



ANNEX 2 – CSO Briefing Note on Climate Change and Human Security

Enhancing access to climate finance & strengthening human security

Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience in response to the adverse impacts of climate change remain an ongoing challenge for the Pacific. Additionally, navigating the complexity of accessing climate finance and understanding key processes has proven difficult for those most vulnerable in our region. The vast majority (86%) of climate finance in the Pacific is being delivered through project type interventions, while only a small fraction is channelled as direct budget support (1%) and sector budget support (1%). Less than 1% of climate funds is being accessed by grassroots community organisations at the coal face (coastal villages, women, youth, children, persons with disabilities).

Pacific island nations are working closely together and making significant advances in adapting to climate change and introducing more sustainable and resilient practices. The investment in the 'Blue Pacific' identity as the core driver of collective action for advancing the 'Leaders vision' under the 'Framework for Pacific Regionalism' is a positive development. The 'Blue Pacific is the catalyst' for deeper Pacific regionalism which calls for inspired leadership and a long-term Forum foreign policy commitment to act as one "Blue Continent" to reinforce the potential of our shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean and reaffirm the connections of Pacific peoples with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods. A highlight of the 2017 forum Leaders Communique saw a greater recognition that the Pacific Forum's work must reach out to involve communities and people across Pacific societies. But a more inclusive approach is still needed. If communities are to benefit, they and the civil society organisations that are crucial in the lives of most Pacific people, must be included in reviews, plans and follow up actions. Processes associated with accessing climate finance are often complicated, time-consuming and often not tailored to local culture. All too often, climate finance instruments do not provide for realistic community engagement or small-scale projects. Most global climate funds are only accessible to governments and there is very little synthesized data on climate finance in the Pacific. Pacific Island governments and regional organizations need transparent, reliable, comprehensive climate finance data to make informed decisions and to ensure funds are targeting those most vulnerable.

Leaders have recognised the importance of working collectively across Forum countries in addressing these challenges. The 'Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP)' provides guidance on coordinated and integrated priorities to be implemented at the regional, national and community levels that will contribute to resilient development outcomes. The steady progress of the development of the Pacific Resilience Facility which seeks to invest in ex-ante preparedness to better manage imminent risks for the impacts of climate change and disasters in the region, is a welcome alternative for CSOs, and noting the endorsement of the PRF at the Forum Economic Ministers, CSOs urge Forum Leaders to:

- a) **Consider development of a regional M&E frameworks to track climate finance and the linkages to national development plans/ strategies.**
- b) **Endorse the Pacific Resilience Facility as a regional fund developed and managed by the Pacific, for the resilience of people and communities in the Pacific**



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

'Human Security' is an equally important development issue for the Pacific in the same way that climate change is understood as a critical development challenge. We recognize climate change to be a critical development challenge with enormous implications for the entire range of development concerns: poverty, livelihoods, food security, conflict and social cohesion. Despite this clear correlation legal and human rights implications of displacement driven by forces such as climate change and environmental degradation have yet to be seriously addressed – regionally and globally. Climate change is increasing the severity and frequency of disasters, which are causing displacement, livelihood insecurity and increasing instability. It is clear that climate change – and the human security and development challenges it brings – adds to the scale and complexity of human movement and displacement in the region and we must work together to find solutions for people whose homes, lands and livelihoods are, as we speak, being destroyed by rising sea levels and violent fluctuations in weather patterns in the region.

A 2012 UN Resolution describes human security as “the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair.” The previous Human Security Framework for the Pacific 2012-2015 was underpinned by the 2004 Leaders Vision where leaders believed that *‘the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all of its people can lead free and worthwhile lives.’* The stated goal of human security in the Pacific envisioned a *“Pacific where communities, families and individuals are secure and safe from threats to their wellbeing and dignity, and enjoy political stability, sustainable economic development and social fulfilment in the unique context of the region.”*

A strong investment in Pacific regionalism understands the interconnected and interdependent ways in which Human Security can be strengthened in the Pacific. Civil society and regional organizations can play a vital role. Regional intergovernmental organizations like the Pacific Island Forum are uniquely placed to address regional peace and security issues while civil society involvement helps to bring a broad range of social and political interests to the negotiating table, making the process more inclusive and participatory. A focus on 'Human Security' recognises the way in which various development challenges across the region pose threats to the safety of our communities. Strengthening Human Security in the Pacific requires a regional approach to safeguarding Political Security, Economic Security, Community, family and personal security, Environmental security and Social security as outlined in the original Human Security Framework for the Pacific 2012-2015.

CSOs acknowledge the 'expanded concept of security' to include Human Security as distinctive from Traditional Security. We recognize that food, nutrition and health in particular NCDs and obesity are increasing urgencies that threaten human security of Pacific peoples. This distinction should be further developed and, that these issues should be reflected in the Biketawa Plus Security Declaration. Additionally, CSOs wish to highlight that the increasing 'impacts of climate' [1] change on food security will exacerbate NCDs and obesity.

Therefore, CSOs call on Leaders to:

- **Acknowledge that the 'expanded concept of security' to consider Human Security as distinctive from Traditional Security;**
- **Task the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to chair a working group to work on articulating the specific policy issues that marks this distinction between “traditional security” and ‘Human security’.**

These papers were produced by civil society representatives that attended the Regional Civil Society Organisations Forum organised by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with support from the European Union. The contents present the views of the civil society representatives and can in no way be reflected as views of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat or the European Union.