

# Reporting on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties

## How you can report on COP virtually

# 10

Pacific Media Mana  
Kit Factsheet Series

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the group of nations that have signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It commits them to act together to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system”. COP is the “supreme body” of the UNFCCC and it meets annually.

*Not going to COP but still keen to cover it? Not a problem.*

The opening plenary and all meetings open to the press and media are broadcasted on the [UNFCCC's you tube channels](#). In addition to live webcasts of COP events, social media community tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr will also enable virtual participation. During the conference, a live blog and videos will inform on the days' happenings, ensure to check [UNFCCC](#) website regularly for updates. Official documents can be downloaded on the same website as they become available.



### KNOW YOUR COUNTRY DELEGATION

Since you will not be at the COP, it is important that you do your work beforehand to get to know your national delegation and your country's national priorities. Establish your key contacts and know who can call or email for specific needs with regards to your media stories, as the COP progresses.

### PRESS CONFERENCES

All press conferences are webcast (live and on-demand), unless otherwise noted. Each press conference is 30 minutes in length and time limits are strictly enforced. Normal press conference services are provided between the hours of 09:00-18:00 (last slot starts at 17:30; bearing exceptional circumstances). In order to reduce paper consumption, press conferences are announced on the UN Climate Change website and on the CCTV screens throughout the conference premises. For more information, visit the [UNFCCC](#) website.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

The UN Climate Change secretariat provides high quality photographs on Flickr. You are required to credit material accordingly with UN Climate Change / Name of Photographer.

### SIDE EVENTS

Side events and exhibits are a platform for admitted observer organisations, which have limited speaking opportunities in the formal negotiations, to engage with Parties and other participants for knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking, and exploring actionable options for meeting the climate challenge. There are three types of side events, UNFCCC side events, Pavilion side events and side events organised outside of the COP venue. Side events allow organisations to present their work or foster discussions on key issues, often engaging the audience in a Q&A session. Exhibits, in turn, enable participants to network around many different climate-related topics in a dynamic and diverse environment.

### HOW TO FOLLOW SIDE EVENTS ONLINE

All official UNFCCC side events are live-streamed on the [official secretariat-managed YouTube channel](#). After live-streaming, all videos will remain available on YouTube.

Side events can also be viewed in the public webcast schedule on the official UNFCCC website. Please note that active participation is not possible via YouTube and via the website. Most side events at the Pavilion, and side events organised away from the COP venue, are usually live-streamed but the link will have to be obtained from the side event organisers.

### PACIFIC POLITICAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Familiarise yourself with our [Pacific Political Climate Champions](#). The Pacific's Political Climate Champions advocate and influence decision making at COP on issues of critical importance to our region. They are supported by the Pacific island officials and regional organisations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

## SAY HELLO TO SPREP'S COMMS TEAM

Get to know SPREP's Communications and Outreach team. They provide a digest of all the Pacific stories and relevant content for all Pacific media, free to use. SPREP's social media channels are also updated on a daily basis from the COP venue, providing content that is relevant to Pacific audiences. Check [SPREP's website](#) and social media pages daily.

## PROVIDING A PACIFIC ANGLE TO GLOBAL NEWS

Pacific nations might be scattered in the vast Moana Pasifika but we do not operate in a vacuum. What happens in the world matters to us. The outcomes of the COP determine the conditions under which every reader, viewer, or listener and their loved ones will spend the rest of their lives. It's hard to imagine a story that matters more than that. How about trying some of the below?

- Try to avoid using complicated words in your reporting and media coverage, and when you can't avoid it make sure you provide short and simple explanations of scientific terms.
- Tell the stories of the people in your community who are experiencing these impacts. Use local examples of climate change impacts in your community or country whenever you can. It is important to contextualise and also highlight the experience of Pacific people at every opportunity, to show the human face of climate change impacts.

- Highlight communities fighting back against climate change
- Don't forget that climate change is both a global and a local issue. Do the people in your country understand what is at stake? Ask them?
- Explain what success or failure at COP would mean for people's daily lives in your country. Hold your government to account for what they promise to deliver during COP. Make sure you follow up on their promises.

## GLOSSARY

### Greenhouse gas:

*Greenhouse gases (also known as GHGs) are gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat.*

### Anthropogenic:

*Things/changes caused by humans. The human-caused changes to the climate are referred to as "anthropogenic climate change".*

### Contextualise:

*To consider something or to help other people consider something in its context, or the situation within which it exists.*

## REFERENCES

United Nations Climate Change, [What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?](#)

United Nations Climate Change [Youtube](#).

SPREP [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

SPREP Factsheet: [Pacific COP26 Political Climate Champions](#).

