



MINISTRY  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT



**COP24·KATOWICE 2018**  
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION



## Act of law on preparations and hosting the COP

- Poland's preparations include special legislation to enable smooth process of preparations to the COP.
- The Act adopted by the Polish Parliament provides for the efficient organization and financing of conference, but also regulates how state institutions will cooperate during the preparatory period as well as during the conference itself to ensure security for all its participants, both government delegations and observers, as well as residents of the Silesia.
- The Act does not change the provisions of the Host Country Agreement between Poland and the UNFCCC secretariat on hosting the conference. The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the organization of the COP24 Conference on behalf of the Polish government





## Poland welcomes public participation in the COP24

- Each of the COP24 participants will be warmly welcomed as a very important guest whose presence and activity will contribute to the most important aim of the COP24 Presidency, which is to provide a transparent, impartial and open for all parties negotiating process.
- In Paris Agreement, the role of non-governmental partners in this process is extremely important and should be strengthened.
- The Government of the Republic of Poland assures of our determination to have an open dialogue with organizations representing all the observers.





## Public participation is very important

- Poland is a country with the greatest experience in chairing climate conferences and will do everything to uphold the excellent tradition of the three previous Presidencies in 1999, in 2008 and 2013.
- Poland was the first COP presidency (in 2013), which invited business and cities representatives to have discussions on ministerial level.
- We hope that all observer communities will support Parties in their effort to adopt the necessary decisions enabling sustainable economic transformation and fair change in the labor market.
- This is a pre-condition to achieve a goal of the PA - climate neutral zero-net emissions development of all countries.





## HCA on public participation

- According to art. 7.1 letter f) of the draft Agreement (HCA COP 24) between Poland and the UNFCCC Secretariat, Poland will undertake initiatives aimed at promoting and facilitating the participation of observer organizations in preparations for the COP24 Conference.
- The Conference will be open to observer organizations, providing non-governmental organizations with access to information as well as an active participation in the discussion whenever possible.
- The organizers (UNFCCC & Poland) will provide the observer organizations with appropriate facilities, i.e. space during the Conference, both in the conference facility and outside.





## Observers' gatherings

- The regulations on public assemblies applicable in Poland do not differ from those applied in other EU Member States. The organizer of every public gathering is obliged to submit an information about such an intention to the competent authorities (city hall) that registers such an event. At the same time, the organizer is responsible for the lawful conduct of the manifestation.
- **The provisions of the Act of 10 January 2018** on specific solutions related to the organization of the session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the Republic of Poland **do not limit the organization of gatherings**, subject to prior notification.





## Limitations of spontaneous gatherings

- Limitations (ban of spontaneous gatherings) apply in the city of Katowice only from 00:00 on November 26, 2018 till 23:59 on 16 December 2018.
- Legal definition of a spontaneous assembly tells that: it is a gathering which takes place in connection with a sudden and impossible to predict event connected with the public sphere.
- The date of the COP 24 Conference is known. It is possible to "book" slots in Katowice from November 26, 2018 to December 16, 2018, for meetings, marches, and other forms of public manifestation of their views by various groups of observers.
- Bearing in mind the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, NGOs will have unrestricted right to submit their comments or opinions during the COP24 Conference



## We will alleviate the difficulties

- » Poland will do everything to alleviate the impact of these limitations to facilitate active and constructive participation of all the observers. It is one of the priorities of the Polish Presidency.
- » **For this purpose, we plan to do the following.**
  - » we are engaging in a dialogue with all UNFCCC accredited observers to learn how to improve their participation in the COP;
  - » we will ask Polish NGOs to support foreign colleagues in preparing applications for registration of gatherings organized during COP24;
  - » we will ask the City Hall to provide full information on the applicable procedures;
  - » periodic briefings for social partners should ensure full access to important information related to the COP preparations. We expect them to actively engage in such a dialogue.





- UNFCCC process would not be the same without civil society and their active participation.

