

# Climate-threatened nations aim for 100pc renewable energy



Wind turbines, a good source of producing electricity from wind, are seen in Denmark.

REUTERS, Marrakesh, Morocco

A group of the countries most at risk from climate change said they would strive to make their energy production 100 percent renewable "as rapidly as possible", as part of efforts to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), which numbers 48 nations, also committed to update their climate action plans submitted as part of the UN climate pact agreed in Paris last year and prepare low-carbon development strategies for mid-century, both before 2020.

But they emphasised they would need additional funding for more ambitious steps to reduce emissions and protect their people from extreme weather and rising seas.

"Today's commitment by the member countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum to move toward powering their economies entirely with renewable energy is a bold vision that sets the pace for the world's efforts to implement the Paris Agreement and move even more quickly to solve the climate crisis," former US Vice President Al Gore said in a statement.

Mattlan Zackhras, minister in assistance to

the president of the Marshall Islands, said his Pacific island country was "pioneering" the transformation towards 100 percent renewable energy and wanted other countries to follow.

"There is no prosperity, justice and peace on a planet that is on fire," he told a forum meeting at the UN climate talks in Morocco.

Saleemul Huq, director of the Dhaka-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development, said the CVF had played a key role in ensuring the Paris climate accord included a goal to strive for a global warming limit of 1.5 degrees, alongside a promise to keep temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees above pre-industrial times.

Huq, who advises the forum, urged developing states to focus on providing help to one another - a call echoed by China, which said it had much expertise to offer CVF countries on moving to a low-carbon economy.

Edgar Gutiérrez, environment and energy minister of Costa Rica - which is aiming to be a carbon-neutral economy from 2021 - said all countries should start moving towards 100 percent renewable energy and becoming carbon neutral, "otherwise we will all suffer".

Evelyn Cruzada, of the office of the Philippines' cabinet secretary, said CVF countries - which span Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East - should have the courage to "change the way we do things".

"More than 1.5 degrees will destroy possibilities for a decent quality of life," she warned. "We must not build an economy based on suffering."

Miguel Arias Cañete, European Union Climate Action and Energy Commissioner, said the CVF countries had shown "moral leadership... with real-world commitments to action".

But some of the CVF nations will face a significant challenge to wean their economies off fossil fuels by 2030 to 2050, as they pledged on Friday.

In the Philippines, for example, coal accounted for nearly 45 percent of power generation in 2015, and the country plans to build more than 20 new coal-power plants.

In July the new environment secretary said the government would prioritise renewable energy over fossil fuels in approving permits for power plants. But Philippines media reported this week that Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi told a coal industry forum the dirty fuel "is here to stay".

Cruzada said on Friday the energy department was still studying how to transition to cleaner energy, adding that two areas of the Southeast Asian nation are now using wind power, and solar energy is starting to take off.

Some of the investment needed to shift to renewable energy would come from the private sector but international support would also be required, both for the energy shift and to enable the Philippines to deal with worsening climate extremes, she said.

"We need help from outside because we are beset by at least 20 typhoons a year that are destroying much of our infrastructure and our agriculture," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The scarcity of funding for developing countries to adapt to climate change has been a thorny issue at the Morocco climate talks, with richer nations ducking pressure to set specific targets to increase their contributions.

The CVF countries said they would do their best to find resources at home to tackle climate change and to eliminate "harmful subsidies" for high-carbon activities.

## Merkel's party details plans to spend surplus German tax revenue

REUTERS, Berlin

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) plan to divide surplus tax revenues equally between infrastructure investment, tax relief, and spending increases on foreign and security policy, a party document obtained by Reuters showed.

The plan - to be debated at a meeting of senior party members on Sunday and Monday - will make welcome reading for Germany's European Union peers, who have been pressing Berlin to raise its spending to lift the flagging euro zone economy.

With France, Italy and Spain all butting up against the bloc's budget deficit limits, only Berlin, running a surplus, has the scope and economic weight to make a difference to the euro zone's economic outlook by increasing spending.

"Of the financial margin that we gain from additional tax revenues and low interest rates, we will use a third for each," the document read, listing the investment, tax relief, and spending goals. Some revenue could also go on debt repayments "where necessary".

The commitment to spend more using additional tax revenues means Berlin will be able to stick to its balanced budget plans, fiscal stringency that has irritated peers who want Berlin to loosen its purse strings to help support euro zone growth.

The CDU document -- "Orientation in difficult times - For a successful Germany and Europe" - is the main resolution to be debated by the executive of the conservative party.

It includes the main points the CDU party leaders want to pursue next year in an election manifesto with their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

CDU Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble has been resisting pressure from the European Commission to loosen Germany's fiscal stance next year.

## Under pressure on US jobs, Ford tries new gambit with Trump

REUTERS, Washington

Ford Motor Co, one of Donald Trump's prime corporate targets on the campaign trail, offered the President-elect a chance to claim a victory late on Thursday by informing him it would not shift production of a Lincoln sport utility vehicle to Mexico from Kentucky.

Trump jumped at the chance, claiming in a tweet that he had "worked hard" with Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr to keep the plant in Kentucky, even though Ford had never considered moving the whole factory south of the border.

In letting Trump claim a victory, Ford made what appeared to be a calculated, public appeal to the next president in an attempt to soothe concerns about outsourcing jobs and to gain some leverage with the new administration as the automaker pushes for favorable policy changes in Congress.

"Ford is not going to make a decision on a purely political basis," said Kristin Dzielick, director of industry, labor and economics at the Center for Automotive Research in Michigan. "They are going to make a decision that makes business sense, economic sense and if it happens to align with political goals, that's great," she said.

The No. 2 automaker in the United States is not the only company in Trump's crosshairs working out how to deal with the new political reality in Washington.

Apple Inc, criticized by Trump for not building products in the United States, is studying the possibility of moving iPhone

production to the United States, Japanese news service Nikkei reported on Thursday.

Apple did not reply to a request for comment on Friday. Trump campaigned heavily on bringing jobs to the United States and attacking companies such as Ford that plan to take some production overseas, a message that resonated in the economically ravaged center of the country.

Ford gave Trump plenty of ammunition, confirming in September that all of its remaining small-car production in the United States, at its facility in Wayne, Michigan, would go to lower-cost Mexico by 2019. Ford Chief Executive Mark Fields said no plants would be closed as a result, and no US jobs would be lost as capacity at the Wayne plant would be taken up by two new models.

The Mexico plans remain in place, despite the fact that Trump vowed on the campaign trail to stop Ford opening a new plant in that country and promised to slap 35 percent tariffs on any Ford vehicles made there.

Ford went further this month, announcing on Election Day a new \$195 million investment in India to add 3,000 jobs over the next five years in a technology and business center in Chennai. Ford said this week it would import its Ford EcoSport built in India to the United States. Trump has not made any public comment on that plan.

On Thursday, Ford said it had been reviewing where to build the Lincoln MKC, just one vehicle built at the Louisville assembly plant, but had decided to keep it in Kentucky.



CITY BANK

City Bank Chairman Mohammad Shoeb, Vice Chairperson Tabassum Kaiser and Managing Director Sohail RK Hussain attend a programme at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday to mark the 500th board meeting of the bank.



SSG

Harun Ar Rashid, deputy managing director of SSG; Aftab Mahmud Khurshid, chief marketing officer, and Sakhawat Hossain, head of sales, attend a programme to hand over awards among the winners of a campaign of the company: CFL & LED Lucky Eid Offer.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom)  
Bangladesh Railway, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Railhaban, Dhaka-1000  
(www.railway.gov.bd)

### Invitation for Tender for Lease/Rent of Optical Fiber Cores of Bangladesh Railway

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Railways.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway.
3	Official inviting tender	Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom), Bangladesh Railway, Railhaban, Dhaka.
4	Invitation for	Lease of spare dark optical fiber cores of Bangladesh Railway in various routes (sections) of Bangladesh Railway.
5	Invitation Ref No.	54.01.0000.015.01.015.16
6	Date	13/11/2016.
7	Leasing method	Open Tendering Method among the ANS Operators, Licensed Telecommunication Operators and other authorised users for a specified lease term having license from BTRC (Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission).
8	Tender publication date	On or before 20/11/2016.
9	Tender last selling date	19/12/2016 up to 17.00 hrs.
10	Tender closing date and time	20/12/2016, 12.00 hrs.
11	Tender opening date and time	20/12/2016, 12.30 hrs.
12	Name & address of the office(s)	<div><div>Selling tender documents (principal)</div><div>Office of the Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Telecom, Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.</div></div> <div><div>Selling tender documents (others)</div><div>Office of the Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Telecom, Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.</div><div>Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Telecom, Bangladesh Railway, Railhaban, Dhaka, (Room No. 603).</div><div>Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/West, Bangladesh Railway, RBR, Rajshahi.</div></div> <div><div>Receiving tender documents</div><div>Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom), Bangladesh Railway, Room No. 603, Railhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.</div></div> <div><div>Opening tender documents</div><div>Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom), Bangladesh Railway, Room No. 601, Railhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000.</div></div>
13	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Pre-tender meeting will be held on 11/12/2016 at 11 hours at Railhaban, Dhaka (Conference Room No. 631).

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

14	Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in the tender documents.																				
15	Scope of the tender	As stated in the tender documents.																				
16	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) each non-refundable.																				
17	Location and other information of optical fiber cores of BR to be leased out:																					
	Locations (Railway Routes) where BR dark optical fiber cores are available for lease out (The tenderers are allowed to offer for any number of optical fiber core for any route within the availability for lease)	<table><thead><tr><th>Length of the cable</th><th>No. of core available for leasing</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Laksham-Chandpur</td><td>51.12 km</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Chittagong-Dohazari</td><td>47.04 km</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Sholosahar-Najirhat</td><td>41.18 km</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Rajbari-Pachuria-Faridpur-Bhangha</td><td>68.2 km</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Kalukhali-Bhatiapara</td><td>82.5 km</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Laksham-Chittagong</td><td>129.60 km</td><td>12</td></tr></tbody></table>	Length of the cable	No. of core available for leasing	Laksham-Chandpur	51.12 km	40	Chittagong-Dohazari	47.04 km	40	Sholosahar-Najirhat	41.18 km	40	Rajbari-Pachuria-Faridpur-Bhangha	68.2 km	40	Kalukhali-Bhatiapara	82.5 km	40	Laksham-Chittagong	129.60 km	12
Length of the cable	No. of core available for leasing																					
Laksham-Chandpur	51.12 km	40																				
Chittagong-Dohazari	47.04 km	40																				
Sholosahar-Najirhat	41.18 km	40																				
Rajbari-Pachuria-Faridpur-Bhangha	68.2 km	40																				
Kalukhali-Bhatiapara	82.5 km	40																				
Laksham-Chittagong	129.60 km	12																				
18	Name of official inviting tender	Nasir Uddin Ahmed.																				
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Telecom, Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka.																				
20	Address of official inviting tender	Room No. 601, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Bangladesh Railway, Railhaban, Dhaka-1000.																				
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	02-9562365, E-mail: cstet@railway.gov.bd																				
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all tenders.																					

**Nasir Uddin Ahmed**  
Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom)  
Bangladesh Railway  
Railhaban, Dhaka

DG/PR-107  
GD-2334



SJIBL

Kazi Zafarullah, a presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League, and AK Azad, a director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, open the 96th branch of the bank at Charbhadrasan in Faridpur on Thursday. Farman R Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, was also present.