

8.2 ACFID Resolution 2-2019

RESOLUTION on Climate Change

Pre-Amble

- i. Recognising the urgent threat that climate change poses to Pacific Island countries and communities. The climate crisis is an existential threat to us all, however the threats to the wellbeing, culture, security and sovereignty of our Pacific neighbours are imminent and of a scale and magnitude that requires a rapid response from Australia and the global community.
- ii. Noting Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement and its objective of "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels", recognising that this is a matter of survival for the most vulnerable countries of the Pacific.
- iii. Noting Australia's endorsement of the [Boe Declaration 2018](#) which reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific, and reaffirmed signatories' commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- iv. Noting that Australia's domestic emissions continue to rise, and are now 7% above 2005 levels. This places Australia in a tiny minority of developed nations where emissions are going up not down, and risks a future of escalating climate damages for communities worldwide.
- v. Recognising the declaration of a climate crisis in the Pacific and the calls for action by the People of the Pacific Islands Development Forum in the [Nadi Bay Declaration on the Climate Change Crisis in the Pacific 2019](#).
- vi. We know that the poorest and marginalised and vulnerable people will be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. We also recognise that action on climate change does not hinder development but supports it, and that smart climate solutions promise to also benefit health, gender justice, energy access, jobs and prosperity.
- vii. We recognise the growing number of Pacific communities at risk of forced displacement due to climate change, and the profound impact of forced displacement upon the people of the Pacific. We recognise that responses must focus on upholding the rights and choices of affected communities, and act to minimise forced displacement. This means far stronger global efforts towards ending climate pollution, in line with limiting global heating to 1.5°C, and providing greater support to communities to adapt to the impacts they face. In situations where communities are faced with no choice but to move, we have a responsibility to help ensure they can migrate with dignity and on their own terms.
- viii. We recognize the leadership of Pacific Island countries and communities in responding to the climate crisis, including through ambitious strategies for renewable energy and resilient communities, and through determined international diplomacy.

Resolutions

- i. Call on the Government on behalf of Australians to increase our national ambition, in line with the scale and pace of action necessary to help limit warming to 1.5°C, as part of international efforts to achieve this commitment whilst promoting development, prosperity and justice for all nations and communities.
- ii. Call on the Government to incorporate a new and ambitious climate change strategy for the aid and development portfolio paired with significant, additional investment to ensure a response that is proportionate to the challenge at hand. To support good development outcomes and Pacific leadership, the policy should focus on:

education
equitable access to information
equity and inclusion in decision-making, particularly between generations
support for economic transition
accelerating climate resilient development at local level
land and sea management:

- iii. Stand with the Pacific Island leaders' call to Australia to cease our thermal coals exports by 2030 whilst increasing our current domestic climate ambition, in line with the long-term goal set-out by our commitment to the Paris agreement and refraining from using Kyoto 'carryover credits' as an abatement for the additional Paris Agreement.
- iv. Calls on the Government to provide worker and their communities, in the fossil fuel sector and other carbon intensive industries, a planned transition to low-carbon, employment opportunities with dignified and decent work. This includes training and re-skilling programs, creation and support of low carbon industries and support for community vitality and creativity.]
- v. Resolve to show leadership on the climate crisis within our organisations and better integrate climate change impacts into our planning, policies and programs. We will work in partnership with Pacific regional, national and local groups, supporting their priorities, promoting inclusive development and intergenerational equity, building on existing strengths, and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable communities
- vi. Resolve as a sector to improve practice in managing and reducing our own carbon emissions and environmental footprint and envisage a role for ACFID in supporting members to improve their practice. We acknowledge that localisation of our operations has potential for strengthening development outcomes, but also potentially a climate dividend.
- vii. Call on ACFID to commit to the inclusion of climate change in its strategic planning and workplan and to support the work of members in this space.

Moved:

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