

## **31st Leaders Session with Forum Dialogue Partners, 16 August 2019**

### **Securing our Future in the Pacific- combating climate change, protecting our ocean**

#### **Statement by delegation of the Republic of Korea**

As we all know, climate change is now far more than an environmental issue. It is indeed an existential threat to humanity as a whole. In particular, the Pacific Island countries are on the front lines of global warming's adverse impacts. It has posed a grave security challenge to this region by bringing on devastation of marine biodiversity, water shortages, disease, and natural disasters.

The key to preventing the worst consequences of climate change is the faithful implementation of the Paris Agreement, which is legally binding to all parties under the UNFCCC. Korea set an ambitious mitigation target to contribute to the success of the Paris Agreement and will continue to make day-to-day efforts to deliver on our commitments in good faith.

In addition, Korea has been engaging in the global efforts to support states vulnerable to climate-related events by drawing on multilateral instruments. By hosting the Green Climate Fund(GCF) Secretariat in Songdo, Korea voluntarily pledged to contribute up to 100 million US dollars to the GCF. Korea plans to expand Pacific Island countries-related GCF projects. A case in point is the 「Tina River Hydropower Development Project in the Solomon Islands」 carried out by Korean companies.

Furthermore, the Global Green Growth Institute(GGGI), which was established in Korea, is evolving into a relevant international body on the climate change issue by helping developing countries including Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati live up to their NDCs. To that end, the Korean government would like to ask for continued interest and support for the GCF and the GGGI on our journey of addressing climate change together.

At the bilateral level, the Korean government has also spared no efforts to help the Pacific Island nations cope with climate change. By increasing its annual grant on a continual basis, Korea has provided nearly 6.8 million US dollars since the inception of the 「ROK-PIF Cooperation Fund」 with the aim of helping sustainable development of the PICs.

Korea will continue to join hands in the PICs' response to climate change in such a way as to develop beneficial projects using the fund. The 「Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services

Project」, amounting to 1.5 million US dollars from 2018 to 2020, represents a prime example of these efforts.

Korea is also committed to expanding bilateral and tailor-made ODA programs for oceans and fisheries in this region. For example, the budget of the 2018 maritime ODA for this region increased by more than 35 fold in comparison to that of 2006, and Korea initiated the 「Tuvalu coastal adaptation feasibility study」 in 2017 upon the Tuvalu government's request.

Moreover, Korea will continue to enhance bilateral cooperation with the Pacific Island countries through the upcoming 「6th Korea-Pacific Islands Senior Officials Meeting」 in Busan this October.

Climate change can no longer be seen as an issue of the future but rather, an undeniable one of the present. Korea will remain engaged by continuing our cooperation with PIF in its efforts to safeguard 「The Blue Continent」 as a fellow Pacific region and reliable partner.