

## 'High level dialogue – Ambition to action' remarks

- Mr Chair, Colleagues, kia ora koutou katoa. Warm Pacific greetings to you all from New Zealand.
- Last year, at PIF we the Leaders of the Pacific strongly reaffirmed that climate change is the single greatest threat to our region. For good reason, you can physically see the impact of climate change, which many of us have seen but the Pacific Islands live with.
- This led to the Ulu of Tokelau last year urging all partners of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership to issue a “worldwide climate change emergency” declaration immediately.
- New Zealand listened and responded. Last week, I moved a motion in New Zealand’s Parliament that New Zealand declare a climate emergency.
- But we know that alone is not enough. We need to act.
- That is why the goal to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees is embedded in our Zero Carbon Act. Because limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is the minimum for what is required to keep our Pacific neighbours safe.
- [That is why] We are working towards 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and a carbon neutral Public Service by 2025 and why we brought forward out 100% renewable electricity target to 2030.
- And we are working harder than ever with our Pacific neighbours to build climate resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change that we know we cannot avoid with half of our climate finance focussed on adaptation efforts.
- And you can expect more action from New Zealand in 2021. In May next year, New Zealand’s Climate Change Commission will make recommendations to the Government on the compatibility of our Nationally Determined Contribution with a 1.5 degrees temperature limit.
- The Commission will also provide advice on New Zealand’s first five-year emissions budgets out to 2035. Later in 2021 my Government will respond with our first Emissions Reduction Plan, outlining the policies and actions that will be required to decarbonise New Zealand’s economy and meet our ambitious targets.

- [Because] The most important thing we can do to avoid climate catastrophe – and safeguard the security and prosperity of the Pacific region – is to reduce our emissions.
- Climate action is something the Pacific cannot do alone. It requires all countries to make, and implement, ambitious pledges.
- And so we welcome the commitments of increased action by Dialogue Partners. The European Union has committed to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, Spain, Canada and Chile have committed to neutrality targets by 2050 and the Peoples Republic of China by 2060. The incoming United States administration has announced a commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Looking ahead, we have one year before we all [hopefully] come together at COP26 in Glasgow. One year to start turning this ambition into action.
- There is a lot we must all do before then. But I will highlight one: we need to ensure action on climate change is at the heart of our COVID recoveries so that we don't only build our economies back, we build them back in a sustainable way to meet our Paris goals.
- I encourage all of us to approach next year with a level of urgency we have not yet seen. Because this is a global emergency, and the future of the Pacific greatly depends on it.
- *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini*

*(Success is not the work of one, but the work of many)*