



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

2022 FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

8 July 2022

OUTCOMES

The 2022 Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting was convened on 8 July 2022 at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Headquarters in Suva, Fiji, as well as virtually.

2. The meeting was chaired by Fiji, and attended by Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

3. The Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), University of the South Pacific (USP), Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) attended as members of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). The full List of Participants is at [Annex A](#).

4. Opening remarks were delivered by the Chair and the Secretary General. Their full remarks are attached at [Annex B](#) and [Annex C](#).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. Forum Foreign Ministers **adopted** the revised Provisional Annotated Agenda and Meeting Timetable, at [Annex D](#), and **established** a Drafting Committee.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

6. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **noted** the current global and regional context, and **reaffirmed** the importance of the region's unity and solidarity to leverage the opportunities presented and address the region's shared challenges;
- (ii) **noted** and **commended** the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, recognising that it provides a regional strategic and policy response to the region's medium to long term challenges;
- (iii) **reaffirmed** the importance of the Review of Regional Architecture and **agreed** that the review take into account the current regional context and the importance of ensuring that the region's strategic partnerships and engagement are aligned to Forum Members' priorities as represented by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; and
- (iv) **emphasised** the need to strengthen existing regional mechanisms including the Forum's existing strategic frameworks to ensure a coherent and cohesive regional architecture to support the delivery of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific

Continent, including that they are fit for purpose to effectively respond to the region's current geopolitical context.

2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT, AND UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

7. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **endorsed** the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, for further conveyance to Forum Leaders;
- (ii) **commended** the leadership and the excellent work by the co-chairs and members of the FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy, as well as the Secretariat for all their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the contribution of CROP agencies in the efforts undertaken to finalise the 2050 Strategy, including the extensive consultations that were undertaken to inform the 2050 Strategy; and
- (iii) **noted** the importance of Pacific culture, heritage and traditional knowledge in being the basis upon which key regional frameworks such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent are based.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS' WORKING GROUP ON THE APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM AND THE SUVA AGREEMENT

8. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **commended** the excellent leadership of the Forum Chair and Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji in bringing Forum Leaders together to converge on and deliver on the *Suva Agreement*, acknowledging that Leaders will consider the *Suva Agreement* at the Forum Leaders' Retreat on 14 July 2022;
- (ii) **acknowledged** the *Report of the Office of the Forum Chair on the Operationalisation of the Suva Agreement* (Forum Chair's Report) and **agreed** to adopt a phased approach to the operationalisation of the *Suva Agreement* as reflected in the Forum Chair's Report;
- (iii) **agreed** to operationalise the *Suva Agreement* in a manner that honours the political commitment to the reform elements for Pacific Islands Forum identified therein and is consistent with the spirit of the discussions had at the Political Dialogue Mechanism on 7 June 2022, as outlined in the Forum Chair's Report;
- (iv) consistent with the transitional plan outlined in the Forum Chair's Report, **endorsed** the proposed revisions to the:
 - (a) Draft Procedures Governing the Selection and Appointment of the Secretary General (Annex E);

- (b) Draft Procedures Governing the Selection and Appointment of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (Annex F);
- (c) Revised Pacific Island Forum Chairing Arrangements and Troika Charter (Annex G); and
- (d) Revised Staff Regulations (Annex H); subject to Forum Leaders signature and endorsement of the *Suva Agreement*;
- (v) **affirmed** the importance of upholding the principles of equality of Members, the maintenance of Leaders' prerogative, gender balance and sustainability under the *Suva Agreement*, and **agreed** to a dignified transition within the *Suva Agreement* as it relates to the Secretariat's leadership; and
- (vi) **agreed** to convey to Forum Leaders a summary report of the operationalisation of the *Suva Agreement*, including key timelines for implementing the political commitments outlined in the Forum Chair's Report.

2023 FORUM INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

9. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **agreed** to the Forum's advocacy and engagement priorities for 2023:
 - (a) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent;
 - (b) COVID-19 response and recovery;
 - (c) climate change and resilience;
 - (d) gender equality;
 - (e) sustainable ocean management, use and conservation; and
 - (f) regional security, with a key focus on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise, and addressing nuclear threats and legacy issues as cross-cutting priorities;
- (ii) **tasked** the Secretariat to work with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to review and update the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum International Engagement and Advocacy Strategy to ensure alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and within the context of increasing geopolitical interest in the region;
- (iii) **agreed** for ongoing and pragmatic advocacy to Forum Dialogue Partners to hold meetings in accordance with the Blue Pacific Principles for Dialogue and Engagement, including the need to engage with the full Forum membership;
- (iv) **noted** the centrality of sustainable ocean management and the need to develop a clear articulation of regional ocean science priorities;
- (v) **agreed** for the Secretariat to provide support to other important summits – including with a sub-set of Forum Members – to promote and ensure alignment with Forum Members' regional priorities, if requested by the Forum Chair or Members, while maintaining transparency with the Forum collective where possible; and

- (vi) **tasked** the Secretariat to work with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to undertake the next Triennial Assessment of Forum Dialogue Partners in 2023 based on adherence to Criteria and Guidelines for Dialogue Partners and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

CLIMATE CHANGE PRIORITIES AND PREPARATION FOR COP27

10. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **noted** with appreciation the leadership of the Pacific Political Climate Champions which contributed to the progress at COP 26, including the completion of the Paris Rulebook, agreement to an annual ocean-climate dialogue, intention to double adaptation finance, and resolving to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees;
- (ii) **noted** a statement by the United Kingdom's COP 26 President, Right Honourable Alok Sharma, reaffirming the UK's support for Pacific regional priorities for COP 27;
- (iii) **noted** the interest from the Government of Niue to explore the concept of Ocean Conservation Credit as a sustainable financing mechanism noting the ongoing challenges in accessing climate finance;
- (iv) **welcomed** Australia's renewed commitment to the Forum's climate change priorities, and also **welcomed** the interest from Australia to host a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties in partnership with Pacific Island countries;
- (v) **supported** new and innovative ways of elevating regional climate change priorities to the international community, including through sports diplomacy such as the recent MOU on Climate Change with FIFA;
- (vi) **recognised** the importance of expanding the region's climate advocacy efforts, based on agreed Forum positions, to influence multiple international forums including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 UNCLOS), and the UN Environment Assembly Roadmap for a new global plastics treaty, and task the Secretariat and CROP agencies to support Members beyond the UNFCCC process;
- (vii) **endorsed** the twin-track engagement plan of the Secretariat, working together with the One CROP Plus Team, in preparing Forum Island Countries to strategically engage at COP 27 as well as a collective approach by all Forum Members; and
- (viii) **agreed** for Leaders to issue the following decisions in their Communique to:

- (a) reconfirm that climate change remains the single greatest threat facing the Blue Pacific, underscoring the urgency to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees through rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- (b) declare that the Pacific is facing a Climate Emergency that threatens the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of its people and ecosystems, backed by the latest science and the daily lived realities in Pacific communities;
- (c) welcome the completion of the Paris Rulebook at COP 26, and call on all Parties to the Paris Agreement to ensure that COP 27 delivers clear progress on turning pledges and commitments into action, consistent with the 1.5 degrees pathway;
- (d) urge world leaders, especially the big emitters, to recognise climate change as the single greatest threat to the planet, to commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, and to revisit and submit enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions before COP 27;
- (e) reaffirm the Pacific Islands Forum Members' commitment to fully implement the Paris Agreement, including a collective aim to achieve carbon neutrality in the Pacific by 2050, and invite development partners to support Forum Island Countries reach this goal;
- (f) commit to working together with the COP 27 President Designate leading up to COP 27 to ensure that COP 27 delivers an ambitious outcome that reflects the need to urgently scale-up ambition and implementation to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial level, enhance efforts by developed country Parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025, advances work on the ocean-climate nexus, and shows meaningful progress with the deliberations on the new collective quantified climate finance goal, the Glasgow Dialogue on funding arrangements for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and the operationalisation of the Santiago Network for loss and damage associated with climate change;
- (g) continue to support the Pacific Islands Forum Missions overseas in their proactive engagements with the international community to support the regional effort to advocate for stronger climate ambition; and
- (h) support the work of the Political Climate Champions to strengthen Forum Island Countries' strategic engagement at COP 27, including the nomination of a new Champion on Gender and Social Inclusion.

ADDRESSING THE THREATS OF CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED SEA-LEVEL RISE ON MARITIME ZONES, STATEHOOD AND OUR PEOPLES

11. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **noted** the status of maritime boundaries and zones in the region, and that the status update will be conveyed to Leaders for consideration;
- (ii) **strongly encouraged** the urgent finalisation and conclusion of outstanding zones and boundaries as per Leaders' commitments and decisions, including in 2019;
- (iii) **strongly commended** final steps taken by the governments of Fiji and Solomon Islands to conclude and sign their Maritime Boundary Treaty at the Forum Leaders' Meeting;
- (iv) **strongly re-emphasised** the threats of climate change and sea-level rise as the defining issue that imperils the livelihoods and wellbeing of the people of the region and undermines the full realisation of a peaceful, secure and sustainable future for the region;
- (v) **strongly reaffirmed** the regional priority of securing maritime zones against the threats of sea -level rise, which is the defining issue underpinning the full realisation of the Blue Pacific Continent, as envisaged by Leaders;
- (vi) **welcomed** and **commended** proactive national efforts to secure maritime zones, and encourage the sharing and adoption of best practices throughout the region to secure the limits of the Blue Pacific Continent, including incorporating the 2021 PIF Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate change-related Sea-level rise (2021 PIF Declaration) into national legislation, policies and plans, thereby strengthening the effectiveness of the 2021 PIF Declaration;
- (vii) **commended** the status of international reactions to the 2021 PIF Declaration, in particular the concrete support by Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the Commonwealth Heads of Governments;
- (viii) **actively supported** plans for targeted advocacy and engagement on the 2021 PIF Declaration towards the European Union and the United States of America, including at related 2022 major global events and at technical levels, noting the long-term nature of this effort;
- (ix) **agreed** to convey an update to Leaders on the status of international reactions to the 2021 PIF Declaration, and propose for Leaders to formally acknowledge these international reactions and to further call for states and regions to adopt similar practices to create a global norm of preserving maritime zones in accordance with the 2021 PIF Declaration;
- (x) **noted** and **supported** arrangements for the convening of the 2022 Regional Conference on Statehood and the Protection of Persons affected by sea-level rise,

planned for 5 – 9 September 2022, to advance regional dialogue and collective action in relation to these critical issues for the Blue Pacific;

- (xi) **noted** that, under its Future Now Project, the Government of Tuvalu has included the preservation of its maritime zones and statehood as part of its joint communiques on forming diplomatic relations, and **noted** the invitation by the Government of Tuvalu to sign these communiques with all PIF Members, recognising the need for a stronger approach on the issue of statehood; and
- (xii) **welcomed** and **commended** the ongoing work and technical guidance on these issues by the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Sea-level rise in relation to International Law.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE RAROTONGA TREATY AND REGIONAL NUCLEAR ISSUES

12. Forum Foreign Ministers:

FORUM ENGAGEMENT IN THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE JAPAN FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

- (i) **noted** progress to date and to underscore the importance of the ongoing engagement with the Government of Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in line with Members' priority of ensuring international consultation, international law, and independent and verifiable scientific assessments as agreed at PALM9. Japan has provided responses to the PIF Panel of Independent Experts' queries, and a first technical meeting was held on 2 June 2022 between PIF, Japan and IAEA experts;
- (ii) **acknowledged** and **reiterated** the statements by the Government of Japan that there will be no discharge of ALPS treated water into the Pacific Ocean if the water is not safe, and further emphasise Forum Members' concern that the discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean could lead to potential adverse transboundary impacts and transgenerational issues of great concern to the peoples of the Pacific;
- (iii) **noted** the presentation and scientific advice produced so far by the PIF Panel of Independent Experts, which indicate the need for more information and highlights that there are major gaps in data and information needed for further assessment of safety prior to any discharge;
- (iv) **tasked** the Secretariat to convey a summary to Forum Leaders of the independent scientific advice and recommendations received from the independent expert panel to inform Leaders' decision on a way forward for the Forum's continued engagement on this matter;
- (v) **welcomed** the ongoing engagement between PIF independent experts and Japan and IAEA experts, including on the basis of the findings by the PIF experts, and subject to ensuring that the information provided is the independent opinion of the experts, and **reiterated** the expectation that information sharing and cooperation

will continue to be enhanced so that the IAEA's determination of safety can be understood by the Forum;

- (vi) **endorsed** the convening of a temporary Informal Working Group of FOC, comprising Members' nominated legal experts, to discuss legal issues and informed by the scientific developments noted above;
- (vii) **welcomed** next steps including ongoing Expert Meetings between PIF and Japan experts, Briefing Sessions by the Government of Japan for PIF Members, and engagement with the IAEA; and
- (viii) **noted** the summary by the Secretariat on the second briefing by the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Forum Officials on 7 July 2022, and **welcomed** the assistance being provided by the IAEA to review the proposed discharge against IAEA safety standards and the independent monitoring being undertaken by the IAEA;

SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY

- (ix) **endorsed** the invitation for non-Party Forum Members to accede to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), and continued efforts to encourage the United States to ratify the Treaty Protocols;
- (x) **noted** the obligation of Forum Member States Parties to report to the Secretary General as soon as possible any significant event within its jurisdiction affecting the implementation of the Treaty;
- (xi) **supported** engagement at the 10th Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 1 – 26 August 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and the Joint statement to be finalised out-of-session;
- (xii) **supported** the meeting of nuclear weapon free zones in Suva in 2022, to be hosted by Secretary General Henry Puna; Ongoing nuclear legacy issues;

ONGOING NUCLEAR LEGACY ISSUES

- (xiii) **noted** the progress update on the work of the CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy Issues in the Pacific, including strategic communications as supported through the FOC Sub-Committee for International Engagement and Advocacy, and request that an update on the work of the CROP Taskforce be provided to Leaders as per the direction of the 2019 Forum Leaders Meeting;
- (xiv) **noted** progress on arrangements for a Preliminary Independent Review relating to Nuclear Contamination in the Pacific, including in the Nuclear Test Site at Runit Dome on Runit Island of the Republic of the Marshall Islands which is expected to commence in the second half of 2022, to provide the evidentiary basis for ongoing Forum advocacy on nuclear legacy issues; and
- (xv) **noted** the First Meeting of States Parties to the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, and Pacific Island nations' support in this regard.

UPDATE ON KEY FISHERIES ISSUES

13. Forum Foreign Ministers;

- (i) **welcomed** the successful conclusion on negotiations on the World Trade Organization Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and the excellent work by Fiji and the Member countries who through the Forum and the Pacific Way were able to work together in solidarity to reach the successful conclusion of these negotiations;
- (ii) **welcomed** and **noted** the update from FFA, SPC and the Secretariat on progress achieved on regional fisheries matters; and
- (iii) **noted** the linkages between fish stocks, food security and the effects of climate change on the regional fisheries sector and **encouraged** regular updates to be provided to Members on this issue.

REPORT OF THE FORUM OBSERVER MISSION TO THE 3RD REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE FOR NEW CALEDONIA

14. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **welcomed** the report of the Forum Ministerial Committee to New Caledonia, following its mission to observe the 2021 New Caledonia Referendum on Independence, and commend the report to Leaders for consideration; and
- (ii) **supported** the Forum's continued engagement with New Caledonia through established Forum processes.

OTHER MATTERS

VANUATU COUNTRY INITIATIVE – UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON CLIMATE CHANGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

15. Forum Foreign Ministers:

- (i) **commended** Vanuatu on its initiative on a pathway to secure a request from the UNGA for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to clarify legal consequences of climate change, noting the urgency of the climate change threat and the need for accelerated global climate action and implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (ii) **welcomed** progress since the initiative was reported to, and noted by, Forum Leaders at their 50th Meeting in Tuvalu in 2019, including progress on ongoing international and regional consultations on the initiative and related legal question(s) to be developed through the UNGA process;
- (iii) **noted** that the initiative is consistent with, and complementary to, regional efforts and ambitious actions on climate change to safeguard our people against the adverse effects of climate change, and noting that an ICJ advisory opinion is non-

binding but may change the course of current negotiations and boost commitments;

- (iv) **recognised** the explicit support to the initiative by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States;
- (v) **endorsed** the recommendation for PIF Leaders to call on the UN General Assembly for a resolution requesting the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the obligations of states under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse impacts of climate change; and
- (vi) **looked forward** to close collaboration in the development of the specific question to ensure maximum impact in terms of limiting emissions to 1.5 degrees, including obligations of all major emitters past, present and future.

TUVALU INITIATIVE ON ELEVATING PACIFIC CANDIDACIES TO INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS

16. Forum Foreign Ministers;

- (i) **welcomed** and **commended** the update by the Government of Tuvalu regarding the need to take a stronger role in identifying prime international positions where Pacific candidates can serve in leadership roles and to campaign for these candidates as Pacific consensus candidates;
- (ii) **tasked** the Forum Officials Committee to advise on methods, including strengthening existing processes, to more consistently elevate Pacific candidates to international positions and develop a pipeline for competitive candidates; and
- (iii) **tasked** officials to further seek means to encourage and empower the participation of Pacific women.

SPECIAL ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE DMYTRO KULEBA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

17. Forum Foreign Ministers **welcomed** and **noted** the special address by the Honourable Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs Government of Ukraine.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF KIRIBATI

18. The Forum Foreign Ministers **noted** the need to engage with the Government of Kiribati, including before the Leaders Retreat, and **committed** to pursuing every effort to acknowledge Kiribati and its upcoming independence celebrations and emphasising the strength of the Forum family.

SOLOMON ISLANDS INTENTION TO HOST NEXT PIF LEADERS MEETING

19. Forum Foreign Ministers **noted** Solomon Islands intention to host the next Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, in consultation with the PIF Members of the Melanesian sub-region, subject to the outcomes of the 51st PIFLM regarding the *Suva Agreement*.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva
8 July 2022

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

FORUM FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING

8 July 2022

Hybrid Meeting

FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

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Hon. Pat Conroy
Minister for International Development and the Pacific

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Assemblée Territoriale de Wallis et Futuna

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Matt Hooper
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Pio Manoa
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General Manager

Annie Kwan Sing
Head of Regional Engagement
Regional Engagement

Wayne Kalotiti
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Regional Engagement

PIDP

James Viernes
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SPC

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Paula Vivili
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Senior Adviser

Director General

Vuki Buadromo
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Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

Easter Chu Shing
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Filomena Nelson
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Audrey Brown-Pereira
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EUROPEAN UNION

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SPECIAL GUEST

Hon. Dmytro Kuleba
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Henry Puna
Secretary General

Dr Filimon Manoni
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Sione Tekiteki
Director Governance and Engagement

Paki Ormsby
Director Policy

Zarak Khan
Director Programmes & Initiatives

Apaitia Veioغو
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Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva
8 July 2022

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Timaima Tora
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Calvy Aonima
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Teanuanua Nicole
Governance Officer

Pritika Bijay
Engagement Officer

Gayle Manueli
Research Officer

Anasimeci Wainiveikoso
Research Officer

Sereima Rokoqiqi
Research Officer

FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Opening Remarks by Fiji – Chair of the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting

8 July 2022

- Honourable Ministers
 - The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum
 - Senior Officials
 - Representatives of the CROP Agencies
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
1. Ni sa Bula Vinaka, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting.
 2. This year's agenda is structured around the most topical and decisive issues for our region. Today we will take on the task of deciding on issues such as the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy), the *Suva Agreement*, climate change, the Rarotonga Treaty and related nuclear issues, climate change related sea level rise and maritime zones.
 3. As such, Honourable Ministers, I'm glad that we are able to convene this meeting in person to allow for more inclusive and comprehensive discussions in the Pacific Way.
 4. Today, instead of being separated by screens, many of us connected here in person today and I want to welcome you to Suva.

5. We can sit together at this table and get to the heart of the matters which are critical to our region. This face-to-face meeting gives us an opportunity to be clear where clarity is needed, to understand each other and to provide flexibility where needed.....and where necessary to step out and *Talanoa* or take a few bowls of kava when we need to paint the picture with more clarity.
6. Honourable Ministers, the agenda before you begins with an opportunity to think critically about broader global and regional trends including geopolitics, as well as our own region dynamics within this context we need to ensure that we build on our own solidarity as a Pacific Family and to set ourselves on the right course for our people and for the Blue Pacific Continent.
7. Furthermore, we will deliberate on the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy). The 2050 Strategy is a critical element in our regional work and is placed to be the ‘north star’ of our future national and regional policies and development.
8. Subsequent agenda items also invite us to review our institutional processes here at the Secretariat. We will deliberate over the Report of the Forum Officials’ Committee on the Appointment Procedures for the position of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and the implementation of the *Suva Agreement*.
9. Honourable Members the *Suva Agreement*, as you know, is a political commitment to resolve our impasse and keep our family together while at the same time implementing some reforms that have been sought by a some of our Family members. Like all families, we sometimes go through a rough patch, but our strength lies in our resolve to work together as one Blue Pacific Continent.

10. It is therefore with heartfelt appreciation that I acknowledge the efforts of our Leaders who, in the interest of the region and our greater good, agreed to come back to the table, and through the Pacific Way, and agreed to a solution for the benefit of our people and our region ---- the *Suva Agreement*.
11. History has shown that the Pacific Islands Forum has been at its best in moments of challenge, when our solidarity and resolve have been both necessary and tested. Rest assured that the Forum and its Secretariat will emerge from our current challenges with a renewed vigour to serve its Members and to serve our people.
12. Reflecting on the full agenda for the day, Honourable Ministers, we certainly have our work cut out for us..... the challenge before us is to unpack some of the most topical issues of our time, we stand at the cusp of the rise and fall of our region and for now, and provide direction that that will appropriately determine the future regional landscape and the Forum's priorities.
13. As such Honourable Ministers, let us seize this opportunity and approach this meeting with open minds and take on the true Pacific Way by engaging at this meeting with a willingness to share ideas, participate in constructive dialogue and provide flexibility where needed.
14. Honourable Ministers, noting your respective demanding schedules back home, I will conclude by thanking you for making the time to join us here today and I wish you all the best for what I hope will be free and frank deliberations.

[End]



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Opening Remarks by the Secretary General - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

8 July 2022

- The Honourable Chair of the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting
 - Honourable Ministers
 - My Colleagues Heads and representatives of CROP Agencies
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
1. *Kia Orana* and *ni sa bula vinaka* to you all – those of you who are present here in Suva with me and to those of you joining us virtually from our various Capitals across the region.
 2. I am so very pleased to welcome you all to your Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting.
 3. At the outset, honourable Ministers, let me acknowledge your individual and collective leadership in steering your respective countries through the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic is not over yet, Leaders seated around the table today and those joining us virtually must be commended for having displayed over whelming feats of leadership, planning and service to your people in dealing with a pandemic that has ravaged our people, pushed our health care systems beyond its capacity and crippled our economies.
 4. As a Pacific Family, together we are still finding our footing, we understand that recovery will take time, but I see our region emerging from this pandemic with greater resolve and solidarity, now more than ever we lean heavily on each other, pulling our resources together, united in our commitment to continue serve and protect our people.
 5. Honourable Ministers let me also acknowledge how good it is to see you all in person, the halls of Secretariat have lost its shine when it was relegated to virtual meetings only, while the virtual meeting platform has been an effective alternative during COVID-19. We acknowledge that our Pacific Way and our sense of community dictates that in person meetings

and face to face discussions are a much more effective and meaningful way to ensure constructive and inclusive engagement.

6. Therefore, Honourable Ministers, it is my greatest pleasure and honour to welcome you back to your Secretariat, we have been looking forward to this meeting, let me also assure you that we stand ready to assist and serve you during the course of this meeting.
7. I also recognise that we have a very full agenda before us today, so I will keep try to keep my remarks very brief.

[Acknowledgements]

8. At the outset, I wanted to register my personal appreciation to you all for your continued engagement, and participation in support of our Forum work programme. Your representatives and the coordinated efforts of your respective governments are the basis for all we do together to advance our collective priorities and to progress our Forum Agenda.
9. As we embark on what will be a very full agenda, I would like to recognise and acknowledge the excellent leadership that each of you bring to the table, which has through the years made it possible for us as a region to, collaborate and implement recommendations from the FOC.
10. In fact, the agenda for the meeting today is a testament to your work, contribution and collaboration over the last year.
11. It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge in particular the considerable efforts and leadership shown by the Government of Fiji since it took on the mantle of Forum Chair in August last year.
12. I must say, that words fall short when it comes to describing the effort that the Chair and his Officials have invested in leading and progressing a range of regional processes and initiatives over the last year, amidst a range of competing priorities – it has been an amazing feat of tenacity, determination and the single minded intention to keep this family united – to all of you, vinaka vakalevu and meitaka ma'ata.

[Strategic Context]

13. A little over 24 months ago, our strategic context was redefined by the onset of COVID-19. Since then, we've navigated a world that had been unravelled by a raging pandemic and worked through national capacities that were stretched with limited resources.

14. And as we begin to grapple with economic recovery following long periods of border closure, we must contend with yet another context – one marked by intensifying geostrategic competition that has catapulted our region to centre of global attention in 2022.
15. We, as a region, have never held as much leverage and influence as we perhaps do, today.

[Regional Solidarity]

16. However, if we are to truly maximise our leverage to this increasing interest and attention on us, we must protect the sanctity of our solidarity – as Blue Pacific Continent. As one Pacific Forum Family.
17. To that end, I welcome the *Suva Agreement* that was concluded last month.
18. This Agreement inspires our continued solidarity as a Forum Family and the promise that it carries for the realisation of our vision for 2050 – which will be tabled for final endorsement by our Forum Leaders in the coming month.
19. Honourable Members, further on the *Suva Agreement*, as part of our agenda today, we can look forward to hearing the Report of the Forum Officials Committee who with the Working Group of Senior Officials and with the help of the Secretariat, have been undertaking the arduous task of mapping the transitional arrangements for the implementation of the *Suva Agreement* and, for your consideration, have been able to put together a detailed and phased approach for the realisation of the *Suva Agreement*.

[Securing our Future]

20. Indeed, I do believe that it is timely that Leaders consider and endorse the 2050 Strategy on the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy), particularly in the context of fierce geopolitical competition, as well as worsening climate change projections and impacts.
21. These trends have the potential to shape our region in deeply fundamental and potentially irreversible ways. So, to have a strategy that sets out where we want to be as a region, is critically important at this juncture in our history.

22. There is no secret that our key strength as a region lies in our ocean and its resources. How we secure it, protect it, leverage and benefit from it through regional political settlements, as well as regulatory, policy and legal instruments, will be core to the success of our 2050 Strategy.

[Conclusion]

23. Honourable Ministers, no doubt this will be a very decisive meeting, the greatest issues of our time and those that will decide our future will be deliberated upon today, from 2050 Strategy, the Suva Agreement, climate change, the Rarotonga Treaty and relate nuclear issues, climate change related sea level rise and maritime zones, to the work on regional vaccination certificates – we trust that we are in good hands Honourable Ministers.

24. With those brief remarks, I wish us all well in our deliberations today.

Vinaka.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

9.00am – 5.05pm on 8 July 2022

Suva, Fiji

(In-Person/Virtual Meeting)

REVISED PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND MEETING TIMETABLE

1. **Opening (9.00am – 9.10am)**
The Chair will call the meeting to order and opening formalities will be observed.
2. **Adoption of Agenda and Meeting Timetable (9.10am – 9.15am)**
Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.2
3. **Global and Regional Strategic Environment (9.15am – 10.00am)**
To consider a scene setting paper on the broader global and regional trends including geopolitics, geoeconomics and regional dynamics. The paper will also include a focus on the various Indo-Pacific Strategies and their impact on our region.
Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.3
4. **2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and Update on the Review of Regional Architecture (10.00am – 10.45am)**
To consider the draft 2050 Strategy for consideration and endorsement to Leaders and receive an update on the Review of the Regional Architecture.
Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.4

Morning Tea Break (10.45am – 11.00am)
5. **Report of the Forum Officials' Committee on the Appointment Procedures for the position of the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and the Suva Agreement (11.00am – 11.45am)**
To consider and discuss the final draft of the 2022 Appointment Procedures for the position of Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and the considerations on the operationalisation of the Suva Agreement.
Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.5

6. **International Engagement and Advocacy (11.45am – 1.00pm)**

(a) **2023 Forum International Engagement and Advocacy**

To consider the priorities for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy, including proposals on how to move forward with large bilateral meetings and other issues.

Please refer to the meeting papers PIFS(22)FFMM.6(a)

(b) **Climate Change Priorities and Preparation for COP27**

To consider Blue Pacific collective positions and approaches on climate change and preparations for COP27.

Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.6(b)

(c) **Addressing the threats of climate change-related sea-level rise on maritime zones, statehood and our peoples**

To consider key updates on the Forum's work to address the threats of climate change-related sea-level rise, in particular relating to Leaders' decisions on securing maritime zones.

Please refer to the meeting paper PIFS(22)FFMM.6(c)

Lunch Break (1.00pm – 2.00pm)

7. **Report by the Secretary General on the Rarotonga Treaty and regional nuclear issues (2.00pm – 2.30pm)**

To consider the report to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders by the Depository of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and updates on the intention by Japan to discharge ALPS Nuclear Treated Water into the Pacific Ocean and the Pacific's nuclear legacy issues.

Please refer to the meeting papers PIFS(22)FFMM.7

8. **Regional Vaccination Certificate (2.30pm – 3.00pm)**

To consider the development of the Regional Vaccination Certificate as directed by Leaders in their Retreat of 6 August 2021. The paper will table for the Committees consideration the protocol on Regional Vaccination Certificates developed through the Regional Task Force of the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19.

Please refer to the meeting papers PIFS(22)FFMM.8

9. **Report of the Forum Observer Mission to the 3rd Referendum on Independence for New Caledonia (3.00pm – 3.30pm)**

To consider an update on the Forum Observer Mission to the 3rd Referendum on Independence for New Caledonia.

Please refer to the meeting papers PIFS(22)FFMM.9

Afternoon Tea Break (3.30pm – 3.45pm)

10. Other Matters (3.45pm – 4.15pm)

- (i) Vanuatu Country Initiative – UNGA Resolution for an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice

Please refer to the meeting papers PIFS(22)FFMM.10(i)

- (ii) Tuvalu Initiative on Elevating Pacific Candidacies to International Positions

- (iii) Special Address by the Honourable Dmytro Kuleba, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Ukraine

- (iv) Engagement With the Government of Kiribati

11. Consideration of the Outcomes Document (4.30pm to 5.00pm)

12. Closing (5.00pm to 5.05pm)

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat