

PIFS SG Comments at Closing of CAPPE

Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

It is an honour to address you today, not only as the Chair of CROP but also as the Pacific Ocean Commissioner.

On behalf of your CROP agencies, I would like to convey a clear message that we are united, coordinated and ready to provide support and assistance in the lead up to, and, throughout the actual COP23. Importantly, post COP 23 we also stand ready and able to assist with the follow-up so necessary for successful outcomes.

This is a crucial year for our region to speak loud and clear on two issues that profoundly affect the lives of our people – the health of our ocean and the changing climate. At every opportunity we must continue to reaffirm the Pacific's Leadership, exemplify our solidarity and determination, and draw attention to the great efforts that the region is undertaking to meet the challenges before us.

While we focus on Climate Change at this meeting, the ocean is the heart of the Pacific. The ocean and climate are inextricably linked. Changes to our climate mean changes for our ocean and significant change in our lives. We welcome the call from the Leaders to further advocate for inclusion of oceans in UNFCCC processes, possibly through a dedicated work programme.

As reiterated by the Pacific Leaders, Ministers and senior officials who have spoken here, we have to stay the course and continue to call for greater ambition, maintain the momentum, and take further action to reduce the risk of climate change and seek opportunities. The paramount objective should be to galvanize and mobilize large emitters, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions at an accelerated rate. This is the only solution. And the Pacific has to continue ensuring that all partners carry their share, and further identify and quantify their NDCs to develop implementable strategies to reduce emissions.

It has been clear these last two days that the Pacific is also sending a message of progress and accelerated action. In such areas as climate smart agriculture, water security, and energy efficiency and renewable energy, significant achievements have already been made, achievements that put countries on a course to fulfil the

objectives of the Paris Agreement while at the same time generating sustainable development outcomes.

We have also heard a message of urgency. As atmospheric carbon dioxide increases and sea level rise accelerates, the solutions (such as mitigate, protect, repair, and adapt) become fewer and less effective. As time passes, so does the long-term ability of humankind to cope with rapid, as well as, gradual changes in physical and biological systems. Given the serious adverse impacts that our islands in the Pacific are currently facing, we must continue to inspire with innovative solutions that will ensure the resilience and survival of our communities and future generations.

We as CROP stand ready to provide our expertise through scientific advice, technical support, capacity building, convening powers, and facilitated access to finance to solidify your calls.

Lastly, let me congratulate and thank the Fiji Government for this meeting. I am also grateful to the support provided by countries, stakeholders and partners for participating in this rich and diverse discussion.

Thank you.