



## The Oceans Pathway COP23 Partnership Days for Climate Action

### Pre-Launch of Oceans Pathway Partnership

4-5 pm, 16<sup>th</sup> October

Denarau Island Convention Centre, Sheraton Resort

#### Pre-Launch of the Oceans Pathway Partnership

This event will launch the partnership as an opportunity to establish and embed oceans as part of the UNFCCC process by 2020. The Oceans Pathway will coordinate existing coalitions and alliances working on oceans and climate change as well as ensure an eventual work programme on oceans and climate in 2019. The Oceans Pathway Partnership will include countries, observers, CSOs, NGOs and interested organisations. Speakers will address the oceans and climate nexus and the need for engagement through an effective Oceans Pathway. The event will also allow willing partners to sign on to the Oceans Pathway Partnership.

#### Speakers:

- Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister responsible for climate change
- Excellency Tommy Remengesau, President of Palau (TBC)
- Eva Svedling, State Secretary Sweden (TBC)
- Hon. Vidar Helgesen, Minister of Climate and Environment Norway (TBC)
- Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary (Video)
- Dame Meg Taylor, Pacific Ocean Commissioner

Facilitator: Taholo Kami

#### Background:

Fiji's Presidency is a voice for the most vulnerable countries that include small island and coastal states that are literally on the nexus of oceans and climate change. Healthy oceans are critical to their economic, cultural and social well-being and also a significant threat to their survival with the impacts of climate change including sea level rise, acidification and intense storms and weather patterns.

There is a consensus on the important relationship between oceans and climate change in terms of management of carbon, the absorption of heat and regulating global weather. Action for healthy oceans and climate change include reducing the multiple stresses and threats on our oceans and building resilience that allows the ocean to perform its critical role for our global climate. The Fiji Presidency provides an opportunity to urgently address the adverse impacts or threats that impair the oceans' role as climate regulator.

Finally, the current acknowledgement of oceans in the Paris Agreement falls under the recognition of the important role of ecosystem services to climate change. The ocean is the most critical of all natural ecosystems for our climate due to a combination of its composition and scale and should not be held as

the same as other ecosystems. There is no solution to global climate change without action on the world's oceans. It is important that the special case for healthy oceans and climate is established under this Presidency.

[An Oceans Pathway will:](#)

- i. Introduce a soft landing for oceans in the Negotiations space with acknowledgement of the call for action from the UN Oceans Conference, call for a work programme on oceans by 2019 and flag the establishment of an Oceans Pathway.
- ii. Launch an Oceans Pathway Partnership that will engage existing alliances and coalitions and consist of Parties, CSOs, observers and interested institutions to:
  - 1) define the parameters and engage Parties for a possible work programme on oceans and climate change in 2019;
  - 2) strengthen cooperation of the Parties for the conservation and enhancement of the resilience of oceans under the UNFCCC;
  - 3) enhance the opportunity from current and emerging climate change funding under the UNFCCC for support of ocean health and the maintaining of critical oceans ecosystems;
  - 4) ensure stronger coordination for an emphasis on climate change and oceans on existing priorities including sustainable transport, cities and human settlements, population displacement and migration, coastal infrastructure, ecosystems, food security and energy;
  - 5) ensure the insertion of oceans into NDCs; and
  - 6) link existing oceans activities and partnerships within the Oceans Pathway.

