



COP22, Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016: The Road to 2020

By: LeA Internationalⁱ

LeA International Director, Penehuro Lefale, was one of the privileged people from New Zealand invited to attend the UNFCCC COP22 meeting in Marrakech, Morocco from the 7-18 November 2016. Although he was one of two people making up the Tokelau delegation, they were officially part of the New Zealand government delegation. The delegations worked together to ensure both New Zealand and Tokelau interests were fully considered and represented at COP22.

The key issues identified for negotiations at Marrakesh were for Parties to the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement to:

- (i) Agree on additional measures to enhance climate actions before 2020;
- (ii) Ensure that the Paris Agreement rule book (rules of procedures, modalities, etc.) and the institutions supporting Parties' efforts are fit for purpose, in view of the 1.5/ 2degrees Celsius targets and other transformational goals of the Paris Agreement. These rules, which will form part of the Work Program (WP) of the Paris Agreement, must be agreed to and ready for adoption by the COP/CMA by 2018;
- (iii) Ensure that in 2018, when Parties get together to assess the adequacy of their climate actions (Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in particular) they will come well prepared and ready with new or revised (ambitious) targets for 2025 and 2030;
- (iv) Ensure that Parties start preparing for their mid-century (2050) low carbon emission strategies without delay so these can be feed into the 2018 review and inform how close or far they would have progressed from meeting the Paris Agreement goals;
- (v) Reassure developing countries including Pacific SIDS about future funding, especially for adaptation. This means new and additional funding grants and agreeing on a roadmap to achieve the Paris Agreement US\$100billion pledge by 2020, and improving the accuracy and speed of the flows of funding at both ends;
- (vi) Accelerate action to address loss and damage, including non-economic losses (of life, cultural heritage, biodiversity, health, etc.) by devoting more resources to it; and,
- (vii) Catalyse real and scale up action in wider communities across the world.

Overall, much progress was made on the above issues at COP22 despite disagreements on some of the issues, like Paris Agreement rulebook, climate finance, loss and damage, and capacity building.

From New Zealand and Tokelau's perspective, the announcement by the New Zealand government that it would extend its ratification of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to Tokelau was a major achievement. <http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/84985561/New-Zealand-ratifies-Paris-Agreement-to-combat-climate-change>

Decisions adopted will be further elaborated in 2017 with the goal of completing the negotiations by 2018. Fiji, as newly appointed President of COP23, will preside in the 2017 negotiations process.



Decisions adopted by COP22, CMP12 and CMA1 are all available online at:
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php#auv>

LeA International fully acknowledges the invaluable support rendered to its staff that attended COP22. Special thanks to the Governments of Tokelau and New Zealand for their support, both financially and in-kind, to enable LeA International to be part of the New Zealand and Tokelau delegation to COP22. Special thanks to the Hon. Paula Bennett, New Zealand Minister for Climate Change Issues, Mark Sinclair, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador, Paula Faiva, Climate Change Manager, Tokelau, and the rest of the New Zealand delegation to COP22 for having us as part of the team.

ⁱ Penehuro F Lefale, International Climate Analyst/Director & Dr Cheryl L Anderson, Director, LeA International Consultants, Ltd., Wellington, New Zealand, www.ilea.co.nz.