



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

8th Private Sector Dialogue with Forum Leaders

SUMMARY RECORD

Wednesday 6 September, 2017

Apia, Samoa

The 8th Private Sector Dialogue with Forum Leaders was held at Sheraton Hotel, Apia, Samoa. The Dialogue was attended by Forum Leaders, senior government officials from the Forum Members countries, including Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), an Associate Member (Tokelau), Forum Associate Members, Forum Observers, Executives of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Power Association, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the South Pacific Tourism Organisation and The University of the South Pacific), were also present. The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) was represented by the Chairman. The private sector participants from the Forum Member Countries including a large delegation from the Samoa private sector were also present. A list of the private sector participants is attached as Annex 1. The theme for the Panel discussion and Dialogue with Leaders centered on “The Blue Pacific-a sea of commerce, challenges and opportunities”, which was considered relevant to the broader theme of the 48th Pacific Islands Forum of “The Blue Pacific – our sea of islands – our security through sustainable development, management and conservation”.

2. The Dialogue was convened as a panel discussion and included H.E Peter O’Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, and H.E Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of Marshall Islands representing the Forum Leaders and Mr Maurice Brownjohn, PNA and Mr Stephen Lyon, Cook Islands representing the private sector. Ms Tuiloma Sina Retzlaff, Board member of the Samoa Chamber of Commerce moderated the panel discussions while Mr Lelei Lelaulu performed the role of Rapporteur.

3. The Prime Minister of Samoa and Forum Chair, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi urged the Dialogue to consider investing in dynamic forms of change to grow the Blue Pacific in ways that could render benefits to national economies and local communities, while protecting resources for future growth

4. The Dialogue participants **noted** that the pacific ocean harbors tremendous traditional and new commercial opportunities, fundamental for the prosperity of pacific economies. through the private sector lens, the pacific ocean plays a pivotal role in national and intra-regional

investments, and mobility of trade in merchandise and services and is our important source of food, employment and cultural experiences. On the other hand, the Pacific ocean itself is under significant threats from ocean pollution, unsustainable resource exploitation practices to name a few.

5. The Dialogue discussions were captured in three broad themes:

a. Protection and conservation of our Oceans

- Establish, and mainstream minimum compliance and performance standards across all sectors including deep sea mining to ensure sufficient safeguard against our environment.
- Currently, terrestrial and oceans business models are the same. However, the blue economy requires adaptive and transformative laws and regulations for sustainable management of the oceans.
- Establish a regional programme to provide scientific advice and research in deep sea mining to FICs.
- Extend conservation management measures to high seas, and introduce a scheme to conserve albacore fish stocks, and also improve returns for the Pacific region.
- Continue advocacy, solidarity, political engagement on protection of marine resources, through regional agencies, including WCFPC.

b. Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

- Encourage PPP especially in infrastructure development, waste management and investment in productive sectors such as aquaculture.
- Strengthen institutions and implementation capacities.
- Ensure that local operators are provided more opportunities in development partner funded initiatives, and in securing corresponding support to developing project proposals to access major international climate funds.

c. Promoting Pacific Identity

- Consider establishing a regional brand for FICs niche products and natural assets.
- Strengthen Pacific solidarity in ensuring collective efforts for joint initiatives for improved ownership and returns from the Blue Pacific, through specific initiatives in sectors such as tourism, fisheries, transport, trade, etc.

6. In her closing remarks, Secretary General, Dame Meg Taylor, emphasized the importance of establishing and implementing minimum compliance and performance standards. The moderator thanked Forum Leaders, and other participants for active participation in the dialogue discussions, and officially closed the dialogue discussions.