



# The Placencia Ambition Forum

Keeping the Drumbeat of Ambition Alive

Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 April 2020

The **Placencia Ambition Forum** will virtually bring together **major actors** in the climate change negotiations around a **central theme of increasing ambition and a focus on safeguarding the Paris Agreement**. The Forum is hosted by the Government of Belize as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Notwithstanding the tremendous toll of COVID-19, the unprecedented scale of the responses worldwide demonstrates the transformative potential of ambitious action. We must apply the same sense of urgency to the climate crisis. Climate smart transitions must be at the heart of our recovery from the current crisis. Transparency is critical; collaboration is essential to eliminate barriers to known solutions.

A global reset now is fundamental to maximize results for people and the planet.

## Goals and objectives:

For AOSIS members to encourage and drive climate action and ambition in NDCs in the lead up to COP26 and beyond in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In association with and support from:



UK Government



Wilton Park



## High-level Opening of the Placencia Ambition Forum

1630 New York  
2130 London  
0830(+1) Auckland  
45 minutes

The opening session will set the stage for the Placencia Ambition Forum, highlighting the criticality of sustaining positive momentum for ambitious climate action, with 2020 being a milestone year.

The session will be live streamed and feature both pre-recorded high-level statements from Ministers representing all three regions of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and specially invited guests from the United Nations.

### Plenary Chair:

**Lois M. Young**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations

### Welcome:

**Omar Figueroa**, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, and Sustainable Development, Belize

### Keynote Speaker:

**Rt. Honourable Dean Oliver Barrow**, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Belize

### Special Guest Message:

**His Excellency Mr. António Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations

### High-level Messages:

**Alok Sharma**, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and COP 26 President, United Kingdom

**Carolina Schmidt**, Minister of Environment and COP 25 President, Chile

**Sergio Costa**, Minister of Environment, Italy

**Patricia Espinosa**, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

**Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

### High-level participation from:

**Hussein Rasheed Hassan**, Minister of Environment, Maldives

**Satyendra Prasad**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN

**Tina Stege**, Climate Envoy to the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands

**Kavydass Ramano**, Minister of Environment, Mauritius

**Kosi Latu**, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

**Brune Poirson**, Minister of State, France

## Enhancing Ambition

### Regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation (Caribbean and the Pacific regions)

1715 New York  
2215 London  
0915(+1) Auckland  
90 minutes

The first of the regional discussions will focus on regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation, drawing on experiences from the Caribbean, the Americas and the Pacific regions.

This session will feature parallel thematic breakout groups. Each will provide an interactive platform for national and regional experts, practitioners, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, with a view to identifying challenges, opportunities and options to enhance action and support.

**Chair:**

**Carlos Fuller**, Lead Negotiator for Climate Change, AOSIS

**Keynote speaker:**

**Gonzalo Muñoz**, High Level Climate Champion, Chile

**Thematic Breakout Groups:**

**1. Energy**

**Facilitator:**

**Minoru Takada**, Team Leader (Energy Division), UN DESA

**2. Transport**

**Facilitator:**

**Monica Araya**, Transport Lead, Climate Champions

**3. Adaptation and Building Resilience**

**Facilitator:**

**James Fletcher**, Managing Director, Soloricon Ltd.

**4. Financing Ambition**

**Facilitator:**

**Gonzalo Muñoz**, High Level Climate Champion, Chile

## Day Two: Tuesday 21 April 2020 | Cross Regional Breakout Groups

### Enhancing Ambition

#### Regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation (Africa, Asia, Europe)

0430 New York  
0930 London  
2030 Auckland  
105 minutes

The second of the regional discussions will focus on regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation drawing on experiences across Africa, Asia and Europe.

This regional discussion will feature thematic breakout groups occurring in parallel. Each will provide an interactive platform for national and regional experts, practitioners, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, to engage on thematic issues with a view to identifying challenges, opportunities and options to enhance action and support.

**Chair:**

**Rueanna Haynes**, Senior Legal Adviser and Team Lead AOSIS Support, Climate Analytics

**Keynote speaker:**

**Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum**, Director of Health and Climate, World Health Organisation

**Nigel Topping**, High Level Climate Champion, UK

**Thematic Breakout Groups:**

**1. Energy**

**Facilitator:**

**Shifaana Thowfeeq**, UN-OHRLLS

**2. Transport**

**Facilitator:**

**Herman Sips**, Lead Transport Decarbonisation Alliance, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, The Netherlands

**3. Adaptation and Building Resilience**

**Facilitator:**

**Emily Wilkinson**, Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute

**4. Financing Ambition**

**Facilitator:**

**Nigel Topping**, High Level Climate Champion, UK

## High-level Closing Plenary and Earth Day Commemoration

1100 New York  
1600 London  
0300(+1) Auckland  
75 minutes

The closing will receive the key messages from the regional sessions and focus on next steps for maintaining the drive for ambitious climate action towards COP26 and beyond. It will also commemorate Earth Day.

The session will be live streamed and feature both pre-recorded high-level statements from Ministers of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and specially invited guests from governments, the United Nations, and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

### Plenary Chair:

**Lois M. Young**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations

### Summary of Key Messages:

**Carlos Fuller**, Lead Negotiator on Climate Change, AOSIS

### Partnerships:

**Yannick Glemarec**, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund

**Achim Steiner**, Administrator of UNDP

**Francesco La Camera**, Director-General of IRENA

### High-Level Dialogue:

**Sonam P Wangdi**, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group on Climate Change

**Pasang Dolma Sherpa**, Executive Director, Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED) & Co-facilitator Facilitative Working Group of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) of UNFCCC

**Selwin Hart**, Special Adviser and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, United Nations

**Patricia Espinosa**, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC

**Omar Figueroa**, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, and Sustainable Development, Belize

**Svenja Schulze**, Ministry of the Environment, Germany

### Keynote closing speakers

**Sergio Costa**, Minister of Environment, Italy

**Alok Sharma**, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and COP 26 President, United Kingdom

## Thematic Breakout Groups

### 1. Energy:

The climate emergency is primarily a fossil fuel induced challenge that demands systemic shifts to renewable energy sources. This segment will utilize illustrative examples from small island developing states and other actors of ambitious targets for energy transition, and take-stock of the challenges as well as opportunities from multiple perspectives including local communities, indigenous peoples, business, and government in relation to the availability and accessibility of renewable energy technologies and technical support to particularly vulnerable countries. It will also assess collective progress and examine potential pathways towards transitioning to cleaner energy systems.

### 2. Transport:

Transport emissions accounted for approximately 14% of all GHG emissions and 24% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2016. These emissions are projected to increase dramatically in the coming years. The IPCC estimates that the use of green energy sources for transport would have to increase 35-65% in 2050 in order to meet the emission pathway of 1.5°C. Options for reducing emissions are primarily increasing the fuel efficiency of the vehicle fleet for all forms of transport, and moving to electric vehicles for appropriate modes (e.g. car, trucks and trains). There are limited options to increase the adaptive capacity of transport. Despite known pathways to reduce emissions in vehicle transport, there are significant barriers to their uptake, particularly in small islands. This segment will seek to identify and clarify pathways for resilient transitions, including markers for ambition.

### 3. Adaptation and building resilience:

Coastal systems and low-lying areas are expected to experience increasingly adverse climate induced impacts such as submergence, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion due to relative sea level rise. While SIDS have shown remarkable ability to rebound post disaster, there is still substantial room to strengthen response mechanisms to both improve post-disaster resilience as well as enhancing domestic plans and policies to reflect the rising impacts of climate change. This segment will consider best practices from SIDS and other vulnerable developing countries in adaptation planning, stakeholder engagement, implementation and monitoring, including how these might be replicated. It will also seek to identify options for strengthening partnerships and investments to support greater adaptation ambition.

### 4. Financing ambition

It is well known that the members of AOSIS, despite their low-emissions profile, are at the frontline of climate change and remain at the forefront of ambitious climate action. This level of ambition is intended to ensure their societies do not just adapt at the level of coping but minimize risk, boost resilience and underpin future prosperity. Access to finance is at the centre of most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) developed by SIDS and low-lying coastal developing states. While financing from major climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has increased over the last five years, it continues to fall short of needs. Moreover, the ramped-up ambition for new NDCs will require resources beyond current levels. This breakout session aims to address inadequate access to climate financing as a chief constraint to achieving Paris Climate Agreement goals, provide best-practice country examples on accessing climate finance, both domestic and international, private and public, from within AOSIS, and examine how the climate finance architecture can be improved to respond more effectively to the complex needs of the vulnerable, including during extreme events and periods of crisis.