



MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES,  
UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN

## **STATEMENT by the KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

### **31th PIF Post-Forum Dialogue**

**13th-16th August 2019 Tuvalu**

Spain wishes to thank the Government of Tuvalu for its generous hospitality in hosting this successful forum in this memorable occasion, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Since 2014, year of Spain's accession to the Post-Forum Dialogue, Spain has been present in six Dialogues. Our partnership has increased in each of those participations, reaching new commitments every year to enhance our rich relations. This meeting in Tuvalu will help us move our partnership one step forward.

“Securing our future in the Pacific” is an extremely accurate motto to this year's Leaders Meeting, especially one year after the adoption of the Boe Declaration which identifies climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific. Spain and the Pacific are close allies in fighting this threat.

Our countries need to secure their future and, in order to do so, we have to fight together against climate change. Islands and atolls are sinking under the rising ocean. Spain's coasts are being heavily eroded hampering tourism and local fisheries. Moreover, three quarters of Spain's soil is under risk of desertification. All in all, climate change is currently damaging our economies and our people and hence we need to take ambitious action immediately.

Spain has just launched its National Plan for Energy and Climate. We have committed to become a carbon neutral nation by 2050 and we are actively working to achieve the goals set under the Paris Agreement. In order to do this, by 2030 Spain will reduce her CO2 emissions by 21% and will generate 42% of her energy through renewable sources. Furthermore, energy efficiency will be improved by 40% and 74% of Spain's electricity will come from clean energies. According to the scientific community, Spain's Plan for Energy and Climate is the most ambitious one of all 28 EU Member States. In addition to the implemented measures, Spain remains a major donor in this area. Spain contributes with 161 mill. EUR to the Green Climate Fund and is an alternate board member. Spain was one of the first countries to make a substantial contribution of 45 mill. EUR to the Adaptation Fund. Therefore, Spain is going to do her part in fighting



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the Pacific's single greatest threat, climate change, and will continue working with the Big Ocean States to tackle this challenge.

In the multilateral arena, Spain is going to play an important role in the UN Climate Action Summit that will take place in September in NY. Spain has been appointed by the UN as co-leader, with Peru, on the priorities on health, gender and just transition. We encourage the Pacific to show their leadership in climate change by making concrete commitments in these areas during the summit.

The Pacific and Spain cannot be understood without talking about oceans. We share the Blue Pacific narrative that was adopted by the Leaders in 2017. As a matter of fact, Spain supported both the UN Ocean Conference led by Fiji and Fiji's presidency of COP23. We look forward to the big events regarding oceans that will happen in the forthcoming months: the Blue COP in Santiago de Chile, the UN Ocean Conference and OurOcean Conferences in Oslo. Spain is a partner of the Pacific in fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal 14 regarding oceans.

Spain remains engaged in promoting sustainable fishing and is proud to host in October this year the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. We expect Pacific delegations to participate and strongly contribute to the discussions. Moreover, Spain supports the role of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner with a yearly funding to support its activities.

In addition to our bilateral contribution, Spain works with the Pacific through the European Union. Spain is one of her most adamant supporters, since we believe in regional multilateralism. Spain also is one of the main financial contributors to the European Development Fund (EDF). The current Regional Indicative Programme is implementing projects valued at an estimate worth of 800 mill. EUR for the Pacific during the period 2014-2020. We are keen to continue working through the EU under the new framework that will replace the Cotonou Agreement, in which we want the Pacific to have a relevant position. Regarding some specific initiatives funded by the EU, Spain is proud to support the Pacific-EU Maritime Partnership approved in Nauru's summit last year.

The Blue Pacific can count on Spain as a firm ally in accomplishing the goals set by the Leaders within the Pacific Islands Forum. We are distant nations but we are close friends. As many Pacific leaders have stated in several occasions, we are all in the same canoe when facing the challenges of climate change, sustainable development or maritime security. Let us all paddle in the same direction to ensure that our peoples, in both sides of the globe, can enjoy prosperity in a framework of peace and security.



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Finally, I wish to thank the PIF Secretariat for the coordination of this event, Nauru as outgoing Forum Chair for its leadership during the last year and Tuvalu for hosting us and leading the Pacific as incoming Chair.