

**Canadian Statement offered by Senator Peter Boehm
at the 31st PIF Leaders Session with Forum Dialogue Partners**

16 August 2019
Funafuti, Tuvalu

Good morning,

Thank you, Prime Minister Sopoaga, for the kind invitation and for the hospitality of the people of Tuvalu.

We are all here because we recognize the significant challenges confronting the Blue Pacific due to the effects of climate change through rising sea levels, extreme climate events, and declining ocean health to name a few. The impacts of these events on coastal communities' food security, housing, prosperity and well-being are already visible, and they are very real for the people of the Pacific. That includes us, on the colder side of the Pacific in Canada.

We need comprehensive solutions that build more resilient communities, environmentally, socially and economically. Engaging meaningfully on this all-important policy issue is not easy – it is fraught with economic, social and political changes. I wish to speak briefly about a few things Canada is doing.

Investment in climate finance is an important part of Canada's vision to build global momentum towards a low-carbon, sustainable and resilient future with economic opportunities. By delivering on our pledge of \$2.65 billion by 2020 to assist developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, Canada is proud to lead global efforts to support a low-carbon, sustainable and climate-resilient future for all. We have already announced over \$1.7 billion worth of projects. Our funds are invested in areas such as clean technology, renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest and water management, and climate risk resilience, all reflected of course in the Forum Communique.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF), to which Canada has pledged \$300 million, has approved 23 projects in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as of July 2019. We are also one of the main contributors to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), including most recently \$230M for 2018-2022. Through the GEF, Canada is supporting the Blue Pacific on climate change and related environmental issues – including biodiversity, land degradation and chemicals and waste.

Other recent contributions include \$10M announced by PM Trudeau at APEC 2018 in Papua New Guinea, where he held a roundtable discussion with Pacific Islands Leaders, to help address climate change and biodiversity in the Pacific. We have never done anything like this before. The Prime Minister told me he appreciated the opportunity to engage.

Canada recognizes the intrinsic link between climate change, the health of the world's oceans, and the resilience of our coastal communities. We see Chile's COP25 presidency as a unique opportunity to draw greater attention to this area, particularly given Canada's G7 leadership in championing the *Charlevoix Blueprint for healthy oceans, seas and resilient coastal communities*. There is a broad agreement on the need to build resilience, address the stressors on our oceans,

such as pollution and illegal fishing, and the need to strengthen the science to inform sustainable management decisions.

As G7 President in 2018, Canada worked with our counterparts and other partners to make progress on global economic resilience to climate change. At the Summit in Charlevoix, Canada was proud to be able to host a roundtable discussion with Leaders of SIDS. Canada is committed to pursuing the oceans priorities we have advanced in the context of our G7 presidency – ocean health and marine plastic pollution – and will continue to work towards the implementation of the *Charlevoix Blueprint*. This includes advancing the *Ocean Plastics Charter*. The Charter aims to avoid unnecessary use of plastics and prevent waste, and to ensure that plastics are designed for recovery, reuse, recycling and end-of-life management. Canada also announced at the G7 Charlevoix Summit that it will invest \$162 million to build stronger and more resilient coasts and communities, including by expanding climate risk insurance coverage and supporting clean energy systems in climate-vulnerable countries, including in the Blue Pacific.

Canada recognizes that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls and puts them at the heart of development efforts. We are proud of our work on supporting women's leadership and decision-making in climate change mitigation and sustainable natural resource management; and ensuring climate-related planning, policymaking and financing address the particular needs and challenges of women and girls. And we will continue promoting the engagement of women and girls in international climate negotiations, including by playing a leadership role in the adoption of the Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC.

Since 1989, when the process was first established, Canada has valued being a Dialogue Partner at the Pacific Island Forum and over the last 30 years, is proud to have contributed, under Pacific leadership, to our shared prosperity and common priorities. We remain fully committed to our engagement with the Blue Pacific, and to working together on global challenges including climate change, sustainable development and women's empowerment. We wish to engage with you on a sustained basis, be it here in the Blue Pacific, in our capital or in yours and the multilateral tables we all frequent.

Canada is running for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the year 2022/23. That election is next June. We believe that with your support we can make a difference on the Council by bringing ongoing attention to the important issue of climate change and providing a voice for those most vulnerable, many represented here today.

I was struck by the prayer we offered at the opening. In my country we are no stranger to canoes. As we look from the North Pacific to the South, we would indeed be honoured to be an outrigger as you embark on the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.