

CLIMATE ACTION PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

PACIFIC LEADERS TALANOVA, GCC COMPLEX, NASOVA

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Thursday 26th July, 4-6pm, 2018

Salutations

I take this opportunity on the behalf of Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) and Pacific civil society to commend and applaud Fiji's talanoa modality initiative to include Non State Partners at this closed talanoa with Pacific Leaders. It is historic and innovative, and provides an international normative standard.

Your Excellencies, Transformation, Ambition and Inclusivity are the hallmark promises of the Agenda 2030 and this is the nexus with the Paris Agreement.

Transformation is about changing hearts and minds and not the paper that agreements and policies are written. For this reason, we couldn't agree more with HE COP 23 Presidency, Prime Minister of Fiji when he earlier stated, "Governments can't meet challenges alone, hence the grand coalition with Non State Partners."

We also acknowledge HE the Tuvalu Prime Minister who recently hosted a CSO dialogue at the Tuvalu June Polynesian Leaders Group meeting and we congratulate HE Nauru President who will be hosting the CSO dialogue with PIF Leaders at the upcoming Nauru September Pacific Forum meeting.

Honorable High Level Champion, you posed the question for this talanoa session – How do we get there. I submit that SDG 17 is the answer – partnerships, multi-stakeholdership and inclusivity.

PIANGO is a 27 year regional NGO umbrella platform, we have a presence in 24 Pacific Island countries and territories and we are a part of the very rich fabric of Pacific civil society – including faith based organisations, churches, community based organisations; women, disability, youth and sports groups; media; human rights and advocacy networks; Pacific Islands climate action network; locally managed marine protected areas; from Climate warriors to prayer warriors, Pacific civil society may not be visible in these spaces but we are active at the local and global levels.

Civil society provide the link from corridors of power to village, amplifying what the village knows best and mobilizing to influence decision makers and policy dialogue such as this. Civil

society organisations and groups contribute to holding communities together and often become the glue community action in maximising social capital.

The key points we contribute to this talanoa:

1. We affirm and commit to the Grand Coalition to include civil society, private sector, academia mooted here by the COP 23 President. Standing united against big carbon emitters requires our solid partnership – we need to agree on key messages; identify our respective target audiences and develop inside/outside strategies. While you as our country leaders negotiate inside, we can be amplifying the same key messages outside and in the corridors;
2. We need to raise the ambition on 1.5 degrees in the Paris Agreement. In 2008, we launched our campaign on “one point five to stay alive”, for the past decade, well before the Paris Agreement, Pacific civil society have been campaigning and if we join forces, we would create a greater impact and wider outreach.
3. We would like to raise our voices louder on Loss and Damage, particularly focusing on operationalizing the Warsaw mechanism as we head to Poland, we need to maximise our advocacy within the remaining Fiji Presidency before this is handed over at COP 24.
4. The impact of climate change induced displacement is already upon us and there needs to be recognition that relocation, internal and external migration are adaptive measures that need attention.
5. Recognising the critical partnership with civil society actors, we encourage governments and development partners to resource the complimentary engagement and participation of CSOs in these processes and on the road to COP 24.

I thank you.