

Fossil Fuel Free Pacific

Side Event: 79th Commission session

May 17, 13: 15- 14:15 GMT+7

Meeting Room: Theatre, UN Conference Centre

[In Person and Virtual on ZOOM <https://zoom.us/j/92140723291>]

Organizer(s)

The side event is organized by the Governments of the Tuvalu 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

The science is clear, continued reliance on fossil fuels would undermine the progress towards limiting global warming. This is a crisis driven by the fossil fuel producers, investors, and their enablers. There is need for expanding environmentally sustainable policies so that fossil fuel industry can commit to take concrete climate action to limit warming to 1.5°C. As the UN Secretary General has said that investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is immoral and economic madness.

Accordinging to the 2021 Production Gap [Report](#), the global coal, oil and gas production must start declining immediate and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to 1.5°C. These findings from the UN Environment Programme, the International Energy Agency and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have made it clear that it requires significant reductions in coal, oil and natural (fossil) gas to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, a recent ESCAP [Report](#) also highlighted that how Asia-Pacific regions transitions away from fossil fuels will be a pivotal issue and the world in the coming years, in light of the current and future climate impacts and the sustainable development benefits possible through an energy transition.

Objectives

The Ministers and officials from the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Fiji, Niue, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Vanuatu, met for open, transparent, and inclusive discussions with regional and international experts and civil society at the 2nd Ministerial Dialogue on Pathways for the Global Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, which was hosted by the Governments of Vanuatu and Tuvalu from 15-17 March 2023 in Port Vila.

In the “Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific”, it was underscored that “We have the power and responsibility to lead, and we will. Pacific leaders now calling for the Paris Agreement to limit warming to 1.5°C and are demanding an end to the development and expansion of fossil fuel extracting industries, starting with new coal mines [2015 Suva declaration]. Pacific civil society has challenged the world to step up the fight for urgent fossil fuel phase out and effective climate action. [<https://www.pican.org/fossil-free-pacific>]

In view of this, it further recognised that “As leaders, on behalf of present and future generations, communities on the frontlines and all of humanity, we call for:

1. A Fossil Fuel Free Pacific and a global, just and equitable phase out of coal, oil and gas
2. New Pacific-tailored development pathways based on 100% renewable energy
3. Expanded public and private finance for the just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy at the scale required, with innovative, simplified mechanisms and reforms of existing financial institutions
4. Redoubled efforts to reaffirm, strengthen and codify legal obligations with respect to the global phase out of fossil fuels.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. What are the key regional initiatives to ensure a just transition to a fossil fuel free Pacific?
2. How would you raise the development pathways based on 100 % renewable energy, including through expanding investment opportunities?

3. What can be done by ESCAP, CROP agencies and multilateral and bilateral development partners to facilitate a just transition in the Pacific?

Programme

Time (60 min)	Description
10 min	<p>Welcome remarks and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific • H.E. Mr. Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Government of Tuvalu
5 min	<p>Overview Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP
30 min	<p>Special remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Ralph Regenvanu, Minister for Climate Change, Vanuatu • H.E. Mr. Amenatave Yauvoli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in Jakarta, Indonesia • H.E. Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa. • Mr. Stuart Minchin, Director-General, Pacific Community (SPC) • Mr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA) <p>Moderator: Mr. Asau Leuma, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu (Moderator)</p>
10 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. Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Government of Tuvalu

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