

The Road to COP27: Pacific Dialogue with UK COP26 Presidency

1. The Road to COP27: Pacific Dialogue with UK COP26 Presidency provided a platform for Pacific governments, CROP agencies, private sector, and civil society to engage in open and frank discussion with the COP26 Presidency, reflect on COP26 outcomes and discuss opportunities for collaboration in the lead up to COP27.
2. This cross-sectoral dialogue was delivered in partnership with One CROP and featured 25 speakers, attracted 135 in-person participants across hubs in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu and RMI and 200+ virtual participants streaming from across the world.

COP26 REFLECTIONS

3. Participants praised the UK COP26 Presidency for strong and early engagement with the Pacific. They agreed that the outcomes in Glasgow provided hope for a 1.5C future but recognised the urgent need for greater ambition and action from large emitters.
4. COP President, Rt. Hon Alok Sharma acknowledged the Pacific for their powerful presence at COP26, helping to keep 1.5C alive and highlighted the UK Presidency's focus on delivery in 2022.
5. COP President called on Pacific partners to use their unique moral authority, as seen on display in Glasgow, to call on large emitters to honour their promises, particularly the G7 and the G20.
6. The event created a platform for those unable to attend COP26 to engage directly with the COP26 President, with civil society participants highlighting issues that impact youths, women, indigenous groups and the LGBTQ+ community.
7. Pacific Political Climate Champions¹ discussed their key priorities for climate finance, oceans, carbon markets, and raising climate ambition. The focus and progress on Pacific priorities at COP26, through the work of the Pacific Political Climate Champions was recognised as key to Pacific achievements in Glasgow.

PRIORITIES FOR COP27

8. Pacific's negotiating priorities remain consistent, and their positions united in the hope for a 1.5C world.
9. Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) identified access to climate finance, especially for adaptation; progress on Loss and Damage; strengthening the ocean-climate nexus and increased collaboration and inclusiveness as key priorities for COP27 in Egypt. They also flagged the increasingly urgent need for greater mitigation action to limit the impacts of climate change. The Pacific Voyage Plan guides the region's preparations for COP27.
9. Civil society from across the Pacific drove home the need for continued and expanded engagement for youth, women, Indigenous peoples and local communities, people with disabilities, and other community stakeholders in climate action to ensure an equitable and inclusive process.
10. Participants acknowledged that the UK COP26 Presidency had proactively and, at an early stage in the Presidency, engaged Pacific nations and created space in the agenda for SIDS priorities. Participants made a strong call for UK support in connecting with Egypt's incoming COP27 Presidency to enable the same early and consistent engagement received in the lead up to COP26.
11. Parties highlighted the value of further UK-Pacific cooperation, with several specific opportunities raised including the upcoming intersessional meetings, CBD COP15 and COP27.

¹ Pacific Political Climate Champions are advocates for Pacific priorities and influence decision-making in calling for urgent climate action.

MEETING NOTE

On 23 February 2022, the UK COP26 Presidency ran a regional dialogue for the Pacific governments, negotiators, CROP agencies, private sector, and civil society, to provide a meaningful opportunity for the region to unpack Pacific responses to COP26 outcomes. The Dialogue also enabled an inclusive, whole-of-society discussion to identify priority areas for climate action in the Pacific and implementing the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP) in the lead up to COP27.

Background

PSIDS have a unique moral authority on climate change, as some of the world's lowest greenhouse gas emitters, but among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. At COP26, despite sending a smaller delegation than usual because of COVID-19 restrictions, PSIDS voices were heard loud and clear and were instrumental in pushing for ambitious progress on mitigation, climate finance, and adaptation.

Ahead of the Road to COP27: Pacific Dialogue, the PSIDS convened the regional climate focal points at a Post-COP26 Meeting and identified key priorities in the lead up to COP27. The key messages and priorities for COP27 were: engage with plans to progress the dialogue on Loss and Damage; continue to maintain an ongoing dialogue and relationship with the UK COP26 Presidency; invite Egyptian COP27 Presidency to engage with PSIDS in the preparations for COP27; engage with youth and women networks in the region and ensure the continuation of a targeted dialogue with the world's biggest emitters.

The Event

The Road to COP27: Pacific Dialogue was a hybrid event, hosted from the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, with regional hubs in Samoa, Vanuatu and RMI, joining via Zoom. The dialogue had participants joining virtually from all around the world.

With four sessions, the opening session included reflections from the COP 26 President and Pacific leaders on COP26 and next steps, including a civil society Q&A with the COP26 President. The Pacific Political Climate Champions then delved into Pacific priority areas with the COP26 President. This lay the foundation for a whole-of-society discussion with Pacific regional organisations, civil society, and private sector representatives in the third and fourth sessions, focusing on priorities for COP27 and opportunities for the COP26 Presidency to support the Pacific on the road to COP27.

High-Level Opening Session

COP 26 President, Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma, opened the dialogue by acknowledging the powerful presence of the Pacific at COP26 and highlighted the UK Presidency's unwavering focus on delivery in 2022. Highlighting four priority areas to ensure the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP) delivers action on the ground, the COP 26 President spoke of the need to curb emission reductions to keep 1.5C alive; progress work on adaptation and loss and damage; improve delivery and access to climate finance; and push for further action across critical sectors, such as coal, cars and ending deforestation.

Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa and the President of Palau, H.E. Surangel S. Whipps Jr shared reflections from COP26, with a focus on the importance of coordination and the urgency of increased climate action. Civil society representatives from

different UNFCCC constituency groups discussed issues of inclusiveness with the COP26 President, highlighting challenges around gender inclusiveness, climate ambition, oceans, youth participation, Indigenous people, local communities, and rights for people with disabilities.

Thanking participants for their strong voices in Glasgow, the COP26 President urged Pacific governments, civil society, and young people to use their moral authority to continue to push big emitters to honour their promises, particularly the G7 and the G20.

Thematic summary of sessions

On Access to Climate Finance

Panellists outlined the urgent need for access to all types of finance, to decarbonise their economies, and adapt to climate change, as the world recovers from COVID-19. Panellists recognised that whilst the amount of climate finance was increasing, barriers to accessing the finance made many funds inaccessible to SIDS, hampering their ability to delivery climate action and sustainable development.

Discussions with the Political Climate Champions and other key panellists identified the need for greater transparency of finance flows, high application and reporting requirements for bilateral and multilateral finance, and the importance of harmonising requirements across finance providers. The value of increased use of direct access modalities was also raised, which would allow funding to be channelled directly to countries from funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and simplify navigating climate finance channels. By creating national frameworks and strategies that incorporate climate finance needs, countries are able to better access direct budget support. Technical assistance to develop national plans and strengthen in-country coordination between climate finance providers is key to improving access to climate finance.

Participants agreed on the need for an enhanced global climate finance goal, beyond the \$100bn, that considers adaptation, mitigation and ocean-based targets for PSIDS. Many echoed calls for donors to move away from project-based funding to programmatic climate finance, and for greater availability of concessional finance and grants. This will help ensure projects are designed across an extended period, by those closest to the problem and reduce duplication of administrative costs, so that programmes and projects have the greatest impact and deliver value for money. Participants recognised the pressing need for both public and private finance, including the key role of public funding to encourage private investment in PSIDS.

Loss and Damage

Throughout the event, it was clear that loss and damage (L&D) remains a key priority for PSIDS. At COP26, PSIDS helped ensure loss and damage had a central place in negotiations and the Santiago Network was operationalised. Despite this, the establishment of a dedicated, L&D fund remained out of reach, to the disappointment of vulnerable nations, including PSIDS, who had pushed for this at the COP 26 Leaders' Summit. There was a strong call by panellists and participants for more technical support from the UK COP26 Presidency to upskill regional L&D negotiators ahead of COP27.

Ocean

The ocean is a key issue for PSIDS and the COP26 decision text recognized the role of nature, and the ocean specifically, for the first time. At the dialogue, panellists focused on the value of the ocean as a cultural, economic and environmental resource to Pacific people. It was widely agreed that the health of the ocean and its resources are central to PSIDS climate priorities/

Participants also welcomed the call for an annual dialogue to strengthen ocean-based mitigation and adaptation action, and to integrate ocean-based action into existing mandates and work plans of the UNFCCC. These developments recognise the effects of climate change on the ocean and the role ocean-based solutions can play in addressing the climate crisis. Discussions with civil society and private sector organisations identified nature's role at COP26 and the call for more ambition and focus on nature going forward. Panellists identified opportunities at the community level, the upcoming UNFCCC intersessional, and CBD COP15, as spaces to raise Pacific voices on nature.

Participants called for continued advocacy by regional ocean champions, the public and private sector, non-profit groups, scientific, youth and civil society groups.

Article 6

Panellists welcomed the completion of the Paris Rulebook - a set of decisions providing details around the implementation of the Paris Agreement – as a major achievement of COP26. The Rulebook's decisions relating to Article 6 are now expected to unlock the potential for international emissions trading, essentially supporting the transfer of emission reductions between countries while also incentivising the private sector to invest in climate-friendly solutions. While panellists applauded the completion of Article 6 rules, they stressed the need to push for greater cancellation rates of transferred credits to ensure environmental integrity.

Panellists also expressed the need to have timely information and support from UNFCCC to be able to properly engage in the upcoming work programme on operationalising Article 6 agreements. The region asked the UK COP26 Presidency and incoming COP27 Presidency for support to enable access and participation in carbon markets under the rules of Article 6.

Climate Ambition

Panellists continuously asked the big emitters to take action now to keep the 1.5C target alive. The participants at the dialogue welcomed the COP26 decision requesting Parties to revisit NDCs in 2022, with the aim of closing the gap to limiting global warming to 1.5C. Without this, it was said, the progress on all other issues will be for naught. PSIDS requested the COP26 Presidency to work closely with the region to ensure the commitments made by countries and companies in Glasgow are delivered.

There was a call by the panellists to the developed countries to honour their commitments and deliver on the US100 billion finance goal. Participants highlighted that the Pacific is at the forefront of an existential crisis and would not settle for any compromised ambition by the big emitters.

Science and Innovation

Panellists reiterated the urgency of the climate crisis and the need to act now. The series of IPCC reports provide the most comprehensive account of the climate crisis, and was referred to as a useful tool to help increase climate ambition and encourage climate action. Panellists also highlighted challenges in obtaining sufficient long-term financial commitments to underpin developments in science, data capture, monitoring and validation of climate investments in the Pacific.

Collaboration

The UK COP26 Presidency's early engagement and continuing relationships in the region were key to ensuring a powerful Pacific voice at COP26. There were recurrent calls to continue this productive partnership leading up COP27, and provide a smooth transition for the PSIDS, to help maintain progress on SIDS issues by the incoming COP27 Presidency, Egypt.

Contacts:

Samantha Harrison – Samantha.Harrison@fcdo.gov.uk

Kunal Singh – Kunal.Singh@fcdo.gov.uk