

Chair's Statement

The 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Senior Officials' Meeting

1. The 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM5) was held on 23 October 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK). The representatives from the Cook Islands, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Nauru, Niue, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the ROK, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) participated in the meeting.

2. Recalling the 3rd Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM3) held on 5 December 2017, the Senior Officials reconfirmed the role of the Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Senior Officials' Meeting as the premier consultative platform between ROK and the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs), contributing to further strengthening and forging closer cooperation, *inter alia*, in the areas of climate change, fisheries, maritime affairs and regional security.

3. The ROK representative briefed the SOM5 on the current status of cooperation with the PICs and the PIFS, and explained its efforts to further strengthen cooperation with the Pacific region. In response, the representative from the Republic of Nauru, the current chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, emphasised the Forum Leaders' renewed commitment to collective engagement with key international partners, as one *Blue Pacific* continent. Nauru highlighted that regular Ministerial and Senior Official meetings with the ROK provide important opportunities to discuss regional priorities and issues of mutual interest.

4. The Senior Officials noted that substantial efforts have been made to implement the commitments in the fields of development, climate change and maritime and fisheries affairs as confirmed at the 3rd Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting and recalled the theme of "Sustainable Development for a Blue & Green Pacific". To further strengthen progress and action on such commitments, the Senior Officials reiterated their willingness to promote, widen and deepen tangible cooperation in areas of common interest.

SESSION 1: COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ROK AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES

Climate Change and Resilience

5. Recognising that climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people, the Senior Officials emphasized the importance of immediate and urgent action to combat climate change and keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees. To that end, they welcomed the approval of the Special Report on Global Warming of

1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which will be a key scientific input for the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, together with the outcomes of the Talanoa Dialogue. They also called for strong outcomes from COP 24 including the completion of the rulebook and guidelines of the Paris Agreement.

6. The Senior Officials discussed the importance of ensuring timely and ease of access to scaled-up climate finance to support the mitigation efforts and adaptation needs of small island developing countries. The PICs representatives called for the ROK's support including in relation to the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund, and to provide support to the Pacific region's proposal for a Pacific Resilience Facility. The PICs representatives called on the ROK to consider enhancing the PIC's access to the GCF and other opportunities to climate finance.

7. The ROK representative briefed the SOM5 on its continued efforts towards a green economy and transition to a low carbon society including its cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). The Senior Officials underlined the ongoing PIC-related GGGI projects and welcomed the GGGI's contribution to strengthening the capacity of the PICs in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

8. The PICs representatives emphasised the Pacific region's global leadership in dealing with the policy issues of climate change and disaster resilience through the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, the *Pacific Resilience Partnership* and the new regional security declaration, the *Boe Declaration*. The PICs representatives called for the ROK's support in strengthening international recognition and action on climate change as a security risk, including through the United Nations Security Council.

Ocean Management and Conservation / Fisheries

9. The Senior Officials noted the close cooperation between the ROK and the PICs in the areas of ocean management and conservation and fisheries. The ROK representative outlined its progress to establish the World Fisheries University (WFU) in cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which aims to build capacity in fisheries and aquaculture of developing countries. The PICs representatives urged the ROK to offer scholarships to PIC nationals to attend the WFU. The ROK representative sought the PICs' support for the establishment of the WFU

10. The PICs representatives reaffirmed their longstanding commitment to sustainable ocean management and conservation, including through regional ocean policies such as the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape* and highlighted current regional priorities, including: progressing the resolution of outstanding maritime boundary claims; eliminating marine litter and addressing the threats posed by ocean acidification and nuclear legacy issues in the Pacific Ocean; eliminating IUU fishing; and ensuring a new Implementing Agreement on the

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). The PICs representatives sought the ROK's support for these priorities.

11. Building on the long-standing record of collaboration in the field of fisheries, Senior Officials reaffirmed the importance of the enduring cooperative relationship that aims to develop fisheries including through mutually beneficial fishing arrangements, as appropriate, that ensure the sustainable use of fisheries resources in the Pacific. In this context, the ROK was informed of the commitment of Pacific Island Forum Leaders in implementing 'zone based management' within their Exclusive Economic Zones in accordance with international law including UNCLOS to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries.

12. In welcoming Korea's development cooperation for fisheries, PIC representatives also emphasised the importance of development assistance that is driven by PICs' needs and is developed in a manner that ensures coherence with existing frameworks and mechanisms, such as the *Regional Fisheries Roadmap*.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

13. The Senior Officials welcomed the continuing efforts to implement the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit held on 25-27 September 2015. The ROK representative provided an update on its contributions to the PICs in relation to sustainable development.

14. The PICs representatives provided an update on the national and regional efforts of the PICs to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as guided regionally by the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. The PICs representatives highlighted the progress made towards achieving sustainable development, and areas where greater, specific action is needed including tackling climate change and disasters, gender inequality and non-communicable diseases. The ROK representative welcomed the opportunity to learn about the First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report as endorsed by the Forum Leaders in September 2018

15. The Senior Officials commended the implementation of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) projects in the PICs and the fruitful contribution these projects have yielded in the fields of agriculture, education, health, fisheries and climate change. In particular, the Senior Officials noted the progress of the "PICs Special Fellowship Program" which the KOICA has been undertaking to support capacity building of the PICs.

16. The Senior Officials emphasised the importance of labour mobility as a source of job opportunities and skills development for sustainable development. The PIC representatives called on the ROK to look at establishing a mechanism for information sharing and technical engagement on labour mobility.

SESSION 2: SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

17. The Senior Officials welcomed the three Inter-Korean Summits held this year, as well as the US-DPRK Summit held on 12 June 2018. They underlined the importance of the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration; the Joint Statement signed between the US and DPRK leaders on 12 June, 2018, and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, and commended the efforts by the ROK in facilitating current developments toward complete denuclearization and the establishment of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Senior Officials emphasized the need for all concerned parties to continue working towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which will contribute to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, they shared the view that another US-DPRK Summit could facilitate further progress, and assured their united and strong commitment to the full implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

18. The ROK representative noted the endorsement by the Pacific Islands Forum of the *Boe Declaration* at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum held on 3-6 September 2018 in Nauru – a call to action for stronger and cohesive regional security cooperation and coordination across the Pacific region, based on an expanded concept of security. The PICs representatives provided an update that Forum Member countries are currently developing an action plan to drive its implementation, and will discuss and engage with international partners on this action plan, to ensure alignment of security cooperation to the region.

SESSION 3: WAY FORWARD – THE FUTURE OF THE MEETING AND THE FUND

19. The Senior Officials acknowledged that 2018 marks the tenth anniversary since the launch of the ROK-PIF Cooperation Fund (RPCF). The Senior Officials noted the RPCF contribution of USD 5.7 million towards regional priorities, including the implementation of the 2014-2017 Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project and 2015-2019 Real time Remote Sensing Surveillance System for the Control of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Marine Pollution Activities. The Senior Officials further welcomed the second round of the Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Service Project to be implemented in for 2018-2020.

20. The Senior Officials recognized the potential to foster greater trade, investment and people-to-people flow between the ROK and the PICs. In this context, the Senior Officials welcomed the launch of the Promotion Program for Trade & Tourism (PPTT) with aims to promote trade and tourism between the ROK and the Pacific region, in support of job creation and economic development, including through trade fairs, trade missions and market promotion. The Senior Officials also agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a Pacific Islands Trade and Invest Office in the ROK depending on the future outcomes of the PPTT and availability of the resources in the future.

21. The Senior Officials welcomed the signing of subsidiary arrangements relating to the 2018-2019 Trade & Tour Promotion Program and 2018-2020 Climate Prediction Services Phase 2.

22. The Senior Officials agreed to find a mutually acceptable modality for selection and implementation of RCPF projects including through further discussion and engagement on a guideline to select RCPF projects by the ROK.

23. The Senior Officials agreed to closely cooperate for the 6th Korea-Pacific Islands Senior Officials Meeting in 2019 and to explore the opportunity to extend the duration of the SOM to at least a full-day. The Senior Officials also agreed to use the 6th SOM as an opportunity to jointly plan the 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2020.

/End/