



World's First Online Climate Summit

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World leaders are set to participate in an innovative climate change summit that will take place entirely online which makes it a **carbon neutral summit**.

- By contrast, the **UN's COP21 climate talks in Paris in 2015** generated about **43,000 tons of carbon dioxide**, although much of this was later offset through carbon-credit schemes.
- The Virtual Climate Summit is the **brainchild of Marshall Islands President**, whose nation is facing the worst impacts of climate change.
- With participants including French President Emmanuel Macron and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres this will be the **first global political meeting to be held online**.
- It will consist of a rolling, **24-hour livestream** that will begin in the Marshalls' capital Majuro, then include addresses from leaders and panel discussions before delivering a declaration.

Objectives

- The virtual summit's main aim is to **encourage the international community** to restrict global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Immediate objective is to cut carbon emissions** since flying is among the most harmful activities for the climate, accounting for about 2.5% of the world's carbon emissions. Also, the online platform will **not put additional pressure** on already resource constraint nation.
- A virtual summit also **flattens the playing field**, removes barriers like plane tickets and conference passes that inevitably leave out those most impacted by climate change. **It is more participative**.
- It is the **first time** that leaders from the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), have come together, and therefore it is also a chance for those on the front line of climate change to make their voices heard.

Climate Vulnerable Forum

- It is an international partnership of countries **highly vulnerable** to a warming planet. The forum serves as a **South-South cooperation** platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change.
- The Forum first met in **Maldives in November 2009**.
- Other **initiatives taken by CVF** to deal with climate change:
 - **Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group of Ministers of Finance** of the Climate Vulnerable Forum is a **dedicated cooperation initiative of economies** systemically vulnerable to climate change.
 - It was established on 08 October **2015 at Lima, Peru**.
 - It's primary objective is to promote the mobilisation of **climate finance**.
 - **Survive Thrive #1.5C** aims to promote actions to keep warming below 1.5°C and urges people to get involved and keep updated on limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Earlier, a UN report warned that threshold could be reached as early as 2030 unless there was unprecedented global action to rein in emissions.