Dr. Peter Orris, WFPHA Environment Working Group member attended COP24 in Katowice, Poland from the 2\textsuperscript{nd} of December to the 14\textsuperscript{th} of December.

**BACKGROUND:**
The international political response to climate change began with the 1992 adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which entered into force on 21 March 1994, has 197 parties.

The Kyoto Protocol, entered into force on 16 February 2005, commits industrialized countries, and countries in transition to a market economy, to achieve quantified emissions reduction targets for six Green House Gasses (GHGs). In December 2015, parties adopted the Paris Agreement, under which all countries will submit Nationally Determined Contributions every five years. The Agreement includes the goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

**CLIMATE AND HEALTH SUMMIT:**
Held annually prior to the Climate COP meeting and this year sponsored by the World Health Organization, the Global Climate and Health Alliance, the European Committee of the Regions, and the Pro Silesia Association, serves as a key anchoring event for advancing health-focused action, engagement and collaboration to address climate change. The Summit focused on the Call to Action on Climate and Health which outlines a set of ten priority policy actions for health leadership.
CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH:
Climate change is a global health emergency that threatens to reverse decades of health and development gains, cause widespread human suffering, deepen global health inequities, and put at risk the environmental and economic systems we depend on for our survival. As the world faces unprecedented heat, fires, and storms, now is a crucial moment for leaders to assess and reaffirm their commitments to climate action. The following ten priority actions are essential steps to protect health and advance human well-being in the era of climate change.

1. Meet and strengthen the commitments under the Paris Agreement
2. Transition away from the use of coal, oil and natural gas to clean, safe, and renewable energy.
3. Transition to zero-carbon transportation systems with an emphasis on active transportation.
4. Build local, healthy, and sustainable food and agricultural systems.
5. Invest in policies that support a just transition for workers and communities adversely impacted by the move to a low-carbon economy.
6. Ensure that gender equality is central to climate action.
7. Raise the health sector voice in the call for climate action.
8. Incorporate climate solutions into all health care and public health systems.
9. Build resilient communities in the face of climate change.
10. Invest in climate and health.

Dr. Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Team Leader, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization, Chaired a panel, including Jennifer Tollman, Researcher, Climate Diplomacy, E3G – Third Generation Environmentalism, and Marco Dus, European Committee of the Regions Member, and Rapporteur on Climate Finance, and Dr. Lujain Alqodmani, from the Kuwait Medical Association and Co-Chair of the Environmental Caucus of the World Medical Association. The panel reviewed the Situation at COP24 and stressed the need to include health within the Paris Agreement Work Program (PAWP) to be negotiated in Katowice.

The meeting made special mention of three recently released reports as particularly interesting to Health providers.

The 2018 Lancet Countdown on health and climate change
Australian Health and Climate Report - MJA-Lancet Countdown
COP24 Special Report Health and Climate Change prepared by WHO at the request of COP23.

UNFCCC declared the meeting a success though the negotiations are painfully slow bringing all countries participating along in the consensus. Negotiators from 196 countries and the
European Union worked for two weeks on the Katowice Rulebook, implementing the Paris Agreement. More than a dozen intense meetings enabled negotiations to be successful on different topics regarding principles aimed at implementing the Paris Agreement. Thanks to the consensus, which has been agreed on by the Parties because of their commitment, Katowice has become, after Kyoto and Paris, another milestone on the way towards a sustainable global climate policy. In the Katowice Rulebook, different parties adopted a path that will be followed by each of them when it comes to stepping up actions for climate protection. There were as well 3 declarations broadly supported by The participants that were initiated by Poland to round up the work of the 2 weeks.

Speaking for the Health Sector as a whole, Dr Maria P Neira, Director of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health at the World Health Organization, summed up

“We have the health community’s strong backing for action on climate change. They are witnessing first-hand the health effects of air pollution and climate change. In the same way that they raised public awareness about the health effects of smoking, these are the people who are also the best placed to call for clean air and action on climate change. At COP24, organizations representing over 5 million doctors, nurses and public health professionals and 17,000 hospitals in over 120 countries issued a call to action on climate and health.”