

## Response ID ANON-9W22-T9XD-W

Submitted to Updating Aotearoa New Zealand's Approach to International Climate Change Negotiations  
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### Submitter Details

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Association - please select any that apply

NGO

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, please provide your organisation name:  
Pacific Islands Climate Action Network

Location

Overseas

### 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:

The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network resoundingly makes clear that the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal is a lifeline for the Pacific Island people, communities and ecosystems.

New Zealand must recognize that climate change is a human rights issue, and the NZ government must place human rights at the centre of the COP28 negotiations.

New Zealand should align with the Pacific Small Island States and endorse the Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific and especially commit to moving to full membership of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

In the lead up to COP, that New Zealand must support the initiative led by the Government of Vanuatu to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), ensuring that the New Zealand Government:

- i). Makes a written and oral submission to the ICJ,
- ii). Consult widely with Aotearoa/ NZ civil society, legal bodies, human rights institutions, and communities as it prepares its written and oral submission to the court.
- iii). NZ government not merely to participate in the ICJ proceedings, but in doing so to also ensure the voices of your young people and indigenous communities are heard clearly, and that their testimony is placed before the Court. Whether this occurs directly or indirectly, in person or through audiovisual technology, it is essential that it be done.

NZ must respond to the 2023 Global Stocktake shortfall and the latest IPCC 6th Assessment Synthesis Report by shouldering its share of responsibility, to accelerate the deep and immediate emission reductions across all sectors to limit global warming to well below 1.5 degrees.

New Zealand must scale up climate finance to close the current gap, by announcing much more climate finance, plus real, additional, fair funding for Loss and Damage, well ahead of COP28. This includes funding to support the operationalization of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, as well as the Loss and Damage Fund.

New Zealand to support the Pacific Islands by being one of the first countries to commit funds to the Pacific Resilience Facility when it operationalized, and to use its influence to encourage other governments and the private sectors to do the same.

New Zealand to set a good example for the region as a developed nation that supports the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and the Alliance of Small Island States in the various initiatives as outlined below:

Support the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law in seeking an advisory opinion from the International Tribunal

Law of the Sea on international law concerning climate change and sea level rise and obligations of States in protecting and preserving the marine environment.

Strengthening the rule of international and domestic law to prevent Ecocide and protect the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment from environmental degradation related to the extraction, production, supply and use of fossil fuels.

Supporting the work led by the governments of Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands, for the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to adopt legally binding obligations to establish a GHG levy that will facilitate the transition to carbon free maritime shipping and provide revenue for affected communities in the Pacific.

The Pacific is living through an era of Loss and Damage resulting from climate change, and our communities are experiencing unprecedented economic and non-economic Loss and Damage. Loss and Damage also make clear the links to disaster preparedness and response as a climatic issue, as well as climate-induced migration. Given that Pacific Islanders are already experiencing these kinds of losses and damages from climatic impacts, Loss and Damage is a key element of climate justice for the Pacific, and climate-induced migration will be of increasing importance.

At COP28, we strongly insist that Parties (including New Zealand) must take the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage into a new action-based direction beyond dialogues, taskforces and clearing houses.

New Zealand must support and advocate for a fit-for purpose Loss and Damage Fund, that must be operationalized by COP28. The provision of finance to address such "losses and damages" is a critical element of international climate justice discussions for COP28. Finance for Loss and Damage goes beyond the typical definitions of climate finance, which usually only covers funding for mitigation or adaptation.

NZ must refuse the false narrative that these high-level goals must be traded off against one another. Taken together, they form the core purposes of climate action. Achieving these shared purposes requires major progress to reduce emissions and phase out fossil fuels, and to scale up climate finance including new and additional finance for loss and damage, aligning broader financial flows, and nature-positive climate action.

End any government subsidies and/or investments in any fossil fuel projects/ infrastructures.

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

Importance - Global emissions reduction (Mitigation):

Most Important

Importance - Increasing resilience (Adaptation):

Very Important

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

Most Important

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

Most Important

Importance - Loss and damage:

Most Important

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

Most Important

Importance - Trade policies and instruments that support climate action:

Very Important

Importance - Agricultural sector climate action:

Most Important

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

Very Important

Importance - Technology, innovation and transfer of technology:

Most Important

Importance - Other (please specify below):

Why? Tell us more:

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

Enter your answer here:

Standing with the Pacific's Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, including becoming a full member of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Ambitious agricultural action - especially aligning with the Global Methane Pledge. This means moving much faster on reducing NZ's agricultural

emissions with much stronger targets for each greenhouse gas. Methane cuts now provide the best chance of staying below 1.5°C.

At this late stage, urgent methane cuts are crucial to limit global warming within the humanly adaptable 1.5 degrees Celsius. We have signed the Global Methane Pledge - it's time for fast change within our own agricultural sector, including busting methane myths. The reality is that methane is an own goal for Aotearoa with our expensive coastline infrastructure highly vulnerable to the ocean expansion warmed by methane for more than a century.

Fair Climate Finance so that the financially poorest countries can avoid fossil fuel dependence yet still lift their people out of poverty. This helps support the Pacific Island nations come out of the debt trap that they have found themselves in, as a result of frequent and intense climate induced disasters.

Full reparation through Loss and Damage - standing with the Global South, which includes the Pacific Islands, acknowledging that those least responsible for climate damage, are being hit first and worst.

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):  
Most Important

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

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

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

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

Yes. We are considering attending and sending a Pacific CSO delegation to this year's COP.

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:

NZ Government to consider working closely with organizations like the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network, who mobilize strong Pacific voices for COP each year.

The Pacific islands are your family and neighbours with long-standing ancestral connections.

Aotearoa/ New Zealand must wholeheartedly back what the Pacific nations are demanding - including the Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel-Free Pacific. This includes becoming a full member of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Pacific needs diplomatic, political, and financial support to participate. That support should extend to support to ban deep sea mining and bottom trawling, and support for biodiversity protection.

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:

With a strong standing on indigeneity in the global space, Aotearoa NZ must unequivocally lobby for Pacific Indigenous representation and active engagements at global and regional climate change negotiations platforms including government badges or COP badges for Pacific Indigenous people to collaborate with and amplify Indigenous Voices of the region facing the brunt of the crisis in their communities.

On the "how" to support, provision of travel and other assistance; support for bans on the most damaging activities such as seabed mining and bottom trawling; support for indigenous people with accessing speaking spots; NZ refraining from allying with the countries that would continue high emissions and in denying Pacific demands.

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:

The top priority is limiting global warming within the humanly adaptable 1.5 degrees celsius with high likelihood. The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees celsius is also critical for the other life-forms we share this planet with. Humans do not have the right to cause so much loss.

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

Other aims:

New Zealand should be pursuing an immediate, rapid, equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, including by strongly advocating for this to be included in the COP28 cover decision.

In particular, New Zealand should support what the Pacific nations are demanding - including the Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel-Free Pacific, including becoming a full member of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

New Zealand should also support the calls for the COP28 cover decision to include an explicit, quantified target for the scaling up of renewable energy expansion.

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:

New Zealand's priority at this COP 31 is keeping the window open to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees plus playing its part as a good global citizen. This includes strongly backing Pacific interests, the Alliance of Small Island States, and the Global South.

New Zealand should lobby with Pacific Small Island countries to demand Australia ratchet up its climate ambition if it intends to co-host COP31 with the Pacific. It should specifically call for Australia to increase its NDC targets; increase its climate finance contributions; to make a commitment to immediately end all government subsidies for the fossil fuel industry; and end the further expansion of any fossil fuel projects. Consequently, New Zealand should look to amplify Pacific nations' call for a 'Fossil Free Pacific' throughout the leadup to COP31

## 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:

New Zealand should be prepared to be an outlier and be the change we need to see globally. This is a race to the top of the global climate emergency responses. This means that NZ needs to clean up its own act at home. It's difficult to pretend that it is a climate leader when its target is weak, and it don't have the policies in place to meet it.

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

Enter your answer here:

NZ should prioritize relationships standing with the Pacific, the AOSIS, the Global South, and other nations that support rapid and immediate emissions reductions to highly likely limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and support the Paris principle of common but differentiated responsibility. We don't see that an alliance with the Umbrella Group is good for a country that is based in the Pacific.

NZ is also a member of the Powering Past Coal initiative but still hasn't taken many moves to actually get out of coal as it has promised.

NZ is a member of the Global Methane Initiative, but it has exempted its agriculture sector from the ETS, and still fracking in Taranaki, with no signs of any attempt to reduce that fracking.

New Zealand should act to move towards full membership of the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and seek opportunities to work with BOGA members to advance the call for a rapid, equitable phase-out of fossil fuel production and use.

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

Mostly

Why? Why not?:

What should we do differently?:

New Zealand should become a full member of BOGA.

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

Enter your answer here:

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

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:

We deeply acknowledge that the inequalities in access and opportunities for women, girls, people with disabilities and people of diverse sexual and gender identities stem from deeply rooted structures and norms, including traditional & cultural beliefs, which perpetuate the stigma and discrimination against these vulnerable groups.

Individuals in these distinct groups experience the impacts of climate change in different ways and are withstanding the worst of the threats of climate change to their livelihoods, security, and their lives.

New Zealand must support and empower vulnerable groups and promote safe spaces for all to express their views and identify specific needs, towards identifying and changing those systems and norms that perpetuate the cycle of inequality.

New Zealand must focus on developing an understanding of the intersectional identities of vulnerable & marginalized groups to ensure appropriate and adequate and inclusive climate change responses and humanitarian interventions, such as reasonable accommodation and other disability-specific needs, safety & protection of women, girls and LGBTQI. This includes access to knowledge and information in appropriate formats, on climate change and climate response.

Aotearoa NZ should strongly advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment through legislation, international and national decision-making, education, and poverty reduction.

This will deliver co-benefits of equality, mitigation, and adaptation.

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

Enter your answer here:

## Just Transition

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

Enter your answer here:

New Zealand must support the full call made under the Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, which can be accessed here: [https://www.pican.org/\\_files/ugd/923d4b\\_8c205a9319a645d4b4926155f49c6425.pdf](https://www.pican.org/_files/ugd/923d4b_8c205a9319a645d4b4926155f49c6425.pdf)

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:

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Enter your answer here:

N/A