SD Talks Special Series on Climate Action
COP23 in Bonn: Setting the Rules of the Climate Game; Making Cooperation Stick

Live Webinar, 27 September 2017

Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan, Chief Negotiator for the COP23 Presidency
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COP23 – Bonn 2017

COP23 is the first small island COP
Fiji will be the first Small Island Developing State to preside over the Conference of Parties – the annual round of the ongoing United Nations climate negotiations, to be held this year in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017.

Small islands are on the frontline of climate change and live with its consequences everyday. Because of this, Fiji will bring an urgency to the negotiations to achieve a visionary COP, where we see real solutions and ambitious action as the global community works toward the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Specifically, meetings of the Conference of the Parties serve to:
• 1. Review the implementation of the Convention (COP), the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the Paris Agreement (CMA), respectively; and
• 2. Adopt decisions to further develop and implement these three instruments.
**KEY TERMS**

- **Facilitative Dialogue**: In order to ensure that parties turn commitment into action and that they continue to regularly increase their ambition, the Paris Agreement provides for progress assessments every five years. This process begins with what is known as the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue (FD 2018). FD 2018 will be the first time Parties take stock of their efforts to reduce emissions; they will then use this assessment to inform more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). An NDC is each Party’s nationally determined commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its country. The Fijian COP23 Presidency is currently working with the Moroccan COP22 Presidency and the Polish COP24 Presidency on the specific design of FD 2018, which will be discussed by Parties in Bonn.

- **Implementation Guidelines (The "Rulebook")**: When complete, the implementation guidelines will be the “rules” and processes used by Parties to achieve the ambition of the Paris Agreement. They will determine how countries communicate their efforts with regards to mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, transfer of technology and capacity building, and how they will be held accountable for their commitments. In other words, the Implementation Guidelines will structure a process to promote implementation, reporting and compliance. To achieve a meaningful draft, it is important to acknowledge countries’ differing stages of development, while continuing to foster commitments to improve transparency over time.

- **Paris Agreement**: At COP21, held in Paris in 2015, the countries of world, known in the UNFCCC system as “Parties,” negotiated what is known as the Paris Agreement, which established specific actions and targets for reducing greenhouse gases emissions, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and financing mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. The agreement took effect nearly a year later. Signatory countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius and to make strong efforts to keep the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
The Presidency presides over the COP, CMP and CMA. It is responsible for proceedings and for providing political leadership to advance the negotiations. The Presidency also has a High Level Champion, who is responsible for building a Grand Coalition among “non-Party” stakeholders for more ambitious climate Action.

The SBSTA, SBI, APA Chairs report to the COP President. They play an important role in ensuring that their parts of the negotiations move forward, consulting frequently with Parties.

Parties come together twice a year to make collective decisions, review efforts and agree on next steps.
GOAL FOR COP23

The Fijian Presidency’s goal is to deliver a visionary COP that energises and advances the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement calls for global warming to be kept well under two degrees over that of the industrial age and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees.

Fiji’s position is that the global community must take concerted action to aim for the more ambitious target of limiting global warming to within 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level. For Fiji and other vulnerable and developing states, this is not just an ambitious goal. It is an imperative and a minimum achievement.
# PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

## FACILITATIVE DIALOGUE (FD 2018)

- Introducing the Pacific concept of ‘talanoa’ as a methodology for FD 2018. Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions, which are for the collective good. Fiji hopes that this method will help to showcase best practice for transformative climate action and enhanced ambition.

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

- Capturing interim progress on the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines at COP23, infusing it with energy and vision to enable finalisation at COP24.

## GENDER ACTION PLAN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S PLATFORM (LCIPP)

- Adopting the first Gender Action Plan and operationalising the LCIPP, to ensure that benefits of climate action are equitably shared with the most vulnerable social groups.

## ADAPTATION, LOSS AND DAMAGE

- Taking care of communities that are the most exposed to the negative consequences of climate change by strengthening the Adaptation Fund; launching a Clearing House for Risk Transfer under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage; and strengthening its mandate to deliver real tools and methodologies to those who need it most.

## OCEANS PATHWAY

- Establishing a clear and comprehensive link between healthy oceans and climate action.
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