



Government of the
Commonwealth of The Bahamas



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For Immediate Release

Caribbean Rising: Regional Heads of Government Meet in The Bahamas August 16-17 to discuss Caribbean's position on Climate Change Mitigation

The Bahamas will host the first Regional Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean in preparation for COP27 in Nassau, The Bahamas, on August 16-17, 2022.

The Government of The Bahamas is introducing the inaugural event with the intention of devising a regional position on climate change mitigation ahead of COP 27, which will take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 6-20, 2022.

Invited participants include the Head of State from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos.

The Government of The Bahamas intends to establish the meeting as an annual event and will seek to have it instituted as a regular meeting on the calendar of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC).

"The Bahamas is introducing this conference as we seek to get results in the climate change fight," said Hon. Philip Davis, Prime Minister of The Bahamas, ahead of the talks.

"The Bahamas, along with the region, has lobbied year after year, meeting after meeting, as we sought for the world to acknowledge our vulnerable position."

"This meeting will position the Caribbean region to take control of our fate and present a unified position to the world at COP27," Prime Minister Davis added.

The meeting also intends to establish a Caribbean response exclusive of the conventional Latin America-Caribbean pairing, to better reflect Caribbean states' common geographical and geo-political issues.

"What we've been lacking regionally is a strategy that would aid us in our negotiation process when we go to the conferences of the parties referred to as COPs," says Rochelle Newbold, Special Advisor on Climate Change and Environmental Matters and Climate Tsar in the Office of the Prime Minister in The Bahamas.

"This year will be COP number 27, and as a region, we have never put forward a strategy document or an intent of how we want to deal with the issues that we face within the region collectively," Newbold added.

The conference agenda will also focus on renewable energy, energy security, climate adaptation, climate financing, loss and damage due to tropical weather systems and establishing a framework for the sale of carbon credits.

Delegates attending COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in December 2021 signed off on a global climate agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and counter global warming by limiting the temperature rise on Earth to a 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold.

The global warming phenomenon has been linked to more frequent and aggressive hurricanes in the Caribbean, which have subjected the region to billions of dollars in damage and bound countries to burdensome loan commitments.

According to the [Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas](#) report issued by the Inter-American Development Bank in March 2022, damage and losses from Hurricane Dorian amounted to US\$3.4 billion, a quarter of the country's GDP.

A heat wave rolling across the United States and Europe is also being attributed to rising temperatures.

According to local forecasters, the UK recorded temperatures of over 40°C (104°F) for the first time in July 2022.

"We know that if we reach that 1.5°C and exceed it, everything changes for everybody. While land-locked countries and large continents like South America will experience a change, island-states will experience that change three and four-fold."

"With this meeting, we will have all those who face the same threat level sitting down together, discussing options, considering what is being suggested and how realistic this will be. For us, this is a fundamental thing that we should have been doing long ago," Newbold said.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a Chair's Summary will be made available detailing the scope of the discussions as well as key messages and ideas that emerge. Additionally, the region plans to launch an initiative at COP27 to advance advocacy efforts on behalf of Caribbean States.

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