

Key Issues for Durban for Pacific Island Countries

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Pacific Background

Pacific Island countries are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change

- Geographically isolated
- Low lying atolls
- Dependent on natural resources
- Small populations, and limited capacity to address climate change
- Dependent on external economies



Pacific Climate Change Concerns

- Overriding motivation is the **long term survival** and viability of Pacific island nations
- Survival depends upon temperature increase to be limited to 1.5 degrees C over pre industrial levels (“**1.5 to stay alive**”)
- Asking for global emissions to be limited to below 350 ppm to increase chances of longer term viability



Key issues

- Legal Form – securing **two legally binding agreements** (Kyoto Protocol and Convention)
- Mitigation – securing **emissions reductions** ambitious enough to secure a Pacific future
- Adaptation – ensuring adequate support (financial and technical) for adaptation, and a mechanism to **address loss and damage**
- Finance – ensure **adequate financing** flows to the Pacific



What came out of Cancun?



VISION: The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Shared Vision

- Recognised that **deep emissions cuts are needed** to keep global temperature change down.
- Agreed for a **review** to be held to strengthen the long term global goal, in relation to a global average temperature rise of **1.5 degrees Celsius**
- **Adaptation** to be given the same **priority** as mitigation
- Climate Change to respect **human rights**.



Mitigation

- Agreement that there is a need to **increase ambition** of mitigation efforts
- Agreement that **developing countries will take** national appropriate mitigation **actions**, supported by developed countries
- Agreement on the need to **enhance monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)** of all mitigation actions
- Agreement on more **regular reporting** by developing country parties



Adaptation

- **Cancun Adaptation Framework** was established, and Secretariat to devote resources to this work.
- Establishes a process for **National Adaptation Planning (NAP's)**
- Established the **Adaptation Committee**
- Establishes a process to develop a work programme on international cooperation to **address loss and Damage**



Adaptation

- Agreement on the need for **balanced allocations for adaptation** and mitigation
- Recognition of the need to **address climate change induced displacement**, migration and planned relocation



Finance

- Decides that **scaled up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding** shall be provided to developing country Parties, taking into account urgent and immediate needs of developing countries
- took note of the commitment of developed countries to provide new and additional resources, approaching **US 30 billion for 2010 – 2012**



Finance

- Invites Parties to report on how they are meeting their financial commitments (**transparency**)
- Agrees that funding may become from a wide variety of **sources, public and private** etc
- Establishes the **Green Climate Fund**
- A significant share of the new **funding for adaptation** should flow through the Green Fund



Key Pacific Asks for Durban



VISION: The Pacific environment – sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Legal Outcomes

- **Avoid a gap** between the Kyoto Protocol Commitment periods
- Ensure that the current **Kyoto Protocol rules and mechanisms continue**, eg:
 - Greenhouse gas accounting rules,
 - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 - Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund



Legal Outcomes

- A **Legally binding outcome** is also needed under the Convention track (LCA track), to ensure:
 - Legally binding **emissions reductions** for both **developed AND developing** countries
 - **legally binding obligation** of developed countries to provide **financial and technical support** to assist developing countries to both mitigate against and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change



Mitigation

- Pacific requires **greater ambition of emissions reductions**, in order to close the gap between what is needed (ie to avoid a ‘giga tonne gap’)
- Ensure that **ALL major emitters take action** (developed and developing countries)
- Ensure a **balance** between what happens under the KP and the LCA (ensure **stringency of existing KP rules applies** to all mitigation actions)



Mitigation

- Operationalise the **guidelines for Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)**, through biennial reports, and revised National Communications.



Finance

- **Long Term financing:**
 - funds must be **new and additional** and not repacked ODA
 - Need commitment for funds **post 2012**
 - Majority of funds to be from **public financing**, particularly **for adaptation**
 - Further **elaborate on options for private financing**
 - Ensure **balance** between adaptation and mitigation



Finance

- Green Climate Fund
 - Ensure that the **report of the Transitional Committee is adopted** by COP 17
 - Ensure continuity of **SID representation** on the Board
 - Maintain **substantive public financing** as the source for the Global Climate Fund (GCF)
- Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund
 - Increased **transparency** and simplified NIE accreditation



Fast Start Financing

- Must be **new and additional** funding, not ODA
- **Transparency** on reporting against fast start financing to increase – through harmonised donor reporting
- **Increase** portion for **adaptation**
- Use **flexible delivery modalities** for those with least capacity, ie **SIDS**



For the Pacific ...

- **Survival** underpins all climate change asks
- Global **Emissions must peak before 2015**
- Global goals must be stringent enough to ensure **emissions reductions** are **ambitious** enough to ensure long term viability of all Pacific member states
 - Impacts are already happening, so **adaptation support is an urgent priority**
 - **Two legally binding agreements** are required, ie Kyoto Protocol and Convention (LCA)



Thank you

If you have further queries,
please email: sprep@sprep.org

