

We're seeking input on New Zealand's approach to the international climate change negotiations

The Paris Agreement on climate change was agreed in 2015 and its implementing guidelines substantially concluded in 2018. This year, the international climate change negotiations are focused on implementation, particularly driving the global transition to a low-emissions, climate resilient economy to ensure the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is kept alive, as well as scaled-up global finance to meet the USD 100 billion p.a. goal committed to by developed countries.

Some of the key issues on the negotiation agenda are set out below.

1 Transparency

The Paris Agreement establishes a comprehensive transparency framework that applies to all countries. The details for the framework were finalised in 2018, including reporting on actions taken to reduce emissions and support for climate action (including finance, technology and capacity building). Under the framework, countries' reports will be reviewed by independent teams of experts, and then go through a process to monitor their individual progress. The transparency framework is an essential part of the Paris Agreement. It will help hold countries accountable to each other for their actions and build confidence that all Parties are implementing their commitments. The negotiations are now focused on the detailed tables countries will use for these reports. These cover both mitigation action and provision of climate finance. New Zealand's position is currently to:

- 1.1 maintain a robust and efficient transparency framework;
- 1.2 pursue scientific and technical discussion of greenhouse gas metrics by the UNFCCC after completion of the Working Group I component of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report.

2 International Carbon Markets

The Paris Agreement recognises that some countries will use carbon markets to help achieve their NDCs. This form of cooperation between countries is likely to occur through linking carbon markets (such as emission trading schemes) and other government-to-government arrangements, and/or through a new central system. The negotiations are at a mature stage and reaching a conclusion will require finding solutions that accommodate parties' different needs when it comes to transitioning from the Kyoto Protocol rule settings to those applicable for the Paris Agreement. Proposals have been made to secure a source of adaptation finance associated with cooperation outside Article 6.4, to transition use of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, and to institute a period during which corresponding adjustments are not required for some internationally transferred mitigation outcomes issued under Article 6.4. New Zealand's position is currently to seek effective and efficient outcomes and for this purpose engage constructively in these negotiations to maximise the environmental integrity of carbon markets to the extent possible, including advocacy for:

- 2.1 guidelines for the use of carbon markets that promote environmental integrity through robust accounting, the avoidance of double counting, and strong transparency (reporting and review);
- 2.2 accounting rules that do not recognise the use of pre-2020 units toward mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement;
- 2.3 “share of proceeds” provisions that apply to the Article 6.4 mechanism exclusively.

3 Climate Finance

The Paris Agreement anticipates that financial resources will be provided for developing countries’ climate action. New Zealand has committed to delivering at least \$300 million in climate-related support from 2019 to 2022, with at least two thirds of that funding being provided to Pacific Island countries.

The Paris Agreement’s transparency framework includes reporting on climate finance that countries provide or receive. The Agreement also anticipates developed countries providing information on projected future support. New Zealand’s position is currently to:

- 3.1 seek agreement on tables for reporting climate finance that preserves New Zealand’s ability to report in line with our domestic tracking and accounting practices;
- 3.2 advocate for as much transparency and predictability of climate finance as possible within the limitations of national systems;
- 3.3 join with other donor countries in any restatement of the shared commitment to delivering on the collective goal to mobilise USD 100 billion per year in climate finance until 2025 from a variety of public and private sources in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparent implementation by developing countries.

Countries are initiating deliberations a new collective climate finance goal. New Zealand’s position is currently to:

- 3.4 participate in the deliberation of a new collective quantified goal on climate finance;
- 3.5 advocate for any new collective quantified goal to be contributed to by all Parties in a position to do so.

4 Loss and Damage

In 2013, the UNFCCC established the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage Associated with the Impacts of Climate Change (WIM). The Paris Agreement affirms the WIM as the permanent vehicle for this purpose (Article 8). COP26 will seek to operationalise the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. Loss and Damage is also expected to be discussed in the context of the climate finance negotiations. New Zealand’s position is currently to advocate for effective and efficient outcomes that advance the interests of Pacific Island countries in ways consistent with our national interests, and in particular to:

- 4.1 continue to support the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage in fulfilling its mandate to address loss and damage in developing countries and, consistent with the decision that adopted the Paris Agreement, resist efforts to pursue development of compensation mechanisms;
- 4.2 continue work to respond to the threat of loss and damage, particularly in the Pacific, including through the provision of climate-related support, delivered bilaterally and through regional or multilateral mechanisms.

5 Agriculture

Around half of New Zealand's emissions come from agriculture, which contributes significantly to our economy. New Zealand has an opportunity in the international climate negotiations to encourage emission reductions from agriculture while supporting food security. Through the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) adopted in 2017, and other parts of the negotiations, we can encourage countries to take climate action on agriculture, including by improving the emissions efficiency of agricultural production. The negotiations this year will focus on the future of the KJWA and the role of agriculture in the UNFCCC. New Zealand's position is currently to:

- 5.1 in the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, and in other relevant fora, encourage other countries to take mitigation action on agriculture.

6 Gender Action Plan

The Paris Agreement calls for countries, when taking climate action, to consider human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women. To implement this, in 2017 countries agreed on a Gender Action Plan. New Zealand has an opportunity to promote outcomes in the international climate negotiations that encourage and facilitate the participation of women in the process, including in leadership roles. New Zealand's position is currently to:

- 6.1 support calls for Parties, when taking action to address climate change, to respect, promote and consider their obligations to, amongst other things, human rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, as well as on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- 6.2 support actions to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promote gender-responsive climate policy in implementing the Paris Agreement.

7 Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

A Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform has been established as part of the international negotiations. The negotiations are focused on a new work plan for the Platform. New Zealand has an opportunity to contribute to decisions on how the Platform operates to enable indigenous peoples and local communities to exchange knowledge, and encourage countries to respect indigenous rights when they take climate action. In the ongoing discussions, New Zealand's position is currently to advocate for:

- 7.1 the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform operating to support respect for the rights and interests of indigenous peoples in international and national climate change actions, programmes and policies;
- 7.2 the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform enabling indigenous peoples and local communities to exchange experience, best practice and knowledge, and build their capacity to engage in the UNFCCC;
- 7.3 indigenous peoples having access to the Platform regardless of their country's involvement.

Questions for consideration

- What negotiation outcomes should New Zealand prioritise at COP26?
- Are there specific considerations we should take account of in responding to the issues being negotiated this year?
- Are there specific positions above you agree or do not agree with, and why?

Your feedback will be considered by our negotiators and summarised for Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw.

How to get in touch

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