

Statement of German Civil Society Organizations at COP 23

Bonn, 16 Nov 2017

Speaker: Ms. Christiane Aeverbeck, Klima-Allianz Deutschland

Mr. President, distinguished delegates.

Bula Vinaka!

I'm honored to represent German civil society organizations and would like to thank the COP presidency for the invitation to address you here today.

First of all we would like to express our solidarity with the people of Fiji and other island states, who live on the front line of climate change. It is clear that we as the people of Germany, through our economic and lifestyle choices, have significantly contributed to the climate change that now threatens the Pacific and other vulnerable regions of the planet. We are aware that we have a clear responsibility to take concrete and immediate action.

Germany has in the past been celebrated as a climate champion and is still seen as one by some. Indeed, our country succeeded in massively expanding renewable energy production. However, Germany has lost its way. Recently it has become clear that we will drastically fail to meet our 2020 emissions reduction target unless the incoming government takes urgent action. To reach our climate targets for 2020 and beyond, it is absolutely necessary to phase out coal in Germany as soon as possible. Rest assured that we as German Civil Society are determined to fight for that. Postponing our climate commitments is not an option. And as thousands of people that participated in the anti-coal marches and the People's Climate Summit ahead of COP show, we have the momentum of public opinion on our side.

The climate crisis can only be solved in an international cooperative effort. But countries like Germany have the historic and present responsibility and the capacity to contribute their fair share, both in mitigation, as well as in financial, technology and capacity building support for developing countries. We welcome our government's pledge for additional contributions to the Adaptation Fund and the LDCF but note that this is only one small step to significantly increase German climate finance.

Nevertheless: Germany can and must do better both pre-2020 and long term. We can't afford to lose any life to climate change! We can't afford to lose the Pacific Islands!

Thank you.