



# Diplomats for Climate Action Now

## End of Year Message

Dear Colleagues

Our last newsletter was sent to you on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and since then a lot has happened with our organisation. We have become an association incorporated in the ACT, and are seeking charitable and deductible gift recipient (DGR) status so that donations to DIP4CAN will be tax-deductible. We have set up a bank account and several members have already generously donated to help with our incorporation and start-up costs. As an incorporated association our Steering Committee has become our Board of Directors, and our website is progressively being reinvigorated. Some of our members have published further articles on topics within our areas of concern, and attended and spoken at seminars and workshops on climate change and foreign, trade and development policy related issues. You can keep up to date with what DIP4CAN has been doing by checking out our blog:

[www.diplomatsforclimate.org/latest\\_news](http://www.diplomatsforclimate.org/latest_news).

As a part of our incorporation, we will introduce a membership contribution of \$20 per year, which can be paid here [*link once Graeme has sorted out a payments platform*].

Our DGR registration will be facilitated by having at least 50 financial members. Members who have already donated \$100 or more will automatically be given life membership. Those who do not wish to contribute will still be considered our supporters and signatories of our original letters and the Climate-Focused Foreign Policy. We thank all of you for your support and hope you will continue this journey with us.

The driving force behind much of this change has been our newly appointed Executive Director, Janaline Oh. I have stayed on as President of the Board of Directors, until we have our first annual general meeting. Zena Armstrong, Anne Giles, Paula Watt and Bruce Haigh have retired from the executive of DIP4CAN and continue to support us as members: I am extremely grateful to them for their work and advice, which was vital in getting us established and guiding us through the busy period leading up to the May 2022 election. We welcome two new members to the Board: Graeme Swift as our Treasurer, and Anita Planchon as a Director. The bios of our Board members can be found on our website: [https://www.diplomatsforclimate.org/our\\_board](https://www.diplomatsforclimate.org/our_board).

Since the May 2022 election, we have been pleased to see the positive actions that the new Australian government has taken on climate change and the environment. But the urgency of acting on climate-change has not diminished, nor has the need for a more nuanced and targeted Australian foreign policy framework which puts climate change front and centre of our international development cooperation programs and national security interests.

As we flagged in an email to all of you when we were debating incorporation, we see the following as a possible work program in the next few months:

- 1) policy work to promote the export and investment opportunities available from the renewables transition, including collaboration with

- environmental, business and labour organisations
- 2) engagement in second track (non-government) or one and a half track (part government, part non-government) diplomacy on climate action
  - 3) promotion of climate action as a non-partisan, non-party political issue by emphasising the risks and benefits to national security and economic prosperity through an international lens.

We welcome the steps the Albanese Government has taken so far, including legislating a more ambitious 2030 target and joining several international commitments to increase that ambition, including the Global Methane Pledge and the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership. But the government continues to obfuscate on the phase out of fossil fuels which science and international consensus agrees will be essential to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate change.

Given the measures already taken by the Government, we are preparing a new policy document to inform our work going forward. We will consult members on this document early in 2023.

So, there is still much to do, none of it easy nor simple.

**On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish all our members the best for the Christmas and New Year season. Stay safe, have fun, and keep your (GHG) emissions down!**

Richard Mathews, President, Diplomats for Climate Action Now  
<https://www.diplomatsforclimate.org>

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