

Pacific Climate Change & Migration Project NEWSLETTER

December 2016, COP22 Special

Regional Meeting Spotlights Climate Migration and Displacement

The Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project held a regional meeting from 7-9 December, 2016 to consider key priorities and responsibilities for advancing commitments under international and regional policy frameworks on climate change migration and displacement. The meeting was held at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Suva.

Senior Pacific island government officials from Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and the Solomon Islands, as well as development partners and various experts discussed issues around the development-migration nexus in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; building resilience through labour mobility; migration and displacement as they relate to loss and damage under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage; and regional mechanisms to address the needs of migrants and displaced persons.

The regional meeting was a collaboration between the European Union funded PCCM project, implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), with support from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations University (UNU).

Delivering the keynote address at the opening of the meeting, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Enele Sosoaga said: "Climate change displacement and unplanned relocation are highly disruptive to livelihoods, culture and society and require proper, well-planned interventions to support people in their efforts to adapt to the challenges, particularly in securing access to decent livelihoods. Maintaining sovereignty, self-determination, cultural identity and territorial rights are of primary concern to Pacific Islanders in any form of climate change-related migration. The international response must also include adequate strategies to deal with persons displaced because of climate change, and their human rights must be protected. Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Mr Christoph Wagner said: "It is clear that climate change, and the impact climate change has on the environment, will become an increasingly important driver of migration from rural to urban areas within Pacific island countries and to other countries. The European Union is supporting the PCCM project to help



Participants at the PCCM regional meeting in December 2016 (Image: UNESCAP)

prepare our partner countries for migration. Those who are going to be leaving their countries, either temporarily or on a permanent basis, need assistance from their governments, Pacific regional organisations and development partners. We also want to help those Pacific island countries who are going to be receiving migrants to maximise the opportunities that the additional labour, expertise and experience can offer."

Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat said: "The movement of people in the Pacific due to the effects of climate change is sadly a growing issue that needs our collective attention. The region must come together and work out a strategy for how to best ensure that the rights and wellbeing of our Pacific sisters and brothers who are facing displacement and relocation are protected and nurtured. This must include those who do not want to move"

The UN Resident Coordinator for the Pacific based in Fiji, Osnat Lubrani said the UN considers that this complex issue requires greater attention in the context of the Pacific region's journey to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The head of UNESCAP Pacific Office, Iosefa Maiava said that the need to address climate change and mobility issues is recognised in the newly-adopted Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) endorsed by Pacific leaders.

The regional meeting built on existing global and regional policy directions to promote alignment and coherence, including the FRDP, the Paris Agreement, the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM), the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Priority issues for the region

The key issues that emerged from the meeting were: emphasis on increasing resilient development of Pacific Island Countries to ensure 'not moving' is a viable option; understanding options for making land available and reducing conflict associated with land; the need for better information to inform decision making, including information on the number and nature of movement as well as on vulnerability; capacity constraints in government and the need for multi-sectoral action; the opportunity for the Pacific to learn from its past as well as demonstrate global leadership on the issue, particularly as there is no precedence on the large scale displacement of people due to climate change; labour mobility currently does not take into consideration climate vulnerability, nor does it consider those people/communities who are 'trapped'. The major outcome of the meeting was the development of an Action Plan to identify key issues, clear timelines and lead actors. The PIFS, UNESCAP and the High Commissions of Tuvalu and Nauru were tasked as the coordinating group to follow-up on priority actions in the Plan.

Key Outcomes Agreed at the UN Climate Talks in Marrakech

When negotiators from almost 200 countries arrived in Marrakech in November 2016 for the COP22 annual climate change conference, it was being touted as an opportunity to showcase progress and start the important process of turning the Paris Agreement into a detailed blueprint for action.

The conference ran from 7-18 November, 2016 and the first day went ahead as planned; the next day's talks took place in the shadow of the US election and by the third day, Donald

Three-year process

The Paris Agreement is a complete document that sets out the overarching goals and framework for international climate action. But setting out the details is a longer process, which the countries participating in the COP22 talks have decided should be completed by 2018, with a review of progress in 2017.

This timeline means that few of the loose ends left by the Paris Agreement were completely tied up in Marrakech. Instead, the process was one of defining the issues at stake and outlining what kind of documents and workshops will be needed to make sense of them by the 2018 deadline.

Notable outcomes

Finance

Despite this, there were a few notable outcomes. Finance is always controversial and, once again, it was this topic that we down to the wire — although, in the end, with little progress. In effect, countries agreed to continue discussing it.

Countries were urged to continue scaling up their financial contributions towards the pre-agreed "\$100bn a year by 2020" goal, and to achieve a greater balance between adaptation and mitigation. Some countries had hoped for stronger wording on this, since adaptation has long trailed mitigation, to the detriment of the most vulnerable countries.

Adaptation Fund

There was also some last-minute wrangling over the Adaptation Fund, a body which exists to serve the Kyoto Protocol (the deal struck in 1997 committing developed nations to emissions cuts up to 2020), and which many argued should be moved over to the Paris Agreement, in order to ensure it remains a political priority in the future. Countries at COP22 agreed to discuss the issue and hand in their views by 31 March 2017.

Facilitative Dialogue

The organisation of the "2018 facilitative dialogue" also proved to be controversial. Countries agreed in Paris that they would convene in 2018 to take stock of how climate action was going so far — a discussion that is intended to inform the next

round of national pledges, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs.

Nonetheless, stoical negotiators pushed on with their work and the refrain of the conference soon became that the Paris Agreement, sealed last year, was bigger than any one country, or any particular head of state. The next four years will prove whether this is true.

"This COP is the first stop after Paris and it needs to cover and take up the issues to make Paris work and be implemented, so that is what it's doing," Stephen Cornelius, chief advisor on climate change at WWF-UK, told Carbon Brief just before the talks concluded.

The official outcomes of the COP were a collection of diverse documents. But some of the more substantial questions and discussions were captured in a series of "informal notes".

"Much remains to be done," said one of the formal documents from the session, adding that countries would work "diligently and expeditiously" to complete their workload as soon as possible.

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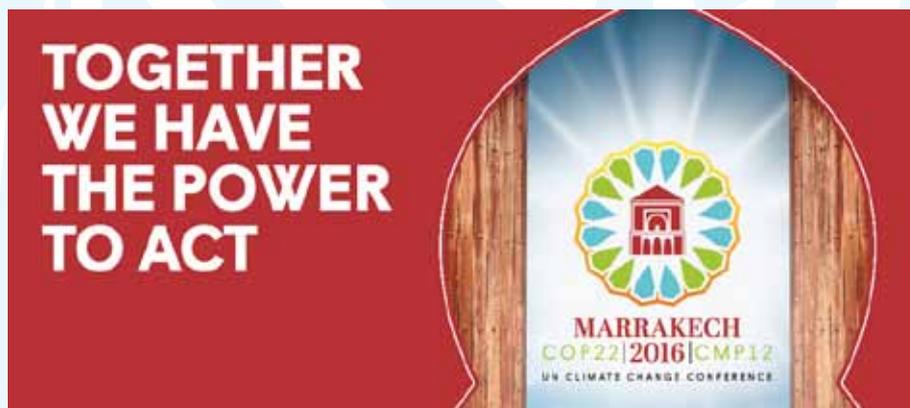
In Marrakech, it was decided that the presidents of COP22 and the forthcoming COP23 would consult with countries on the organisation of this dialogue and report back on their findings in a year's time. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement deals with both the long-term "net-zero emissions in the second half of the century" goal, as well as the need for NDCs to provide "clarity and transparency". A key theme of COP22 was debating how best to create a fair "rulebook" that all countries could share and have confidence in when assessing each other's climate pledges. The technicalities of the rulebook – baselines, methodologies and so forth will likely be a continuing discussion into 2018.

Orphan issues

Negotiators also battled, without resolution, with the "orphan issues" of the Paris Agreement. These were tasks for which no one was assigned responsibility. They include important issues, such as common timeframes for future climate pledges, and a new goal for climate finance.

Loss and damage

Countries also approved a five-year workplan on "loss and damage", which will start in 2017 and will see countries start to formally address topics such as slow-onset impacts of climate change, non-economic losses (for example, culture and identity) and migration. In other words, dealing with climate impacts that are beyond adaptation.



Future negotiations

The talks will continue long after Marrakech. That much is certain. Unusually, though, one of the key questions this year was where. The location of the forthcoming COPs are usually decided several years in advance, but UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa expressed concern early on in the negotiations that no country had offered to host the next set of talks. By tradition, they rotate around a set cycle of regions, with a country offering to host the talks from within each region. Fiji eventually stepped up to the task offering to be the next president, although the negotiations themselves will – due to a lack of capacity in the Pacific island state – take place in Bonn, Germany, where the UNFCCC is headquartered. Poland has expressed interest in hosting the 2018 conference, with the 2019 conference due to take place in Latin America or the Caribbean. One of the formal outcome documents of the conference set out a number of other key dates on the road to these major annual gatherings. These mainly involve deadlines for submissions of information and opinions on key questions.

Notable other achievements

The Marrakech “implementation” COP – as it was nicknamed, in advance – was, perhaps, more notable for the action that took place outside of the negotiations, with politicians, countries and organisations using it as an opportunity to announce new initiatives, strategy and finance.

The Marrakech Action Proclamation, issued by heads of state and government gathered at the COP, was widely seen as a reaffirmation of global commitment to the Paris Agreement: . “We welcome the Paris Agreement...and we affirm our commitment to its full implementation,” it says.

A new fund to encourage transparency efforts was established and given a \$50m injection of cash from countries including Australia, Canada and Germany.

In Paris, countries were asked to set out their long-term decarbonisation strategies, setting out their plans to 2050. The US delivered its roadmap to an 80% reduction in its emissions by mid-century. Germany, Mexico and Canada also set out their strategies, while the 2050 Pathways Platform was launched to help other places and organisations formulate long-term plans. So far, 22 countries, including the UK, 15 cities and 196 businesses have committed to do this.

Meanwhile, 47 of the world's poorest countries, which have grouped together as the Climate Vulnerable Forum, committed to generating 100% of their energy from renewable sources as soon as possible. They also pledged to update their nationally determined contributions before 2020 and to prepare long-term strategies.

(Source: This article originally appeared on The Carbon Brief <https://www.climate-diplomacy.org/news/cop22-key-outcomes-agreed-un-climate-talks-marrakech>)



COP22 Marrakech (Image: Lina Li)

Fiji to Preside over COP23 in 2017

Fiji has become the first Pacific Island nation to preside over the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) in Bonn, Germany next year. The United Nations event is an annual meeting to discuss climate change-related issues around the world.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, accepting the presidency of COP 23, said the country was honoured to be given the important task and aware of the responsibilities ahead.

"As the region of the world that is destined to bear the worst brunt of the effects of climate change, we have been given a crucial platform to put our case," he said.

"As president of COP 23, we will use this platform to continue to press for deeper cuts in carbon emissions to reduce global warming even further. And to counter the rising sea levels and extreme weather events that threaten the very existence of some nations.

"We will also do everything we can to lobby the industrial countries who are responsible for these emissions to allocate adequate funding, in the form of grants, to enable us to build our resilience and adapt to the terrifying new era that awaits us."

Bainimarama said the Pacific region also looked to America for its leadership, engagement and assistance on the issue of climate change.

"I renew my offer to President-elect Trump to come to Fiji to see the effects of climate change for himself. And to meet Pacific Island leaders face-to-face in Fiji to discuss the crisis we are all facing, along with other low-lying areas of the world including parts of America. As the second biggest carbon emitter on earth, the US must take responsibility for contributing to our collective response to this crisis and show leadership at this critical time."

Meanwhile, Morocco will provide its full support, assistance and advice to Fiji in organising COP23, President of COP22 Salaheddine Mezouar has said.

After meeting Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, Mezouar congratulated Fiji on the organisation of the next COP, noting that "this is the first time that a Pacific Island state will organise this conference".

"We are ready to support Fiji to ensure that COP23 meets expectations and carries on the action initiated by the COP22 towards the concrete implementation of the Paris Agreement," Mezouar said.

He noted that "the island states are the first to be threatened by climate change".

"It is a great responsibility for a small island state like Fiji to organise an event of this magnitude," Bainimarama said.

Regional Support for Fiji

The Prime Minister of Tuvalu Enele Sopoaga has called on Pacific leaders to rally behind Fiji in its COP 23 Presidency.

Prime Minister Sopoaga has welcomed Fiji's Presidency at COP 23 saying: "I congratulate Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and his Government in Fiji for that and I can assure that Fiji and Tuvalu will give every support that we can to make sure COP 23 under the Presidency of Fiji, our neighbor, our Pacific brother be successful, as successful as we can. I think it is critical as well because that's where we can set the platform to physically and concretely implement the Paris Agreement. It is critical and I think Tuvalu and all the Pacific leaders should come together to rally strong support behind Fiji," he said.



Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama (right) at the COP22 negotiations in Marrakech in November 2016.



Tuvalu's Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga has rallied regional support for Fiji's Presidency at COP23 next year.

Pacific island women show leadership at UN Climate Talks



Tuvalu's Pepetua Latasi at the COP22 talks in Marrakech

Pepetua Latasi of the Tuvalu delegation is the Head of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage; the Climate Change Ambassador of Palau is Olai Uludong who was formerly the Chief Negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States; Anne Rasmussen, of the Samoa delegation often co-facilitates a contact group at the UN Climate Conferences and Dr Netatua Pelesikoti of Tonga is a lead contributor to Chapter 29 on Small Islands, Working 'Group 2 in the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

While women accounted for around 35% of all national party delegates at the 2015 UN climate conference and women's participation in Eastern and Western Europe is 45% and around 21% in Africa and the Asia-Pacific - the Pacific island region can boast of strong women's participation, particularly in key roles.

This participation is further supported by the Women's Delegate Fund (WDF), who undertook research resulting in the above statistics. The WDF aims to enhance women's participation at the UN Climate Conferences through supporting travel costs of women from developing countries, coupled with the coordination of a Night School to help prepare delegates for the coming negotiations as well as ongoing policy support on gender issues during the conference.

Pacific island women, new to the UN climate negotiations have participated in the WDF over the past five years, helping to strengthen the leadership and participation shown by Pacific island women.

In the 2015 May UN climate talks, just under 50% of all Pacific island delegations were made up of women. The Cook Islands delegation is often made up of 90% women with a woman usually leading the delegation. At the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP22) in Marrakech, Morocco, the majority of the Tuvalu delegation were women.

"We've had strong participation of women in our delegation for a long time, holding leading roles at the negotiations such as the Head of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and now Co-Chair of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, so we've always had that strong participation and we select people on their merits and, as it

happens, we have more women engaged in this issue at the moment," said Ambassador Ian Fry of the Tuvalu delegation.

"We've obviously tried to build capacity of new staff coming through the process and we have seen quite dramatic changes in how people have been able to develop and engage actively in the process." "I think the Pacific islands are different from others in this respect. The delegations are very much close to equal in terms of gender participation and it's very clear that the roles of Pacific island women are not only at the support level," said Diane McFadzien, of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

McFadzien has been attending the UN Climate Conferences for over 15 years, having also won an international IUCN Award for Women working in Climate Change.

"We have many Pacific island women in leading roles, stepping up on the international field representing their home islands and our region. Many of whom are excellent role models for others wanting to enter in this field."

"Coming to and participating in an international climate change meeting for the first time can be a daunting process so at the Night School we provide some insight into what is going to happen, how it works, what to expect and then we have a night of negotiation simulations helping the delegates to understand negotiating text, write interventions, make oral statements and negotiate," said Siegele of the Cook Islands delegation.

"Having taught this for the past four years, it has been personally touching to receive good feedback and also to see the women delegates as they continue through this process, I have since seen them take the floor and make statements, among other things, which has been great to witness."

According to the WDF, it has supported 218 trips for 54 women across 40 countries to attend 25 sessions of the UNFCCC since 2009. During these sessions, 10 Night Schools have now been held and over 270 women have been trained in technical language and negotiation skills.

Women delegates from Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands took part in the Night School with over 20 participants on the evenings of 4 and 5 November, on the cusp of the UNFCCC COP22.

"I was very pleased to be part of this Night School," said Melina Tuiravakai of the Cook Islands delegation. This is my first time attending the UN Climate COP and this was a real eye opener, helping to prepare me for what may come next week. It has also helped me bond and spend time with other women delegates who are also new to this process, enabling us to support each other as the negotiations unfold in the next two weeks." (Adapted from: SPREP/PACNEWS)



Cook Islands representatives at COP22

Institutional Arrangements Key in Accessing Climate Finance: A Tongan Perspective

The Government of Tonga's approach in combining climate change and disaster risk considerations into overall development planning is a proactive step in accessing financial mechanisms with the overall aim of building community resilience.

Referred to as the Joint National Action Plan (JNAP) on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, the five-year action plan outlines aspirations and concrete steps to ensure Tonga's resilient development.

The National Action Plan (NAP) approach is a requirement of global financing institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), European Union, Asian Development Bank and the German Agency for International Cooperation.

These action plans outline national priorities gathered from an intensive consultation process with communities, development partners and other relevant ministries. Tonga's Director of Climate Change, Luisa Tuafitu Malolo, shared her country's perspective at a COP22 side event on 16 November, 2016 in Marrakech.

"The overall goal of the JNAP is to promote and ensure safe, healthy, secure and resilient communities to climate change impacts and disaster risk.

"The five-year plan was endorsed by Cabinet in July 2010 and since its implementation, we have managed to establish a sustainable funding mechanism, secure funding to implement projects from a variety of donors as well as the establishment of the JNAP secretariat under the Climate Change Division."

"One of the biggest projects we have secured is a USD\$20million project to establish the trust fund, build the capacity of national and local government staff and improve climate data and monitoring systems.

"The JNAP has also allowed us to improve our governance processes by highlighting key institutional arrangements to strengthen coordination and partnership in order to avoid the duplication of efforts."



Members of the Tongan Delegation at the COP22 talks in Marrakech in November 2016.

Climate Induced Displacement a Stark Reality for Pacific islands

Appropriate measures to minimise the negative impacts that the likelihood of climate change induced migration will have on Pacific islanders needs to be fully understood.

Globally, forced displacement related to disasters as well as the adverse effects of climate is a reality and among the biggest humanitarian challenges facing the international community in the 21st century.

According to the Platform for Disaster Displacement, formerly the Nansen Initiative, between 2008 and 2014, a total of 184.4 million people were displaced by sudden-onset disasters, an average of 26.4 million people newly displaced each year.

Of these, an annual average of 22.5 million people were displaced by weather and climate-related sudden-onset extreme hazards. Others have had to move because of the effects of sea level rise, desertification or environmental degradation.

Speaking at a side event at COP22 on 9 November, 2016, organised by the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), Climate Change Adviser for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Mr Espen Ronneberg shared some Pacific region's perspectives on climate change induced migration.

"To understand some of the key challenges and issues that overlay the migration and displacement issues in the region, one needs to consider the small land area of the islands and their huge EEZ.

"There is also a profound and deep connection of people to their land and oceans and all that it contains – it is the foundation of their culture, history, social and environmental interactions and existence. The Pacific is also challenged by low incomes, lack of capacity, distance and vulnerable resource base", Mr Ronneberg said.

"However, while the issue of displacement may be a hard pill to swallow, Pacific island governments will need to develop strategies to address the impacts of displacement due to extreme weather events, on its populace.

"We have some experience with planned relocation as adaptation in the region, but these have been largely within the same country such as relocation from low lying islands or coastal villages to different islands, or areas that may be higher," Mr Ronneberg said.

"We need to understand the resources and infrastructure that will need to be made available so as to ease relocation and at least seek to minimise harm to populations and communities. However, relocation from a Pacific island to another or to outside the region has a lot more issues to consider such as legality, land ownership, their EEZ and resources therein, access to resources, means of livelihoods, cultural aspects and many others," he said.

"While the Pacific island countries have made minimal contributions to the causes of climate change, they are among the first to be impacted."

The side event was part of a range of knowledge sharing events and platforms at COP22 in Marrakech. A total of 13 Pacific island country delegations attended the talks in Morocco from 7-18 November, 2016. In all, 14 Pacific islands are Parties to the UNFCCC.



SPREP's Climate Change Adviser, Espen Ronneberg, presenting at the side event organised by the Platform for Disaster Displacement at the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco. (Image: SPREP)

A Call for Climate Action

“We are not here to be mainstreamed into a polluted stream”

On 17 November, 2016 Ipul Powaseu spoke on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency at the COP22 UN Climate Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco. Speaking powerfully and passionately as an indigenous woman with disability from a small island nation in the Pacific Islands she shared her story:

“My name is Ipul Powaseu and I am speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. I come from a small island in Papua New Guinea and the impacts of climate change are real for me. The shorelines are eroding almost one meter every year and for me, this is threatening my way of life, my livelihoods, and even posing greater challenges that—as a woman with disability—I am also confronted with.

“Issues resulting from climate change, impacts such as: decreasing food security resulting in malnutrition, decreasing access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, reduced access to infrastructure, shelter and basic services, and increasing displacement are realities that I, as an indigenous woman with disability, from a small island in the Pacific finds herself faced with.

“It is critical that we ensure the Paris Agreement is implemented in a way which leaves no one behind. Countries have committed themselves to transition to low-carbon and renewable societies, but the rules have not been outlined to ensure that this transition is just, that it takes us away from dirty energy and business as usual rather than promoting false methods of offset, nor that it ensures women and men will benefit and be engaged equally in this transition, respecting and promoting the human rights of all.

“Frankly, the ambition, particularly from developed countries, to both cut emissions and provide the adequate means of implementation for developing countries to mitigate and adapt is nowhere near what the world needs.

“For me personally, from the Pacific—this is a threat to our entire way of being, to our home, our ecosystem. The reality now is that small island developing states are already looking for land elsewhere as their homes are disappearing. It’s a threat that is in the here and now.

“As COP 22 has been labelled the “COP of action,” we urge countries to take action NOW to address climate change. In this regard, although a lot of noise is being made around the entry into force of the Paris agreement, the Women Gender Constituency would like to remind countries that the Doha Amendment still hasn’t been ratified. Action is inevitable.

“For us in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, action is not an option, it is a must. The longer we wait, the harder it will be.

“We have witnessed a normative shift in this process, recognising the very clear linkages between gender equality and climate change, highlighted by a new decision on a three-year work program on gender coming out of this COP. BUT, and I repeat that for women around the world, this crisis is happening in the here and now. We will work to raise ambition and ensure implementation of the Paris Agreement leaves no one behind, is built on strong consultation and consent with communities, is driven by decentralized gender-just solutions, which challenge dominant patterns of growth and consumption that cause climate change.

“We are not here to be mainstreamed into a polluted stream.”

“It is within your power, all our power, to meet this crisis with the ambition and urgency it deserves. Let us work together.”



Ipul Powaseu of the Women and Gender Constituency addresses COP22 in Marrakech, 17 November 2016.

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