



The Climate Reality Project

AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC

WHAT IS CLIMATE JUSTICE?

Climate justice is about taking an ethical perspective on the causes as well as social and environmental impacts of human induced climate change. It examines the historical responsibilities, compelling us to understand and act on the challenges faced by those people, communities and ecologies most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The global average temperature has already heated to 1.1°C and is set to reach 1.5°C by 2030 — negatively impacting communities, ecosystems and economies everywhere. Often, countries that have contributed the least to the causes of climate change are the same countries that are already experiencing its worst effects including sea level rise, coastal erosion and extreme weather events.

In the Pacific region, island communities that depend on the ocean for their livelihoods and culture are facing some of the most severe climate impacts anywhere on earth. Despite producing only 0.23% of global emissions Pacific Island Countries are already bearing the brunt of harm caused by global heating.

The world's main emitters like Australia need to move quickly to rectify the inherent injustice in this situation. As the IPCC's landmark research has demonstrated, global heating of even 1.5°C would be catastrophic for Pacific Island Countries.

LOOKING AHEAD TOWARDS COP26

The delivery of a full range of measures is now essential and urgent. Ambitious action is needed on climate finance, humanitarian aid, measures to adapt to climate impacts, and achieving net zero as rapidly as possible.

The equity principle that governments first agreed to in 1992 demands that developed nations move faster than other countries. The divide between justice and reality is best highlighted by the growing global count of legal actions around climate change which now number in the thousands each year.

Climate justice demands a collective response at COP26 that acknowledges the specific needs of the most vulnerable nations and the specific responsibility of more advanced nations to lead.



"This crisis is ours to own and ours to solve. By the time leaders come to Glasgow at COP26, it has to be with immediate and transformative actions that are implementable and that make climate commitments achievable. Come with commitments for serious cuts in emissions by 2030 — 50% or more. Come with commitments to become net-zero before 2050. Do not come with excuses. That time is past."



HON. JOSIA V. BAINIMARAMA
Chair, Pacific Islands Forum & Prime Minister of Fiji