

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

We, the representatives of diverse Pacific Civil Society, continue to urge Pacific Island Leaders to maintain a strong, clear and united voice on climate change and disaster risk and response, reflecting the scale of the global climate emergency and the need to manage and reduce the risk of climate related disasters facing Pacific Island people, and the planet.

Paris Agreement

1. We call for the immediate ratification of the Paris Agreement by Forum Leaders and for member states to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, particularly those on carbon emissions reductions and renewable energy advancement. We further call for Forum Leaders to advocate with other United Nations member states to ratify the Paris Agreement in order to urgently meet the required number of countries to bring the Agreement into effect. We call for full investment in implementing national energy policies that reduce global emissions consistent with keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees. We applaud the central role of Pacific Leaders in the inclusion of the 1.5 degree aspiration in the Paris Agreement. While investing in Adaptation, we urge leaders not to support activities such as deep sea mining, fracking and coal mining which threaten the survival of the eco-systems on which we depend.

Migration & displacement

2. While we recognise the paramount importance of focussing on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, we also urge Pacific Leaders to commence dialogue on migration and planned relocation, not only as possible forms of adaptation and disaster risk reduction, but particularly with a view to developing a Pacific Framework for Climate Mobility that will enable our people to migrate with justice and dignity. This includes the need for a plan of action, a stock-take of existing policies and regional best practice and ongoing analysis and dialogue on national and international laws that facilitate the movement of people in adherence to humanitarian principles and human rights standards.

Climate finance & accessibility

3. We call on Pacific Leaders to ensure that communities most vulnerable to climate change can access funding for adaptation strategies based on urban, rural and remote community knowledge and for loss and damage, sustainable livelihoods, technology development and transfer. We therefore urge Pacific Leaders to advocate for a special envelope for civil society and private sector support under adaptation mechanisms particularly the Green Climate Fund. We call for Member States to partner with regional, national and community based civil society organisations and the private sector (including women, youth and persons with

disabilities) in the design and implementation of projects under these Adaptation mechanisms.

Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP)

4. We urge Leaders to endorse the Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) to strengthen the resilience of Pacific Island communities particularly within a context of sustainable development, and to ensure the inclusion of civil society, vulnerable and marginalised groups and communities as equal partners, in the design, implementation and monitoring of SRDP programmes at the national and regional levels. This requires a gender inclusive, conflict prevention approach and human security analysis in all stages of preparedness, response and recovery.

Regional Coordination Mechanism for Humanitarian Response

5. Extreme weather events and disasters are affecting the region in uncharacteristic and unprecedented ways and often Pacific States find themselves overwhelmed not only by large scale disasters but also by the subsequent influx of international humanitarian assistance. We call on Pacific Leaders to endorse the creation of a Pacific regional agency or framework for regional disaster response that would mobilise and coordinate Pacific regional support by Governments, Civil Society and Private Sector to an affected Member State. This regional support should be the first port of call for affected Member States, with assistance from outside the region, being coordinated to complement existing regional efforts. In addition, humanitarian response in our region must always be in line with the Treaty of Rarotonga (1985).