

Country Statement
5th France-Oceania Summit
July 19, 2021

President Emmanuel Macron, Prima Minister Kausea Natano and Chair of the Pacific Island Leaders' Forum, Distinguishes Presidents and Prime Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

Before proceeding to my short statement, please allow me to convey on behalf of His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, sincerest appreciation to His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, for the kind invitation extending to attend the 5th France-Oceania Summit. It is truly regrettable that President Panuelo is not able to attend this Summit of great leadership.

Your Excellencies:

Similar to others sentiments, the Federated States of Micronesia acknowledges the importance of the France-Oceania Summit as a stand along regional mechanism that provides excellent opportunities to enhance and strengthen the relations and partnership that exists between

the Pacific and France. This is one of a few stand-alone regional engagements that continue to integrate discussions of issues of mutual interest and importance to our region and France.

The Federated States of Micronesia applaud His Excellency President Macron for his strategic thinking of hosting the Summit prior to the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow, affirming that this provides an excellent opportunity for the Summit process to engage and strategize on how best to work together and collaborate to create the best possible positions for subsequent advocacy in the COP 26 process. Having this process held also prior to the upcoming UNGA also has plenty of merits.

Your Excellencies:

FSM recognizes that the importance of the current circumstances we live in today due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the safeguard of our Blue Pacific and climate change impacts. For that reason, our country and her people submit gratitude to His Excellency President Macron for placing the three urgent and important agenda items for deliberation in this Summit - Sustainable Ocean Management, Climate Change and Disaster Resilience and Response, and COVID-19 Economic Recovery, Connectivity and Infrastructure are indeed issues that will continue to dominate national, regional and global discourses today and in many

years to come. I am quite certain that all would unanimously agree that our world has significantly changed over the past year. The unexpected emergence of the COVID-19 virus has no doubt been extremely testing for our common humanity. Its pandemic nature, established on a monumental global scale, has impacted tremendous lives and livelihoods for many members of our global community of families – and, these adverse impacts continue to this very moment, as we speak. Thus, within this context, kindly allow me to seize this occasion, to convey heavy heartfelt condolences for the loss of precious lives of your respective peoples. In some ways, perhaps this devastating experience serves as a reminder to all of us of the vulnerabilities of mankind or simply, of how delicate life really is.

Overall, the fundamental core message that the Federated States of Micronesia wishes to submit in our Summit today is that all these issues cannot be addressed in isolation; that, they are best addressed collectively among our family of nations. For our Federated States of Micronesia, we are prepared to our part nationally, regionally and at the global level. Towards this end, the Federated States of Micronesia appreciates the intent and collaborative spirit of the proposed Summit declaration, and stands ready to render endorsement of the document.

Thank you, once again, His Excellency President Macron, for the invitation and there is absolute certainty that our 5th France-Oceania Summit will be a success.

Thank you and may we all continue to be safe.