

Bula,

The Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Honourable Natano,

Presidents and Prime Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends of the Pacific,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Paris agreement with you, and I regret not being able to be present physically, but I thank you all for this wonderful event.

I was fortunate to represent France at a meeting of the dialogue partners Forum, in 2017, and thus I am delighted to see many of you again, out of sight but close to heart because we always hold near and dear the Pacific as you know, I have just returned from a three week trip to New Caledonia to discuss its future with which you have similar interests.

Today, we have an excellent reason to meet and celebrate, despite the challenging circumstances due to the health crisis and its financial consequences, the Paris agreement was just one of the first steps that is absolutely necessary for us to fully implement, in order to fight a threat that is even more existential for you than Covid19.

The same way that France will always be by your side to fight against the virus, especially with vaccinations, you know that we will always be next to you to fight for the climate and environment too.

In December 2017, France introduced the working group “sovereign funds” of the One Planet Summit. Since then, this group has been enhanced as it counts thirty-three private and public financial institutions worth over thirty thousand billion dollars, which is to say almost thirty per cent of the funds managed in the world, and all these institutions have made the commitment to promote a green economy in the face of the climate emergency. In late November 2020, the President of the Republic of France, Emmanuel Macron, gathered for the third time, thirty of its members. We are convinced that it is also by the actions of the financial world that we will make the motto “make our planet great again” possible.

On the financial front, France is fully involved in mobilizing the annual one hundred million dollars to support the climatic missions held by developing countries. In 2019 we reached one year ahead of our financial objective for the climate in 2020 with five point ninety-six million dollars including one point fifty-five million dollars for adaptation. While the impact of the covid crisis on the amounts of 2020 is not known, our budget commitment for the international climate finance has been kept despite the crisis.

Collectively, more efforts have to be made in solidarity with the most vulnerable countries, in particular with the Small Island Developing States who received one point five million dollars of climate finance amongst seventy-eight point nine million dollars collected by the developed nations in 2018 according to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The ecological and Energy transition has to be established everywhere and made accessible for everybody. That is why we invested in the “SIDS Lighthouses” initiative which has already deployed a hundred megawatt of solar energy and twenty megawatts of wind energy in the Small Island Developing states.

Furthermore, with civilian society and scientific research, we are fully involved in actions with multi-actors’ initiatives that work with you on the strong relationship that you have with the ocean and the climate. I think about the Ocean & Climate Platform with which France is involved to bring the Ocean to the foreground: An Ocean that absorbs one third of our emissions, makes half of our oxygen and captures ninety per cent of our excess heat.

Tomorrow, another Summit in Paris will be held, a Summit for the climate dream that we have co-organized with the United Nations Secretary-General and the British Prime Minister to keep on mobilizing all the necessary efforts to pursue this fight, with an announcement that might boost the common ambition on the three dimensions of the Agreement: reduction, adaptation and climate finance, in which we all have to be involved. More than eighty Heads of State and Government will be there. So, I will not reveal the French President’s announcements, but I can already tell you that we will be up to the task especially with the European Union who is deciding to enhance its goal to 2030 as the European Council at the present time.

Therefore, I would like to thank the Forum for this initiative which shows once again the consciousness of the Pacific in the fight against climate change, and I do hope that this meeting will afford you a unified and strong voice to speed the efforts that we all have to make together.

I’m looking forward to seeing you all as soon as possible, along with the President of the French Republic for the Fifth France-Oceania Summit to be held in the first semester of 2021 in Papeete and we hope that we will be able to be together when conditions are better.