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Submitted to Updating Aotearoa New Zealand's Approach to International Climate Change Negotiations
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What is COP, and how does New Zealand participate?

The world is off track to limit temperature rise below 1.5

How can upcoming COP negotiations help get us back on track?

Submitter Details

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NGO

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, please provide your organisation name:
World Vision New Zealand

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:

- Demonstrate leadership: Commit to ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions for New Zealand and showcase the concrete steps being taken towards achieving those targets.
- Elevate the voices of children: Highlight the impact of climate change on children and youth, and advocate for their rights and interests in international climate negotiations; request the IPCC to produce a report on climate change and children, where children's right to a safe climate are considered fully.
- Ensure climate and environmental policies are child-sensitive, including New Zealand's NDCs, to acknowledge children's unique vulnerabilities to climate change well as the important role they can play in accelerating climate action. Child-sensitive policies should:
 - Explicitly reference children and young people;
 - Are rights-based. They consider children and young people as rights holders;
 - Are holistic and cross-sectorial;
 - Are inclusive. They identify children and young people as an important stakeholder and ensure inclusivity.
- Elevate Indigenous and Māori voices: Traditional knowledge, practices, and innovations can offer valuable insights into sustainable land management, conservation, and adaptation. Ensure the right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making that affects their rights and interests is upheld in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and te Tiriti O Waitangi obligations.
- Advocate for climate justice approaches to ensure that the needs and concerns of vulnerable countries and communities are elevated in international climate negotiations.
- Ensure human rights due diligence and safeguards are included in discussions and negotiations around the clean energy transition. Transitioning from a fossil fuel economy to a renewables-based economy will exacerbate modern day slavery and child labour unless measures are taken to safeguard human rights and ensure supply chains are ethical.
- Prioritise the human rights of the right to food and the right to health as key human rights that intersect with climate change
- Take leadership on advocacy for a legal framework for climate refugees.

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

Importance - Global emissions reduction (Mitigation):

Importance - Increasing resilience (Adaptation):
Most Important

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

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

Importance - Loss and damage:

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

Importance - Trade policies and instruments that support climate action:

Importance - Agricultural sector climate action:

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

Importance - Technology, innovation and transfer of technology:

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:

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):

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

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

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

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

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:

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:

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:

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

Other aims:

- Advocate for better access to information for children on COP and the UNFCCC process; mandate the UNFCCC Secretariat, to produce child-friendly explainers of all COP decisions.
- Ensure that due consideration is given to child rights and intergenerational equity as cross-cutting priorities in any policy development.
- Reiterate the responsibility of states to ensure that climate action addresses gender equality, with particular attention to the protection and promotion of women's and girl's rights.
- Reinforce the right of children to participate in decision-making processes related to local and national climate action, in alignment with the Aarhus Convention.
- Ensure that the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme prioritises child-sensitive adaptation approaches across all sectors including climate-resilient water and sanitation, health systems, education, nutrition, and protection services. Further, it should focus on communities and children most at risk.
- Strengthen mechanisms that support ongoing dialogue between children and decision-makers (e.g., child reference groups, online forums, feedback

mechanisms, etc.) and seek to strengthen their sustainability and influence.

- Advocate for increased financial and technical support for developing countries.
- Promote a climate justice and equity approach that advocates for the recognition and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, women, children, and other vulnerable groups in climate policies and practices.
- Advocate for human rights safeguards to ensure that the transition to a renewables-based economy is not only sustainable but also equitable and just for all, with ethical supply chains that do not rely on modern slavery and child labour.
- Take leadership on the establishment of a legal mechanism for climate refugees who are displaced and need to migrate due to climate change.

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:

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:

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

Enter your answer here:

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

Not Answered

Why? Why not?:

What should we do differently?:

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:

In addition to Māori representatives, communities with strong ties to the Pacific, civil society actors, academic and scientific experts, and people with disabilities, children and youth should be represented at COP with appropriate child safeguards in place including:

- Work with children to further understand risks and possible solutions. Ensure that information related to safety and safeguarding is child-friendly and accessible.
- Have a clearly identified child engagement focal point within the delegation, trained in the safe and meaningful participation of children.
- Provide training for children and child/youth-led groups on climate policy processes ahead of time and with consideration to additional barriers to accessing climate information due to their age, gender, race, location, digital access, and disability.
- Ensure up-to-date, accessible, age and gender-responsive explanations of negotiated texts are made available.

See more here: <https://www.corecommitments.unicef.org/kp/a-cop-fit-for-children>

Section 3: Specific Negotiation questions

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?:

In alignment with Children's Environmental Rights Initiative (see <https://ceri-coalition.org/>), as endorsed by World Vision as a coalition member:

The GST output must be strongly informed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), as well as the universal human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the principle of intergenerational equity.

The GST output must set out milestones for an enhanced focus on child-sensitive adaptation, including through the framework of the Global Goal on Adaptation. A child-sensitive approach to adaptation:

- Considers the specific risks faced by children in a changing climate and ensures that children's rights, needs, voices, capacities and equity are central to adaptation planning and implementation, including through strengthening the climate-resilience of social services that reach children and communities most at risk, such as water and sanitation, health, mental health and psychosocial support, education, nutrition, social and child protection services.
- Prioritises nature-based (land and ocean) climate measures that contribute to comprehensive protection of children's right to a healthy environment, while delivering co-benefits in terms of broader environmental and sustainable development objectives (e.g. biodiversity, toxics, relevant SDGs 2, 6 and 14-15). Such measures must be guided by the harm prevention and precautionary principles.
- Is locally-led and informed by the views of children and their communities, engaging children at all stages of the adaptation policy cycle.
- Is informed by age- and gender-disaggregated data on climate impacts and adaptation benefits for children and other vulnerable groups.
- Strengthens data and monitoring mechanisms to track/measure the resilience of essential services as well as their contribution to building community resilience.

Undertake advocacy to increase the proportion of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that are child-sensitive to 100%.

See more here: <https://ceri-coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Global-Stocktake-GST-Outputs-Component-Joint-Submission-on-Child-Rights.pdf>

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:

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:

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

Enter your answer here:

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

Not Answered

If yes, how?:

Climate Finance

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

Enter your answer here:

In alignment with Children's Environmental Rights Initiative (see <https://ceri-coalition.org/>), as endorsed by World Vision:

- Request the Standing Committee on Finance to consider a definition for child-responsive climate finance as part of its work on definitions of climate finance.
- Request the Standing Committee on Finance to prepare a report on an overview of climate finance flows that respond to the needs and priorities of children and a review of how the policies and guidelines of the GCF, GEF and AF could better support the protection and promotion of child rights.
- Include provision for children's rights, needs and priorities in the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, including incorporating guidance from the forthcoming General Comment on child rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, being prepared by the UNCRC.
- Ensure any decisions on developing a financing mechanism for loss and damage include provision for policies and guidance on protecting and promoting child rights.

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

Enter your answer here:

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

Enter your answer here:

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

Enter your answer here:

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:

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:

It is essential that children, their needs, rights, equity and voices, are a central consideration in work on loss and damage.

In alignment with recommendations by the Children's Environmental Rights Initiative (see <https://ceri-coalition.org/>), as endorsed by World Vision, children's rights must be explicitly and systematically considered with respect to loss and damage, including:

- The urgent implementation of effective multilateral mechanisms to address the impacts of loss and damage on children's rights, including through the Warsaw International Mechanism and the Santiago Network, and the newly-established Loss & Damage Fund, as well as clear recognition of the role for humanitarian emergency response.
- Commitment to ensuring that these mechanisms have the ability to deliver timely and accessible support for those most affected, at the scale required.
- Global agreement on a set of overarching principles for all loss and damage finance, incorporating children's and human rights, and gender equality.
- The provision of new, additional, public grants and needs-based finance through the new Loss & Damage Fund to address and remedy the impacts of loss and damage, to be structured and delivered in ways that are gender-transformative and which respect, protect and promote children's rights. The new Fund should establish specific policies and guidance on children's rights and safeguards in this respect.

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:

- Mainstreaming gender considerations into all aspects of climate policy and decision-making.
- Increasing the participation of women in climate change decision-making processes including in national delegations, as well as in local and community-level planning and decision-making processes.
- Ensure the inclusion of women's voices and perspectives in climate change discussions, and ensuring that their experiences and knowledge are taken into account.
- Advocate for the allocation of resources to gender-responsive climate action, including funding for gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation projects, as well as research and data collection to better understand the gendered impacts of climate change.
- New research should focus on the impacts of climate change to reproductive labour, asymmetrical decision-making and disproportionate health outcomes, which impact women's and girls' capacity to cope with climate change.
- Support capacity building and education for women and girls: New Zealand can advocate for programs that support capacity building and education for women and girls, particularly in areas related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Address the power asymmetries that result in women being excluded from climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural hazard response/recovery, and that cause unequal health outcomes and increase women's reproductive and care burdens as a result of climate change.

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

Enter your answer here:

The COP 25 Lima work programme on gender and its Gender Action Plan only contains one reference to girls, namely in relation to their "full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development" (Activity D.3).

Any review of the Gender Action Plan should seek to centre more consideration of the unique needs of girls and supporting other countries to increase the focus on girls under the Gender Action Plan should be a priority.

- Include specific reference to girls, in addition to children and youth, as groups that need to be included in decision-making processes.

- Request the Green Climate Fund to update its gender policy to include a reference to girls in order to recognise their unique challenges in the face of climate change.

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:

New Zealand should use the United Nations treaty body review process to make human rights recommendations regarding climate change. In particular, the the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (CESCR), Human Rights Committee (CCPR), Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and UPR reviews. These treaty mechanisms can address the human rights impacts of climate change through recommendations and review. See more: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/human-rights-mechanisms-addressing-climate-change#:~:text=The%20human%20rights%20treaty%20bodies%20are%20>

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:

- Ensure disabled people are represented and in leadership roles within MFAT's climate change negotiations.
- Ensure inclusive decision-making processes including meeting conferences and events that are accessible to people with disabilities.
- Design climate-related policies with persons with disabilities in mind so they are set up to be accessible and inclusive.

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:

The right to food and water. The adverse effects of climate change such as droughts, floods, extreme storms and unpredictable weather destroy crops and disrupt food distribution systems. The number of people affected by hunger is around 828 million with around 900,000 one step away from catastrophic hunger or famine. The New Zealand government should advocate for sustainable food systems and distribution of food to those who need it.

The right to health. This right is interrelated with the right to food. Climate change can affect waterborne diseases, air pollution and heat waves. It is important that people have adequate access to healthcare for climate related diseases and illnesses.

Protect the rights of climate refugees with emphasis on children. Climate change is likely to cause displacement and migration for people living on islands. There needs to be an adequate legal framework to hear refugee claims from people who are unable to return to their country of origin. As New Zealand has already heard claims from people from Tuvalu and Kiribati and because these claims are likely to increase, New Zealand should be advocating for the establishment of a legal framework to manage this.

Ensure that human rights due diligence takes place so that the sourcing and production products is not linked to modern slavery. The transition to clean energy requires the production and supply of raw materials such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth metals, which are crucial for the manufacture of renewable energy technologies including solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicle batteries. Many of these materials are primarily extracted in countries with weaker environmental and labour laws, and where exploitation of workers and modern slavery including forced labour, debt bondage, and the worst forms of child labour, is more prevalent.

In many cases, companies sourcing these materials fail to ensure that their supply chains are free of such human rights abuses. Companies, both globally and in New Zealand, rarely know where their raw materials are being sourced as there are no laws requiring them to trace their supply chains. The increased demand for these materials due to the clean energy transition will exacerbate the existing problems of human rights abuses associated with their production if immediate action is not taken by every country represented at COP.

By prioritising human rights due diligence in the transition to clean energy, New Zealand can ensure that the benefits of renewable energy are not outweighed by the negative impacts of increased human rights abuses. New Zealand can advocate for countries to respect, promote and consider their human rights obligations when taking action to address climate change by leading by example and implementing legislation to address modern slavery in its supply chains, whilst advocating for other countries to do the same.

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:

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

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:

- Fair and equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of the transition, ensuring that no one is left behind and that vulnerable groups are not disproportionately impacted.
- Investment in education and training programs to support workers in transitioning to new jobs and industries, with a particular focus on creating opportunities for those who may be most affected by the transition, such as workers in the fossil fuel industry or low-income communities.
- Recognition of the important role that civil society organisations, including unions and community groups, can play in shaping and implementing just transition policies.
- Collaboration between developed and developing countries to ensure that the transition to a low emissions future is equitable and does not exacerbate existing global inequalities.

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:

- Ensuring that these groups are represented and actively participate in decision-making processes related to the transition, including at the international level.
- Providing funding and support for these groups to participate in these processes, as they may face barriers to participation such as language, capacity, or resources.
- Undertaking inclusive consultations and engagement processes that reach out to these groups and take their perspectives and concerns into account in the development of just transition policies.
- Recognising and addressing the structural inequalities that contribute to the disproportionate impacts of climate change on these groups, such as systemic racism, gender inequality, and poverty, and taking steps to address these issues in just transition policies.

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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Do you consent to your submission being published on this website?

Yes

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