



## CO-CHAIRS' CONCLUSIONS PCD XI

The Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) is an established annual meeting that enables countries to have constructive exchanges in an informal atmosphere on the most pressing issues regarding international climate action. This year's eleventh edition of the PCD focused on ways to enable a clean, resilient recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent economic downturn.

The PCD XI was co-hosted by the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Svenja Schulze, and the UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and designated COP26 President, Alok Sharma. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the PCD was convened as a series of video conferences.

On 28 April 2020, over 30 climate ministers and high-level representatives, including the United Nations Secretary General, the German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel and the UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab speaking on behalf of Prime Minister Boris Johnson (via video message) met via video call. Additional video conference meetings between i) a broad range of stakeholders, ii) UNFCCC lead negotiators of the invited countries, and iii) finance sector actors<sup>1</sup> complemented the ministerial discussion.

<sup>1</sup> In this session on April 29, representatives of international financial organisations, public finance providers and the private sector discussed how to finance climate action in the context of COVID19. For more information see: [www.bmu.de/VE1228-1](http://www.bmu.de/VE1228-1)

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## MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION

Ministers expressed their support and solidarity with all those impacted by COVID-19. They welcomed the strong measures taken by governments around the world to protect human lives. Many acknowledged that, given the grave economic impacts, economic recovery programmes will be necessary as a mid- and long-term response to the crisis.

Several participants stressed that climate change does not stop during the COVID-19 crisis. There was a common understanding that the current drop in emissions is not sustainable and that future emissions pathways will to a large extent be influenced by the decisions being made now. The message of the Placencia Ambition Forum came across loud and clear: we cannot afford to stop fighting the climate crisis. Some participants relayed that their countries are being hit by both the Coronavirus pandemic and by the impacts of climate change, with one crisis exacerbating the other.

In light of this situation, some of the demands made by a variety of ministers and high-level speakers can be summarized as follows:

- **Economic recovery plans need to be aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.** Investments made now need to pave the way towards climate-neutral and resilient economies and the effective protection of nature and biodiversity, and at the same time address the social dimension of the crisis by promoting quality green jobs. Support for firms should enable them to make a just transition towards climate neutrality.



- **For the recovery to be successful, it needs to happen worldwide.** Multilateralism, international cooperation and support for developing countries is needed more than ever, with the fulfilment of the 100 billion USD climate finance mobilisation goal by 2020 building the needed trust to this end.
- **The development of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies (LTSs) under the Paris Agreement should not be postponed.** Although COP26 will take place in 2021, many ministers mentioned that enhanced NDCs as well as ambitious LTSs are expected this year. It will be a central task of climate ministers to effectively connect processes to enable a clean, resilient and just recovery with the development of enhanced NDCs and ambitious LTSs.

Chancellor Merkel pledged her support to the European Green Deal, including the proposal of the European Commission to enhance the EU NDC to a goal of 50%-55%. She stressed that climate protection will remain central to EU-policy and investment programmes for infrastructure and technologies. She also announced that Germany will achieve its goal of €4 billion of climate finance by 2020 and that Germany will continue to contribute its fair share to post-2020 climate finance.

UK Foreign Secretary Raab, on behalf of Prime Minister Johnson, stressed that it will be the duty of every responsible government to recover in a way that stands the test of time. He pointed out that, over the last decade, the UK has helped shatter the myth that there is a choice between growing the economy and reducing emissions. He underlined the need for all nations to come forward with more ambitious climate targets and that the UK government is looking forward to welcoming participants to Glasgow for COP26 next year.

UN Secretary-General Guterres said the same brave, visionary and collaborative leadership that was needed to fight COVID-19 was also needed to address the looming existential threat of climate disruption. He said we have a profound opportunity to steer our world on a more sustainable and inclusive path and called on countries to significantly raise their ambition on mitigation, adaptation and financing and proposed 6 climate-related actions to shape the recovery. The Secretary General stressed the need to deliver new jobs through a clean green and just transition, the need to decarbonize, invest in sustainability, end fossil fuel subsidies, invest sustainably, and working together as an international community.

Several ministers made the link between protecting biodiversity, climate and human health. They stressed that protecting and restoring nature can contribute solutions to these crises.

Many participants mentioned the need to stay in close contact over the coming months and to explore opportunities for further exchange among ministers, e.g. another digital meeting in late summer.



## STAKEHOLDER SESSION

For the first time ever, a 'stakeholder session' was held as part of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue. This brought together representatives from international organisations, business leaders, national government ministers, local government leaders and civil society representatives to address how we can work together to accelerate the global net zero, climate resilient transitions in the power and road transport sectors, in the context of COVID-19.

Participants noted that the technological pathways were clear in these sectors, but that there was a need to increase the pace of progress in the transformation to low carbon systems. They also underlined the opportunity for a green, resilient recovery from COVID-19, with any stimulus packages supporting decarbonisation. Given the labour market impact of the pandemic, there is a clear opportunity for the implementation of technologies such as energy efficiency and solar PV, where there could be rapid job creation.

On road transport, participants mentioned the importance of accelerating the transition to zero emission transport and working collectively to phase out the internal combustion engine. In particular they observed the need for clear policy signals from governments to incentivise faster private sector changes, the power of investors to drive ambition, the importance of lessons learned from cities (including cities in the developing world) who are early adopters of the transition, the need to pay attention to social considerations such as ensuring a just transition and the need to support public transport infrastructure and use as well as walking and cycling.

On power, participants highlighted the opportunities for greater renewable power deployment given its cost reductions in recent years, and the need to transition away from coal. In particular, they noted the importance of clear regulatory frameworks from governments to enable the private sector to invest in renewables, the need to retire coal assets from power systems, whilst accounting for a just transition, and the opportunity to simplify access to multilateral financing for renewable energy.

Some participants raised the point that now was the time to think big and broader than climate change, considering the concept of wellbeing as an indicator for development.

In both sectors, participants noted that international cooperation - through the alignment of policies, investments, and actions - can play an important role in making low carbon, low cost technologies available to more people at an earlier time.



## LEAD NEGOTIATOR SESSION

Lead Negotiators recognised the difficult circumstances in which they met, extending their sincere sympathies to those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. They reaffirmed that tackling climate change could not wait, and agreed on the importance of finding innovative ways to continue international cooperation, the multilateral process, and to accelerate action on the ground. They recognised the success of the Placencia Ambition Forum hosted by Belize and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in that regard.

Lead negotiators acknowledged the positive and productive nature of their exchange. They encouraged constituted bodies, informal multilateral meetings and other fora to use all means available - including virtual meetings - to maintain momentum given the restrictions on physical meetings. In doing so, Lead Negotiators highlighted the importance of taking steps to ensure transparency and inclusivity, including supporting those facing challenges with connectivity to engage, as well as bringing in non-party stakeholders. They also recognised the merit of Parties meeting bilaterally, making submissions, and taking additional steps to enhance understanding of the issues and other Parties' positions on them.

Lead Negotiators reaffirmed their resolve to fully implement the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. They acknowledged that this requires enhancing ambition on adaptation, mitigation and support through 2020, including through low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate resilient recovery packages. Many Lead Negotiators reiterated the need for all countries to submit enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and ambitious Long-Term Strategies (LTSs) which represent their highest possible ambition, as agreed in Paris.

Lead Negotiators recognised the need to make progress on unresolved elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme including Article 6, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and Common Timeframes; though there were different views on respective priorities and interlinkages between them. In this regard, Lead Negotiators noted the need for continued engagement during the additional time available to Parties ahead of COP26 to build on progress already made to date and enhance collective understanding of the remaining issues in a balanced manner, including how these issues are linked.

Lead Negotiators highlighted the continued significance of enhancing the mobilisation and provision of finance, capacity building, and technology support to allow for ambitious action on both mitigation and adaptation. They underscored the key role of such support in coming back stronger from the coronavirus pandemic, noting the challenges posed by the current situation. They emphasised the importance of current support commitments and the start of deliberations on the new climate finance goal at COP26. Lead Negotiators noted that enhanced support and improved access to finance will be instrumental in accelerating national action, and achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. They also noted the need for greater understanding of finance needs for the future and looked forward to COP26 maintaining a strong focus on adaptation and resilience.

Lead Negotiators encouraged the Presiding Officers, the incoming COP26 Presidency and the Secretariat to provide clarity and direction in light of the postponement of COP26, and to bring Parties together to take the work forward - building on the success of this first Petersberg Climate Dialogue Lead Negotiator Session.