



## Honourable Inia Seruiratu

Minister for Agriculture, Rural & Maritime Development, National Disaster  
Management and Meteorological Services  
& High-level Champion for Global Climate Action

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Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) Conference

### WELCOME ADDRESS

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Grand Pacific Hotel  
Suva, Fiji

Thursday, 26 July 2018

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*Honourable Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama*

*Your Excellency the President, Baron Waqa [and Lady Louisa Waqa]*

*Your Excellency, the President of Wallis and Futuna*

*Honourable Prime Minister of Cook Islands*

*Honourable Prime Minister of Tuvalu*

*Honourable Prime Minister of Vanuatu*

*Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa*

*Honourable Ministers*

*Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic corp*

*Distinguished country delegates*

*Distinguished representatives from development partners,  
regional organisations, civil society organisations, and the private  
sector*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Bula vinaka, good morning, and a very warm welcome!

Last night you were traditionally welcomed and this morning I am honoured and delighted to welcome you to the official session of the second Climate Action Pacific Partnership Conference.

The Climate Action Pacific Partnership, otherwise known as CAPP, was initiated with the full recognition that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement can only be possible through the collective engagement and commitment from all stakeholders - all agencies, all sectors, all communities, and all individuals.

At this CAPP conference we have almost 300 stakeholders, who I am sure are all eager to engage in sharing information, knowledge and experiences.

As you may have seen, the theme for this year's conference is - **“A Pacific Talanoa for greater resilience, urgency and ambition”**

2018 is the year of the Talanoa Dialogue, where the talanoa process sets out to engage with all stakeholders – both Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Everyone is invited to share their experiences, their achievements, challenges, solutions, innovations and visions aimed at inspiring and impelling countries to increase ambition urgently.

Excellencies; delegates

The message coming from Pacific Island Communities – from both Parties and non-Party Stakeholders - is clear:

**It is imperative that we aim for the highest level of ambition of keeping global temperature increase to within 1.5 degrees Celsius.**

We need to be persistently sending out strong messages on the necessity to bend the alarming temperature trajectory we are currently on.

There needs to be a swift shift in direction towards a pathway that will take us to a net-zero emission world as soon as possible, before the mid-century.

This is vital for the survival of our small island communities in the Pacific and other vulnerable regions around the world.

We need to ensure that this message resonates in the talanoa dialogue. We can ensure this by making submissions and actively participating in the talanoa dialogue process. I urge to do this.

I would like to emphasise that your contributions in this conference will be very important. You will be participating in the first Pacific regional talanoa dialogue where your stories and messages will be captured and fed into the talanoa dialogue.

To set the scene - today we will listen to an array of experts from various sectors sharing their experiences and insights. All with the underlying objective to showcase approaches and innovative technologies and solutions to increase ambition, strengthen resilience and ensure an overall just and sustainable transition.

You will then be engaging in talanoa – sharing your inspiring and impelling stories.

This is what the Talanoa Dialogue aims to do – to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders to exchange experiences, knowledge and ideas and to learn and better understand one another.

Everyone constructively contributes, everyone respectfully listens, and everyone openly engages to collectively identify solutions and to take action to address the problem at hand.

In the May talanoa sessions in Bonn this year, the talanoa approach was seen to be highly successful and effective, especially in drawing out positive and constructive dialogue and exchanges. We, in the Pacific, should be very proud that this fabric of our culture is the basis for constructive engagement at the international stage.

It is our hope that this Talanoa spirit of openness, respect and inclusiveness will become a norm in national and international level discussions on climate change. While the talanoa dialogue will end at COP24 in Poland, let us keep the spirit of talanoa alive beyond this.

Excellencies; delegates

I wish you all an enjoyable conference and a successful Pacific talanoa - for greater resilience, urgency and ambition.

Once again, a very warm welcome to the second CAPP Conference.

Vinaka vakalevu; Thank you