



THE PLACENCIA AMBITION FORUM

Closing Statement

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Ministers,
State Secretaries,
Distinguished Speakers,
Colleagues and Friends

I am pleased to address the closing session of the Placencia Ambition Forum, marking not the end, but the birth of renewed ambition for achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement.

We started off this three-day session with the recognition that our world is in radical upheaval as a result of the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus. **While the health crisis and the climate crisis are different problems, both reveal our collective vulnerability to systemic external shocks and the imperative for global action. Both demand unprecedented transitions to flatten their respective curves and drive an exponential shift in their trajectories. With bold and thoughtful leadership, we can make this happen! We can turn this global pause into a global reset but we must put people and the planet at the centre of our plans.**

The community of progressive climate actors that this Forum has brought together, despite all challenges we face in this new isolated and virtual reality, is an extraordinary demonstration of commitment to keeping ambitious climate action at the forefront of the multilateral agenda.

During the regional sessions, we have learnt from the best practices of island leaders, civil society, local communities and indigenous peoples and the international community. Your contributions have inspired us all **with creative ideas and strategies, innovative finance options, and forthright commitments for partnerships to support ambitious targets in key sectors that will enhance the resilience of our countries in line with the Paris 1.5°C goal.**

I want to personally thank you for all that you are doing.

It is clear that significant progress and action is underway in small island developing states, and the support of global climate actors is ever present in the areas of energy, transport, adaptation and resilience, and finance.

But the Forum discussions have highlighted that current efforts are not enough.

We risk losing the slim opportunity in this decade to stabilize the climate and to ensure the survival of the most vulnerable.

I wish dear colleagues to convey **three clear messages from the Placencia Ambition Forum**:

First, as Prime Minister Barrow clearly stated at the outset, **the commitments that AOSIS made at the Climate Action Summit remain in full effect.**

Second, the Placencia Ambition Forum reinforces three key calls for:

1. **Ambitious, detailed, new or updated NDCs that will close the gap between where we are now and where we need to be for 1.5°C;**
2. **New finance commitments that deliver on support and that reflect our ambition for 1.5°C; and**
3. **Enhanced action in the near-term to protect the vulnerable.**

The third message from the Forum is that action must start now. Increased ambition must be communicated now and every opportunity to ramp up near term action or ambition must be seized.

To operationalize these messages, we propose **three steps forward.**

We appeal to all countries attending the **Petersberg Dialogue** to raise your voices in affirmation of the Paris Agreement and to announce new ambitious NDCs.

We appeal to the Secretary General, who has given us his solemn commitment to remain on the frontlines of climate action, to make good on his offer of a **High-Level Stocktake on Climate Ambition** in 2020.

Finally, we appeal to our hosts of the pre-COP and COP26 itself to provide us with a **Roadmap for Political Momentum** for the climate agenda. That Roadmap should move us assuredly toward a successful Glasgow Conference in 2021.

Colleagues,

The radical upheaval that now defines our world must be met with equally radical actions. Acutely embattled by climate and COVID-19, and severely constrained by endemic structural challenges and weak debt dynamics that we cannot overcome on our own, SIDS will need targeted solutions. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's call for immediate debt relief for our countries as a part of the COVID-19 recovery.

2020 must be the Year of Ambition. It must be the start of the decade when we set in place plans to change our emissions trajectory and get back on track to achieve 1.5°C. It must be the year that will yield hope for humanity and security for our planet. The Earth Day message from the Placencia Ambition Forum is therefore one of hope, one of recovery and one of redemption, for planet and for people.