

## **TWENTY-SIXTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM**

Madang, Papua New Guinea

13 - 15 September 1995

### **FORUM COMMUNIQUÉ**

The Twenty-Sixth South Pacific Forum was held in Madang on 13 to 15 September 1995, and was attended by Heads of State and Government, or their representatives, of Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

2. The Forum thanked the people and the Government of Papua New Guinea for the generous hospitality provided to all delegations to the Forum. It welcomed Palau by acclamation as its sixteenth member, and invited Palau to accede to the Forum Secretariat Agreement. The Forum also extended warm congratulations and good wishes to the Government and people of Papua New Guinea on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the country's Independence. The Forum expressed its deep appreciation to the outgoing Chairman for his excellent leadership.

### **SECURING DEVELOPMENT BEYOND 2000**

3. The Forum's considerations focussed on the theme of "*Securing Development Beyond 2000*", and Leaders adopted a Plan of Action (attached as Annex 1) for implementation, following valuable informal discussions at their Retreat. The Plan of Action gives close consideration to a wide range of strategies, recognising that security involves strengthening national and regional relations, especially capacities to sustain development in the medium and long term, as well as regional stability.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

4. The Leaders adopted the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement (attached as Annex 2), presented by the Chair of the Forum and Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, setting out a vision for enhancing regional cooperation over the next quarter century. The Forum believed this Statement sets out clear visionary but achievable goals, based on its members' many shared interests and building on the Forum's tradition of close regional consultation, which would significantly strengthen the region's capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing international and regional environment.

## **NUCLEAR TESTING**

5. Forum Leaders issued a statement (attached as Annex 3) expressing their extreme outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. They again demanded that France desist from any further tests. The outrage of Forum member countries was so much the greater because of the intransigence of France, together with the People's Republic of China, in persisting with their nuclear tests in the face of the strong views of the Pacific region. The Forum endorsed the Lakatoro Declaration by the Melanesian Spearhead Group, and the Declaration by the South Pacific Environment Ministers' Meeting, in August 1995.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

6. The Forum welcomed progress in the issues to which Leaders had committed themselves at the 1994 Brisbane Forum.

### **Regional Air Services**

7. Leaders noted the positive developments which had taken place in aviation in the region since the 1994 Forum, especially the steps taken to stem the substantial losses being incurred by some airlines. They endorsed the outcomes of the Joint Meeting of Aviation Authorities and Operators, and the recommendations of Ministers responsible for aviation meeting as the South Pacific Regional Civil Aviation Council. Leaders considered these recommendations provided an appropriate framework within which governments and airlines could work together, both at a national level and regionally, to improve further the performance of the aviation industry in supporting national economic development and social needs in the South Pacific. They noted concerns that raising capital for equipment

purchases was a crucial problem, and supported representations, especially by the recently formed regional subgrouping of Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Marshall Islands, being made to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to change its policies, to allow it to finance aircraft purchases as it already financed other transportation infrastructure development.

8. Leaders agreed to convene a meeting of regional Ministers of Civil Aviation, aviation authorities, airline representatives and other related experts in Rarotonga in early 1996 to advance through cooperative initiatives the further development of civil aviation services throughout the Forum region. Leaders expressed their appreciation for the report on Rationalisation of Air Services in the South Pacific, and of the work of the Association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA) for its positive support in developing this framework.

### **Fisheries**

9. The Forum welcomed and noted the significance of the adoption at New York on 4 August 1995 of the *Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* and urged all interested states to become Parties to the Agreement as soon as possible.

10. The Forum expressed its appreciation for the outstanding work of the UN Conference Chairman, Ambassador Satya Nandan of Fiji, in bringing the Conference to a successful conclusion with the adoption by consensus of the Agreement. The Forum also expressed its appreciation to the FFA for its work in coordinating and formulating the regional input to the UN Conference discussions.

11. In the light of the outcomes of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the Forum considered that comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements, and a structure consistent with UN Conference outcomes to administer them, should be developed as a matter of urgency. The Forum registered its view that these management arrangements must be based on a precautionary approach to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the region's valuable tuna resources.

12. Forum Leaders noted significant progress in the implementation of regional fisheries commitments over the last year, including the conclusion of the FSM Arrangement for Regional Fisheries Access; the region's significant contribution to the UN

Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; work to develop comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements; progress in the pursuit of multilateral fisheries access arrangements; and progress in the development of the regional Vessel Monitoring System.

13. The Forum supported continued efforts to conclude additional multilateral fishing agreements with Distant Water Fishing Nations (DWFNs), ensuring that in doing so no member country would be made worse off than it was under its existing bilateral fishing agreements.

### **Law of the Sea**

14. The Forum urged all Forum member countries to become Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at the earliest opportunity.

### **Forestry**

15. Forum members endorsed the draft Code of Conduct on Logging and committed themselves to implementation of its provisions as part of their national codes.

### **Shipping**

16. The Forum accepted the recommendations of the Regional Shipping Council regarding the future management and operations of the Pacific Forum Line.

### **Tourism**

17. The Forum noted that the South Pacific lay at the centre of one of the most rapidly growing tourism networks in the world. Leaders agreed, therefore, to direct their respective tourism authorities to explore options for increasing joint promotions, both within and beyond the region. In particular, they will examine transport needs, including national facilities and international links, as well as needs - and openings for investment - in relation to accommodation.

## **ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES**

18. The Forum supported a number of national policy measures and regionally based activities which would contribute to the aim of *Securing Development Beyond 2000*. These included:

- (i) Securing the potential benefits of globalisation by enhancing competitiveness through promoting price stability (low inflation); avoiding artificial distortions to the prices of domestic resources (land, labour, capital); reducing trade taxes and import duties, which adversely affect export competitiveness; and removing implicit and explicit barriers to foreign direct investment.
- (ii) Adopting and implementing the investment principles agreed to by APEC members, as a signal to potential investors of the region's serious intentions to promote and encourage Foreign Direct Investment.
- (iii) Working towards implementation of trade reform measures as required by GATT/WTO, including by replacing non-tariff barriers with tariffs, and setting a timeframe for minimising tariff levels.
- (iv) Promoting trade both within and outside the region by harmonising and standardising administrative procedures in the areas of customs and quarantine, labelling and packaging, phytosanitary and other sanitary requirements, export/import controls, exchange controls and technical standards.
- (v) Improving public sector efficiency and cost-effectiveness by rationalisation of public services; attention to policy coherence and commitment to the principle of good governance; and strengthening cooperative relationships between government Ministries and agencies.
- (vi) Improving aid management and regional cooperation by endorsing the Proposed Regional Strategy.
- (vii) Recognising the valuable contribution of the agricultural sector to domestic food security, export development, incomes and employment and the need for positive measures in support of agricultural development, including

minimising price distortions and promoting agricultural research and information dissemination, for both marketable and subsistence crops.

- (viii) Enhancing development by the adoption and maintenance of appropriate and sustainable fiscal policy settings.
- (ix) Placing greater emphasis on population management strategies as a fundamental way of accelerating development.
- (x) Ensuring that development strategies place appropriate emphasis on the promotion of outer island and remote community development.

19. The Forum noted that a continuing concern for the countries of the region was that flows of economic assistance, bilaterally and multilaterally, were reaching a ceiling, with many donors reducing assistance or diverting it to economies outside the region. It urged the donor community not to forget the needs of the Pacific region. In this context the Forum appreciated the continuing increase in Japanese assistance. At the same time, it also urged Japan to give favourable consideration to rendering assistance to a wider range of regional organisations, especially to SPREP's programmes which were of central importance to FICs' sustainable development prospects.

#### **Forum Finance Ministers Meeting**

20. Forum Leaders welcomed the outcomes of the Forum Finance Ministers Meeting in 1995. They agreed that Finance Ministers should meet again in Port Moresby in December 1995, to develop further these outcomes.

#### **Representative Office, Tokyo**

21. The Forum expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for providing funding assistance for the recently completed feasibility study on the establishment of the South Pacific Economic Exchange Support Centre (SPEESC) in Tokyo to promote trade, investment and tourism between Japan and the Forum Island Countries, and strongly reaffirmed its commitment to the SPEESC. It looked forward to a positive decision on support for the SPEESC from Japan in the context of its 1996 budget. The Forum agreed also to approach similarly other governments and international organisations for assistance in mounting regional promotions, including permanent South Pacific Trade Commissions, in East Asia, Europe and North America.

## **SOCIAL ISSUES**

### **Participation in International Conferences**

22. The Forum noted with satisfaction the significant contribution made by Pacific Island Countries to the outcome of the recent international conferences on Population and Development, Social Development and Women. It encouraged regional efforts to integrate population and environment concerns. The Forum also lent formal support for the World Food Summit to be convened by the FAO in November 1996.

### **Pacific Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

23. The Forum restated its support for the welfare of Pacific Children and encouraged Pacific Island Countries which had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Forum noted the Pacific Culture of Peace Festival for Children which had been hosted by the Cook Islands and sponsored by UNESCO, sharing the sentiments expressed in the children's Appeal to World Leaders on children's rights, peace and the environment.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

### **Climate Change**

24. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of climate change to the region, recognising the threat posed to Forum Island Countries. It welcomed the outcomes of the Berlin Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), the early commencement of negotiations aimed at strengthening the Convention and the inclusion of the Alliance of Small Island States' Draft Protocol for consideration in the negotiating process. The Forum stressed the priority that should be given to programmes in support of the objectives of the FCCC, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, enhancement of sinks, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and research assisting countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.

### **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

25. The Forum endorsed the draft Pacific Strategy for accessing GEF Funds. It called on the GEF in particular to support activities that would enable countries to implement the

FCCC and plan for adaptation to climate change. The Forum commended a preliminary portfolio of projects to the GEF for its support.

### **Barbados Programme of Action**

26. The Forum called on all members, development partners, the UN system and regional organisations to participate actively in the regional consultative mechanism, including through the provision of necessary information to SPREP and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), and to work in cooperation with the mechanism's advisory committee.

### **Biodiversity**

27. The Forum reiterated the importance of the Biodiversity Convention. It called on all members to become Parties to the Convention and to participate to the fullest possible extent in the meetings of the contracting parties to the Convention. The Forum supported international action to develop a framework on biosafety and to consider the need for, and modalities of, a protocol on biosafety taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of small island developing states. The Forum commended the work programme on marine biodiversity as being in the strong interest of Forum members.

28. The Forum recorded its support for the initiative taken under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to facilitate small islands states involvement in and accession to the CITES, and urged members to consider accession. Leaders commended the successful SPREP campaign for the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle. It called upon members to extend the moratoria established on commercial takes of sea turtles, and support conservation projects building on the awareness created by the Year of the Sea Turtle campaign.

### **International Coral Reef Initiative**

29. The Forum encouraged member governments to endorse the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) call to action and to develop national efforts to develop the ICRI framework for action.

### **Coastal Protection Action Plan**

30. The Forum agreed to give serious consideration to the Action Plan on Coastal Protection.



## **Ocean Issues**

31. The Forum reiterated the importance of the oceans to its members and expressed its support for efforts to protect the oceans from land-based and other sources of pollution. The Forum noted that an inter-governmental conference, to be held in Washington in October 1995, is to consider a global programme of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

## **Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes**

32. The Forum adopted the *Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)* for signature on 16 September 1995. The Convention was an important milestone, in banning the importation of all hazardous and radioactive wastes from outside the Convention area to Pacific Island Developing Parties, and ensuring that any transboundary movements of hazardous wastes within the Convention area were completed in a controlled and environmentally sound manner. The Forum thanked the Working Group of officials, and the Secretariat, for the intensive work put into completing the Convention since the 1994 Forum. The Forum urged all members to sign and ratify the Convention expeditiously, to bring it into effect as soon as possible, in accordance with their national processes.

33. The Forum recalled in this context its continuing opposition to dumping of radioactive waste at sea and called for universal adherence to the prohibition of this practice by the London Convention of 1972. It reiterated its support for the London Convention, and the need for its effective enforcement.

34. The Forum expressed the region's continuing concerns about the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Destruction System, reiterating its consistent past position that the facility should be permanently closed when the current programme of chemical weapons and agent destruction was completed.

## **POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES**

### **New Caledonia**

35. The Forum noted that, while implementation of the Matignon Accords had continued smoothly and generally positively in the past 12 months, the territory's long term political and constitutional future remained uncertain. The Forum felt that, as the count-down to the 1998 referendum began in earnest, regional monitoring of the situation should be stepped up. This included reactivating, in cooperation with the French authorities, the Forum's Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia. The Forum reiterated its view that the 1998 referendum should closely follow accepted UN principles and practices.

36. The Forum reaffirmed its support for continuing contacts with New Caledonia as a constructive contribution towards the Matignon process. It noted the particular role of the Kanak Training Fund in this, and the Fund's continuing successful operation.

### **Law Enforcement Cooperation**

37. The Forum commended the continued progress in implementation of the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement, and the developing Secretariat programme in the area. It expressed appreciation for the cooperation in this programme of specialist regional law enforcement agencies. The Forum noted in particular the process of modernising extradition laws in the region, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Islands Law Officers Meeting, on the basis of a set of principles agreed by officials.

### **Other Nuclear Issues**

38. The Forum expressed continuing concern about shipments of plutonium and radioactive wastes through the region. It noted with appreciation the cooperation of Japan in responding to the Forum's concerns by the provision of information on, and consultation about, the shipments. It reiterated, however, the expectation that such shipments should be carried out in accordance with the highest international safety and security standards, in a manner which satisfactorily addressed all possible contingencies, and in full consultation with Forum countries.

39. The Forum welcomed the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the Review and Extension Conference in May 1995, as achieving a longstanding Forum objective. It urged all non-signatories to the Treaty to accept the Treaty as soon as possible. It also urged the nuclear powers to focus on meeting without delay their obligation under the Treaty to negotiate in good faith towards complete nuclear disarmament.

40. The Forum noted that an advisory opinion would soon be delivered by the International Court of Justice on the legality of nuclear weapons.

41. The Forum noted developments on civil nuclear liability and called on the Standing Committee on Nuclear Liability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to conclude promptly a civil nuclear liability regime by the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

42. The Forum expressed its support for the establishment of a credible civil nuclear liability regime including adequate compensation for the victims of transboundary damage in accordance with the principles of the Rio Declaration by incorporating a dedicated transboundary fund of sufficient size. The Forum also believed that such a regime must be capable of attracting widespread adherence from both nuclear and non nuclear power generating states throughout the world. The Forum noted that, consistent with the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region, it was important that such a regime incorporate environmental damage within its scope.

### **Rehabilitation of Former Nuclear Weapon Test Sites**

43. The Forum welcomed the increased attention to problems of safety and contamination related to the discontinuation of nuclear operations formerly associated with nuclear weapon programmes. The Forum called upon all Governments and international organisations that had expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to give appropriate assistance for remedial purposes when requested by affected countries. The Forum noted that, although, some efforts had already been made in this regard, there was still considerable work to be done. The Forum also noted the existence of a special responsibility toward those peoples of the former United Nations Trust Territory administered by the United States, the Marshall Islands, who had been adversely affected as a result of nuclear weapon tests conducted during the period of the Trusteeship. This responsibility included safe resettlement of displaced human populations and the restoration to economic productivity of affected areas.

### **Relations with the United Nations**

44. The Forum expressed its deep appreciation to the UN General Assembly for granting it observer status. It also expressed its appreciation to the Forum Secretariat and the SOPAC Group of Forum country missions in New York for the commendable cooperation they had developed to give substance to the observer role. The Forum, acknowledging the growing importance of the United Nations in this, its 50th anniversary year, encouraged Forum members not also members of the UN, and other regional organisations, to make use of the channel for the region into the UN provided by observer status.

45. The Forum reconfirmed its unanimous support, declared at the 1994 Brisbane Forum, for the candidature of Australia for the United Nations Security Council for the two-year term 1997-1998, at elections to be held in October 1996.

46. The Forum asked its members to consider the candidacy of Japan for a seat on the United Nations Security Council for the two-year term 1997-1998. In view of the mutual support arrangement between Australia and Sweden, the Forum also asked its members to consider the candidacy of Sweden for the other Western European and Others Group (WEOG) seat on the United Nations Security Council for the same period.

#### **Relations with ASEAN**

47. The Forum was encouraged by the developing contacts between the Forum and ASEAN Secretariats, which were important in strengthening the overall relationship between the two regions. It reiterated the importance of strengthening these links and noted that the Secretary General would be exploring with his ASEAN counterpart the possibility of a Ministerial meeting with ASEAN in 1996 in the margins of the UN General Assembly.

#### **Relations with APEC**

48. The Forum recognised the importance of APEC and noted that its status as an observer was a valuable basis for strengthening its relations with that organisation. It considered that the Forum Secretariat had a key role to play in keeping Forum Island Countries informed about APEC activities and processes of relevance to them.

### **FORUM COUNTRY INITIATIVES**

#### **Assembly of Pacific Island Communities**

49. The Forum noted the Melanesian Spearhead Group proposal for an “Assembly of Pacific Island Communities” and encouraged the Pacific Island Countries and territories to consider the proposal further.

## **INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

### **Post-Forum Dialogue**

50. The Forum welcomed the Republic of Korea as a Post-Forum Dialogue Partner, to participate for the first time in the Dialogue in Port Moresby 17-18 September. This reflected the growing importance of the Dialogue, and the interest which Forum countries had in strengthening relations with Korea, an increasingly significant economic and political presence in the region.

### **Forum Secretariat-wide Review**

51. The Forum endorsed the key recommendations of the Forum Secretariat-wide Review regarding the strengthening of the policy role of the Secretariat, enhancing regional coordination and review through the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) mechanism, and assisting member countries to develop their own capacity for economic and sectoral policy development, implementation and evaluation. The Forum also supported a rationalisation of the divisional structure appropriate to servicing this redefined mandate.

### **Name Change**

52. The Forum noted that, with the admission of Palau, there was merit in considering renaming the organisation.

### **PIBA/PINA**

53. The Forum noted that officials had discussed the useful work done by the Pacific Islands Broadcasting Association (PIBA) and the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) and that PIBA and PINA had been encouraged to develop their work programmes, working closely with the Forum Secretariat.

## **REPORTS OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

54. The Forum received and adopted the Annual Report of the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat. It also received with appreciation the Annual Reports of the:

- (1) Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency;
- (2) Director of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission;
- (3) Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific;
- (4) Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
- (5) Director of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific

## **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

55. The Forum reaffirmed its appreciation and acceptance of the kind offer of the Republic of Marshall Islands to host the 27th South Pacific Forum. The date for the Forum would be finalised by the Republic of Marshall Islands in consultation with the Secretariat.

## "SECURING DEVELOPMENT BEYOND 2000"

### PLAN OF ACTION FOLLOWING THE TWENTY-SIXTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

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1. The 26th South Pacific Forum which met in Madang from 13-15 September 1995, gave close consideration to a wide range of strategies for securing development beyond the year 2000. In doing so, it recognised that security involves strengthening national and regional relations, especially capacities to sustain development in the medium and long terms, as well as regional stability.
2. Specific measures to which the Forum has agreed to give prompt attention are listed below. They include the endorsement of a Logging Code of Conduct, measures to cooperate in promoting Trade, Transport and Tourism and an examination of how the Forum might enhance regional support arrangements. Other measures may be added by agreement as those listed are put into effect, and further consideration, given to related issues, and additional strategies are devised for strengthening cooperation in "securing development beyond 2000".

#### **Increasing Economic Co-operation**

3. Forum members are conscious of the changes in international economic relations consequent on the formation of the World Trade Organisation, and likely to follow from the agreement by members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to lower tariffs in the wider Asia - Pacific region. They are also aware of the increasing opportunities for mutually beneficial interaction arising from development in Forum member countries, and keen to cooperate in putting them into mutual advantage. They have, therefore, agreed to review existing patterns of **trade, investment and other aspect of regional economic relations** with a view to broadening, deepening and diversifying regional economic co-operation.
4. Issues to which they believe that particular attention should be given include strategies for increasing national and regional competitiveness by co-operating in reducing both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in the

region, drawing on experience with other regional and sub-regional arrangements and consistent with the principles of the World Trade organisation. The implications of - and for - taxation regimes, exchange rates, transport arrangements, and labour costs should be carefully examined. Niche markets should be identified and developed. Quarantine requirements should be clarified in purpose, scope and application, and, as far as possible, standardised.

5. Opportunities for enhancing regional co-operation in respect of standards, product identification and consumer protection should be explored, particularly insofar as national institutions might help to achieve economies of scale by performing regional roles.
6. The South Pacific Forum Secretariat will identify practical options, and submit them for consideration by the FOC, which will recommend a plan of action to enhance regional economic co-operation for discussion at the Twenty-Seventh South Pacific Forum.
7. Individual forum members will seek funding, from domestic and/or other sources, to assist in promoting regional economic co-operation, including shop-front facilities to publicise products exported from and investment possibilities in other Forum member countries.
8. Forum members will approach other Governments and international organisations for assistance in mounting regional promotions, including permanent South Pacific Trade Commissions, in East Asia, Europe and North America.
9. Aware of the difficulties often involved in travelling or moving goods within the region, Forum members have agreed that their Minister responsible for **transport, including shipping and civil aviation**, should meet in order to discuss common problems and to identify areas where enhanced co-operation might provide solutions. The formation of strategic alliances between services providers is an option which they believe is especially worthy of close attention.
10. Particular issues and options which they believe that relevant authorities should consider carefully include the economies that might be achieved by sharing aircraft; the manner in which travel and trade might be facilitated by co-ordinating airline and shipping schedules; the



designation of additional regional and sub-regional hubs; and the advantages of jointly promoting links into, within and out of the region.

11. The need for additional facilities, including accommodation, at prospective stopovers and destinations will also be examined.
12. The South Pacific lies at the centre of one of the most rapidly growing **tourism** networks in the world. The region has much to offer to potential visitors in search of natural beauty, cultural spectacle and diversity, and recreation, including rest, sport and adventure.
13. Individual countries have priorities of their own, especially in trying to balance the kinds and numbers of tourists they seek with maintaining cultural integrity and environmental conservation. Together, they can offer a great deal to visitors from within the region or beyond, including distinctive cultural experiences.
14. Forum members have, therefore, agreed to direct their respective tourism authorities to explore options for increasing joint promotions, both within and beyond the region. In particular, they will examine transport needs, including national facilities and international links, as well as needs - and openings for investment - in relation to accommodation.
15. Their over-all aim will be to encourage everyone concerned with the industry's future to take a long-term view; to ensure that visitors are made welcome by local communities (which should benefit from their presence) and to see that tourists get genuine value for the money they spend. Issues like seasonality should also be addressed.
16. Expert bodies like the Tourism Council of the South Pacific and the Pacific Area Travel Association will be invited to give advice.
17. The Forum agrees that the various measures outlined in this Plan for promoting regional cooperation in trade, transport and tourism should be implemented without delay.
18. The Forum agreed that its Chairman convene or ensure meetings are convened of relevant Ministers during the next 12 months to implement this plan, and that the Twenty-Seventh South Pacific Forum should

review progress made in "**securing development beyond 2000**" through enhancing **regional economic cooperation**.

## **Logging Code of Conduct**

19. Forum members endorsed the draft regional Code of Conduct on Logging and committed themselves to implementation of its provisions as part of their national codes.

## **Regional Support Arrangements**

20. Having considered possible threats and existing arrangements, Forum Members have agreed that the most serious threat that the region seems likely to have to face in the future are not military in nature but may include challenges to national integrity and independence, environmental damages and national disasters. The Forum, therefore, agreed to *examine* a comprehensive approach towards security and to broaden and deepen cooperation accordingly.
21. The Forum Officials' Committee (FOC) has, therefore, been directed to report back to the Twenty-Seventh South Pacific Forum with detailed proposals for arrangements designed to ensure that the region can consult promptly in response to legitimate requests, and provide such assistance as may be agreed in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner.
22. The arrangements must be consistent with - and supportive of - other arrangements for regional cooperation, while avoiding waste and duplication.
23. Issues to be addressed in the FOC's report will include a mechanism providing for consultations between regular, annual Forum meetings; procedures for facilitating cooperation through appropriate preparations in respect of training logistics, and control of agreed operations; as well as the legal safeguards required.

## **SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM VISION STATEMENT**

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The leaders who have participated in the Twenty-Sixth meeting of the South Pacific Forum, the paramount regional inter-governmental organisation in the South Pacific, have a vision for enhancing regional cooperation for the next twenty-five years in which -

**F**orum members co-operate on the basis of equality, friendship and mutual respect - with due regard for what each can afford - in efforts to maintain security, improve living standards and ensure sustainable development throughout the region;

**O**pportunities for co-operation with other governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, including other bodies in the Asia-Pacific, are actively pursued and developed;

**R**esources, including fisheries, forestry, minerals, water and land, are developed with proper regard for conservation, the legacy of past generations and the future;

**U**nity in securing shared interests contributes to the national, regional and global good;

**M**aterial progress is matched by improvement in the quality of people's lives, including human development, equality between women and men, and protection of children;

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**V**ulnerability to the effects of natural disasters, environmental damage and other threats will be overcome;

**I**ndigenous and other values, traditions and customs of the region are respected and promoted through cultural, sporting and other exchanges;

**S**elf-determination will be exercised in the remaining dependent territories, and unwelcome activities by external powers, including nuclear testing, will cease;

**I**nternational economic co-operation through trade, investment and other exchanges, strengthens subsistence and commercial agriculture, industrial development and competition, leading to growth - with equity, broadly-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance;

**O**penness, accountability and other principles of good government are embodied in the practices, policies and plans of regional institutions; and

**N**ational, sub-regional and regional efforts to achieve the Forum's vision receive the support they require from the Forum Secretariat and other regional organisations.

**Issued at Madang, Papua New Guinea,  
14th September 1995**

## **FORUM LEADERS' STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR TESTING**

LEADERS EXPRESS THEIR EXTREME OUTRAGE AT THE RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC. FORUM LEADERS AGAIN DEMAND THAT FRANCE DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER TESTS IN THE REGION AND CALL ON OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO TO SEEK TO PERSUADE FRANCE TO CEASE TESTING.

THE FORUM ALSO NOTE THAT THE PAINFUL MEMORIES RESULTING FROM NUCLEAR TESTING CONDUCTED IN THE REGION A HALF-CENTURY AGO STILL HAUNT MANY PEOPLE IN THE REGION.

SHOULD FRANCE CONTINUE ITS TESTING IN THE PACIFIC, THE FORUM WILL REVIEW FRANCE'S STATUS AS A POST-FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER.

THE OUTRAGE OF FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES IS SO MUCH THE GREATER BECAUSE OF THE INTRANSIGENCE OF FRANCE, TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IN PERSISTING WITH THEIR NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE FACE OF NOT ONLY THE STRONG VIEWS OF THE PACIFIC REGION, BUT ALSO THE APPEAL OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM, AND THE WORLD-WIDE SENTIMENT AGAINST TESTING.

THE DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO CONTINUE TESTING ARE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THE UNDERTAKING AT THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE ON 11 MAY 1995 TO EXERCISE "UTMOST RESTRAINT" IN NUCLEAR TESTING PENDING THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) THAT WOULD BAN NUCLEAR TESTS FOR ALL TIME.

THE CONCLUSION OF A CTBT IS AN OBJECTIVE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. LEADERS THEREFORE WELCOME THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE TO SUPPORT A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE CTBT. THEY CALL ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND ESPECIALLY THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO ENSURE THE CONCLUSION OF A CTBT NO LATER THAN 1996.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS RENEWED EMPHASIS ON GLOBAL DISARMAMENT, LEADERS CALL ON FRANCE TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE PROTOCOLS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ) TREATY. THEY URGE THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO DO LIKEWISE,

NOTING THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND RUSSIA HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE PROTOCOLS.

THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU TO SIGN THE SPNFZ TREATY AT THE FORUM IS WARMLY WELCOMED.

THE FORUM WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR TESTING AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY INCLUDING AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

LEADERS COMMEND THE EFFORTS COMMENCED BY THE FORUM DELEGATION TO PARIS IN JUNE. THEY THANK THE FORUM REGIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR ITS WORK IN SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF FORUM GOVERNMENTS AND ENDORSE THE REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES PRESENTED TO THE FORUM.

LEADERS WELCOME NEW ZEALAND'S ACTION TO RESUME ITS 1973 INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE CASE AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS IN THE PACIFIC AND COMMEND THE ACTION OF FORUM MEMBERS SEEKING TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCEEDINGS TO SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND'S REQUEST TO THE COURT.

LEADERS REITERATE THE CALL BY THE MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP LEADERS THROUGH THE LAKATORO DECLARATION AND BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING IN AUGUST 1995 FOR FRANCE TO CLOSE ITS NUCLEAR TESTING FACILITIES IN THE PACIFIC, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING; TO ACCEPT FULL AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS FROM FRENCH TESTING ON THE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE; AND TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ALL THE SCIENTIFIC DATA IT HOLDS AND TO THE TESTING SITES THEMSELVES TO ENABLE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS INVOLVED.

FINALLY, FORUM LEADERS EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO PEOPLE FROM THE REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE OFFERED THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR VOICE TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING. THEY RENEW THEIR UNDERTAKING TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO STOP NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.