-level policymakers, scientists, and financial actors alike that a legally binding agreement in 2015 is not enough to prevent “dangerous” climate change. Failure to take urgent action to mitigate climate change will significantly affect our right to a safe climate, particularly for those most vulnerable to but least responsible for climate change.

In Warsaw, the Parties agreed to launch a process that would help to identify practical and innovative mitigation actions that are “substantial, scalable and replicable” (see [Decision - /CP.19, Further advancing the Durban Platform](#), para. 5). The Secretariat also highlighted the preparatory work that will be undertaken in the lead-up to the June 2014 ministerial roundtable, during which Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will discuss options to enhance their short-term ambition. If Parties show leadership by investing the necessary time and resources in these processes and by implementing mitigation actions at the national level, these initiatives could help drive transformative change and minimize further environmental and human harms.

Related to discussions on the need for urgent and ambitious mitigation action, the review of the adequacy of the long-term global goal continued in Warsaw. Parties considered whether the current objective of limiting temperature increase by two degrees is sufficient to avoid “dangerous” climate change as defined by the Convention. Parties and observers are invited to provide guidance regarding the next stages of the review by March 26, 2014, in particular by providing additional sources of information and identifying ways in which the outcomes of the review will inform the work under the ADP.

### *Clean Development Mechanism*

*(contribution by Eva Filzmoser, Carbon Market Watch)*

In Warsaw, Parties were expected to conclude the review of the Clean Development Mechanism’s (CDM) policies and procedures (known as “modalities and procedures”) for the