

## **30<sup>th</sup> Leaders Session with Forum Dialogue Partners**

### **Remarks from Canada, Mr. Don Bobiash, Assistant Deputy Minister (Asia & Oceania), Global Affairs Canada**

#### **Final Version**

#### **Climate challenges faced by Large Maritime Developing States (SIDS)**

- Canada recognizes the unique challenges faced by Large Maritime Developing States as a result of climate change.
- These communities are on the front lines of rising sea levels, extreme climate events, declining ocean health and many other issues.
- The impacts of these events on coastal communities' food security, housing, prosperity and wellbeing are already visible.
- These threats require comprehensive solutions that build more resilient communities, environmentally, socially, and economically.
- Canada is joining Kenya in hosting a global conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy (Nairobi, November 26-28), which is intended to facilitate the transition to economies that are underpinned by environments that are safe, healthy and productive. The Sherpa in charge of planning spoke in Fiji at the end of July to PIC government leaders at CAPP to explain the event.
  - Canada's direct financial contribution will be \$2M USD in support of developing country participation, with specific funding allocated for the participation of women and girls.
- Canada is reaching out to the Pacific region for representation at a G7 Environment Ministers Meeting to be held in Halifax, Canada, September 19-21 and has invited Nauru and the Marshall Islands. The Pacific voice must be heard.
- That's why Canada believes ambitious, concrete solutions are needed today to support the global action needed to address global pressures such as climate change, and its profound effect in the region.
- We applaud the Pacific Island countries for their leadership in positively shaping the international climate agenda.
- In this regard, Canada's \$1.4M support to Fiji's COP23 Presidency recognizes the importance of integrating Pacific SIDS concerns and priorities, and ensuring the voice of PICs on climate change is heard loud and clear.

## **Domestic and other global commitments on climate by Canada**

- At home, Canada has implemented the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, as part of meeting our Paris commitments, part of which includes carbon pricing.
- Canada is also working to complement the Paris goals with other actions, including:
  - Powering Past Coal Alliance (Canada-UK): Working with over 60 other partners, including governments and businesses, towards sustainable phase-out of unabated coal power.
  - Actively engaging in multilateral forums + initiatives, including: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Montreal Protocol, and Kigali Amendment; all of which contribute to Paris' goal.

## **Global commitments on climate by Canada and their regional impacts**

Beyond efforts on the policy frameworks at the domestic and global level, we are also undertaking global efforts to address climate change and enhance resilience in the face of its impacts.

## **An important pillar of our actions are Canadian investments in climate finance**

- These commitments are part of Canada's vision to build global momentum towards a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient future with economic opportunities.
- Canada has pledged to provide \$2.65 billion over five years to support developing countries' efforts to transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. Our funds will be delivered through various bilateral and multilateral channels and will be invested in areas such as clean technology, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest and water management, and climate risk resilience.
- As part of our climate finance commitment, Canada is committed to prioritizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in efforts to address climate change and environmental degradation. Canada's approach recognizes that Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls and puts them at the heart of development efforts.
- To date, we've announced over \$1 billion of this \$2.65 billion commitment.
- These investments are in line with Canada's broader commitments to a more just, inclusive and secure world – along with key outcomes of our G7 presidency (e.g. *Charlevoix Blueprint for Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Coastal Communities*).
- Prime Minister Trudeau wanted to reach out to the Pacific and invited President Dr. Hilda Heine of the Republic of Marshall Islands as an outreach partner in Charlevoix, speaking on oceans.

- Among the many contributions announced to date, Canada has contributed **\$300 million** to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
  - As an example of expenditures in the Pacific Islands from this fund, **US \$57.7 million** of this has been invested in **Samoa**, towards the *Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of Vaisigano River Catchment* project.
- At the G7 Summit, Canada also announced \$60 million to support the expansion of clean energy systems and infrastructure in small island developing states.
- In seeking to increase Canadian support for adaptation efforts, we have also, for example, provided \$50 million as part of the G7 Climate Risk Insurance Initiative.
- And, Canada has been a strong supporter of addressing climate change for many years, including through its \$1.2 billion commitment to the Copenhagen Accord/Fast Start, which have also supported programmes addressing Building Resilience to Climate Change, such as in Papua New Guinea.
- These are tangible resiliency projects, and there are other examples from among Pacific Islands Forum members – but Canada also recognizes issues surrounding scale. We’re committed to engaging further to ensure these funds are truly accessible to those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.