

Pacific Perspectives on Accelerating Climate Action

Side Event: 79th Commission session

May 15, 13: 15- 14:15 GMT+7

Conference Room 3, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

[In Person and Virtual on ZOOM <https://zoom.us/j/96985580145>]

Organizer(s)

The side event is organized by the Governments of the Cook Islands and Tuvalu, The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), UN ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)

Registration

To attend the side event, please register using the link here:

Background

In the Pacific, the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals aspirations across all sectors are facing the multiple challenges. Even though, the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) contribute less than 0.03 per cent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, they are amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With a land area of only half a million square kilometres, including low-lying atolls that do not reach more than a few meters above current sea levels, the Pacific communities are at the receiving end of climate emergencies.

Apart from facing several unique development challenges, the ongoing effects of climate change as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis due to geopolitical tensions, have exacerbated PSIDS' socio-economic development challenges. Raising the ambitions for climate action are crucial, and must also be mainstreamed into national, subregional and regional priorities and strategies through solution-oriented frameworks.



SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Against this backdrop, the Subregional Office for the Pacific of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) led analysis on various aspects of climate change in the Pacific. A major theme which emerged was the need to integrate climate change considerations across the various sectors, to foster synergies between different policy areas to achieve climate goals.

The publication titled, ***“Pacific Perspectives 2022: Accelerating Climate Action”*** focuses on four thematic areas: disaster resilience; ocean and climate synergy; climate smart and digital trade; and energy transition, with examples and policy initiatives from the Pacific and beyond.

Objectives

In alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, SAMOA pathway and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, this side event will examine the various policy aspects highlighted in the publication and explore forward-looking initiatives in the Pacific, along with other examples from the region, while taking forward the outcomes of the Sixth Pacific Sustainable Development Forum in Suva, Fiji, 6-7 December 2022.

A selected number of countries will present their current climate policy actions at the national and regional level in the Pacific. It will also feature speakers from PSIDS and CROP agencies who will highlight the linkages between policy action and ambitions in climate, along with synergies in science and technology. The session will also provide an opportunity to highlight ongoing climate policy initiatives and data/statistics requirements of relevant stakeholders, with a view to the UNFCCC COP processes. Finally, the session will collect recommendations in line with regional and global frameworks to accelerate climate action in the Pacific.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the main climate policy actions at the national level?
2. How would you mainstream climate action and net-zero in national development priorities and strategies, and advance Paris Agreement goals?



3. What can be done by ESCAP, CROP agencies and multilateral and bilateral development partners to facilitate climate action at the regional level?

Bringing together a diverse panel, this side event aims to draw attention to climate action related policy conversations, including key policy linkages across various dimensions of climate policy, especially in the context of the connectivity, finance and capacity building. This side event provides a unique platform to share perspectives and learn from one another on common priorities and approaches to address climate emergencies in the Pacific and beyond. As a way forward, the event aims to strengthen regional policy support for national development priorities and provide increased assistance for the implementation of climate action.

Programme

Time (60 min)	Description
15 min	<p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. E. Mr. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands and the Pacific Islands Forum Chair • H.E. Mr. Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu • Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, SPREP Director General
5 min	<p>Key Findings of the Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific
12 min	<p>Special remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa • H.E. Mr. Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., President, Palau • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
3 min	<p>Launch and photo Pacific Perspectives: Accelerating Climate Action</p>





15 min	<p>Keynote remarks: Pacific perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Útoikamanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism, Tonga and Chair of the 79th Commission session • H.E. Ms. Kristin Tilley, Ambassador for Climate Change, Australia • Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General, PIFS <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific CSO Representative • Ms. Preeti Soni, Head, UN ESCAP- APCTT <p>Moderator: Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific (Moderator)</p>
5 min	<p>Open discussion</p> <p>-Interventions from audience</p>
5 min	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Fiji

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