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Summary of COP 26

Preparations for COP 26

- Belize negotiates as part of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) within the Group of 77 and China
- CARICOM and AOSIS held preparatory meetings prior to COP 26
 - CARICOM Preparatory Technical Meeting
 - CARICOM Heads of State and Government Meeting
 - CARICOM Ministerial Preparatory Meeting
 - COFCOR Meeting
- These meetings developed and endorsed regional positions going into COP 26
- National Preparatory Meetings
 - Prime Minister and Ministers on 20 October
 - Technical Briefing on 21 October

CARICOM Positions

1.5°C Ambition and Implementation

- G 20 to deliver NDCs and LTS before 2023
- Political and technical parity for adaptation and for loss and damage
- Scaling up climate finance from 100 bn and ensuring access
- SIDS specific needs including capacity building and technology transfer
- Robust rules and guidance for markets
- Common timeframes to support progressive ambition
- Strengthening accountability and transparency

Key Thematic Areas for Belize

1.5 to Stay Alive

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Adaptation

Loss and Damage

Finance

Finalizing Paris Agreement Rulebook

Article 6 (Cooperative approaches, Markets, Non-market mechanisms)

Transparency

Common Timeframes



1.5 and NDCs

Parties provide their contributions to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement through NDCs

Current NDCs will result in global warming close to 3 degrees

Emissions must be cut by 50% by 2030 to meet the 1.5-degree target

The Glasgow Headline Decision (1/CP26) must pronounce on this

NDCs not in line with objective of Paris Agreement

Major emitters (G20) must submit more ambitious NDCs immediately aligned with 1.5-degree target

This includes immediately ending fossil fuel subsidies and phasing out all coal-fired plants

Adaptation

Funding for adaptation must be increased exponentially
50/50?

Adaptation Goal

Established in Paris Agreement

Elaboration should be left to technical deliberations

Loss and Damage

Discussions should shift from reducing and averting Loss and Damage to addressing loss and damage that is already being incurred in developing countries

Averting and reducing loss and damage is accomplished through adaptation

Support required now to provide technical, financial and capacity building support to address loss and damage

Finance

Developed countries have not met the climate finance USD100 billion/year by 2020 goal to assist developing countries they set for themselves in Copenhagen at COP 15 in 2009

Developed countries need to state how and when they will live up to their commitment

Only 20% of climate finance goes to adaptation

SIDS have received only 2% of climate finance

Adaptation finance must be scaled up exponentially

Discussions to begin at COP 26 on process of defining a new climate finance goal for 2025 with USD100 billion/year as the baseline

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

No carryover of Kyoto Protocol units

CDM

Credits should be generated only from activities within NDCs

No double counting of emission reduction credits

A Share of Proceeds (SOP) should go to Adaptation Fund

A portion of the credits should be retired

Transparency and Common Timeframes

Guidelines for transparency should be finalized

Process through which Parties will report on achieving their NDCs, support provided and received including requests by developing countries

Common Timeframes

Need Parties to agree on a set period for the start and end of NDCs so that assessments can be made on the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement

Belize's Delegation to COP 26

- Belize had a 31-person delegation
- Political: Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Minister of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, the Attorney General, and the Cabinet Secretary
- Diplomatic: High Commissioner of Belize to the United Kingdom, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, Former Deputy Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations
- Executive: Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, Ministry of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- Technical: Experts from Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Ministry of the Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, National Climate Change Office, Forest Department, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub
- Media

The Challenges

- Missed three negotiating sessions
 - SB 52 (June 2020)
 - SB 53 (November 2020)
 - SB 54 (June 2021)
- Two years of only informal consultations
- COP 26 had a huge agenda
- Daily COVID testing and reporting protocol
- Tedious and long entry process in inclement weather to enter conference venue

The Outcomes

- COP 26 reaffirmed the science of climate change
 - Importance of the IPCC Assessment and Special Reports and WMO Reports
 - Emissions must be reduced by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050 to limit global warming to to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level
- COP 26 noted that current NDCs would not limit global warming to 1.5°C
- COP 26 called upon Parties to submit new enhanced more ambitious NDCs to put world on 1.5°C track
- Parties agreed to phase down the use of fossil fuels and coal fired power
- Parties agreed on the phase out of inefficient subsidies of fossil fuels

The Outcomes (2)

- Developed countries regretted that they had not fulfilled their obligation to mobilize USD100 billion per year in climate finance for developing countries
 - Developed countries agreed to increase their efforts to fulfill their obligation
- Developed countries agreed to double finance for adaptation
- The COP decided to convene a Dialogue to consider a Finance Mechanism on Loss and Damage
- Rules for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement were finalized
- Modalities and procedures for the enhanced transparency framework adopted
- Decision taken on common timeframes

Prime Minister's Participation

Prime Minister Briceno delivered a national statement underscoring that Belize has done its part in climate change mitigation and called for greater action by developing countries to support financing for climate change adaptation and addressing poverty and social protection in SIDS which has been exacerbated by climate change.

The Prime Minister signed an MoU with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to create a Project Finance initiative for Permanence (PFP) by 2025. The PFP is designed to aid Belize in helping to meet its climate and environmental goals. With the signing of the MOU, Belize commits to collaborate on the development and execution of the PFP, which will provide sustainable financing for Belize's marine protected areas and other coastal ecosystems

The Prime Minister and delegation participated in side events hosted by The Nature Conservancy on financing ambition for climate and nature and a High-Level Panel Discussion on the 'Climate Vulnerable Forum -Commonwealth Climate Prosperity Collaboration.

Negotiations

- Minister Habet led political negotiations on behalf of AOSIS and CARICOM in segments of the Paris Rulebook – particularly on areas of Common Timeframe
- Ambassador Janine Felson coordinated issues related to Finance on behalf of AOSIS
- Ambassador Carlos Fuller co-chaired two COP agenda items on Finance and co-facilitated two SBSTA agenda on the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
- Ambassador Fuller as a COP Vice President also presided over the Leaders Summit, the closing sessions of the COP, CMP and CMA and the COP Bureau
- Ambassador Fuller was re-elected as a Vice President of the COP representing GRULAC
- CEO Williams was elected to serve on the Board of the Adaptation Fund

Side Events

Belize hosted three side events and participated in more than 30 panel discussions in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund, Pew Charitable Trust, the Republic of China on Taiwan, the Adaptation Fund, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, World Resources Institute, the University of Glasgow, the UK Government, the NDC Partnership, and the Commonwealth Secretariat, among others, highlighting Belize's leadership role in terrestrial and marine conservation and conservation-based climate action,