

Approaches to Loss and Damage from a Pacific Perspective

Side Event: 79th Commission session

May 16, 12: 45- 13:45 GMT+7

Meeting Room A, UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

[In Person and Virtual on ZOOM <https://zoom.us/j/95933824502>]

Organizer(s)

The side event is organized by Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UN ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific.

Registration

To attend the side event, please register using the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/a4t1x5dmVw>

Background

Loss and Damage has been an ongoing issue for the Pacific small islands developing States (PSIDS), starting as far back as 1991 when the Pacific countries, through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) called for a mechanism that would compensate countries affected by sea-level rise. Back then this was dismissed as something that can be dealt with through mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Today, the issue of the Loss and Damage has now become the reality for many SIDS in the region and beyond, which are result of climate-induced disasters. At the COP27, when the Loss and Damage discussion were under threat of being derailed, the Pacific underscored the criticality of the issue and championed the decision to establish and operationalise a loss and damage fund.

With the recent shift in the Loss and Damage space given the COP27 decision, the Pacific needs to engage in the process to ensure the implications are being addressed from the regional perspectives.

Objectives

With the favourable decision on Loss and Damage reached at COP27, the work of the Transitional Committee has started with the first meeting held in Egypt in March this year. As this process progresses, countries and stakeholders need to ensure that the Pacific needs are reflected in the discussions and outcomes address these issues. The Side event aims to:

1. Provide the landscape of Loss and Damage in the Pacific and what it actually means for people and communities at the local level;
2. Generate discussion on the best approaches towards addressing community Loss and Damage needs; and
3. Identify entry points for ensuring the Pacific needs are reflected in the final recommendations of the Transitional Committee.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the Implications of the current global Loss and Damage discussions for PSIDS?
2. How do we overcome the lack of Pacific direct representation on the Loss and Damage Transitional Committee?
3. What can be done by regional, multilateral and bilateral development partners to ensure that any new Loss and Damage financing facility is not loaded with same issues faced by PSIDS in accessing resources?
4. What does Pacific Leadership on Loss and damage look like on the international stage?

Programme

| Time (60 min) | Description |
|---------------|---|
| 3 min | <p>Welcome remarks and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Henry Puna, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat |
| 7 min | <p>Overview Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Karlos Lee Moresi, Programme Adviser – Resilient Development Finance, PIFS |
| 30 min | <p>Special 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. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Útoikamanu, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism, Tonga and Chair of the 79th Commission session • H.E. Mr. Seve Paeniu, MP, Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP • H.E. Ms. Kristin Tilley, Ambassador for Climate Change, Australia • Mr. Aholotu Palu, CEO, Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) <p>Moderator: Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, SPREP Director General (Moderator)</p> |
| 15 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 Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, Palau |

For information, please contact: oes.unescap@un.org

Side Event: please contact

Ms. Joan Puloka, PIFS joanp@forumsec.org

Mr. Karlos Lee Moresi, PIFS karlosm@forumsec.org

Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, UN ESCAP basu@un.org