



STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

30th PIF Post-Forum Dialogue

3th-6th September 2018 Nauru

Spain would like to thank the warm hospitality of the Government of the Republic of Nauru and Madame Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum. The 49th Pacific Islands Forum represents a new step forward in the process of enhancing Pacific Regionalism. The implementation of the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism* has created new opportunities for Pacific countries to strengthen their coordination and push forward issues such as climate change in the multilateral arena. The endorsement of the Blue Pacific narrative at last year's summit in Apia adds a new pillar to foster Pacific cooperation.

Spain is keen to follow this process through our participation in the 30th Post-Forum Dialogue Partner in Nauru. During the last twelve months, Spain has been present in some of the major initiatives led by Pacific nations. Spanish Minister for Environment attended COP23 in November and stood together with the European Union and the Pacific leadership in paving the way for more ambitious commitments to fulfill the goals set in the Paris Agreement. Spain contributed both bilaterally and through the European Union to fund this successful event. Our country welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation guidelines and in the consolidation of the Talanoa Dialogue. The finalisation of a Gender Action Plan linked to the fight against climate change is another big achievement of this Pacific presidency.

Since last November's meetings, Spain has made further commitments in terms of climate action. A new Ministry for Ecological Transition has been created as a clear political sign to highlight that the fight against climate change is a key priority for Spain. Moreover, and after thorough discussions with the private sector and the civil society, it is our commitment to introduce an ambitious Bill on Climate Change in the Parliament to fulfill the goals set in the Paris Agreement. In addition and under the umbrella of the Marrakech Partnership, public institutions work closely with other stakeholders such as Spanish companies that are world-leaders in the domain of clean energies.

Climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are intimately related. After all, limiting and reverting the negative impacts of climate change will improve our citizens' sustainable livelihoods. Regarding this aspect, Spain has appointed a High Commissioner for the Agenda 2030 that will coordinate our national policies so the SDGs are successfully met. Spain is and will continue to be one of the main international donors. The Pacific remains high in our agenda thanks to our contribution to the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). In this respect, we are looking forward to fruitful discussions between our Pacific partners and the European Union on the forthcoming cooperation framework that will replace the Cotonou Agreement from 2020.

The above-mentioned issues of climate change and sustainable development can only be tackled adequately if the Pacific benefits from a strong regional security cooperation system. Spain

supports the efforts of the Pacific community in designing an updated declaration on regional security, the so-called Biketawa Plus declaration. New challenges such as environmental security or cyber security may threaten our common path to prosperity. These issues add on the already-existing ones such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Pacific has in Spain a firm ally in promoting maritime security in the region. Indeed, Spain made a contribution to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on December 2017 to strengthen the role of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner. We are pleased to know that thanks to this contribution the Office for the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) has a new team that will be able to work in the implementation of PIFS responsibilities on this issue.

Moreover, our country has a substantial experience tackling some of the most relevant threats to maritime security like piracy, particularly piracy off the coast of Africa, where our fishing fleet has traditionally operated. Spain is the main contributor to EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, a successful EU operation which is active off the coast of Somalia and that from this year is being commanded from the Spanish naval base of Rota. Moreover, Spanish companies operating in the fields of shipbuilding, aerospace or air surveillance are already present in some of the Pacific countries and ready to partner with local stakeholders to enhance security capabilities. Furthermore, with the support of Spanish technology, Pacific countries are reinforcing their capacities to fight IUU fishing thanks to the integration of video cameras and GPS devices that track the fishing record of vessels and deliver instant information to fisheries departments.

The Pacific Islands Forum represents a powerful tool for Pacific island nations to create partnerships and muster coordination efforts to achieve regional goals. It is Spain's key goal in foreign affairs to partner with regional entities such as PIFS to foster multilateralism and enhance the institutional structures that guarantee peace and stability. It is in this spirit of collaboration that we must continue working together to ensure the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations such as sovereign equality or territorial integrity. We look forward to continue working with the Forum to strengthen this system of multilateral diplomacy.

The Blue Pacific narrative endorsed by the leaders in the 2017 Summit highlights the ocean identity of the big maritime countries of the Pacific Ocean. Spain is also a nation of prominent navigators, with one of the longest coastlines in Europe and two archipelagos within our boundaries. The challenges and opportunities that the Pacific faces are not unknown to us. On the contrary, we feel that most of the priorities of the region are perfectly aligned with our international concerns and commitments. We are looking forward to exchange views and reinforce our bonds through the meetings that are ahead of us. Hence, let us all paddle in the same direction to ensure that our peoples in both sides of the globe can enjoy prosperity in a framework of peace and security.

We thank Samoa, the outgoing Forum Chair, for its leadership during the last year and we wish all the best to Nauru for the forthcoming months as incoming Chair.

Thank you.