

COP23 Presidency Secretariat

COP23 Presidency Trust Fund: First Semi-Annual Report

Response to request for clarification of issues from the Public Accounts Committee, Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

1. *Provide a brief background on COP23 and the outcomes and resolutions that were reached. What role does the COP23 Presidency Secretariat play?*

a) *Brief background on COP23 and outcomes*

Member parties (nations) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meet annually at a Conference of the Parties (COP) to consider progress against the objectives of the convention and to facilitate further protocols, agreements and other steps.

These meetings have, for example, finalised the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 at COP3 and the Paris Agreement in 2015 at COP21. They also set mandates or directions for future meetings.

Each year different countries assume the Presidency of a COP and chair of the supporting management body of the UNFCCC called the Bureau. At the next COP the Presidency is handed over to another country. Poland is the incoming presidency and will become President of COP24 in December 2018.

At COP22 in Marrakech, parties agreed that COP23 in Bonn, Germany in November 2017 was mandated to finalise the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. It was also mandated to advance negotiations on the Paris Agreement Work Program so that it could be concluded at COP24 with agreement to a rulebook or implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement, which is to start in 2020.

The outcomes from COP23 are available on the COP23 website at <https://cop23.com.fj/key-achievements-cop23/>. Further details on COP23 will be provided in the next semi-annual report covering the period from November 2017.

b) *COP23 Presidency Secretariat*

The COP23 Presidency Secretariat office is based at Level 9, Suvavou House, Suva. There are currently 7 staff managed by Executive Director, John Connor.

The Secretariat's role is to oversee the administration of COP23 Presidency initiatives and responsibilities. In addition to coordinating and supporting participation in UNFCCC negotiation sessions and the climate action program, the Secretariat coordinated the inaugural Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference, Fiji's first National Climate Change Week, the Nadi Pre-COP, as well as the Fiji Pavilion and cultural engagement at COP23.

The Secretariat coordinates and ensures communication between Presidency work streams and functions, including negotiations, communications, the Action Agenda, PSIDS engagement and other

related initiatives managed by the broader Presidency team. The Ocean Pathway Partnership was also seeded from the Secretariat.

The Secretariat priorities include donor financial accounting and reconciliation, supporting the fulfilment of COP23 Presidency Trust Fund Act 2017 obligations, budgeting and planning and logistical support for the Presidency team.

2. Provide information on the purpose of the Fijian Pavilion at COP23.

The Fiji Pavilion, which was fully funded by German and other donor support, was at the heart of the “Bonn” or climate action zone, which was separate from the “Bula” or negotiation zone. The Climate Action program is overseen by the High-Level Champions. Fiji’s High-Level Champion is Minister Inia Seruiratu. Formal thematic days and sessions of the Climate Action program were conducted in the Bonn zone.

The Bonn zone was the space where many nations shared their actions and trade exhibitors shared exciting developments in clean technologies and improving resilience. The majority of the side events were held in the Bonn zone.

The purpose of the Fiji Pavilion was to highlight climate change issues in the Pacific and to showcase the Bula spirit and Fijian culture at COP23.

Further details of the activities at the Fiji Pavilion will be provided in the next semi-annual report.

3. 4.1 (Fund Utilisation) (iii) – Enlighten the Committee on the Fijian vision for the COP23 Presidency and the agenda of the May 2017 inter-sessional meetings.

At the May 2017 inter-sessional meeting, the Hon. Prime Minister was the incoming President, as Fiji assumed the Presidency at the actual COP, in November 2017. Accordingly, Fiji had limited input into the agenda for the May 2017 inter-sessional meeting.

At the closing plenary of the inter-sessional, Fiji shared its vision for its Presidency with the global community, which remains as follows:

Fiji's vision is for a Presidency that is transparent and inclusive of all, advances the Paris Agreement and accelerates climate action for vulnerable societies, drawing on our own experiences as a small island developing state in the Pacific.

Acknowledging the important leadership roles of past COP Presidencies in laying the foundation for a robust COP23, as a small island developing state, Fiji's vision for the Presidency of COP23 is:

1. To advance the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and preserve the multilateral consensus for decisive action to address the underlying causes of climate change, respecting climate science.

2. To uphold and advance the Paris Agreement, ensure progress on the implementation guidelines and undertake consultations together with the Moroccan COP22 Presidency to design the process for the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018.
 3. To build greater resilience for all vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and rising sea levels; to enable access to climate adaptation finance, renewable energy, clean water and affordable climate risk and disaster insurance; and to promote sustainable agriculture.
 4. To forge a grand coalition to accelerate climate action before 2020 and beyond between civil society, the scientific community, the private sector and all levels of government, including cities and regions. We are all vulnerable and we all need to act.
 5. To harness innovation, enterprise and investment to fast track the development and deployment of climate solutions that will build future economies with net zero greenhouse gas emissions, in an effort to limit the rise of global temperatures to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels.
 6. To draw a stronger link between the health of the world's oceans and seas and the impacts of, and solutions to, climate change as part of a holistic approach to the protection of our planet.
 7. To infuse COP23 with the "Bula Spirit" of inclusiveness, friendliness and solidarity and promote the Pacific concept of talanoa. This is a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that leads to decision making for the collective good. By focusing on the benefits of action this process will move the global climate agenda forward.
4. *Highlight to the Committee Fiji's commitments given to COP23 and the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to ensure that these goals are achieved.*

The activities and outcomes of COP23 will provided in the next semi-annual report.

5. *Provide further information on the discussions that transpired at COP23 and how the outcomes have been implemented in Fiji. What initiatives have been taken in this regard?*

The activities and outcomes of COP23 will provided in the next semi-annual report.

6. *What are we doing locally to reduce climate change and minimize the use of kerosene, diesel, etc. Inform the Committee on the renewable energy initiatives currently being undertaken in Fiji.*

Fiji has many climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. Details of such programmes is best sought from the respective implementation agencies.

COP23 Presidency Trust Fund Account

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ending 31 October 2017

1. Receipts

- *What are the interest and refund figures for?*

Interest is that earned on monies held in the operating account.

We received a refund from the Grand Pacific Hotel when final reconciliations revealed certain contracted services were not utilised during the Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference.

2. Payments

- *What were the External Professional Services undertaken?*

External Professional Services expensed in the relevant period include:

- general strategic advice on COP23 Presidency matters and international climate negotiations;
- engagement with networks of governments, key development agencies, climate change leaders, foundations, civil society and investors;
- negotiation support including training and capacity building for the Fijian delegation;
- assistance with establishment and operation of COP23 Presidency Secretariat, and;
- ongoing assistance with donor outreach and fundraising and management of arrangements once in place.

These services also include:

- cultural advice and management for Fijian look and feel at COP23 in Bonn and Bula zones, including Pavilion design and facilitation of construction with authentic materials; and
- management of transportation of Drua Aida Yeti to the Bonn World Conference Centre.

- *Mentioned under Conference Cost are: (i) Climate Action Pacific Partnership Event; (ii) Pre-COP. Provide details on where these events were held and further breakdown of costs incurred during these two events.*

i). The Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel. As per the report, the COP23 Presidency Trust Fund expended FJ\$490 950 by the end of October 2017.

The large majority of these expenses were for the venue and accommodation of \$323,515. Other sums for per diems for PSIDS leaders + one accompanying official, some travel and various other costs such as audio visual, signage and communications.

Germany through GiZ separately supported the bulk of travel costs of Pacific leaders plus one to this event, and this was not funded through the Trust Fund.

ii) Pre-COP

Pre-COP was held at the Sheraton-Westin complex at Denarau. At the end of October the Trust Fund had expended FJ\$1,352,146. FJ\$1,212,000 of this was payments to the Sheraton with other payments made for printing, signage and accommodation outside of the Sheraton.

3. *Travel related costs*

- *Enlighten the Committee on the purpose of the media tour.*

The media tour was fully funded by a philanthropic foundation. The grant covered the travel and accommodation within Fiji for six participating journalists from top-tier European publications, broadcasters and wire services.

Over the course of the five-day itinerary, the participating journalists travelled to the islands of Vanua Levu, Viti Levu and Kadavu, visiting villages affected by rising sea levels, settlements affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston and some of the places where innovative solutions are being implemented to help better adapt to these challenges.

Stories were published or broadcast in influential media such as Deutsche Welle and Radio France International.

4. Outreach

- *Provide more information on the National Climate Change Week.*

The Semi-Annual Report provided a link to Fiji's first ever National Climate Change Week, the program of activities available at <https://cop23.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/National-Climate-Change-Week-Program.pdf>. This week saw events hosted around the nation using the support of the Divisional Commissioners. Information briefs were provided in English, iTaukei and Hindi languages and these were inserted in both national newspapers.

The week began with multi-faith days of prayer and included a weekly program of activities including tree and mangrove planting, carbon exhibitions, seminars and a community march with a closing festival. It also included an oratory competition amongst schools from around Fiji from which Timoci Naulusaua and Shalvi Shakshi were ultimately selected to represent Fijian youth at COP23 in Bonn in a project with UNICEF.

5. *Please provide an update on how the balance of funds will be utilised.*

The balance of the funds, and further contributions, will be utilised to continue to support the engagement of the Fijian leadership and a national delegation at UNFCCC and other relevant meetings including COP23, May and September 2018 inter-sessionals, Petersberg Dialogue, Global Climate Action Summit, PreCOP24 and COP24.

It will provide for the continued Presidency support services, the management of the COP23 Secretariat, Ocean Pathway, National Climate Day 2018 and further outreach and engagement with Pacific colleagues. The next important event is the 2nd annual Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference at the GPH on 26 and 27 July 2018.

6. *5.0 (External Audit) – Brief the Committee on the status of the audited financial statements and accounts of the Fund from May 2017 to October 2017.*

All requested materials have been provided to the appointed auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers. They are in the process of concluding the audit.

7. *Brief the Committee on the basis of accounting (e.g. cash accounting or accrual accounting etc.) used for the disclosure of the Trust Fund in the financial statements.*

Funds have been accounted on a cash basis, with expenses realised when paid.

John Connor
19 June 2018

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[Verbatim Report of Meeting]

HELD IN THE

COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING)

ON

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2018

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS HELD IN THE BIG COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2018 AT 9.40 A.M.

Submittee/ Interviewee: Conference of the Parties (COP 23) Secretariat

In Attendance:

1. Mr. John Connor - Executive Director
 2. Ms. Tracey Wong - Deputy Solicitor-General
 3. Mr. Vinay Krishna - Senior Accountant
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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- I welcome the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) Secretariat and my apologies for a bit of delay. Actually we wanted the media and everything to be set up before we start the meeting so that we do not have much disturbance whilst you are doing your presentation.

On that note, Honourable Members, let us welcome the three Officials and resource personnel from the COP 23 Secretariat. They are represented by the Executive Director, Mr. John Connor. We also have the Deputy Solicitor-General, Ms Wong and we have the Senior Accountant, Mr. Krishna. I welcome you all to our meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) dated 20th June, 2018.

For the information of your good selves, let me just very briefly introduce my team.

(Introduction of Committee Members)

We believe we have sent issues in regards to two major things; the first one being the Trust Fund Annual Report and I believe you have provided a written submission on that for which we will begin the first discussion. This is also complemented by Act No. 6 of 2017 which established the Secretariat and the Trust. Also, we have a budget summary of the COP budget. We have with us the written responses that you have provided in regards to the issues that we have sent of COP 23 budget.

So without further ado, I would like to give the opportunity to Mr. Connor to very briefly introduce to us the work of the Secretariat and then your first submission will be on the Annual Report which you have provided. Perhaps, you can take us through that and then afterwards, the issues that we sent in regards to certain specific questions we asked about the budget, et cetera. You can discuss that as the latter part of your discussion.

There will be some supplementary questions from Honourable Members relating to the presentation whilst you are doing it, so in that scenario I will be requesting you if you could allow the Honourable Members to ask their questions. And should I feel that the questions are not much related to what is expected of the Committee, then I might not allow it too. Anyways, let us have a healthy discussion on this.

This is the first time we are meeting the Secretariat. We will know that at the end of the session that everything will be very fruitful, and we will get to know more about the Secretariat ourselves. Mr. Connor, I now give you the opportunity to take us through the submission. Thank you.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson and Honourable Members. Here today, I will be brief at the outset because you have those written reports in front of you. But as is required by the Act, today I have prepared a semi-annual report over a six months period and to have that submitted to Cabinet and then tabled in Parliament. So we are here to discuss that Report for the period up and until the end of October.

The Report sets out the income that we have received, in particular over that period of time, and take this Committee through some of the key activities that were funded through that period of time which perhaps, most notably included sessions in Bonn; a Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference here in Suva which we are just heading in towards the second of and a pre-COP which is actually call the largest pre-COP in the history, in October in Nadi.

You have the details there and of those activities and, of course, we received your questions for some clarification and hopefully, we have given you sufficient information there but we are happy to discuss, talking about the process of COP23 and the establishment of the Presidency but also of the Secretariat, the team that I lead of seven staff at the moment, providing a range of support services - everything from logistics to strategic guidance, speech writing and coordination of the various activities as set out there in that response. We are supported then by a team of broader support team that is also funded out of the Presidency Trust.

Perhaps, as also highlighted in the semi-annual Report, there are other activities that are funded out of some other funds of support for the Presidency with the help of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), together with UNDP and other agencies, but the bulk of the funding is in the Presidency Trust Fund under the arrangement set out in the Act. So I leave that there but certainly open to further questions.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- I thank you, Sir, for your words of response in regards to the background. Just a very simple question where is your good office?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Level 9, Suvavou House.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- So you fall under the Ministry of Economy (MOE)?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Correct, yes.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you. Honourable Members, are there any questions on the general overview given by the Executive Director?

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- Thank you, Deputy Chairperson, through you, I thank you for the statement that has been made regarding COP 23. Two questions I would like to raise but I seek your guidance on that and the first one is to do with the Presidency of COP 23. Is that a position which is totally independent from the position of the Prime Minister here in Fiji?

Why I am raising that question is this, it is espousing the idea of *talanoa* sessions, its capacity as President of COP23 (inaudible) that is to try and encourage *talanoa* with member countries of COP 23. That is why I am raising a question. What about the local aspects of that, the local side of it regarding *talanoa* session in the true meaning of the word?

The second question that I would like to raise is I thank the statement of accounts here; the sixth monthly one. My second question; would you care to elaborate to the Committee, how the

huge sum of \$8 million is showing in your accounts regarding Presidency services or some professional services? That is a huge amount - \$8 million within six months. Those are the two questions, Sir.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Thank you Honourable Member, the first question is, the Presidency is an annual position that is given on a rotational basis to regions around the world and to countries. The role is assumed from one particular COP which they chair through to the next one, but you have a status as an incoming Presidency pretty much from the May Sessions which is highlighted in this period here.

In May 2017 was when the Honourable Prime Minister outlined the vision which we have provided you with as well. In that vision, the Honourable Prime Minister made it clear that one of the things that the Presidency would work to achieve is that spirit of *talanoa* which is of sharing experiences and not finger pointing, as a way forward.

Of course, as a Pacific tradition, we were delighted that not only was that spirit brought into the general negotiations but into what is a mandated responsibility to take place in Katowice, Poland this year at COP 24 of what was called the facilitative dialogue, which is really where a stocktake of global efforts towards the goals of the Paris Agreement.

In fact there was a trial run at the May Session we have just had last month and that was very well received. It took negotiators and diplomats out of their normal zero-sum game and we had very interesting reports from hard negotiators. It made them confront some of the human issues in a more personal way and we hope that, that will still continue as we move forward and make countries reflect on the fact that their current commitments have us well off track against those Paris Agreement Goals.

My job is helping those Presidency efforts and so it is those on that international stage and I leave it for others to comment about local *talanoas*. In particular in the coming Climate Action Pacific Partnership Event, we are saying that is the Pacific's *talanoa* as a contribution into the *talanoa* process that leads up to COP 24 in Poland at the end of the year. So, at the end of next month we will have that and so we are wanting that to be an input into that process.

You asked about the external professional services, that is something that the Fijian Government recognises the enormity of the task at hand and so was keen to bring in support to assist and a range of activities which include strategic advice, travel, speech writing and assistance with the fundraising and management of the fundraising which has been very successful.

Also included in this particular period of time were some consultancy services that was towards the construction of the Fiji Pavilion in Bonn at the COP23 and advice on bringing the *Bula* spirit, as was laid out in the vision, to the whole COP23. Their assistance was important in cultural designs and activities, including a *Drua* which was placed in the World Convention Conference Centre and was an important symbol of the fact, as the Honourable Prime Minister said that we are all in this canoe together, in this track great climate challenge. So, that was the range of services that is encompassed within the amount that is set out in the Report.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Deputy Chairperson, just another supplementary question in terms of your finances that you have here which is a six months financial statement. I am trying to relate it to the budget that you have also provided. Was it a one-year budget that was presented in

Parliament? What was the total 12 months budget that the COP23 Presidency amounted to or is there a figure?

MR. J. CONNOR.- The budget which was used with the fundraising purposes which is on the website, is that the one which is round about US\$27 million?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- This Presidency Trust is six months...

MR. J. CONNOR.- Yes, that one is obviously six months but you are referring to that budget.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- For a different year.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Yes, I think that is on the website which is the broader
(Inaudible)...

But we are continually updating and monitoring that budget against....

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- Are they related in some way?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Yes, that budget sets out the activities for the May Sessions, for example. Therefore, included in that budget where further climate action events in Suva. Yes, they are related to those budgets.

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- This is a six monthly account?

MR. J. CONNOR.- It is correct. The Act requires us to do that six monthly reporting ...
(Inaudible)... for the period of May until the end of October.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- So, the total budget, Executive Director, accounts for 18 months?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Approximately, I think that was the indicative budget for all of the activities through to the end of the Presidency and handover.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Until the end of Presidency and since this is semi-annual, so this is a six months budget.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Correct.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Sir, you have mentioned as part of your services, the negotiations support. I am just interested to know about some of the successful negotiations that the Secretariat was able to come up with through this COP 23 initiative. Our Honourable Prime Minister since he is the President of COP23, can you just highlight some of the specific successful negotiations that we were able to make?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Yes, certainly. I think we have got some copies and I will put in our report, a link to an outcome document which we have published on the web. The processes indicated in the Report of COP 23 is supposed to be party driven and mandate driven by the nations who are parties to the Conventions. So they agree to the Agenda and obviously, it is a matter of presiding over and sharing and creating the most appropriate environment for making progress.

This is an incredible process. There are 197 nations. Any one nation can put up its hand and veto and hold up a process.

So, some call out the Olympics requirement diplomacy of international diplomacy. It is very complex and why the achievement in the Paris Agreement was so important and why the process which were involved in assisting or defining the guidelines or the regulations, if you like, in Parliamentary speak is so important.

There were mandated requirements to have a design of the Facilitative Dialogue which I mentioned before, and which working with the previous Moroccan Presidency and Fiji came up with the design now known as a *talanoa* dialogue and now underway.

We were required to advance under a previous mandate which was, in fact, created in Morocco. We have to have those implementation guidelines, those regulations completed by this December at COP24 so it did oversee a welcome progress but we still got a lot of work to do to actually get to that status. In the last month's inter-sessional, it did not quite take that as far as we would like and so we have to have an extra session which is going to be in Bangkok in September....

But there are other things. The Presidency was public in terms of saying its priorities out of COP 23. It wanted to be an inclusive Presidency, so there were outcomes in gender, local communities and indigenous peoples, and continue to have a focus on extra finance and had successes and commitments to the Adaptation Fund. Also linking that to the Paris Agreement and arrange for other climate finance outcomes, and these are part of the negotiations success, if you like, of COP 23 in achieving a number of those elements in difficult geo-political circumstances continuing the momentum in the negotiations, despite some challenges externally, and that was encapsulated really in a key decision agreed to by all Parties which was entitled, "The Fiji Momentum for Implementation". So that sets up a further mandate for the December Meeting in Katowice, Poland.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- I would like to thank you for this written paper. It does specifically mention some domestic initiatives as well and that is actually I was more interested to in.

Honourable Members, are there any more questions?

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- Deputy Chairperson, through you, on domestic initiatives, will you be able to explain to us the local component here - about US\$150.1 million for the Fiji water and wastewater project? US\$150.1 million, that is Fiji's contribution towards that initiative?

MS. T. WONG.- Honourable Member, if I may, this project was part of the project that the Fijian Government is implementing in relation to the Suva Wastewater Project. Is this is the one that you are talking about, Sir?

(Inaudible)

MS. T. WONG.- I apologise, Sir. The Fiji Wastewater Project is the project in relation to the upgrading of the Wastewater Treatment in Suva. This is the project that is co-funded with the funding from ADB. ADB is providing loan financing, EIB is also providing loan financing and there is a grant of \$31 million from the Green Climate Fund. This is over a period of time, so the contribution that is being funded by the Fijian Government is over a period of time.

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- Through you, Deputy Chairperson, thank you for that explanation, Madam. But the issue that I was trying to raise here is the explanation on the US\$150.1 million which is Fiji's contribution, apart from all the loan from ADB, et cetera. Do you have the details of that, Fiji's input of US\$150.1 million?

MS. T. WONG.- Not here, Sir. This project is actually being implemented by Water Authority of Fiji (WAF).

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- That is a huge amount and it is in US dollars, thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, are there any other questions?

HON. A.M. RADRODRO.- An additional supplementary question. Similarly on the GCF accreditation of the Fiji Development Bank (FDB), who is overseeing this accreditation process at FDB? What does the process involve?

MR. J. CONNOR.- Thank you for the question, Honourable Member. I think the CEO of FDB, Mark Clough, is actually the man responsible now. They have got the accreditation, they are working through the skills and capacities required and that has just been achieved. It is an important ability now for the FDB to actually engage directly with the Green Climate Fund which has a global pool of money. So the FDB itself is doing that, and working to build up their capacity engagement with GCF and then look into projects at that smallest scale as we note there in the Report. It is at the micro level at this stage and that is US\$10 million or so of projects, that it can excess.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, any other questions on the Annual Report?

(There were no questions from Honourable Members)

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to certain questions that we had sent in regards to the Trust Fund Account. I believe there were seven issues in regards to:

1. receipts;
2. payments;
3. travel-related costs;
4. outreach;
5. the update on how the balance of the funds will be utilised;
6. the external audit status of the audited financial statements of accounts; and
7. the Committee on the basis of accounting, whether it is cash accounting or accrual accounting, et cetera.

I believe you have provided a written submission and now I would like to request you if you could take us through from Question No. 1 of your submission. Thank you.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Thank you. We will take it as read, as we have submitted it but very briefly on those receipts, yes, there is interest earned on the money that is in the account. You may be delighted to know that we were rigorous in our management of the first Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference and so we had a refund. The external services as I have spoken to, and there is also question there about the conference costs of the Climate Action Partnership Conference and the Pre-COP itself that was held at the Sheraton, Western. There are figures there

and obviously the actual accommodation and venue costs and the conference cost are the largest bulk of those.

We had travel costs, those were specific question around the media too, where we had a separate philanthropic foundation support, us facilitating six top-tier European publications and broadcasters to tour and that did result in a good coverage of the work of the Fiji and the communities in Fiji, their resolve and resilience.

There was a further question of our National Climate Change Week and I have highlighted there a link to the programme that was conducted. We ran that in particular with support of the Regional Divisions, the Divisional Commissioners and that was a wonderful and inclusive process, including schools competition in which we had Timoci Naulusala and Shalvi Shakshi come forward and become international sensations, in fact, invited by President Macron back to Paris and paid for by the French Government to come back and speak at his Summit after the COP.

The response sets out the things which are being funded by the balance and by other contributions which are being continued to come into the Trust Fund.

There is a question there about the audit prices which is underway for this 2016-2017 financial year. All the materials are now with the Auditor and we are just working through that.

Finally, Deputy Chairperson, yes, we account on a cash basis. So we realise expenses when they are actually paid.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members that was the discussion in regards to the issues that we have sent for the Trust Fund Account. So should you have any questions, you are most welcome to ask.

Sir, are there any plans to move to accrual accounting basis?

MR. J. CONNOR.- No, I think, there are no plans that I understand of, we basically continue to do on the cash basis.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, I think there are no other questions.

I thank you, Mr. Connor and your team, for your presentation. We acknowledge the fact that we have been provided sufficient documents in relation to the Semi Annual Report, as well as the Cop 23 Trust Fund Account. On that note, it is a very good initiative and given the fact that Fiji is leading this initiative, it is indeed a proud moment for us as well as a nation.

I would like to just say please, do continue with the good work that your Secretariat is doing. I know it is a very new initiative but it is remarkable the way the activities and the way Fiji is carrying out this international responsibility. So I thank you for leading the team here in Fiji.

On that note, I would like to request if you have any final concluding words before we end the session.

MR. J. CONNOR.- Just to thank you for your questions and support and we certainly look forward to maximising every opportunity we can whilst we still maintain the Presidency up and through to COP 24. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Please, do join us for morning tea.

The Committee adjourned at 10.14 a.m.

List of Presidency Outcomes and Programmes Announced At COP23

From the start of its Presidency of COP23, Fiji has been engaged in pursuing outcomes that will assist Fiji and the Pacific in dealing with climate change. In addition, Fiji, in its role as President of the COP23 negotiations, guided progress on certain key aspects of the negotiations and oversaw the launch of a number of new initiatives. Details of these are as follows:

Negotiations

2018 Talanoa Dialogue: After extensive consultations, the Fijian COP23 Presidency announced an inclusive and participatory process that allows countries, as well as non-state actors, to share stories and showcase best practices in order to urgently raise ambition – including pre-2020 action – in nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This is ultimately to enable countries to collectively move closer to the more ambitious Paris Agreement goal of keeping the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Implementation Guidelines: While important work remains to be done, COP23 made significant progress toward clear and comprehensive implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement, which will make the agreement operational. These guidelines will help governments plan their economies, and give confidence to investors and businesses that the low-carbon economy is here to stay. Countries will need to finalise the implementation guidelines at COP24 in Poland next year.

Finalisation of the Gender Action Plan: Countries finalised the first-ever Gender Action Plan, which aims to increase the participation of women in all UNFCCC processes. It also seeks to increase awareness of and support for the development and effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policy at all levels of government.

Historic Breakthrough in Agriculture: Countries reached a historic agreement on agriculture that will help countries develop and implement new strategies for adaptation and mitigation within the sector, to both reduce emissions as well as build resilience to the effects of climate change. This was the first time in the history of the climate negotiations that countries have reached an agreement on agriculture.

Finalisation of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform: This platform will provide direct and comprehensive means to give a greater voice to indigenous people in the climate negotiations and allow them to share their traditional knowledge and best practices on reducing emissions, adapting to climate change and building resilience.

Adaptation Fund: The Adaptation Fund was replenished with a total of US \$93.3 million, exceeding this year's funding target by US \$13 million. The Adaptation Fund has a track record of providing valuable resources to communities in developing countries for projects that help improve resilience to the effects of climate change. Projects may apply for funding to the Adaptation Fund Board, which reviews applications through a transparent process. Countries also took an important next step to ensure that the Adaptation Fund *shall* serve the Paris Agreement.

First Open Dialogue between Governments and Non-State Actors: The Fijian COP23 Presidency presided over the first ever Open Dialogue between governments and non-state

actors (including civil society, local and regional governments and businesses) within the formal climate negotiations. Discussions were held surrounding two important topics. The first was how non-state actors can help countries design and implement more ambitious NDCs and the second was how to better integrate non-state actors into the climate negotiations process. Based on the success of the Dialogue, there was strong enthusiasm to continue similar discussions at future COP meetings.

“Suva” Expert Dialogue on Loss and Damage: Countries adopted a decision that will strengthen the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage through the endorsement of the rolling five-year work plan of the executive committee (ExCom) and reaffirmation of the ExCom’s ability to enhance its effectiveness. Importantly, countries also agreed to request the chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – one of two permanent subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC – to organise an expert dialogue on loss and damage at the SBI session in April/May 2018. This dialogue will provide an important space to raise awareness about the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States and will explore options for mobilising expertise, technology and support for the victims of climate change.

Launch of the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer: This new online resource will help connect vulnerable countries with the best available information on affordable insurance and solutions – tailored to their unique circumstances – that will allow them to better prepare for the risks posed by climate change.

Global Partnerships

Launch of the Ocean Pathway Partnership: The Fijian COP23 Presidency launched the Ocean Pathway Partnership to encourage the climate negotiations process to address the relationship between climate change and the ocean. In the true spirit of the Grand Coalition, the partnership will consolidate existing work being done to create a coordinated effort among governments at all levels, existing ocean alliances and coalitions, civil society and the private sector. The partnership will be co-chaired by Fiji and Sweden, who are joining forces again after leading the inaugural UN Ocean Conference in June 2017.

Launch of InsuResilience Global Partnership: The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) contributed 110 million euros (US \$125 million) to launch the InsuResilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance Solutions, which aims to bring affordable insurance and other financial protection to millions of vulnerable people around the world. The contribution from BMZ follows a £30 million (US \$39 million) commitment that was made by the Government of the United Kingdom in July.

Bonn-Fiji Commitment: Local and regional leaders gathered to officially adopt the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders to Deliver the Paris Agreement at All Levels, a pledge that signals their commitment to bring forward a critical shift in global development. The Bonn-Fiji Commitment highlights the pledge to raise collective ambition for climate action.

Health Initiative for the Vulnerable: The World Health Organisation, in collaboration with the UNFCCC and the Fijian COP23 Presidency, launched a special initiative to protect people living in Small Island Developing States from the health impacts of climate change.

Its goal by 2030 is to triple the level of international financial support to climate and health in Small Island Developing States.

America's Pledge: A delegation of sub-national leaders led by Governor Jerry Brown of California and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg presented a report on the ongoing efforts by American states, cities, businesses and civil society to uphold the emissions reduction target of the United States under the Paris Agreement.

Regional Initiatives

Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP): Fiji held the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference on 3 – 4 July 2017 in Suva for accelerating climate action in the Pacific. Many of the ideas from this conference were fed into the Global Climate Action Agenda, which is the official UNFCCC process to boost cooperative action between governments, cities, business, investors and citizens to cut emissions rapidly and help vulnerable nations adapt to climate impacts and build their own clean energy, sustainable futures. A second CAPP event will be held in 2018.

Launch of the NDC Regional Hub: The NDC Partnership is establishing a new regional hub to support the implementation of NDCs in the Pacific. The Regional Pacific NDC Hub will be based in Suva, Fiji, and will provide expertise for developing regional solutions to mitigate global warming and enhance efforts by Pacific islands to adapt to climate change. The initial donors are Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Blue Carbon for the Pacific: Working with Fiji and other Pacific countries, Australia will support efforts to protect and manage coastal blue carbon ecosystems in the Pacific. These ecosystems – mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses – sequester more carbon per square metre than almost any other ecosystem and play an important role as fisheries' breeding grounds and natural buffers against coastal erosion from rising seas. AU \$6 million will be provided to strengthen blue carbon data, knowledge and capacity in the Pacific; support its integration into national greenhouse gas accounting and climate policy; and seek to catalyse public and private sector investment.

Pacific Climate Finance and Insurance Incubator (the "Drua Incubator"): The Fijian Government launched an important new initiative to develop finance and insurance products that are tailor-made to the needs and circumstances of vulnerable and low-income households in Fiji and other Pacific island countries. The Pacific Climate Finance and Insurance Incubator – known as the *Drua Incubator* – will bring together leaders in finance, investment and insurance to develop and "incubate" transformational and scalable financial and insurance products that meet the specific requirements of Pacific Small Island Development States. Together with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Government of Luxembourg will provide initial funding of 1 million euros for the initiative.

Rural Electrification Fund: Fiji is establishing the "Rural Electrification Fund" program working with the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Sunergise, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) network, and the Fiji Electricity Authority. The fund will provide the capital costs associated with bringing clean, renewable energy to off-grid rural communities in Fiji. By recycling the electricity fees paid by communities for renewable energy back into the construction of clean energy systems for additional communities, it is intended that this

new vehicle structure can be self-sustaining and could be replicated across the Pacific and other vulnerable nations.

Domestic Initiatives in Fiji

Fiji Water and Wastewater Project: Fiji has signed the financing arrangements for a project designed to improve access to sustainable water supply and sewerage services for approximately 270,000 Fijians in the greater Suva area. The US \$405 million project will take into account the increasing population and the need for more climate-resilient infrastructure. The project is funded through loans from the ADB (US \$153.2 million) and EIB (US \$70.8 million), a grant by the Green Climate Fund (US \$31 million) and Government funding (US \$150.1 million).

Low Income Household Insurance: As outlined in the national budget, Fiji has been working on the development of an insurance product that provides tropical cyclone insurance coverage for low-income households. This will be achieved through the implementation of a catastrophe risk insurance program featuring two products to provide tropical cyclone coverage: (i) Property insurance for houses of low build quality that are still deemed insurable after some basic reinforcement, such as roof strapping. The risk will be underwritten by domestic insurance companies. (ii) Livelihoods protection insurance for low-income households whose houses are deemed uninsurable. Fiji is receiving support for this from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

Sovereign Green Bond: Fiji became the first emerging market – and third in the world – to issue a sovereign green bond to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. Green bonds are fixed income, liquid financial instruments that are used to raise funds for climate-mitigation, adaptation, and other environment-friendly projects. This provides investors an attractive investment proposition as well as an opportunity to support environmentally sound projects. The first tranche floated FJ \$40 million; however, the week-long tender saw an oversubscription that ballooned to more than double that amount, with tenders received for FJ \$87.71 million.

Legal Readiness for Climate Finance and Climate Change Act: Fiji is undertaking a review of its legal readiness to implement its NDC, based on work supported by the Asian Development Bank. In addition, Fiji is looking to what other legal reforms can be undertaken to further support climate action such as the development of a national Climate Change Act.

GCF Accreditation of the Fiji Development Bank: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) accredited the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) as the first development bank in the Pacific region to be a “national direct access entity.” The accreditation type is “micro”, which allows FDB to apply for funds up to and including US \$10 million for an individual project or an activity within a programme. This accreditation is a milestone for Fiji, as it means that Fijian projects now have direct access to GCF funds at the national level, with the FDB as the implementing agency. This means access to global public finance for climate action in Fiji.

Launch of the Fijian NDC Implementation Roadmap: Given that Fiji’s NDC is mostly based on the energy sector, the NDC Roadmap focuses on three energy subsectors, namely: electricity generation, transmission and distribution; demand side energy efficiency; and energy efficiency in land and maritime transportation. The Roadmap, which has been led by the Ministry of Economy and the Global Green Growth Institute, highlights the short,

medium and long term renewable initiatives required in these energy subsectors to support Fiji's commitment to achieve 100% renewable energy and reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2030.

Launch of the Fijian National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Framework: Launched at COP23, the Fijian Government is approaching its NAP as a continuous, progressive, and iterative process to ensure a systematic and strategic approach to adaptation in all government decision making. This approach aims to facilitate institutional coordination, stakeholder engagement, resource mobilisation, and – ultimately – effective adaptation actions.

Launch of the new Ministry of Waterways: Fiji is exploring opportunities to develop a project to manage and protect its numerous waterways, which are an important source of livelihoods, basic resources and transport. A new Ministry of Waterways has been established to address the growing threat that flooding poses to Fijian communities, a threat that is projected to worsen due to the effects of climate change. The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of drainage systems and management of waterways in Fiji, including creeks, tributaries and rivers. In its work to improve storm-water management, mitigate flooding and improve irrigation, the Ministry will incorporate aspects of hydrological forecasting, drainage surveillance and realignment, waterway dredging and river-embankment management. It will work with the GCF and others financiers to address its waterways challenges.

Launch of Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment: In 2017, the Fijian Government requested the World Bank to carry out a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) of Fiji. The CVA launched at COP23 shows the vulnerabilities faced by Fiji, as well as possible solutions to tackle climate change and boost resilience. The objective of the CVA is to identify Fiji's key vulnerabilities to natural hazards and climate change and prioritise measures to strengthen resilience.

DAY	FOCUS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Saturday 23 September	Opening Activities in all Divisions	<p><i>Faith Based Organisations:</i> Day of Prayer Continues</p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City, Central Division (10.00am – 3.30pm) Labasa College, Northern Division (8.30am – 1.00pm) Nasau Park, Levuka, Eastern Division (8.00am – 1.30pm) Churchill Park, Lautoka, Western Division (1.00pm – 3.00pm) <p><i>COP23 Divisional School Competition (8.30am – 3.30pm)</i></p> <p>Leadership, Action and COP23: Children to provide an example of how climate change is affecting their lives and what they or their school can do to help them be more prepared for the effects of the changing climate.</p> <p>Venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central/Eastern Division: Suva Grammar School Northern Division: Labasa College Western Division: Natabua High School <p><i>Mareqeti Viti – National Reptiles Day.</i> Contact Nunia Thomas-Moko: nuniat@naturefiji.org</p> <p><i>FLMMA – Mud Crab Workshop, Daku Village.</i> Contact Margaret Vakalalabure: mvakalalabure@fijilmma.org.fj</p> <p><i>Uto-Ni-Yalo Open Day (10.00am – 2.00pm).</i> Sailing Centre, Suva Point.</p> <p>Short sails will be offered for free to promote sustainable sea transport and healthy oceans for a healthy planet.</p> <p>Contact Rev. James Bhagwan: jamesb@methodistfiji.org</p>
Sunday 24 September	Day of Prayer	<p><i>Faith Based Organisations:</i> Day of Prayer Continues</p> <p><i>WWF-Pacific Combined Nacula District Church Service for Climate.</i> Nacula Village, Yasawa. Contact Rusila Savou: rsavou@wwfpacific.org</p> <p><i>Arya Samaj Group (Hindu) Prayer for Climate (10.30am – 11.00am).</i> DAV Girls College, Kula Street, Samabula, Suva, Central Division.</p> <p><i>Church Service at Kalili Methodist Church (10.00am).</i> Labasa, Northern Division.</p> <p><i>Multi-faith Church Service, Eli Peceli Hall (9.00am).</i> Levuka, Eastern Division.</p>
Monday 25 September	Environment, Forestry, Education	<p><i>Exhibition, tree planting, clean up campaigns, recycling activities, climate change seminars, oratory competitions, art competitions and storytelling in schools.</i></p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition and Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment led Programmes, Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City, Central Division (9.00am - 6.00pm) Recycling and composting demonstration, tree planting at Labasa Park, Labasa Town, Northern Division (8.30am – 1.00pm) Exhibition and tree planting at Lovoni and Visto Primary School, Levuka, Eastern Division (9.00am – 3.00pm) Exhibition and tree planting led by the Ministry of Forests at Coronation Park, Lautoka, Western Division
Tuesday 26 September	Mitigation, Private Sector Engagement	<p><i>Carbon fasting, demonstrating climate action and commitments by the private sector etc.</i></p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition and Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport led Programmes, Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City, Central Division (12.30pm – 6.00pm) Exhibition and clean up of Labasa River, Labasa Town, Northern Division (8.30am – 4.30pm) Exhibition and demonstrations in Bureta and Naiviteitei, Levuka, Eastern Division (9.00am – 3.00pm) Exhibition at Coronation Park, Lautoka, Western Division <p><i>Talanoa Treks and the Multiple Intelligence School have a trip to Nabalesere Village, Ra, with key learning outcomes on climate change and food security (26 – 28 September).</i> Contact Marita Manley: marita@talanoa-treks-fiji.com</p> <p><i>WWF-Pacific 'Native Trees' Nursery setup by the Nacula Youth Group, Nacula Village, Yasawa.</i> Contact: Rusila Savou: rsavou@wwfpacific.org</p> <p><i>PICAN Webinar on Loss and Damage: A Human Rights Perspective (9.00am).</i> Live Stream on the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network Facebook page. Link to the page https://www.facebook.com/CANPacificislands/ The video will remain on the page after the session.</p>
Wednesday 27 September	Water, Coastal Protection, Traditional Knowledge	<p><i>Mangrove planting, Talanoa sessions in communities and with stakeholders to share Climate Witness stories.</i></p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition and Ministry of iTaukei Affairs led Programmes focusing on traditional knowledge sharing, canoe and bure building, Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City, Central Division (12.30pm – 6.00pm) Exhibition and Mangrove Planting at Namara Seashore, Labasa, Northern Division (8.30am – 4.30pm) Exhibition and demonstrations in Nasinu and Tokou, Levuka, Eastern Division (9.00am – 3.00pm) Mangrove planting and foreshore clean-up at Saweni Beach and exhibition at Coronation Park, Lautoka, Western Division <p><i>World Tourism Day for Sustainable Tourism: A Tool for Development. Coral Planting at Outrigger on the Reef Resort (10.00am – 12.00pm).</i> Contact Nanise Odrovakavula: nodrovakavula@govnet.gov.fj</p> <p><i>WWF-Pacific Nacula Coastal Rehabilitation on the Eroding Coastline, Nacula Village, Yasawa.</i></p> <p>Contact Rusila Savou: rsavou@wwfpacific.org</p>
Thursday 28 September	Agriculture, Food Security, Sustainable Fisheries	<p><i>Exhibitions, sustainable seafood movement activities, competitions using sustainable sea transport (bilibili race) and forums</i></p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition, Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Ministry of Fisheries led Programmes on sustainable seafood and sustainable transport, Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City, Central Division (12.30pm – 6.00pm) Exhibition at Labasa Park, Labasa, Northern Division (8.30am – 4.30pm) Exhibition and demonstrations on Moturiki Island and Wainaloka, Levuka, Eastern Division (9.00am – 3.00pm) Exhibition at Coronation Park, Lautoka, Western Division. <p><i>Sustainable Seafood Summit by the Ministry of Fisheries, USP and WWF (8.30am – 4.30pm)</i></p> <p>“Steering inshore fisheries towards a sustainable future from source to plate.” Studio 6, Waimanu Road, Suva.</p> <p>Contact Francis Areki: fareki@wwfpacific.org</p> <p><i>Climate Change Training for Journalists organised by PICAN, in partnership with USP (11.30am – 1.30pm)</i></p> <p>Room M107A, Lower Campus - School of Marine Studies, USP, Laucala Bay, Suva.</p> <p><i>WWF-Pacific with Navotua Village, Yasawa.</i></p> <p>Focus on food preservation, vegetable farming and fish spawning potential for both men and women – food security and alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>Contact Rusila Savou: rsavou@wwfpacific.org</p>
Friday 29 September	Closing of National Climate Week	<p><i>Official Closing: March through Suva City from the Flea Market to Albert Park with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Band.</i></p> <p>Closing by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.</p> <p>Launch of stamps for vulnerable coastal communities (Post Fiji and WWF-Pacific)</p> <p><i>Divisional Activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition at Labasa Park and bilibili making followed by a bilibili race on Labasa River, Labasa, Northern Division (8.30am – 4.30pm) Oratory contest and official closing at Nauono, Levuka, Eastern Division (9.00am – 3.00pm) Exhibition at Coronation Park, Lautoka, Western Division <p><i>Sustainable Seafood Exhibition by Ministry of Fisheries, USP and WWF (9.00am – 4.30pm)</i></p> <p>“Steering inshore fisheries towards a sustainable future from source to plate.” Ratu Sukuna Park, Suva City.</p> <p>Contact Francis Areki: fareki@wwfpacific.org</p> <p><i>Ministry of Forests in partnership with Nabalesere Village, Ra, are opening a new track in Nabalesere village, Ra to support the community diversify their incomes through tourism.</i></p> <p>Contact the Ministry of Forests: lasarusa@gmail.com</p> <p><i>WWF-Pacific Coastal Replanting in Nacula District School and Secondary School Awareness Sessions</i></p> <p>Contact Rusila Savou: rsavou@wwfpacific.org</p>

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