

## **TWENTY-NINTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia  
24 - 25 August 1998

### **FORUM COMMUNIQUÉ**

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#### **Results of the Study on the Radiological Situation at the Atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa**

50. The Forum noted that the finding of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Study indicates negligible residual contamination as a result of nuclear testing. Leaders recalled that the Forum had called for such a study to be carried out and expressed appreciation that the results of the study had been presented to the region prior to publication and subsequent international scientific scrutiny.

51. Leaders commended Dr Vili Fuavao for his participation as the Forum representative on the International Advisory Committee which undertook the study as well as Dr Shorten of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission who represented the region at the International Scientific Conference in Vienna to review the results of the study.

52. Leaders agreed that the concerns by the Forum representative at the International Scientific Conference about the lack of geological detail in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Study on the Radiological Situation at the Atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa should be fully assessed and responded to.

53. The Forum called on France to carry out ongoing radiological monitoring of the environment on Mururoa and Fangataufa, and strongly urged France to address fully, concerns of the people of French Polynesia especially regarding the possible health effects of the nuclear testing programme.

54. The Forum called on all nuclear powers which had conducted nuclear tests in the region to accept full responsibility and liability for past nuclear testing. Leaders also called on all States concerned to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that sites where nuclear tests have been conducted are monitored scrupulously and to take appropriate steps to avoid adverse impacts on health, safety and the environment as a consequence of such nuclear testing.

55. The Forum recognised the special circumstances pertaining to the continued presence of radioactive contaminants in the Republic of Marshall Islands, and reaffirmed the existence of a special responsibility by the United States towards the people of the Marshall Islands, who had been, and are continuing to be, adversely affected as a direct result of nuclear weapons tests conducted by the United States of America during its administration of the islands under the UN Trusteeship mandate.

56. The Forum again reiterated its call on the United States to live up to its full obligations on the provision of adequate and fair compensation and the commitment to its responsibility for the safe resettlement of displaced populations, including the full and final restoration to economic productivity of all affected areas.