



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT
Excelling Together for the People of the Pacific

**31ST PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SESSION WITH
FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNERS**
Funafuti, Tuvalu
16 August 2019

SUMMARY RECORD

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The 31st Pacific Islands Forum Session with Forum Dialogue Partners was held in Funafuti on 16 August 2019. Forum Member Countries represented were Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

2. Forum Dialogue Partners represented were Canada, Cuba, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Special Guests were Chile, Norway and Switzerland.

3. Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna attended as Associate Members. The Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) were represented by the Heads of Organisation of the: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Power Association (PPA), and the University of the South Pacific (USP) were represented at senior officials' level. The Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations (UN), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the International Organization for Migration, and the World Bank attended as Observers.

4. A full list of participants is at [Annex A](#) and the Agenda is at [Annex B](#).

5. The Dialogue was chaired by the Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, as Chair of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum, and supported by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Dame Meg Taylor.

6. The Dialogue was based around the 50th Forum theme – *Securing our Future in the Pacific* – with a particular focus on driving greater global and regional action on combatting climate change and protection our ocean.

7. Forum Dialogue Partners provided the Forum Secretariat with formal written statements in advance of the Dialogue.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OFFICIAL OPENING – SECURING OUR FUTURE IN THE PACIFIC

8. The Chair welcomed Leaders and Partners to the 31st Pacific Islands Forum Session with Forum Dialogue Partners. Referring to the theme of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum – *Securing our Future in the Pacific* – the Chair emphasised the theme being a continuation of the stories and actions that built on the *Blue Pacific* narrative, and revitalised the commitment to regional identity, security, prosperity and peace. It spoke to the intensifying geostrategic competition, the escalating climate emergency, and the many threats to our ocean and sea of islands that continued to exacerbate regional development challenges. It also spoke to the global context in which the region found itself – one of much political, economic and environmental uncertainty.

9. The Chair further outlined that the theme posed the existential question facing the region today – how do we secure a viable future for the countries and people of our *Blue Pacific*? The Chair advised that Forum Leaders, in their Retreat deliberations, took strong steps to answer this call, and collectively drove the future needed to secure our Ocean Continent.

10. The Chair summarised the outcomes of the Leaders’ Retreat, highlighting the decisions made in relation to:

- the development of a *2050 Blue Pacific Strategy* to focus our collective efforts, deepen Pacific regionalism, and provide the basis for determining regional priorities and the immediate, medium and long-term actions required to secure our future;
- the endorsement of the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*, which sets out the region’s commitments to bold regional action, and our ten priorities for urgent global action, to secure the future of our *Blue Pacific*, and our great Blue Planet.
- the Action Plan for the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* to drive implementation, in collaboration with regional and international stakeholders;
- strengthened commitment to conclude negotiations on all outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones, and to protect maritime zones in the face of sea level rise and climate change; and
- accelerated collective action to address the legacies of nuclear testing, as well as World War II ship wrecks and unexploded ordinances, in the face of ongoing concerns, particularly with nuclear contamination issues in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

11. The Chair called on Dialogue Partners’ support for taking forward the priorities and decisions of Forum Leaders.

12. The Chair further outlined that Forum Leaders considered opportunities to strengthen engagement with Dialogue Partners, particularly in the context of increasing geopolitical and partner interest in the *Blue Pacific*. Recalling the findings of the review undertaken earlier in the year of all Dialogue Partners, the Chair emphasised the importance of *genuine partnerships* that reflected the collective priorities of the region and engaged all Forum Members, as one *Blue Pacific*.

13. To support such partnerships, the Chair advised that Leaders endorsed new *Blue Pacific Principles for Dialogue and Engagement* and sought to work with all Dialogue Partners to make them a reality. Leaders also committed to reviewing the criteria for Forum Dialogue Partners to ensure they remain fit for purpose given the regional agenda and that not all Dialogue Partners were engaging at a level that justified Partner status.

AGENDA ITEM 2: HIGH-LEVEL REMARKS FROM FORUM TROIKA LEADERS SAMOA AND VANUATU: COMBATting CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECTING OUR OCEAN

14. To further set the scene for the Dialogue, the Chair invited Forum Troika Leaders to provide brief, opening remarks on combatting climate change and protecting our ocean to secure our future in the Pacific.

15. Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, repronounced the importance of oceans for the Pacific in terms of cultural and historical identity, and being central to the way of life of Pacific people, as custodians of some of the world's richest biodiversity and marine resources that must be sustainably managed for the benefit of present and future generations.

16. Prime Minister Malielegaoi emphasised that the *Blue Pacific* recognised the geostrategic, economic, cultural and ecological importance of the world's largest ocean continent as well as the importance of securing the wellbeing and potential of the Pacific Ocean. He noted that this called for courageous and inspired leadership, a long-term commitment to maintaining a strong and collective voice and action on issues vital to the *Blue Pacific* continent, in particular reaching global consensus for the *Paris Agreement*.

17. Prime Minister Malielegaoi highlighted linkages between climate change and oceans and re-emphasised the recent IPCC Special 1.5 Report, which showed that 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming was a limit for everyone. The report spoke to the risks of exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius and to the existential threat for many of the Pacific's low-lying atolls.

18. Prime Minister Malielegaoi made the call, on behalf of all Forum Leaders, for Dialogue Partners, and all world leaders, to take greater action to address the inextricable linkages between climate change and ocean systems. This included a call for action at the UN Climate Action Summit and COP 25 on the findings of the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere. It also included a call for COP 25 to deliver a dedicated work programme on oceans within the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) process.

19. Prime Minister Malielegaoi highlighted that the *Blue Pacific* would continue to advocate for the reduction and elimination of any threat posed to the Pacific people and ecosystems by the presence of nuclear waste, radioactive and other contaminants, shipwrecks and World War II relics. He called on all Pacific Rim countries to play their role, through concrete strategies and commitments.

20. Honourable Charlot Salwai, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, shared with the meeting the outcomes of the meeting between Forum Leaders and the Secretary General of the United Nations

during his first visit to the *Blue Pacific* region in May 2019. Leaders stressed the unprecedented global catastrophe faced by the *Blue Pacific* and agreed that together, this course should be changed. Limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius below pre-industrial levels remained feasible and the only viable path, but actions needed to be swift and ambitious.

21. Referencing *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now* endorsed by Leaders at their Retreat, the Prime Minister Salwai referred to the *Blue Pacific*'s bold regional commitments and ten global calls for urgent climate change action – recognising critical opportunities to drive action at scale over the coming months, particularly at the UN Climate Action Summit and the 25th COP.

22. Prime Minister Salwai called Forum Dialogue Partners to join in and amplify the *Blue Pacific* calls and to continue to work together to save the Blue Planet.

AGENDA ITEM 3: FACILITATED DIALOGUE – COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECTING OUR OCEAN

23. The Chair invited Dialogue Partners to share remarks and engage in constructive dialogue in support of the theme.

24. The United States of America, represented by Mr David Bernhardt, Secretary of Interior, emphasised that the United States was a Pacific nation, with a deep and longstanding commitment to the future security, prosperity and well-being of the Pacific – a commitment from the highest authority in President Trump. The Secretary emphasised that addressing environmental challenges was a key priority. This included ensuring clean air and water and being good stewards of the land while at the same time implementing pro-growth policies. The Secretary stated that the United States was leading by example by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions as well as supporting disaster risk reduction programmes aimed at saving lives and minimising impacts in the Pacific. In support of this work, the Secretary announced that the United States would be increasing grants for the Coral Reef Conservation Program as well as expanding the role played by the United States Agency for International Development in the Pacific and increasing the number of diplomatic personnel at several United States embassies throughout the region.

25. The United Kingdom, represented by the Honourable Heather Wheeler MP, Minister for Asia and the Pacific, emphasised that the United Kingdom Government was more committed than ever to the Pacific and was keen to work closely with the Pacific Islands Forum on areas of shared interest, including regional prosperity, resilient development and ocean sustainability. As part of its Pacific Uplift, the Minister reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to doubling its diplomatic footprint in the region in addition to working more closely with Pacific Island Countries (PICs) on a shared international agenda. The United Kingdom wanted to use its increased presence in the Pacific region to ensure that multilateral funding was delivering for the Pacific in an agile and effective way. On climate change, the Minister highlighted that the United Kingdom remained at the forefront of international action, including: its bid to host COP26 in 2020 in partnership with Italy; being the first major economy to legislate for net-zero emissions by 2050; and through supporting Pacific Leaders' climate initiatives. On oceans, the Minister supported the importance of including oceans in climate related debates and committed to deepening the United Kingdom's partnership with the Pacific to protect the ocean.

26. Japan, represented by His Excellency Norikazu Suzuki, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, emphasised that Japan and Pacific Islands Forum members were neighbours, with combatting climate change and protecting the ocean as common goals. Japan resolved to increase its commitment to PICs based on three pillars: ensuring stability and safety; supporting resilient and sustainable development; and promoting active people-to-people exchanges. To this end, the Parliamentary Vice Minister highlighted Japan's support for the Pacific region through the PEC Fund and the Pacific Climate Change Centre. On oceans, Japan championed action on marine plastic litter at the G20 Osaka Summit, including through the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision which aimed to reduce marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. Japan would continue to be a reliable neighbour to the Pacific Islands by lending its ear to Pacific voices and utilising its strengths to support resilient and sustainable development in the region.

27. Canada, represented by the Honourable Peter Boehm, Senator, highlighted the need for comprehensive solutions that would build more resilient communities – environmentally, socially and economically. The Senator noted Canada's commitment to climate change action, including by delivering on its pledge of \$2.65 billion by 2020 to assist developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, and using its G7 Presidency in 2018 to drive progress on global economic resilience to climate change. Canada particularly recognised that climate change disproportionately affected women and girls, and so had played a leadership role in the adoption of the Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC. On oceans, Canada recognised the intrinsic link between climate change and the health of the world's oceans and viewed Chile's COP25 Presidency as a unique opportunity to draw greater attention to this area. Canada was committed to pursuing the ocean priorities advanced as part of its G7 Presidency, including the Oceans Plastics Charter. Canada was running for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the year 2022/23 and through such a role, would be keen to bring attention to climate change.

28. Norway, represented by the Honourable Ine Eriksen Soreide, Minister for Foreign Affairs, highlighted the many shared interests, challenges and opportunities for Norway and the Pacific that should be pursued and realised together. Climate change and oceans were at the core of Norway's domestic and foreign policy. In 2018, Norway's Prime Minister launched The High-level Panel for a Sustainable Blue Economy, and in October 2019, Norway would be hosting the Our Ocean conference. The Minister highlighted recent collaboration with the Pacific, including joint capacity building for the negotiations on the new Treaty on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), fighting Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, and launching a \$200 million programme to assist developing states to combat marine litter and micro-plastics. The Minister emphasised that Norway wanted to work closely with the Pacific Islands region on a global agreement to combat marine litter and micro-plastics. On climate change, Norway agreed that climate change needed to be addressed as a threat to peace and security. To this end, Norway had ambitious climate change goals, was on the board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and its third largest per capita contributor, and had made climate adaptation a key pillar of its development cooperation. Norway was also playing a leading role in advocating for Official Development Assistance (ODA)-graduated countries to remain eligible for ODA when their economic base was ruined by a catastrophe. Norway had presented its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2021/22, and sought the support of Forum Members.

29. Spain, represented by His Excellency Manuel Cacho Quesada, Ambassador, highlighted that Spain was a firm ally in accomplishing the goals set by Forum Leaders, including on the threat of climate change. Spain had just launched its National Plan for Energy and Climate, with a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050. Spain remained a major donor on climate change, including providing 161 million Euros to the GCF and 45 million Euros to the Adaptation Fund. Spain would also play an active role at the upcoming UN Climate Action Summit as co-lead on the priorities on health, gender and just transition. On oceans, the Ambassador highlighted that Spain shared the *Blue Pacific* narrative adopted by Forum Leaders in 2017 and looked forward to the important, upcoming international oceans events. Spain remained engaged in promoting sustainable fishing and was proud to host the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and IUU Fishing in October 2019. Spain also provided annual funding to support the Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner (OPOC). The Ambassador highlighted that Spain also worked with the Pacific through the European Union. This included as a key financial contributor to the European Development Fund (EDF) and ensuring the Pacific had a relevant position on the new framework to replace the *Cotonou Agreement* between the EU and ACP States.

30. Turkey, represented by His Excellency Ahmet Ergin, Ambassador, emphasised that Turkey was stepping up its efforts in the Pacific region. The Pacific region was one of the most affected areas when it came to climate change, and Turkey commended the efforts of all players and parties for bringing awareness on the urgency of climate action. Turkey had announced its candidacy to host COP26 in 2020, and was implementing its National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan and investing in renewable energy sources. The Ambassador noted that to achieve a fair position under the UNFCCC, Turkey was striving to be a Non-Annex country. On oceans, Turkey was committed to ocean conservation and preventing, if not eliminating, plastic pollution. To support these efforts, Turkey aimed to develop a Marine Litter Strategic Action Plan

31. The Republic of Korea, represented by Her Excellency Shinhee Cho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Fiji, emphasised that climate change was an existential threat to humanity as a whole, with PICs on the frontline. The key to preventing the worst consequences of climate change was implementation of the *Paris Agreement*, and Korea had set ambitious targets to play its part. Korea was also host to the Global Green Growth Institute and the GCF, and had pledged to contribute up to USD 100 million to the GCF. The Ambassador noted that Korea would continue to enhance its bilateral cooperation with the Pacific region, including through its annual funding to the Republic of Korea – Pacific Islands Cooperation Fund and hosting the 6th Korea – Pacific Islands Senior Officials Meeting in Busan in October 2019.

32. The People's Republic of China, represented by His Excellency Wang Xuefeng, Special Envoy for the China – Pacific Islands Forum, emphasised that China respected the independent choices of development paths by PICs, supported PICs for greater cooperation and equal participation in international affairs, and stood ready to join hands with PICs to build a community with a shared future. His Excellency Xuefeng noted that China and PICs had been working together to further a comprehensive strategic partnership, and highlighted President Xi's plan to facilitate the economic and social development of PICs by supporting their infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries and tourism industries, and assisting PICs to increase their capacities in combatting climate change. China would step-up its efforts in South-South cooperation, including through mitigation and adaptation programmes, financial support, capacity building and multilateral

cooperation. On the multilateral front, His Excellency Xuefeng highlighted the need to ensure the full and effective implementation of the *Paris Agreement*, based on the principles of equity, “common but differentiated responsibilities”, and respective capabilities. China would also work for the success of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. Further, China would support PICs in advancing the *Blue Pacific* narrative and sending a strong Pacific voice to the international stage.

33. Indonesia, represented by His Excellency Desra Percaya, Ambassador and Director General for Asia Pacific and African Affairs, emphasised Indonesia’s support and collaborative action towards the implementation of the Action Plan of the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*. Ambassador Percaya highlighted the importance of maritime security, especially combatting IUU fishing, and called on Forum countries to consider this practice as a form of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) under the framework of the *United National Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* (UNTOC). The Ambassador further assured of Indonesia’s commitment to strengthening cooperation in the areas of climate change, maritime, connectivity, and disaster risk management. Indonesia was open to establishing a more structured and constructive dialogue platform with the Pacific Islands Forum and welcomed further discussion on this matter.

34. The European Union (EU), represented by Mr Christian Leffler, Deputy Secretary General for Global and Economic Issues, European External Action Service, emphasised that the EU’s partnership with the Pacific was robust and wide ranging and that the EU was committed to strengthening it further, based on shared values, common interests and upholding multilateralism. Mr Leffler emphasised that every opportunity needed to be taken to advance the EU and the Pacific’s common agenda, not only when it came to climate change, but also on environment protection, ocean governance, maritime security, connectivity, human rights, peace and security. In terms of commitments, Mr Leffler highlighted that the EU would continue to work closely with PICs to develop environmental and climate resilience, promote the sustainable management of the Pacific’s rich natural resources, while helping build democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies, and supporting sustainable economic growth. The EU was also committed to strengthening connectivity across the Pacific region, ensuring that it was environmentally and fiscally sustainable, comprehensive, and rules-based, with a particular focus on resilient transport links, digital networks, and people-to-people contacts. The EU would facilitate this through its regional support programme of the 11th EDF, which was under implementation, and also through its bilateral support programmes. Mr Leffler emphasised that the EU and PICs together had an important role to play in shaping the global agenda and international cooperation, and the EU was committed to work together with Pacific partners in various fora on combating climate change and protecting the oceans with a view of securing our common future.

35. France, represented by His Excellency Hervé Dejean de la Batie, Ambassador and Permanent Secretary for the South Pacific, congratulated Pacific Leaders for pursuing climate change as a key priority. Ambassador Batie emphasised that France fully adhered to the *Blue Pacific* narrative and supported the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* of 2018. Together with Australia and New Zealand, it used French civilian and military capabilities to assist neighbouring Pacific countries affected by natural disasters. French forces based in New Caledonia and French Polynesia had also taken part in the Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group against illegal fishing. Ambassador Batie emphasised that France was actively supporting greater EU

involvement in the Pacific, especially through the new post-Cotonou Agreement and a new declaration of association with the Overseas Countries and Territories.

36. Germany, represented by His Excellency Stefan Krawielicki, Ambassador-Designate, highlighted that Germany strived to address the impacts of climate change on international peace and security in relevant multilateral fora. The nexus of climate and security was one of Germany's priorities for its membership of the UN Security Council in 2019/2020. In this regard and given Pacific's high exposure to the impacts of climate change, Germany felt it was important to give the Pacific an opportunity to be heard in the Council. Germany was committed to continue advancing the need to address climate change-caused risks and security challenges and to build resilience while fully respecting national prerogatives. Germany would co-ordinate with those most affected by this issue in the broader UN membership, particularly with partners in the Group of Friends. His Excellency Krawielicki highlighted that PICs had always been constructive and reliable multilateral partners and that Germany appreciated the ongoing cooperation in international organisations and coordination on global challenges, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

37. Cuba, represented by Mr Emilio Ratmir Lozada García, General Director of Bilateral Affairs emphasised that for Smaller Island Developing States, addressing climate change was a vital priority and that humanity faced the danger of disappearing unless urgent actions were taken. Mr García emphasised that the main obstacle faced by Smaller Island Developing States was underdevelopment, inherited from an unjust international economic order and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. In view of this, Mr García mentioned that open and fair international cooperation, as well as the transfer of resources, technologies and knowledge without political conditions, were urgently required in order to complement and develop national efforts and capacities. Furthermore, Mr García assured Forum Leaders that Cuba fully shared and supported the views of PICs on climate change. In 2017, Cuba adopted a multidisciplinary and scientifically based state plan called Task Force Life to address climate change, and would be willing to share this with the Pacific Islands.

38. Italy, represented by His Excellency Pier Francesco Zazo, Italian Special Envoy for the Pacific, advised that Italy shared the view that climate change was the single greatest threat of our time. Italy therefore strongly advocated the full implementation of the *Paris Agreement*, the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and constantly underlined climate change issues within the UN, the EU, the G7 and other international fora. Italy had also established the Partnership with the Pacific Smaller Island Developing States, based on the principles of national ownership, equality, mutual trust and transparency. In addition, Italy channelled its development aid through the EU, and had actively participated in emergency programmes related to climate change disasters in the Pacific. Further, Italy was a main contributor to global finance funds and involved in programmes carried out in the Pacific region by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). His Excellency Zazo emphasised that the Italian Government was firmly committed to continue its support to the PICs. In support of this, the Italian Government appointed a Special Envoy for the Pacific Region in 2018.

Responses by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders

39. His Excellency David W Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, expressed appreciation to the Chair for his leadership and to the Secretary General and the Secretariat for its support to the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum and Related Meetings. President Panuelo also thanked Leaders and their delegations for all the hard work in achieving the 2019 Communiqué resulting from the Retreat. President Panuelo believed that good compromises were achieved and was proud to support the language that was agreed in the climate action declaration.

40. President Panuelo thanked all Dialogue Partner representatives, as well as the Special Guests from Chile and Norway, for their presentations and expressed appreciation for all the assistance that had been committed to assisting PICs to combat climate change. President Panuelo expressed that his country looked forward to working together through various other mechanisms on pressing issues in the region such as climate change and regional security.

41. His Excellency Taneti Maamau, Beretitenti of Kiribati, reaffirmed the sentiments expressed by President Panuelo on the issues of climate change, oceans and fisheries, and sustainability.

42. President Maamau acknowledged the assistance of Forum Dialogue Partners especially in climate change and disaster risk reduction, while referring to the overwhelming burden to countries such as Kiribati of accessing financial assistance.

43. President Maamau also referred to continuing issues of a lack of national capacity to manage funds correctly and welcomed assistance for building capacity in this area.

44. President Maamau highlighted maritime boundaries as a pressing issue for which Kiribati looked forward to support from Dialogue Partners.

45. Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, reemphasised the issue raised by President Maamau regarding the processes for accessing assistance that partners have promised PICs. Smaller Island Developing States were often left with a myriad of problems, especially in capacity, which caused a sincere time lapse between funding and implementation. Samoa therefore appealed to re-look at the processes on expediting and simplifying partner assistance in recognition of the capacity problems PICs faced.

46. Prime Minister Malielegaoi highlighted that partners would often send consultants from their respective countries to do various studies and work in the region, thereby ingesting the majority of the financial assistance that was meant for PICs. Prime Minister Malielegaoi highlighted that PICs themselves have a good number of local consultants and that overseas consultants were simply coordinating local wisdom.

47. Prime Minister Malielegaoi requested Forum Dialogue Partners to provide their written statements in advance in order to enable meaningful conversations.

48. Her Excellency Hilda C. Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands thanked the Chair and the Secretary General for the successful Forum, and recognised Forum Dialogue Partners and their presentations.

49. President Heine referred to climate change in the context of atoll nations and its existential threat to the security and survival of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She advised of the tabling of the Republic's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and encouraged others that "if we can do it, so can you". President Heine highlighted that stepping up meant more than just showing up. It meant coming to the table with something meaningful. President Heine encouraged Dialogue Partners to utilise the upcoming Climate Action Summit to spell out their plans to meet obligations under the *Paris Agreement*.

50. President Heine also encouraged Dialogue Partners to understand unique challenges of most vulnerable atoll nations and while acknowledging assistance, there clearly was more that needed to be done. This was why the Republic of the Marshall Islands was embarking on a national survival plan. President Heine was encouraged to hear from Dialogue Partners on plans to upscale adaptation efforts to PICs and would also be calling on the UN Secretary-General to produce a report on the unique status of atoll nations and the impacts of climate change.

51. President Heine advised of the Republic's support for a Pacific free from IUU fishing, noting that IUU fishing was a major issue for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and was seen as carrying aspects of transnational crime, human rights abuses, and others.

52. The Republic of the Marshall Islands also planned to enhance its recycling efforts and looked forward to working with Dialogue Partners to assist in these efforts.

53. President Heine acknowledged the United States of America and its agreement to expand the Compact Agreement as well as the USD 1.5 million in assistance for testing around the Runit Dome, and requested that an independent contractor be commissioned to conduct the testing.

54. Honourable Jeremiah Manele, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands, reiterated the remarks by Prime Minister Malielegaoi and President Maamau on capacity constraints in the context of climate change financial assistance and access.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CLOSING SUMMARY AND REMARKS

55. The Chair thanked Leaders and Dialogue Partners for the productive discussions. In summarising, the Chair requested an immediate stop to the reference to the Pacific region as a *vast empty space* in the blue ocean.

56. The Chair advised that climate change was no longer a threat, but a *crisis*, as reflected in the 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué and the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*. To deal with this, a collective canoe was required for collective action and to avoid the adverse effects on the communities of all Forum and Dialogue Partner countries as a result of inaction. The Chair re-emphasised the need for urgent global actions to save the world. Genuine and durable partnerships required more action and less words. The Chair urged Dialogue Partners to establish special windows of financing for Smaller Island Developing States, which would also assist participation costs to annual international meetings.

57. The Chair encouraged all to remain steadfast in the commitment and resolve to combat climate change, and protect our oceans, and made a final reminder that of the collective obligation to *secure the future of our Blue Pacific, and of our Blue Planet*.

Funafuti, Tuvalu
16 August 2019

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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NZ Climate Change Ambassador

Mr Nathan Ross
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Mr Ben Eckman
Policy and Programme support

Mr Edon Hoppener
Policy and Programme support

Mr John Anakotta
Policy and Programme support

Mr Va'i Ioane
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Funafuti, Tuvalu
16 August 2019

PROGRAMME AND WORKING PROCEDURES
31ST PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
SESSION WITH FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNERS
Funafuti, Tuvalu
16 August 2019

Agenda #	Agenda Title	Time
1.	Opening prayer Forum Chair opening remarks – Securing our Future in the Pacific	9.00 – 9.15am
2.	High-level remarks from Troika Leaders (Samoa, Vanuatu) – combatting climate change, protecting our ocean	9.15 – 9.35am
3.	Facilitated dialogue – combatting climate change, protecting our ocean (including a morning tea break and photo opportunity at approximately 10.30am)	9.35 – 11.40am
4.	Closing summary and remarks	11.40 – 12.00pm