

**PIF Leaders' Session with Forum Dialogue Partners, 16 August 2019**  
**"Securing our Future in the Pacific – combatting climate change, protecting our ocean"**

**Statement by the European Union delegation**

The European Union, together with its five Member States, is proud to be a Post-Forum Dialogue Partner and a close, long-standing partner of the Pacific Island Countries.

Our relations with the Pacific ACP countries are framed by the Cotonou Agreement which defines our co-operation on political issues, on development, and on trade and the economy. The Cotonou Agreement expires in 2020 and we are working closely with our Pacific partners to define the most effective EU-Pacific partnership after that date. A partnership that reflects our common priorities, such as the 2030 Agenda and the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

The negotiations on a new ACP-EU partnership are progressing well, as on substance there is ample convergence on the Pacific and EU's priorities. These include addressing the impact of climate change on the Blue Pacific and protecting the oceans, which are in the focus of today's Forum Dialogue Partners session.

The European Union's partnership with the Pacific is robust and wide ranging and we are committed to strengthening it further, based on our shared values and common interests, upholding multilateralism and defending the rules-based global order. Together, we need to take every opportunity to advance our common agenda, not only when it comes to climate change, but also on environment protection, ocean governance, maritime security, connectivity, human rights, peace and security.

The European Union will continue to work closely with the Pacific Island Countries to develop environmental and climate resilience, promote the sustainable management of Pacific's rich natural resources, while helping build democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies, and supporting sustainable economic growth. The EU is committed to strengthening connectivity across the Pacific region, ensuring that it is environmentally and fiscally sustainable, comprehensive, and rules-based, with a particular focus on resilient transport links, digital networks, and people-to-people contacts.

Climate Action is a key priority for the European Union, as it is for the Pacific, underlined in our Global Strategy. The EU is committed to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and is working hard to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially, while encouraging other nations and regions to do likewise. The EU reduced its emissions by 22% between 1990 and 2017, while GDP grew by 58%. The EU targets for 2030 are:

- At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990
- At least 32% of total energy consumption from renewable energy
- At least 32.5% increase in energy efficiency

By 2050, the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially, by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels, as part of the efforts required by developed countries as a group. Turning Europe's economy into a highly energy efficient and low-carbon one will also boost growth, create jobs and strengthen Europe's competitiveness.

The EU is pursuing its climate targets through a combination of financial support and regulative action. At least 20% of the EU's budget for 2014 to 2020 (as much as EUR 180 billion) should

be spent on protecting the climate. This is on top of the funding from individual EU countries. The European Commission proposed to raise this share to 25% in the next budget cycle.

At the global level, the EU is on track to meet its contribution of at least EUR 14 billion (or an average of EUR 2 billion per year) to support climate activities in developing countries between 2014 and 2020. The total public climate finance provided in 2017 was EUR 2.8 billion, of which EUR 708 million (25%) was marked for mitigation, around EUR 1.24 billion (44%) for adaptation, and EUR 877 million (31%) for cross-cutting actions.

The Pacific Island Countries have repeatedly shown their commitment to the Paris Agreement, most recently with the launch of the Low Emissions Development Strategy by Fiji and the submission by the Marshall Islands of revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and a 2050 Climate Strategy. With the finalisation of the Paris Agreement work programme, all efforts should be directed to the domestic implementation of the NDCs, as well as increased global ambitions in line with the Paris Agreement targets to remain well below 2 degrees Celsius.

It is a priority for the EU to strengthen the resilience of the Pacific Island Countries. Overall, the EU has currently committed over EUR 200 million in programmes supporting the Pacific to develop resilience to climate change.

The EU has supported the development and implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), working towards a low-carbon climate resilient future for the Pacific. This can be an example to be replicated in other regions.

The EU remains committed to supporting Pacific Island Countries in achieving their objectives in the Framework of Pacific Regionalism, particularly through our regional support programme of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund which is now under implementation, but also through our bilateral support programmes.

In the Pacific, the EU supports six countries - the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tonga – in sustainable energy actions through their bilateral cooperation, for a total envelope of more than EUR 38 million. An EU regional envelope of EUR 8 million for supporting private sector led sustainable energy is targeting in particular Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.

Healthy, clean, safe and sustainable oceans management has been one of the EU's priorities in the past years. In 2016, the EU adopted its policy on international ocean governance. The Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme (EUR 35 million), launched at the "Our Ocean" conference in Malta in 2017, supports 15 states of the Pacific region on sustainable management and development of fisheries for food security and economic growth.

The EU also has a long experience in fighting marine litter, addressing major sources and pathways of plastic litter through waste management, marine environment and port reception facilities legislation. Moving towards a more circular economy is an EU priority, with the EU Strategy for Plastics and initiatives on single use plastics, microplastics and garbage from ships being the recent milestones. It is encouraging to see that several Pacific Island Countries also make progress in this crucial area and the EU would like to congratulate our host country – Tuvalu – for promoting sustainable waste management with the new Waste Levy Deposit Regulation, the new Single Plastics Regulation and its commitment to making this event plastic free.

The EU and the Pacific Island Countries together have an important role to play in shaping the global agenda and international cooperation. The EU is committed to share its experiences and work together with the Pacific partners in various fora on combating climate change and protecting the oceans with a view of securing our common future.