

International Conference
“Enhancing Climate Diplomacy in a Changing Political Environment”
New Opportunities for Cooperation among International Organisations
on Climatic Threats to International, National, Human and Environmental Security
Brussels • 20 November 2017

Session 1: Opening of the Conference

Opening Remarks
by Mr Jörgen Talkop,
Counsellor for Environmental Affairs, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU

Dear colleagues,

I am happy to see you here just 3 days after the COP23 in Bonn where several important decisions were made to move forward with the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The discussions in Bonn were held in the spirit of *Talanoa*, inclusive, participatory and transparent. This was demonstrated by Parties in their pursuit of an ambitious Gender Action Plan and reaching an agreement on the ground breaking Indigenous Peoples Platform.

The Fijian Presidency left us with the legacy of the first ever '**Open Dialogue**' between **Parties and non-Party stakeholders** a place for these counterparts to have a dialogue with the aim of setting out the action that we need to be taking with NGOs, sub-national governments and with businesses.

During these 2 weeks we saw the importance of **global climate action in this very complex process!** The stories told and experiences shared in the Bonn zone gave inspiration and optimism for the negotiations in the Bula Zone.

To keep the momentum we need to keep these discussions high in importance in the **changing political environment**.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again welcome and I hope we can continue with the Fijian spirit of *Talanoa* also here today.

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For further information see:

COP23 Presidency Hosts First-Ever Open Dialogue Between Government Parties and Non-State Actors
<https://cop23.com.fj/cop23-presidency-hosts-first-ever-open-dialogue-government-parties-non-state-actors/>

Presidency's open dialogue with NGO constituencies and Parties
http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/observer_organizations/items/10513.php

Fijian Prime Minister opens Presidency dialogue at COP23 - Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOj1Ho2QX3c>

Open Dialogue Between the Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders
FIJIAN PRESIDENCY'S REPORT
http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/observer_organizations/application/pdf/final_open_dialogue_report_151117.pdf

UNFCCC - On-Demand Events
<https://unfccc.cloud.streamworld.de/ondemand>