

The Pacific COP: Time to heighten ambition

Bonn must progress implementation and accelerate action

Expectations for the UN Climate Conference in Bonn (COP23), in November 2017

Two years since the Paris Climate Agreement, the UN climate talks in Bonn come at a pivotal moment for climate action and vulnerable states. After Paris signalled the intent to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the Pacific COP **must now achieve real progress on the Paris Agreement's implementation guidelines (rulebook)**.

The countries gathered in Bonn must also **set the groundwork for increasing their climate ambition** - and ending the injustice of inaction. The millions of lives around the world affected by climate-fuelled typhoons and hurricanes, floods and droughts are demanding accelerated action and accountability.

It is in Bonn where the world will again show that US President Trump's isolationist decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement **has strengthened, rather than weakened the global momentum for climate action**. New leaders will emerge and the eyes of the world will be on the EU, China and others to step up. There is no turning back and there will be no renegotiation of the Paris Agreement.

We have a window of opportunity to take fast, bold action against climate change and deliver true security and justice for every one of us. This is the opportunity and the obligation of our time.

Climate justice

Across the world, a movement of people is rising in defence of clean air and water and the health of our climate. In Norway, the first developed country to ratify the Paris Agreement, the hypocrisy of the Norwegian government and its Arctic oil drilling agenda [is being exposed in court](#).

The lawsuit is part of a global wave of people [litigating](#) to hold governments and [big polluters to account](#) as the rapid pace of climate change races our ability to adapt.

The coming few years will define who we are: a generation of change, a generation charged with hope and purpose, a generation prepared and able to act.

To protect us from worsening climate impacts, we must accelerate the phase out of coal and end the age of the combustion engine, save the Arctic, protect and enhance the world's forests and reform the way we grow food.

Growing momentum

In the wake of multiple climate disasters in recent months, the Fijian Presidency has labelled COP23 [a visionary summit](#), stressing the importance of reaffirming "our global commitment to climate action".

The COP will already be able to tap into clear momentum among [non-state actors](#) committed to robust climate action, while plenty of US states, local governments and businesses are also stepping up their action as the Trump administration scales back its climate policies.

As the economics of the clean energy transition strengthen, the [growth of global fossil emissions has now stalled](#), thanks to the unprecedented rise of renewable energy and a shift away from coal. In 2016 global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions were flat for a third straight year, even as the global economy grew. This gives fresh hope for preventing climate chaos.

Solar and wind power are now [cheaper than fossil fuels without subsidies](#) in more than 30 countries and around two thirds of the world should reach that state in the next couple of years. New research also shows that a total of [23 countries, states and cities](#) will have either phased out coal-fired power plants or set a timeline to do so by 2030 as the overhaul of our energy system continues.

But to deliver on the promise of 1.5 degrees, the world's new climate leaders must now emerge in Bonn, make steps to lift their post-2020 mitigation targets and accelerate the clean energy transition.

In particular, at COP23 we expect governments to:

1. **Advance the Paris Agreement rulebook**, so that it can be finalised by 2018 as agreed at COP22. This ambitious commitment means that Bonn is a critical step on the path to completing the rulebook.

In particular, Greenpeace is calling for the implementation guidelines to specify that all parties should have harmonised 5-year NDC commitment periods, and that NDCs should include renewable energy targets and other sectoral targets that help unlock ambition.

The rulebook will also outline transparency requirements for all parties. Though there may be some flexibility allowed for differing levels of development, it is important that the overall framework for this is the same for all countries.

We need strong, coherent rules that safeguards the environmental integrity of the agreement and ensures that countries do what they have promised to do.

2. **Get ready for accelerating their national action**, by producing a robust design for the first stocktake of collective efforts (the 2018 facilitative dialogue) that takes place next year.

In Bonn, the outgoing Moroccan presidency and the incoming Fijian presidency will present a joint plan on how the dialogue will be conducted. The dialogue will be vital for setting the right path towards increasing ambition and meeting the 1.5 degrees target.

With this in mind, the dialogue needs to be forward-looking, progressive and set the agenda for enhancing NDCs no later than 2020. Ultimately the dialogue should be designed to unlock ambition from all countries and stakeholders. Greenpeace calls on all countries, and especially G20 countries, to come forward with interim long-term strategies by 2018, in preparation for the facilitative dialogue.

The rulebook will also establish the key mechanisms for the Paris Agreement's global stocktake, happening in five-year cycles and starting from 2023.

3. **Advance vulnerable country priorities**, especially given the extreme weather events experienced recently by the world, and that it's the first ever COP hosted by a small island state. This includes climate finance, adaptation, and how to

move forward on loss & damage.

4. **Show new global climate leadership.** The sooner we act the better and real world leaders need to stand up and propel climate action forward. They must categorically reject any proposed weakening of America's commitments and hold the US administration to account if it reneges.
5. COP23 will also address the rules for the implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation measures, which will include carbon uptake targets.

It is important that **the restoration of forests and other ecosystems as a means of carbon uptake is done in the most natural and ecologically sensitive manner**, and that it is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention of Biological Biodiversity.

Carbon uptake schemes must not be carbon offset schemes that allow for the continued growth of emissions and entail a plethora of risks.

Paris was just the starting point. Faster, bolder action is needed now. The sooner we act the better.

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