

REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Position Papers on Priority Areas

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: THE SURVIVAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF PACIFIC PEOPLE

We, the Civil Society of the PIF Countries, call for Pacific Island Leaders to maintain a strong and united voice on the road to Paris COP 21 and beyond, reflecting the scale of the climate emergency and the need to manage and reduce the risk of climate related disasters facing Pacific Island People. We explicitly call on Australia and New Zealand to join a united voice from the Pacific seeking urgent, just and ambitious climate action.

Therefore we call on PIF to advocate for the following in the strongest possible terms:

1. Agreement at Paris UNFCCC COP 21: The 2015 Paris UNFCCC Agreement to include:
 - a. legally binding obligations to limit global average temperature increase to below 1.5^o C above pre-industrial levels and transition to full access to renewable energy for all;
 - b. explicit provisions for the strongest possible efforts to achieve and continuously enhance national and global mitigation action, with 5 yearly reviews informed by latest data;
 - c. urgent action to assist the most vulnerable countries, including Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands which already facing existential threats from climate change;
 - d. adequate financing to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, including a transparent mechanism for Pacific SIDS to effectively access the allocation of 50% of the Green Climate Fund, as stipulated in the SAMOA Pathway; and
 - e. emphasise that loss and damage should be anchored as a stand-alone element that is separate and distinct from adaptation.
2. Global Action on Climate Change Displacement and Migration: urgent international action to enable the just and dignified resettlement of all people displaced by climate change impacts.
3. Global Moratorium on new coal: an international moratorium on the development and expansion of fossil fuel extracting industries, particularly the construction of any new coal mines or mine extensions.
4. Adaptation measures for most vulnerable sectors: increased support for gender and culturally sensitive adaptation measures that address more vulnerable sectors of the economy and society, including health, water and sanitation, energy, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and for vulnerable groups including Indigenous peoples, women, children and young people, the aged and people with disabilities.
5. Comprehensive Whole of Domain Approach: Ridge to Reef Ecosystems: full recognition of the role of ridge to reef ecosystem management including tackling deforestation in climate mitigation; measures which must be supported by accurate and transparent reporting measures, and always proceed on the basis of free prior and informed consent by Indigenous peoples and local communities.
6. Disaster Risk Management:
 - a. inclusion of Civil Society and vulnerable communities in the design and implementation of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development (SDRP) in the Pacific at national level and that effective measures to ensure that those communities are empowered to support resilience building via access to flexible government and donor funding.

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- b. Strengthening national legal frameworks on disaster risk management by building on existing regional and international mechanisms including the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project (BSRP) and International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) guidelines considered by Pacific Leaders in 2012.