

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE RELIEF: HOW THE NEW FUND CHARTS A PATH FORWARD



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ABOUT VOICES OF SUSTAINABILITY

Voices of Sustainability is a thought leadership platform launched by the Zayed Sustainability Prize to explore the challenges and opportunities of the global transition to an inclusive and

prosperous future. Each month, the series hosts the world's thought leaders to discuss the latest trends and themes in the sustainability agenda.



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INTRODUCTION

On 28 March, the Zayed Sustainability Prize aired its 34th episode of the virtual fireside chat series 'Voices of Sustainability.' This episode featured the Honourable Minister Flavien Joubert and Joan Carling. With the UAE's COP28 in the rear-view

mirror, our guests delved into the establishment and operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, which aims to support vulnerable and developing nations impacted by climate disasters.



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SUMMARY

In the 34th episode of 'Voices of Sustainability,' titled 'Climate Catastrophe Relief: How the New Fund Charts a Path Forward,' moderator, Eithne Treanor, opens the discussion by highlighting the importance of reflecting on the outcomes of COP28, particularly focusing on loss and damage and the role of the fund in addressing these challenges. Our guest, His Excellency Flavien Joubert, Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment from the Republic of Seychelles, underscores the critical significance of the fund for vulnerable countries and the global community, especially in light of increasing climate-related disasters.

Joubert emphasises the dire situation faced by countries like Seychelles and other developing nations, unable to bear the brunt of climate disasters without external support. He stresses the importance of the fund as an insurance mechanism to aid recovery and build resilience in the face of climate emergencies. However, he also notes the shortfall in commitments from developed nations, urging them to take responsibility for their historical emissions and contribute adequately to support vulnerable nations.



Climate action requires boldness and justice, urging global cooperation and support for vulnerable nations' transition efforts.

H.E. Flavien Joubert

Minister for Agriculture,
Climate Change and
Environment



Joan Carling then highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples, who have historically protected biodiversity and ecosystems. She stresses the need for their inclusion in decision-making processes, advocating for respect for indigenous rights and knowledge in addressing climate challenges.



Indigenous peoples are stewards of biodiversity and need recognition and involvement in climate solutions.

Joan Carling

Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International

Throughout the discussion, there's a recurring theme of justice and fairness, with speakers asserting that support for vulnerable nations and communities affected by climate change should not be viewed as charity but as a matter of social justice. They call for stronger regulatory frameworks to hold corporations accountable for their actions, particularly in respect to human rights and environmental protection.

The conversation delves into specific challenges faced by small island states like Seychelles, including coastal erosion, coral reef degradation, and the loss of marine biodiversity due to climate change. Joubert

outlines the urgent need for financial assistance to implement measures to protect coastlines, mitigate climate impacts, and transition to renewable energy sources.

Carling stresses the importance of a just transition to renewable energy, ensuring that it does not perpetuate social inequities or infringe upon indigenous rights. She calls for accelerated efforts to shift away from fossil fuels, coupled with robust accountability mechanisms to prevent further environmental degradation.

As the discussion progresses, the speakers highlight the interconnectedness of climate change with other socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, health and gender equality. They stress the need for holistic approaches that address these intersecting challenges and advocate for the allocation of sufficient funds to support vulnerable communities in adapting to climate change.

In their calls to action, the guests urge bold action from all nations to address the climate crisis, emphasising the importance of cooperation and solidarity in achieving meaningful change. They call on developed nations to fulfil their commitments to provide financial support to vulnerable countries and communities, recognising the urgency of the situation and the imperative of collective action.

In conclusion, the conversation underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to address the climate crisis and support vulnerable nations and communities. Through a combination of financial assistance, regulatory measures, and inclusive decision-making processes, there is hope for a more just and sustainable future for all.

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BIOGRAPHIES



Honorable Minister Flavien Joubert

Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

Since 1996, Mr. Joubert has held various key positions within the Ministry of Environment, including Director General for Wildlife Enforcement and Permits, CEO of the Seychelles National Parks Authority, and CEO of the Landscape and Waste Management Authority. He has actively contributed to conservation efforts, particularly for rare bat species, and co-authored research papers on the subject. Mr. Joubert's international engagement includes representing Seychelles in forums related to chemicals and waste, serving as a focal point for conventions, and organising significant environmental conferences.



Joan Carling

Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International

Joan Carling is an indigenous activist from Cordillera, Philippines. She has been at the forefront of advocating for human rights including indigenous peoples' rights, social justice, sustainable development, the environment, and tackling climate change. Ms. Carling was awarded the UN Champions of the Earth-Lifetime Achievement Award. She is currently the Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Rights International.



Eithne Treanor

Managing Director,
E Treanor Media

Eithne Treanor is a seasoned conference moderator, international communications consultant, and former business TV reporter with expertise in business, technology, energy, infrastructure, and leadership. As the managing director and founder of E Treanor Media in Dubai, UAE, she has transitioned her skills to online platforms, moderating major global conferences. With a background in international broadcast journalism across networks like ABC News, Sky News, BBC World, Bloomberg, and CNBC International, Eithne brings dynamic media and presentation training for government officials, corporate executives, and leaders.

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OUTCOMES



Vital support from the Loss and Damage Fund is essential for vulnerable nations to recover from the impact of climate disasters, highlighting the importance of global assistance.



All nations, particularly those with significant carbon emissions, are urged to contribute to climate adaptation efforts to support vulnerable countries in addressing climate challenges.



Effective climate action and environmental conservation require the essential representation and involvement of indigenous voices in decision-making processes.



A just transition to renewable energy is imperative, ensuring equitable access while prioritising human rights and environmental protection.



Significant financial support is urgently needed from wealthy nations to bolster climate resilience efforts in vulnerable regions.

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