



SIDS push for new loss and damage mechanism at Climate Change talks

By Online Editor

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Amid claims that greenhouse gas emissions have risen to the highest level in history, the Cook Islands and other members of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) have kicked off the next round of Climate Change negotiations in Bonn, Germany, this week.

Cook Islands negotiators led by Pasha Carruthers are in Germany taking up the challenge of forcing key agenda items to the top of the priority list.

After twenty years of talks, the most vulnerable of the world's smallest countries are trying to reinforce the messages of survival, and long term security.

The urgency of the latest talks, which will take up nearly half of this month, have reached a critical level of negotiations to extend the commitments of Developed Countries beyond the current Kyoto Protocol period, reduce emissions to specified targets, and ensure the source and management delivery of finances helps the Small Islands Developing States.

While in Germany, the Cook Islands has played a lead role in proposing a new approach to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change.

This new international mechanism is built on factors to do with risk reduction, insurance coverage, and rehabilitation of damage caused.

The proposed insurance facility for example, would be supported by both private and public sector funds. And the main driver of this approach is that the most vulnerable states – the Small Islands Developing States – are being affected by dangerous extremes like cyclones, erosion and coral bleaching.

These impacts are accelerating and affecting the economic livelihoods of nations that are dependent on natural resources – widespread devastation upon those countries, which have not been responsible for human-induced climate change.

In Germany, the Cook Islands is now helping to push for more predictability and an international consensus on managing loss and damage from Climate Change.

SOURCE: COOK ISLANDS TV/PACNEWS