

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

## Preparations for travel to COP

# 7

Pacific Media Mana  
Kit Factsheet Series

### Are you planning to attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP) as Media?

For most participants, especially from Pacific countries, travelling to and from the COP host country will involve air travel and multiple flights. One or a number of these flights, will likely involve travelling through other countries, especially where there are hubs for connecting flights. It is important that you are prepared.

#### BOOKING TICKETS

The booking and confirmation of flights as early as possible is essential, especially to avoid paying very expensive last minute tickets. While the availability of internet booking has made travelling easier, it is recommended that you work with an experienced travel agency to ensure you get all the help you need, especially if you are travelling to another side of the continent where multiple flights are required. Ensure you have travel insurance. It is always good to be prepared for any eventuality.

#### VISAS

All media delegates are advised to check and obtain the relevant visa/s required for the COP host country and transit ports of entry, where applicable. It is advisable to also apply for visa/s early to avoid disappointment. From experience, some host countries from time to time do come up with easier ways for participants to apply for a visa so be on the look out for this kind of information. Otherwise it is recommended that you work with your travel agent, your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the relevant Embassy, to determine the types of visas, if any, for you to travel.

#### ACCOMMODATION

Media representatives accredited to cover COP are responsible for their own travel and hotel and/or other accommodation bookings, unless you are being sponsored and your sponsor has offered to look after accommodation for you. From experience, the host country will always provide a list of available accommodation close to the venue as an option. It is recommended that bookings are made as early as possible as hotels closest to the venue are snapped up quite quickly. If you are booking your own accommodation online, we recommend

that you check if the website is genuine. There have been cases where people have made bookings only to arrive at a certain country and find their accommodation is non-existent.

#### ACCREDITATION

Media Accreditation for UNFCCC conferences is essential. According to the latest information available on the UNFCCC website, media accreditation is strictly reserved for members of the press ie: print, photo, radio, TV, film, news agencies and online media, who represent a bona fide media organisation.

#### *What information do I need before I start?*

Complete name as it appears on official photo identification, Date of birth/Nationality, Passport and email address. Accreditation requests must be supported by a letter of assignment on official letterhead of a media organisation signed by the Publisher or Editor-in-chief indicating the name of the media representative and duration of assignment, or a copy of a valid press card.

Once you have received confirmation of your accreditation, print out the Registration Acknowledgment Form and take it with you to the conference for your registration.



## WHAT TO PACK

Your work tools obviously. Depending on the type of media organisation you work for, these include a laptop, camera, phone, recorder, power chords, multi plugs and whatever else you need to get your work done. We also recommend you look up the appropriate power pack for the country you are traveling to and purchase it well in advance as you might not be able to buy them when you arrive at your COP destination.

## LASTLY

We recommend that you do your research in terms of the weather of the country you are travelling to so you can pack the appropriate clothing items. We recommend that you pack and DRESS FOR COMFORT. The days can be long and you will have a lot of distance to cover on foot.

Please read up on the UNFCCC website in advance - the information note there provides you with guidance concerning the weather and temperature at the venues. You must prepare for all types of weather, depending on the host country. The host country also usually has their own COP website, which is very useful.

Don't forget your medication. Even if you are a healthy individual, it is still very handy to take things like panadols, throats and painkiller medications. A word of warning though, you must check with each country which medication they allow and which ones they do not. Different countries have different rules when it comes to medications.

## GLOSSARY

### What is the UNFCCC:

*This is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has 198 countries that have ratified the Convention. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.*

### Accreditation:

*The action or process of officially recognising someone as having a particular status or being qualified to perform a particular activity.*

