

# Pacific COP: Solidarity and Action to Realize the Promise of Paris

Climate change impacts are unfolding before our eyes. 2017 looks set to join the previous three years as the hottest four years on record. Increasing extreme weather events are bringing untold damage, upheaval and loss of life, with subsequent costs spiraling into billions of dollars. The time for debate is over. Urgent international action is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C, and the window of opportunity to achieve this is closing fast. While the fossil fuel lobby and vested interests still delay urgent action, numerous governments, businesses and local communities are taking action with investments in renewable energy breaking new records on efficiency and financial competitiveness. The climate revolution is beginning, but it needs to be faster, quicker and more ambitious.

This year's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 23) is the first time a Pacific Island has held the COP Presidency. As communities at the frontlines of climate change, Fiji and the Pacific Islands are experiencing increasingly brutal climate impacts, but are also recognized international champions of climate action. The Fijian COP 23 Presidency provides a great opportunity to urgently ramp up global ambition, matched with domestic action by all nation states to implement the UNFCCC Paris Agreement adopted at COP 21 in 2015.

COP 23 marks two years since nation states of the world stood together at COP 21 to adopt the Paris Agreement. This was a promise of collective climate action that sparked real hope through its ambitious and collaborative climate objectives, particularly the commitment to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. In the face of ever harder hitting impacts of climate change, the Paris Agreement provides an opportunity to deliver urgent emissions

reductions, support for adaptation and loss and damage, and finance and technological support to enable all to take action. This 'Paris Promise' given in December 2015 spurred political momentum which continued to build throughout 2016 and up to the current COP 23. Now we must make the delivery of the Paris Agreement a reality, countries must deliver upon their commitments to fulfill their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and go further, faster and deeper to deliver collaborative climate action by reducing emissions, supporting adaptation and tackling loss and damage.

In 2017, the Paris Agreement passed its first stress test when, in the face of the current US administration signaling its intention to undermine core values of the Agreement and withdraw from it unilaterally, countries and stakeholders pushed back with a unanimous, global response that the delivery of Paris is non-negotiable. The message is clear that any Party that weakens its ambition is not compatible with the principles of the Agreement. The Paris Promise

was built with an environment of trust and collaboration between all countries. This first Pacific COP, hosted in Bonn, Germany, should encourage all Parties to strengthen partnerships between actors and countries of differing levels of vulnerability and economic development.

At COP 23, Parties to the UNFCCC must realize the vision of Paris by making substantial progress on all agenda items under the Paris Agreement Work Programme. **The development of a zero draft of the implementation guidelines, in form of a text, will be a key milestone to measure success.**

**COP 23 must also lay the ground, in form of a roadmap, for a successful facilitative dialogue in 2018 to assess collective progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and indications of implications for revised NDCs.**

**Several elements will be necessary for creating the right conditions for enabling both immediate and longer-term action:**

#### **RAISING AMBITION TO AVOID INCREASING IMPACTS:**

- **The Ambition Mechanism** consists of three elements: a facilitative "Talanoa dialogue" in 2018 (FD2018), to assess collective progress against a 1.5°C pathway and to increase ambition thereafter, a second periodic review to translate science into policy, and a global stocktake to increase ambition every 5 years. Comprehensive progress must be made in the design of these elements at COP 23 to ensure they fulfil the potential for raising ambition that they embody.
- **Loss and Damage:** CAN believes that the first Pacific COP is a unique opportunity for the WIM to fully implement its mandate. This includes generating and providing finance for loss and damage, including from innovative sources, adopting a stronger five-year workplan for the WIM than the one the ExCom approved in October, mandating the WIM and SCF to elaborate modalities for clear and transparent accounting of finance for loss and damage, and providing adequate finance to implement the mandate of the WIM.
- **Adaptation:** Adaptation must be part of the ambition mechanism. In order to make that happen, clear guidelines for adaptation communications need to be adopted by 2018 and the Global Goal on Adaptation needs to be operationalized. A more comprehensive review of the institutional arrangements on adaptation, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), must also be initiated to determine if they are fit-for-purpose.
- **Agriculture:** To enhance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to identify and catalyze action to address gaps in knowledge, research, action and support, a joint SBSTA/SBI Work Programme on Agriculture and Food

Security should be established by COP 23.

#### **SUPPORT FOR ACTION TO ENABLE INCREASED AMBITION:**

- **Finance:** COP 23 should result in progress towards ramping up climate finance to US\$100 billion a year by 2020 to be increased by 2025, progress in mobilizing private finance in developing countries, and improved transparency of finance mobilized and provided. The imbalance between mitigation and adaptation finance should also be recognized and lead to increased adaptation finance and confirmation that the Adaptation Fund will serve the Agreement.
- **Technology:** The Technology Framework must ensure support for climate technology towards the goal of successfully implementing NDCs. To this end, the periodic assessment must include metrics and indicators that will enable countries to make informed choices and predict the needs of developing countries for transformational technologies.

#### **TRANSPARENCY OF ACTION AND SUPPORT:**

- **Enhanced Transparency Framework:** A core set of robust and enforceable guidelines that build on and enhance the existing systems of transparency, towards a common framework, is critical in driving ambition. The modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) should ensure that accurate and sufficient qualitative and quantitative information on adaptation, finance, policies and measures, and projections are submitted by Parties.
  - **Transparency of Action:** MPGs must include transparency of mitigation and adaptation and should be broad enough to account for different NDC types towards providing up-to-date and relevant information to the global stocktake.
  - **Transparency of Support:** Key concepts of modalities for accounting climate finance must be identified at COP 23, including further guidance on how to report on non-financial support. Support should be provided to developing countries that will enable them to comply with common standards of the transparency framework.
  - **Flexibility in the Transparency Framework:** CAN encourages Parties to recognize flexibility in different ways for countries that need it while at the same time encourages Parties to make MPGs that could be implemented by all Parties that will ensure maximum levels of detail, accuracy, and comparability.
- **Accounting for Agriculture Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU):** CAN believes that it is essential that all Parties

account for emissions and removals from AFOLU in all land use sectors in a comparable and transparent way using the methodologies provided in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and NDC-consistent base years measured using agreed methodologies.

- **Accounting for International Transfers:** CAN believes that any transfer of international units should help enhance ambition of NDCs. This can be done by ensuring that the guidelines for Article 6 avoid double counting and are in line with the goals of transparency, enhanced ambition, environmental integrity, human rights, and sustainable development.
- **Accounting for International Shipping and Aviation:** Parties should urgently take action through national, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures to reduce transport emissions and ensure that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) give adequate account of measures and efforts in the FD2018. Parties should also include information on bunker fuel burn and relevant transport work in their NDCs and ensure that the use of any mitigation outcomes guarantees environmental integrity and is not double counted.

#### **ROBUSTNESS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT NOW AND OVER TIME:**

- **Long-Term Strategies:** To encourage increased ambition and early adoption of pathways compatible with 1.5°C and achieving a balance between emissions and removals by sinks in the second half of the century, all countries should come forward with long-term strategies as soon as possible, following a fully participatory planning process with G20 countries leading the way and submitting well before 2020. Strategies should include countries' planned peak years, the year they expect to achieve a balance of sources and sinks, and details of conditions or support needed.
- **Action Initiatives for Increased Short-Term Ambition:** Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require urgent, ramping up of pre-2020 action on mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation. Criteria for inclusion of activities in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) should be redefined to ensure all initiatives are consistent with common guiding principles, including on human rights, gender equality, just transition and environmental integrity.
- **Civil Society Participation:** Fijian "talanoa" spirit should serve the Parties with a longer-term framework for fruitful and balanced deliberations. The principle of inclusive and transparent negotiations must remain the default rule at COP 23, and all negotiations should take place with the presence of observers and allowing for interventions in a manner that allows to channel the views and expertise of civil society into the negotiations.

- **Gender Action Plan and Indigenous People's Platform:** This year the Gender Action Plan should be adopted and the Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform should be made operational to ensure that those that may be victims of climate change are being empowered.

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 1100 non-governmental organizations in more than 120 countries, working together to promote action to limit human-induced climate change.

## Working Group Co-Chairs

### Adaptation and Loss and Damage

Camilla Born, E3G, [camilla.born@e3g.org](mailto:camilla.born@e3g.org)  
Sven Harmeling, CARE International, [sharmeling@careclimatechange.org](mailto:sharmeling@careclimatechange.org)  
Harjeet Singh, Action Aid, [harjeet.singh@actionaid.org](mailto:harjeet.singh@actionaid.org)

### Agenda 2030

Diego Martín-Schutt, CAFOD, [dmartinez@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dmartinez@cafod.org.uk)

### Agriculture

Teresa Anderson, Action Aid, [teresa.anderson@actionaid.org](mailto:teresa.anderson@actionaid.org)  
Ram Kishan, Christian Aid, [ramkishan2000@gmail.com](mailto:ramkishan2000@gmail.com)

### Finance

Lucile Dufour, Réseau Action Climat France, [lucile@rac-f.org](mailto:lucile@rac-f.org)  
Kashmala Kakakhel, WEDO, [kashmalakakakhel@gmail.com](mailto:kashmalakakakhel@gmail.com)  
Eddy Pérez, Climate Reality, [eperez@climateresality.ca](mailto:eperez@climateresality.ca)

### Flexible Mechanisms

Aki Kachi, Carbon Market Watch, [aki.kachi@carbonmarketwatch.org](mailto:aki.kachi@carbonmarketwatch.org)  
Andy Katz, Sierra Club, [andykatz@sonic.net](mailto:andykatz@sonic.net)

### Global Stocktake & Facilitative Dialogue

Christian Holz, CAN Canada, [cholz@climate.works](mailto:cholz@climate.works)  
Eliza Northrup, WRI, [enorthrop@wri.org](mailto:enorthrop@wri.org)  
Naoyuki Yamagishi, WWF Japan, [yamagishi@wwf.or.jp](mailto:yamagishi@wwf.or.jp)

For further information: [www.climatenetwork.org](http://www.climatenetwork.org)

Follow us on twitter: [@CANIntl](https://twitter.com/CANIntl)

Subscribe to our ECO newsletter: [www.climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletters](http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco-newsletters)

Contact: [policy@climatenetwork.org](mailto:policy@climatenetwork.org)

### NGO Participation

Sébastien Duyck, CIEL, [duycks@gmail.com](mailto:duycks@gmail.com)  
Nhattan Nguyen, CAN-Rac Canada, [nhattan@climateactionnetwork.ca](mailto:nhattan@climateactionnetwork.ca)

### REDD & LULUCF

John Lanchbery, RSPB, [john.lanchbery@rspb.org.uk](mailto:john.lanchbery@rspb.org.uk)

### Science Policy

Neth Dano, ETC Group, [neth@etcgroup.org](mailto:neth@etcgroup.org)  
Reinhold Pape, Air Pollution and Climate Secretariat, [reinhold.pape@snf.se](mailto:reinhold.pape@snf.se)  
Manfred Treber, Germanwatch, [treber@germanwatch.org](mailto:treber@germanwatch.org)

### Shipping and Aviation

Mark Lutes, WWF International, [marklutes@wwf.panda.org](mailto:marklutes@wwf.panda.org)  
Kelsey Perlman, Carbon Market Watch, [kelsey.perlman@carbonmarketwatch.org](mailto:kelsey.perlman@carbonmarketwatch.org)

### Technology

Janice Meier, Sierra Club US, [jsmeier@verizon.net](mailto:jsmeier@verizon.net)

### Transparency

Enrique Mautua Konstantinidis, IndyACT, [enriquemk@yahoo.com](mailto:enriquemk@yahoo.com)  
Neoka Naidoo, SACAN, [neoka.aidoo@googlemail.com](mailto:neoka.aidoo@googlemail.com)