

# FIJIAN ACTION PLAN

## AMBASSADOR NAZHAT SHAMEEM KHAN, CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE INCOMING COP23 FIJIAN PRESIDENCY, SETS OUT FIJI'S VISION FOR THIS YEAR'S UN TALKS AND THE ROLE FOR BUSINESS

As the incoming Presidency of COP23, Fiji's vision is for a Presidency that is transparent and inclusive of all, advances the Paris Agreement and accelerates climate action for all vulnerable societies, drawing on Fiji's own experiences as a Small Island Developing State in the Pacific.

Of particular importance for those in the business community, the vision includes:

- Forging a "Grand Coalition" to accelerate climate action before 2020 and beyond, between civil society, the scientific community, the private sector and all levels of government, including cities and regions; and
- Harnessing innovation, enterprise and investment to fast track the development and deployment of climate solutions that will build future economies with net zero greenhouse gas emissions, in an effort to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

We consider IETA members and colleagues to be key parts of this Grand Coalition to help lead the transformation of our economies to ones that are resilient, and driven by clean energy and low-carbon technologies across all sectors.

The task of combating climate change does not fall on nation states alone, and the business community has a critical role to play to leverage public investments and accelerate financial flows into implementing the transformations envisaged in each country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

To achieve this, policy and finance need to work in harmony to drive much greater resources and investment into reducing emissions, removing emissions from the atmosphere, restoring natural systems and building resilience for our communities. The private sector is going to be a very significant contributor to this investment. If we get it right, it can bring an unprecedented era of prosperity and improve livelihoods for billions of people around the world.

So how do we get it right? There is no single answer to this, but we know we need to price carbon – and we know we have to be smart about how we price carbon. Under the Paris Agreement, we no longer have a "one size fits all" world. The Agreement and its use of NDCs creates a bottom-up, nationally driven system. This presents opportunities for experimentation on the best policy measures to price carbon at national and regional levels, but also challenges in ensuring markets work efficiently and are scalable so that the private sector is motivated to respond to them at the level required.

Which brings me to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Article 6, once operationalised, has the potential to create one of the most significant opportunities for investment in climate change solutions. Many NDCs under the Paris Agreement contemplate using international climate finance and the mechanisms being developed under Article 6 to help



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meet emission reduction targets and, very importantly, increase ambition. The collective experience in previous flexible mechanisms under the UNFCCC will be important inputs as the negotiations to develop all three of the mechanisms contemplated by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement move forward.

We understand that before we can expect scaled participation in any new mechanism, we need to provide greater clarity about matters such as the accounting rules for mitigation outcomes and quantified emission reductions; transparent monitoring,

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reporting and verification guidelines; assurances that reduction “units” to be transferred are not being double counted; and comfort that the procedures for participation in mechanisms are not overly bureaucratic and burdensome. I am confident that the Parties will focus on the task at hand and make meaningful progress in Bonn this year so we can not just meet the deadlines in 2018, but do so with a set of well-crafted rules for Article 6 that are fit for purpose.

In closing, I want to highlight that a key part of Fiji's vision for the COP23 Presidency is to infuse the talks with the Fijian “Bula Spirit” of inclusiveness, friendliness and solidarity, and promote the Pacific concept of talanoa.

This is a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that builds empathy and leads to decision making for the collective good. This concept is about listening to each other, learning from each other, and

sharing stories, skills and experiences. We hope that by focusing on the benefits of action, we will be able to move the global climate agenda forward. In this spirit, I encourage you all to share with one another the challenges and opportunities you face in advancing solutions to climate change during the COP meeting.



**COP23 | FIJI**

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