

UN warns: World set for 2.7C rise on current climate pledges

LONDON (Reuters) - Current commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions put the planet on track for an average 2.7 degrees Celsius temperature rise this century, a United Nations report said on Tuesday, in another stark warning ahead of crunch climate talks.

Governments will be in the spotlight at the COP26 conference next week to meet a deadline of this year to commit to more ambitious cut pledges, in what could be the last chance to put the world on track to limiting warming to below 2C above pre-industrial levels and ideally to 1.5C, or 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit.

As extreme weather events from wildfires to floods have hit countries around the world, a U.N. report in August warned that global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions could breach 1.5C in the next two decades.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday it was "touch and go" whether the most important round of U.N. talks since the Paris Agreement in 2015 will secure the agreements needed to tackle climate change.

Smaller nations face road blocks in attending COP26

By Beh Lih Yi

Thomson Reuters Foundation

KUALA LUMPUR - Some of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries have been forced to scale back their attendance at the COP26 climate summit due to COVID-19 travel curbs and costs, blunting their negotiating power, according to Fiji's U.N. ambassador.

Border closures, quarantine rules and high travel costs will see small island states and poorer nations sending smaller delegations, with some leaders unable to travel to the key United Nations' climate talks that start in Scotland on Sunday.

Only four leaders from Pacific island states - Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Palau - are due to attend the COP26 conference in person, according to Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's ambassador to the United Nations.

"The stakes could not be higher, but it's a very difficult situation," Prasad told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from New York, where he is based.

Borders remain closed in many Pacific island countries to keep local communities safe from COVID-19,



KIRIBATI: A woman stands on top of a rock holding a fish her husband caught off Bikeman islet, located off South Tarawa in the central Pacific island nation of Kiribati, on May 25, 2013. David Gray/Reuters

as in Kiribati, while long quarantine periods of up to three weeks including in Tonga make it hard for leaders to travel, Prasad added.

COP26 is billed as the "last best shot" for the world to try to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius - crucial for Pacific nations battling more powerful tropical storms and rising sea levels, according to the U.N. envoy.

Pacific negotiators will need to "work really hard" on crucial agenda items like climate finance, he added.

Fiji - part of the Alliance of Small Island States - will push rich governments to agree to deliver \$750 billion a year to support climate action in poorer countries from 2025 - up from an unmet annual pledge of \$100 billion now.

"It's sad that the Pacific will be least well-represented at this COP. ... We know that not having a presence in the way that we would have in a normal year is a big disadvantage to the smallest countries," said Prasad.

'A little bit late'

Concerns that unequal access to vaccines and high travel costs would exclude officials and activists from

developing nations from the COP26 summit prompted an unsuccessful call by a network of 1,500 groups last month to delay the conference.

Host nation Britain insisted the summit - already postponed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic - should not be put off again, with London offering funding assistance and COVID-19 vaccines for delegates who could not otherwise access them.

But those measures "came a little bit late" for some in the poorest countries to procure the documents and funding needed to travel, said Tracy Kajumba, a researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development, which supports the least developed countries at the U.N. climate talks.

The 46-nation group said last month it was worried about lack of inclusion at COP26, given the barriers to participation.

"We appreciate that it's difficult to organize the COP amid this pandemic, but it doesn't take away what the challenges could be in terms of representation and inclusivity," Kajumba told journalists.



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Purchase and Installation of Ultraviolet Air Disinfection Systems

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Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA) will receive sealed bids for the Ultraviolet Air Disinfection Systems until 10:00 am on November 24, 2021 in the Board Room located at the Main Office in Sinajana.

In compliance with Executive Order 2020-14 enforcing a six-foot social distance and limiting large gatherings in enclosed spaces, GHURA has redesigned its pre-bid conference and IFB/RFP process. GHURA will conduct the pre-bid meeting on November 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom video conference; the bid specifications and Zoom meeting details are available on GHURA's website. The Bid specifications are available beginning October 28, 2021. Please visit the link below for further IFB information:

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