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Submitted to Updating Aotearoa New Zealand's Approach to International Climate Change Negotiations
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Association - please select any that apply

Industry Association

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, please provide your organisation name:
FARM (Facts About Ruminant Methane)

Location

New Zealand

Section 1: What do you think New Zealand should be seeking to achieve through our participation at COP?

How can New Zealand best use COP to advance effective and ambitious global action?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand has to advocate for change in the way ruminant methane emissions are quantified. The CO2 equivalent system is not fit for purpose. It is devoid of scientific integrity and is an indictment on all politicians and officials who have accepted its use so far.

The CO2 equivalent system according to Andy Reisinger of the Climate Commission said of the current system of using carbon dioxide equivalents, it "does not measure the actual warming caused by emissions and ignores the fact that methane does not accumulate in the atmosphere in the same way as CO2".

This is a pretty damning admission of a fairly epic fail in policy that has resulted in a worldwide system being adopted as the base of major economic and environmental policy which ignores fundamental properties of methane.

New Zealand must lead the way in getting this system dropped.

Methane emissions are at net zero when they are stable and this scientific reality needs to be recognised in any emissions measurement and quantifying system

What areas are most critical for New Zealand to promote effective and ambitious global action at COP?

Importance - Global emissions reduction (Mitigation):

Not important

Importance - Increasing resilience (Adaptation):

Most Important

Importance - Climate finance and technical support for climate action in developing countries:

Not important

Importance - Aligning global financial flows with the net zero transition:

Least important

Importance - Loss and damage:

Not important

Importance - Nature-positive climate action (e.g. through native ecosystems and nature based solutions, addressing the linkage between the biodiversity and climate crises):

Somewhat important

Importance - Trade policies and instruments that support climate action:

Not important

Importance - Agricultural sector climate action:
Not important

Importance - Circular economy and sustainable industry (e.g., reducing plastic waste, etc.):
Somewhat important

Importance - Technology, innovation and transfer of technology:
Most Important

Importance - Other (please specify below):
Most Important

Why? Tell us more:

Replacing the CO2 equivalent system with a split gas approach is the most important because carbon emissions from ruminant methane have no where near the warming impact of the carbon emissions from CO2.
Carbon emissions from ruminant methane can not be equated to carbon emissions from fossil fuel use. It is a folly to do so and no meaningful emission reductions can occur unless the system used to measure emissions has scientific integrity.

How can New Zealand best leverage participation in COP to support our own low-emissions transition?

Enter your answer here:

Taking the lead in calling for a split gas approach that treats short lived emissions differently to long lived emissions and biological cyclical emissions differently to fossil sourced additive emissions.

What areas are most critical for New Zealand to promote our domestic transition through our participation at COP?

Domestic Transition - Insight into other countries' transition policies (e.g. on just transition, or implementation of nature-based solutions):
Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Cooperation with other countries to support New Zealand's transition (e.g. on transport, attracting used EVs):
Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Promoting New Zealand as a low-carbon tech proving ground/green investment destination:
Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Access for New Zealand businesses to world-leading international businesses' transition technologies and business models:
Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Export opportunities for cleantech or carbon-efficient New Zealand exporters:
Somewhat Important

Domestic Transition - Other (please specify below):

Why? Tell us more?:

If you are a business or you represent a Māori, civil society or industry organisation, are you considering participating in COP? Why/why not?

Enter your answer here:

No.

Supporting the Pacific is a key component of our approach to COP. What do you think is important to consider as we do this, and why?

Enter your answer here:

Indigenous leadership: What role should New Zealand play in amplifying indigenous voices in the global climate change regime? How can we do this most effectively?

Enter your answer here:

None. There is nothing special about indigenous voices. They are able to contribute to the discussion in the same way we all can.
Chinese, Japanese and British people to name a few are all indigenous people and they should not be given any special voice for this reason.

Nature-positive climate action: How should we seek to ensure our global response to climate change also improves the resilience of our native ecosystems, and avoids harm to biodiversity?

Enter your answer here:

It should not allow offsetting of CO2 emissions with non native forests.

Should New Zealand be pursuing other aims at COP not mentioned above? If so, what, and why?

Other aims:

How should we be looking ahead to the prospect of an Australian COP in 2026 to support New Zealand and Pacific interests? Should it affect how we participate in COP in the run up to 2026?

Australia COP:

Australia is a pastoral farming nation and New Zealand should use this opportunity to join with nations like Australia and Ireland to get the CO2 equivalent system replaced with a split gas approach

Section 2: How should New Zealand engage at COP?

What role do you think New Zealand should aim to play at COP? E.g. should we seek to be seen as a constructive bridge-builder, or be more prepared to be an outlier? Why?

Enter your answer here:

We should be organising a group of countries that are reliant on pastoral farming to advocate for change in the CO2 equivalent system so that the cyclical nature of ruminant methane emissions is recognised.

Who should we be working and aligning with, and why?

Enter your answer here:

Australia, Ireland, Scotland, England because they are pastoral farming nations.

Is New Zealand part of the right initiatives and coalitions to achieve our COP objectives?

No

Why? Why not?:

The global methane pledge is not something we should be involved in.

Reducing methane emissions in NZ can only be done by reducing livestock production which will result in increasing methane emissions overseas. Methane emissions are at net zero when they are stable (as they are now in NZ) and don't need to reduce.

The only reason given for wanting to reduce methane emissions is to offset CO2 emissions and this will cause more warming in the long run.

What should we do differently?:

Align ourselves with nations with a lot of pastoral farming.

How should we give effect to our Treaty partnership with Māori in how we engage at COP?

Enter your answer here:

We should not.

The Treaty partnership was a partnership to set up a governance system. It was not a partnership in the governance system itself.

Maori people can express their views and apply influence like any other New Zealander can. To give rights and privileges to Maori people that others do not have is a vile and racist act.

Who do you think should be represented at COP to drive the outcomes New Zealand seeks?

Enter your answer here:

FARM (Facts About Ruminant Methane) , Groundswell, Federated Farmers

Global Stocktake

What does a strong outcome of the Global Stocktake (GST) mean, for each of the Paris Agreement's goals - mitigation, adaptation and financial flows? What should New Zealand advocate for in each of, and across these pillars?

What should we advocate for in the GST on mitigation? :

What should we advocate for in the GST on adaptation?:

What should advocate for in the GST on financial flows?:

Are there things we should advocate for across these pillars?:

How should the Global Stocktake and its outcomes increase action in this critical pre-2030 decade?

Enter your answer here:

How should the Global Stocktake outcomes feed into countries' consideration of NDC2?

Enter your answer here:

Determining NDC's needs to be focused on what countries can achieve. The global stocktake should not be a consideration

Mitigation Work Programme

What (e.g. sectors and measures) should this global mitigation work programme focus on, and how should it prioritise focus areas?

Enter your answer here:

Fossil fuel emissions should be the priority

How should New Zealand engage in this programme to support global action?

Enter your answer here:

How should New Zealand engage in this programme to support domestic action?

Enter your answer here:

What relation, if any, should this have to New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan?

Enter your answer here:

None

Nationally Determined Contributions

NDCs are nationally determined, however are there processes or elements it would be desirable for all countries to focus on in the preparation of their NDC2?

Enter your answer here:

No

How should this link to the need to urgently reduce emissions in this critical decade, i.e. pre-2030?

Enter your answer here:

It should not

Should New Zealand be advocating for the implementation of NDCs to also promote biodiversity benefits – and if so, how?

Yes

If yes, how?:

By limiting offsetting with exotic planting.

Adding an element like this to NDC consideration should provide an opportunity to revise NDC's downwards

Agriculture

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to agricultural climate action?

Enter your answer here:

The recognition that the CO2 equivalent system overstates the impact of methane by several hundred percent., It is devoid of scientific integrity. Andy Reisinger of the Climate Commission said of the the Co2 equivalent system that it

“does not measure the actual warming caused by emissions and ignores the fact that methane does not accumulate in the atmosphere in the same way as CO2”.

This is a pretty damning admission of a fairly epic fail in policy that has resulted in a system being adopted as the base of major economic and environmental policy which ignores fundamental properties of methane.

How do you think Māori rights and interests in agriculture and the land sector should be advocated for at COP?

Enter your answer here:

The same as any other land owner. There is no need for racism by treating Maori land owners differently to others. The belief that Maori people should be treated differently to others is the most vile and racist of beliefs.

Recognising New Zealand's domestic action to address agricultural emissions, should we be hard lined in negotiations by requiring text to recognise that all countries should be seeking to reduce their agricultural emissions?

Enter your answer here:

What should be hard lined is that all countries should be taking the same action to reduce agricultural emissions. New Zealand should not require of itself what other countries are not doing. Emission reductions should be focused on emissions intensity only and must not result in the reduction of agricultural production.

Adaptation

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

That the focus be switched from mitigation to adaptation

Are there any specific elements New Zealand should advocate for as a part of the work programme on the global goal on adaptation this year?

Enter your answer here:

No

What role should New Zealand play in advocating internationally for indigenous-led/co-designed approaches to local adaptation needs?

Enter your answer here:

None.

Why should countries like China, Japan, Britain etc be treated differently just because their people are indigenous. New Zealand has no indigenous people.

How could this global decision influence New Zealand's domestic action on adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

We should switch our focus from mitigation to adaptation.

How can consideration for biodiversity be built into the global goal and framework for adaptation?

Enter your answer here:

What role could New Zealand play in advocating internationally for adaptation actions that avoid harm or that protect or enhance biodiversity and native ecosystems?

Enter your answer here:

It should lead by example and stop offsetting CO2 emissions with exotic forestry

Climate Finance

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to climate finance?

Enter your answer here:

None

What do you think New Zealand should do to support climate finance being accessible and effective for the Pacific?

Enter your answer here:

Nothing.

These countries need to stand on their own two feet and take responsibility for their own emissions

What kind of funding arrangements for addressing loss and damage from climate impacts do you think New Zealand should support?

Enter your answer here:

none

What features would you like to see in the new collective quantified goal on climate finance?

Enter your answer here:

None

How would you like to see New Zealand use COP to support broader reform in the financial system and the redirection of financial flows to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement?

Enter your answer here:

I would not.

How do you think New Zealand can use COP to support the alignment of financial flows in our own country with the Paris Agreement and our climate change targets?

Enter your answer here:

Loss and Damage

How should New Zealand promote successful operationalisation of the Santiago Network?

Enter your answer here:

How do you think we can seek to ensure the Santiago Network delivers effective support for the Pacific?

Enter your answer here:

Outside of the Santiago Network, what should New Zealand be advocating for on loss and damage, including through the Warsaw Implementation Mechanism (WIM) on loss and damage?

Enter your answer here:

Forestry

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to forest climate action in the context of COP?

Enter your answer here:

I would like to see better recognition of the albedo change and consequential warming caused by converting pastoral land in to forestry. Also soil carbon losses need to be better recognised and accounted for.

Where do you think New Zealand can provide global leadership on forestry in the context of COP?

Enter your answer here:

Better understanding of the warming impact of forestry caused by soil carbon loss and albedo change and also emissions of gases which inhibit the OH radical.

Forestry carbon credits are fraudulent because they only account for CO2 removals and not the warming caused by forestry. New Zealand can take leadership in fixing this

What do you think New Zealand's position should be on the role of forests for climate change mitigation, including within NDCs and the international purchase of forest carbon credits?

Enter your answer here:

We should be limiting this.

What do you think New Zealand's position at the COP negotiations should be on the role of forests for climate change adaptation, such as through nature-based solutions?

Enter your answer here:

How do you think Māori rights and interests in forestry and the land sector should be advocated for at COP?

Enter your answer here:

The same as anyone else. New Zealand should not support a racist approach that treats Maori people differently

International Cooperation on Mitigation

How should New Zealand promote environmental integrity and ensuring that only real and additional emissions reductions and removals can be used towards NDCs?

Enter your answer here:

By including all forestry impacts that cause warming such as soil carbon loss, albedo change and the emission of gases which inhibit the OH radical. Many forestry carbon credits are environmentally fraudulent and the Government should not be allowed to continue to turn a blind eye to this.

Getting rid of the CO2 equivalent system and replacing it with a split gas approach will help.

How should New Zealand promote environmental integrity and ensuring that only real and additional emissions reductions and removals can be used towards NDCs?

Enter your answer here:

How should New Zealand ensure that sustainable development co-benefits (such as where funding mitigation outcomes also improves access to affordable energy for communities in the developing country partner) are mandated or weighted appropriately?

Enter your answer here:

What should New Zealand prioritise when engaging in the negotiations to support our access to sources of emissions reduction units with high environmental integrity?

Enter your answer here:

Gender and climate change

How should New Zealand advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of climate change at the UNFCCC?

Enter your answer here:

It should not. It should not patronise women by assuming they are not empowered or able to empower themselves. It is an appalling attitude that lies behind this question.

What concrete actions can New Zealand take to advance gender-responsive climate policies and actions internationally?

Enter your answer here:

None

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

How should Aotearoa engage with the LCIPP?

Enter your answer here:

It should not

We are all people and all deserve equal respect. Humanity is all in this together and to demarcate people in to groups is disrespectful. Let all people in all counties participate on an equal footing.

It is also very racist to assume that non Maori people do not share an equivalent connection to their land, their cemeteries and their community facilities. The Ministry needs to recognise the racism and conscious racial bias inherent in its statement that Maori people are impacted more than others . It is a despicable position to take.

China, Japan and Britain for example are countries with high percentages of indigenous people. Why should they be treated differently

What can we do to support and empower Māori to engage in the work of the LCIPP?

Enter your answer here:

Nothing. To assume Maori people are not empowered is sort of racist.

How can we better connect the work of the LCIPP at the international level to grass-root indigenous climate action, and specifically, what iwi, hapū and Māori communities are doing on climate domestically?

Enter your answer here:

Human rights and climate change

Human rights is a cross-cutting issue. How do you think New Zealand should advocate for countries to respect, promote and consider their human rights obligations when taking action to address climate change?

Enter your answer here:

The most basic human right is the right to food.

Biofuel mandates have caused widespread hunger and starvation and should not be allowed in countries that participate in COP.

Reducing ruminant farming should also not be allowed under any circumstances. Methane reduction targets must exclude any reductions that resulted from the reduction of animal products.

New Zealand's International Human Rights Action Plan states we will play a leadership role in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. How should New Zealand advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in the negotiations and at COP?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand has an International Human Rights Action Plan which sets out our international human rights advocacy priorities through to 2023. Are there any specific human rights that you see as most important for New Zealand to advance in the context of climate change?

Enter your answer here:

Youth and climate change

Youth is a cross-cutting issue. How do you think New Zealand should advocate internationally for young people when taking action to address climate change?

Enter your answer here:

The same as they do for old people or middle aged people.

How can views from young people be better understood and reflected in negotiating positions?

Enter your answer here:

Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions

What outcomes would you like to see internationally in relation to Nature-Based Solutions?

Enter your answer here:

Are there specific environmental or social safeguards, which New Zealand should be pursuing internationally? If yes, how?

Enter your answer here:

Yes, no action taken domestically by any country that increases the cost of energy should be recognised as a part of its NDC

How can countries be encouraged to promote biodiversity benefits, and minimise risks of negative impacts on biodiversity from climate action?

Enter your answer here:

Are there insights New Zealand can bring to the international climate-biodiversity nexus from te ao Māori and a kaupapa Māori perspective?

Enter your answer here:

Perhaps but don't overlook the perspective of other ethnicities we have in NZ. We have many cultures living in NZ and to focus only on Maori means we miss out on the contributions of others.

What else should New Zealand be doing internationally to promote more integrated global climate and biodiversity action?

Just Transition

What outcomes would you like New Zealand to advocate for internationally in relation to just transition?

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand needs to steer clear of this. It looks like it is a tool to increase socialism

How do you think the perspectives of groups disproportionately impacted by climate change should be included in global approaches to the transition to a low emissions future?

Enter your answer here:

Farmers and horticulturalists should be resourced to provide that perspective and all domestic climate policy should provide consultation rights to farmers and growers.

Response Measures

What outcomes would you like New Zealand to advocate for internationally in relation to Response Measures?

Enter your answer here:

The most important one is that response measures that increase cost, and reduce output should not be recognised

Are there any domestic climate policies in particular you are concerned will have negative impacts internationally?

Yes

If yes, how can we ensure New Zealand is not contributing to these?:

It needs to ensure that any climate policy that relates to agriculture does not result in carbon leakage and does not cause a reduction in agricultural production.

Oceans

What are the particular ocean-climate issues that New Zealand should focus on, including at the next Ocean-Climate dialogue in June 2023?

Enter your answer here:

What role can New Zealand play to support the dialogue to address ocean issues that are important to New Zealand and the Pacific?

Enter your answer here:

How can the UNFCCC support collaborative ocean-climate action across UN processes?

Enter your answer here:

Technology

What outcomes would you like New Zealand to advocate for internationally on low-emissions technology development and transfer?

Enter your answer here:

Section 4: Provide General Feedback

You are welcome to provide feedback on any part of the proposal to update New Zealand's approach to international climate negotiations.

Add your comments, ideas, and feedback here:

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