



Climate Action Network

COP 23 Opening Statement

6 November 2017

Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1100 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

Distinguished delegates, as you return to Bonn on 6th November, please be reminded that although this year's COP will take place in Germany under Fijian Presidency, COP 23 is the first Pacific Island COP. As communities at the frontlines of climate change, Fiji and the other Pacific Islands are experiencing increasingly brutal climate impacts, but are also recognized international champions of climate action.

Indeed, all over the world, climate change impacts are unfolding before our eyes. Increasing extreme weather events are bringing untold damage, upheaval and loss of life, with subsequent costs spiraling into billions of dollars. Urgent international action is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C, and the window of opportunity to achieve this is closing fast as most recently indicated by the latest UN Environment's Emissions Gap report.

However, current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are fundamentally inadequate to remain on a global warming pathway of well below 2°C or 1.5°C, nor do they reflect either the potential for climate action that countries already possess, or their capabilities. The next few years will be crucial to closing this mitigation gap, requiring a sharp increase in mitigation ambition, climate finance flows, technology cooperation, and capacity building. Climate finance in particular is still far from being able to facilitate the transformational change outlined in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. Both adaptation action and loss and damage support urgently need to be scaled up to address the risks facing people, livelihoods and ecosystems and to secure survival, recognizing that severe impacts will be felt even at 2°C.

The Fijian COP 23 Presidency provides a great opportunity to urgently ramp up global ambition. CAN calls on Parties to be reminded of the urgency of climate action for small island developing states in particular, and to begin work immediately in order to make substantive and balanced progress in all areas of the negotiations in keeping with the Fijian "talanoa" spirit of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that builds empathy and leads to decision making for the collective good.

In order to meet the 2018 deadline to finalize the Implementation Guidelines, **CAN calls on Parties to engage in constructive technical negotiations at COP 23, leading to draft negotiation text(s) with clearly distinguished options, where needed, to reflect significant differences amongst countries. The development of a zero draft in the form of a text will be a key milestone to measure success coming out of COP 23.**

COP 23 must lay the groundwork to enable successful outcomes from the Talanoa Dialogue, which is a vital opportunity to provide the information, conditions and political signals necessary to empower Parties to enhance the ambition of their revised NDCs. **CAN calls on Parties at COP 23 to adopt modalities of the technical and political process that will enable the Talanoa Dialogue to deliver on the ambition potential it contains.**

Marking the first Pacific COP, CAN calls on Parties to engage in a spirit of solidarity with those that are the most vulnerable yet have done the least to cause climate change. Loss and damage requires greater political support, and Parties should commit to identifying ways for generating finance for loss and damage so that the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM) is able to become fully operational. **Specifically, CAN calls on COP 23 to launch a two-year process under the WIM and the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to develop a range of instruments which can generate additional finance at the scale adequate to address loss and damage, including through innovative sources.**