



PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT FORUM SECRETARIAT

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CLIMATE ACTION PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP EVENT

Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji , July 3-4, 2017

PIDF Secretary General, Mr. François Martel Statement

Chairperson, Fiji High-level Champion Hon. Seruiratu

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Bula Vinaka and a very good afternoon to you all.

1. The Pacific Island Development Forum through its Charter has a mandate to drive, through national, regional and international frameworks, transformative changes towards sustainable development by advocating the very real and pressing significance of climate change for the lives and livelihoods of Pacific Islands and Pacific

Islanders. In this context we fully embrace the theme of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership – Further, Faster and Now – as it emphasizes the urgency in face of existential threats.

2. Two years ago Pacific Leaders went to Paris intending to bring into the Paris Agreement an ambitious agenda to pursue efforts to limit temperature rise to below 1.5C. It is very clear, from the discussions over these two days, that this high ambition is still alive among Pacific stakeholders.
3. There is no two ways about this, we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground, starting with the most harmful of them all... coal. The world has a choice here, either keep burning coal or limit temperature rise to 1.5⁰C. We can't have it both ways, and dithering on the issue is not helping the high ambition goals.
4. As the incoming COP President Hon Bainimarama said, we are all in the same canoe, if the canoe sinks we will all drown with it. We hope that the Fiji Presidency will seal this temperature limit from COP23 onwards, so that we will never again refer to 2⁰C.
5. The Paris Agreement call upon all countries to plan for full decarbonisation by 2050 at the latest, requiring member states to turn to 100% sustainable renewable energy by that year. The NDC pledges countries laid on the table in Paris put us in the starting blocks, but they will need to be doubled to meet the temperature goals agreed

upon at the climate talks, and defended by the High Ambition Coalition.

6. President Christian wisely told us in the opening of this meeting, “if we do not swim against the current, the current will push us to places where we do not want to be”. For the Pacific islands and PIDF towards COP23, there are major tasks ahead to keep paddling against that current. On one hand, we need to provide support to Pacific countries to ensure they can reach the targets set in the Paris agreement, on the other hand, we need to pursue advocacy and engagement to ensure that what fell off the negotiations in Paris to achieve the main targets are fully addressed.
7. These include 1) enhancing ambition towards a lower than 1.5 degree Celsius target through the Facilitative Dialogue; 2) dealing and roping in reduction of shipping and aviation transport emissions; 3) give the Ocean and Seas – as the Pacific Islands are all large oceanic states – the value and protection they deserves in capturing emissions, before their ecosystems and our fisheries collapse; 4) Ensure climate finance and insurance schemes for building resilience and adaptation reaches the most vulnerable SIDS quickly and 5) design a strong monitoring & evaluation framework for measuring progress of developed and emitting countries on their pledges.
8. Loss and damage – remain at the core of Pacific Islands issues for COP23 to ensure a fair level of compensation and climate justice for

the most vulnerable countries as there is no Sustainable Development achievable in our context – the fact that severe recent tropical cyclones demonstrate the future level of disaster norm for Pacific Islanders, as we will reach the 1.5 degree benchmark within the next 4 years. SDGs for the Pacific Islands cannot be reached without addressing climate change at its roots (drastically reducing gas emissions), with climate financing to fund solutions and measures to ensure each island community resilience to climate-induced disasters so that “no-one is left behind”. The efforts of the Pacific Private Sector presented today do show their leadership in this context.

9. Our appreciation and congratulations goes to the Government of Fiji, the COP23 Secretariat and the Fiji High Champion for setting up a space bringing together leaders and representatives of all stakeholders in the Pacific to reflect on what to prioritize and what to focus on for COP23. The Paris agreement for the Pacific Islands is the main benchmark to ensure true sustainable development, so now let’s focus on how we intend to implement the measures we have agreed upon, as well as ensuring our full support for a strong legacy for this Presidency.

Vinaka vaka levu, Thank you, Fa’afetai tele lava.