

Paris climate talks: Voices from the frontline

Politicians, scientists, environmentalists and others tell *Nature* about their hopes for the UN climate summit — and what comes next.

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PARIS

Negotiators from more than 190 nations have gathered in Paris to hash out a new global agreement to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

Nature's roving reporters are on the scene at the [United Nations climate summit](#), interviewing key players in the talks about why they're at the meeting, how they define a "good deal", and why they care about climate change.

- [Christiana Figueres](#), executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- [Jostein Solheim](#), CEO of ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's
- [Margaret Leinen](#), director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography
- [Brian Schatz](#), US senator from Hawaii
- [Bill Gates](#), philanthropist and Microsoft founder
- [Lidy Nacpil](#), environmental activist from the Philippines
- [Anote Tong](#), president of Kiribati
- [Diana Liverman](#), co-director of the University of Arizona Institute of the Environment
- [Izabella Teixeira](#), Brazil's environment minister
- [Saleemul Huq](#), advisor to least-developed nations
- [Manuel Pulgar Vidal](#), Peru's environment minister
- [Sam Smith](#), leader of the WWF Climate and Energy Initiative
- [Karsten Sach](#), German negotiator
- [Wimar Witoelar](#), spokesman for Indonesia's environment minister
- [Andrew Steer](#), president of the World Resources Institute
- [Henry Puna](#), prime minister of the Cook Islands
- [Chebet Maikut](#), a negotiator for Uganda



Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Christiana Figueres is the UN's top climate-change official. She tells *Nature* about her hopes for the climate talks in Paris.



Jostein Solheim, CEO of ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's

Jostein Solheim is the CEO of ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's. Solheim, who's in Paris for the UN climate summit, tells *Nature* about private industry's role in fighting global warming.

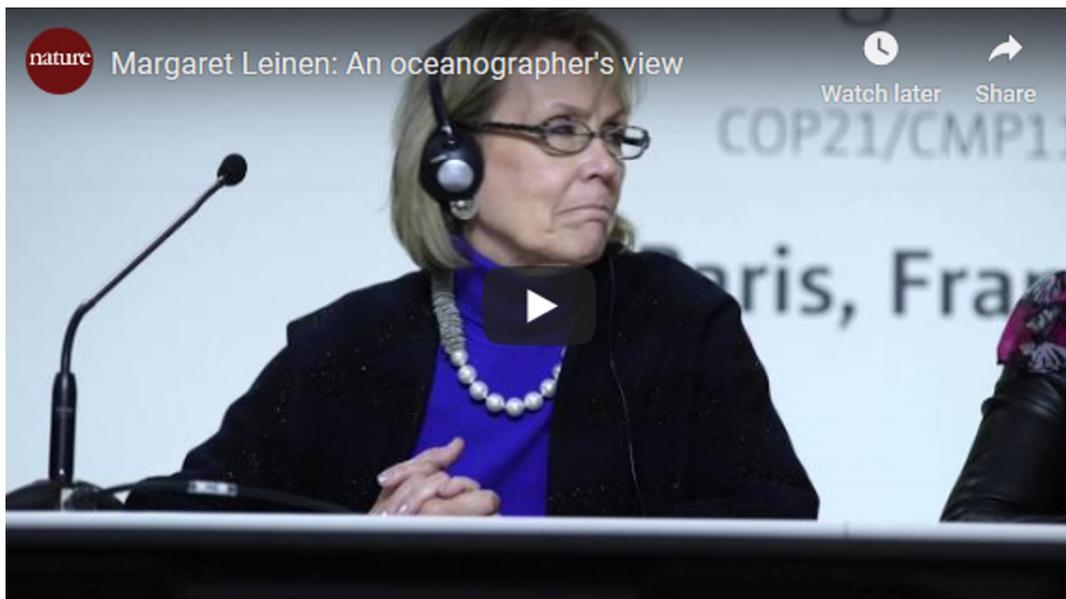


A video thumbnail featuring Jostein Solheim, CEO of Ben & Jerry's. He is a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a conference setting. A semi-transparent text box at the bottom of the image contains the following text:

Jostein Solheim: Ice cream for progress
Jostein Solheim is the CEO of ice-cream maker Ben & Jerry's. Solheim, who's in Paris for the UN climate summit, tells *Nature* about private industry's role in fighting global warming. "A little bit of ice cream helps with everything," he says — even climate change.

Margaret Leinen, director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography

The outcome of the Paris climate talks will have a great impact on the marine sciences. Margaret Leinen, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, gives her thoughts on COP21.



A video thumbnail featuring Margaret Leinen, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She is an older woman with glasses, wearing a blue top and a black jacket, sitting at a conference table with a microphone. The background shows a banner for "COP21/CMP11 Paris, France". The video player interface includes a "nature" logo, the title "Margaret Leinen: An oceanographer's view", and "Watch later" and "Share" buttons. A play button is centered over the video. Below the video, a text box contains the following text:

Margaret Leinen: An oceanographer's view
The outcome of the Paris climate talks will have a great impact on the marine sciences. Margaret Leinen, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, gives her thoughts on COP21.

Brian Schatz, US senator from Hawaii

Schatz, a US senator from Hawaii, explains the urgent need for action to protect our 'Island Earth'.



Bill Gates, philanthropist and Microsoft founder

Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates is in Paris to announce a new US\$2-billion effort by private investors — including his own Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — to [accelerate the development of clean-energy technologies](#).



Lidy Nacpil, environmental activist from the Philippines

Lidy Nacpil is an environmental activist and the coordinator of Jubilee South, a network of anti-debt coalitions in more than 60 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Anote Tong, president of Kiribati

Anote Tong is the president of Kiribati, a small Pacific island nation that is threatened by rising sea levels. For years, Tong has warned that flooding will soon render his country's citizens homeless.





Diana Liverman, co-director of the University of Arizona Institute of the Environment

Diana Liverman is a geographer whose research has focused on the human impacts of climate change.



Izabella Teixeira, Brazil's environment minister

Izabella Teixeira is Brazil's environment minister.





Saleemul Huq, advisor to least-developed nations

Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and an adviser to the least-developed countries.



Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Peru's environment minister

Manuel Pulgar Vidal was the president of the last major round of UN climate talks, [in Lima in 2014](#).



Sam Smith, leader of the WWF Climate and Energy Initiative

Sam Smith leads the climate and energy initiative at the environmental group WWF. Although the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's official goal is to [limit global warming to 2 °C](#), the WWF is pushing for a stricter target — just 1.5 °C.





Karsten Sach, German negotiator

Karsten Sach is Germany's lead negotiator at the Paris climate talks.



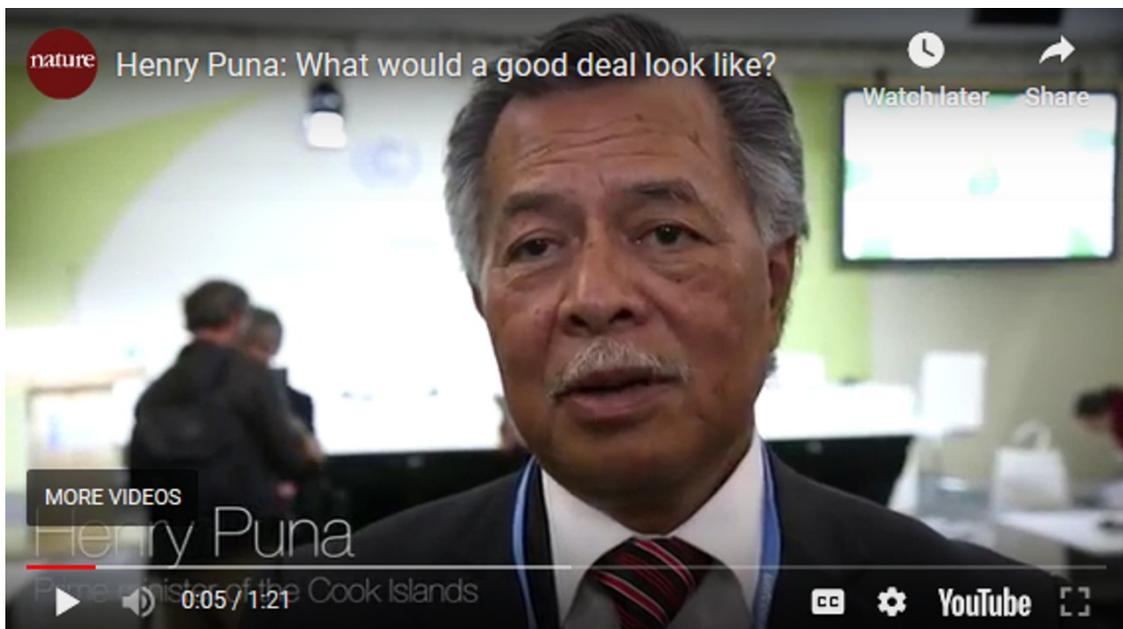
Wimar Witoelar, spokesman for Indonesia's environment minister

Wimar Witoelar is a spokesman for Indonesia's environment minister. [Fires have ravaged Indonesia's forests](#) this year, temporarily turning the nation into the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide.



Henry Puna, prime minister of the Cook Islands

Henry Puna is the prime minister of the Cook Islands, a small Pacific island nation threatened by climate change.



Andrew Steer, president of the World Resources Institute

Andrew Steer is the president of the World Resources Institute, an environmental think-tank based in Washington DC.



Chebets Maikut, a negotiator for Uganda

Chebets Maikut is the commissioner of Uganda's climate change department and one of the country's negotiators at the Paris talks.



