Greetings from Peru, and the opening day of the UN Conference of the Parties climate talks (COP 20). The next two weeks will be busy. Climate negotiators from over 180 countries are here to set the future climate-change agenda. This high-level, two-week meeting is crucial as the foundation to the headline UN Paris climate talks next year, at which, it is hoped, a legally-binding final treaty will be signed. By the end of this meeting, we must agreement on the first draft of a climate accord to avoid a global climate-change catastrophe.

The success of the next two weeks will be judged on progress – we must have progress on long-term climate finance, on the functionality of the loss-and-damage mechanism associated with climate change and most importantly, on pledges to cut carbon emissions.

The pressure is on...

