



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS

For immediate release, 21 June 2018
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands and 22 other countries issue *Declaration for Ambition*

The Marshall Islands and 22 other countries* have declared their commitment to exploring the possibilities for stepping up the ambition of their own climate action by 2020, and to lead from the front in galvanizing global political momentum for others to do the same.

In a joint declaration issued alongside a week of key ministerial meetings on climate change happening in Europe, the *Declaration for Ambition* specifically calls for the UN Secretary-General to focus his Climate Summit in September 2019 on the possibilities for delivering enhanced NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), as well as the need for countries to set long term strategies to reach net zero emissions, and to mobilize support and investment to assist with implementation and the raising of ambition. It also highlights the importance of the *Talanoa Dialogue* and of agreeing strong guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement at this year's climate negotiations (COP24).

The President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, H.E. Dr. Hilda C. Heine, said:

“If we do not raise global ambition by 2020, it will be too late for my island nation. This means increasing the targets we set before we agreed the Paris Agreement in 2015 – as the Marshall Islands has already committed to do. We also need to set clear pathways to reach net zero emissions at the latest by 2050 – our own 2050 Strategy will be finalized this year.”

“The UN Secretary-General’s 2019 Climate Summit is the biggest political opportunity on the horizon to step up ambition. The Marshall Islands first called for it in 2016. World leaders need to use that as the moment to put new and improved emissions reduction targets on the table.”

The Minister-in-Assistance to the President & Environment Minister, The Hon. David Paul, added:

“Climate action is accelerating, but it is still not enough to achieve the goals we agreed in Paris. We must use the next year to galvanize global political momentum and kick start domestic processes back home for countries to explore possibilities to raise climate ambition by the time they get to the Secretary General’s Summit in 2019, including by increasing their targets. Today, this group of countries have signaled their intention to again lead from the front and we hope more will join us.”

**Current signatories include Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.*

The Declaration remains open for signature.

Contact:
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21 June 2018

The UN Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit and raising ambition by 2020: *A Declaration for Ambition*

1. We commit to exploring the possibilities for stepping up our own ambition, in light of the forthcoming IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, and in this context emphasize the importance of the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24.
2. We also underscore the importance of adopting strong implementation guidelines at COP24 in order to unlock the full potential of the Paris Agreement.
3. We commend the UN Secretary-General for his climate leadership, especially his initiative to convene a Climate Summit in September 2019. This will be one of the biggest gatherings of world leaders on the climate challenge since COP21 in Paris in 2015, and is the biggest political opportunity to raise global ambition by 2020 in order to keep it possible to stay within the temperature limits of the Paris Agreement.
4. We support the Secretary-General in his objectives for the Climate Summit, including encouraging countries to:
 - elaborate how they will step-up their short-term ambition, and possibilities for enhanced NDCs by 2020;
 - set long-term low emission development strategies, including pathways consistent with the Paris Agreement to reach net zero emissions; and
 - mobilize additional support and investment to assist with implementation and the raising of ambition in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
5. We commit to supporting the Secretary-General in his efforts to urgently galvanize political momentum in the lead-up to September 2019.
6. We call on other countries to join us in expressing their desire to lead from the front.

SIGNED

President Hilda C. Heine (Marshall Islands), Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama (Fiji), Minister Raby Sergio Bergman (Argentina), Minister Catherine McKenna (Canada), Minister Marcela Cubillos (Chile), Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo (Colombia), Minister Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi (Costa Rica), Minister Lars Chr. Lilleholt (Denmark), Minister Gemedo Dalle Tussie (Ethiopia), Minister Kimmo Tiilikainen (Finland), Minister Nicolas Hulot (France), Minister Svenja Schulze (Germany), Minister Abdullahi Majeed (Maldives), Minister David Paul (Marshall Islands), Minister Rafael Pacchiano (Mexico), Minister Gilles Tonelli (Monaco), Minister Eric Wiebes (The Kingdom of the Netherlands), Minister James Shaw (New Zealand), Minister Ola Elvstuen (Norway), Minister Vincent Biruta (Rwanda), Minister Gale T.C. Rigobert (Saint Lucia), Minister Teresa Ribera (Spain), Minister Isabella Lövin (Sweden) and Minister Claire Perry (United Kingdom).

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