

Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable

THEME: Strengthening Resilience: An Integrated Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

8th to 11th July 2013, Nadi, Fiji

STATEMENT OF THE JOINT MEETING

WE, the representatives of Pacific Island Countries and Territories ¹, civil society organisations, regional organisations and development partners attending the first Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, in Nadi, Fiji, 08 – 11 July 2013;

1. RECALL the decision by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2005 in addressing these challenges to resilient development approved the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 aligned to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 – 2015 aligned to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
2. RECALL the commitment made in 2011² at the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, the Pacific Islands Meteorological Council, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's Governing Council and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations to develop an integrated strategy for disaster risk management and climate change for the region;
3. ACKNOWLEDGE that these regional and global policy and planning frameworks, complement and support national policy instruments;
4. RECOGNISE that an integrated approach to disaster risk management, climate variability, climate change adaptation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions involving all sectors will strengthen sustainable development due to their common focus on reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience of communities and infrastructure including through the rollout of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives in the Pacific;
5. EMPHASISE that enhanced partnerships at all levels will enable this integration;

¹ American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna

² Mandate from 2011

6. REITERATE that the Pacific Island region's greatest sustainable development challenge are climate variability, climate change and disasters with wide ranging impacts that compound existing critical economic, environmental, social and security issues, and place additional burden on humanitarian response, emergency management, development systems as well as on national budgets and efforts to achieve national development goals;
7. VALUE the leadership and the accomplishments by Pacific Island Countries and Territories to adopt an integrated approach where appropriate and noted that the regional integrated strategy will complement and support these national approaches;
8. COMMEND existing regional coordination mechanisms such as the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and the Pacific Meteorological Council, Water and Sanitation Consultations, Regional Disaster Manager's Meeting for the support they have provided to disaster, risk and climate resilient development in the Pacific;
9. RECOGNISE the commitments made by development partners to provide financial and technical assistance needed to support resilience building;
10. REITERATE that the key principles underpinning the Roadmap process are:
 - Leadership by Pacific Islands Countries and Territories;
 - Ownership of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories and partners; and
 - Inclusive of strengths and priorities of whole communities including marginalised and vulnerable groups

AGREE TO:

11. IMPLEMENT, where possible, climate and disaster resilient practices in all development sectors including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, education, health, energy, transport, infrastructure water and sanitation and tourism, including the inter-linkages among sectors highlighting the critical importance of the application of specific ecosystem-based approaches such as 'ridge to reef', 'watersheds', 'coastal zone' and 'whole island system' in responding to climate and disaster risks;
12. ENSURE that respective national finance and planning agencies lead strategic, whole-of-country and participatory approaches in mainstreaming disaster and climate-related risk into planning, budgetary and decision-making processes;
13. URGE development partners to align their funding modalities and financing mechanisms to national and regional policy and planning frameworks and partnerships, based on needs and circumstances of each Pacific Island Country and Territory;

14. ENCOURAGE public-private partnerships at all levels and ensure a whole-of-society participation involving vulnerable communities, particularly persons with disabilities, women, youth, children, and the elderly and consider their particular skills and knowledge in efforts to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience;
15. SUPPORT weather, climate, water, ocean and geological observations and services, data collection, appropriate technologies and the provision of reliable weather and climate services and capacities, multi-hazard early warning systems and socioeconomic analysis in informing disaster risk management and climate change decision making;
16. ENSURE the preservation and the use of traditional and local knowledge and practices to increase community resilience and integrate, where appropriate, in accordance with the principle of prior informed consent of traditional owners, into national policies and strategies;
17. SUPPORT the strengthening of emergency and disaster preparedness and response capacities across all sectors at local, sub national, national and regional levels ensuring improved inter-operability between key response actors to facilitate the effective and efficient management of humanitarian support and risk reduction measures to affected populations;
18. RECOGNISE the importance of loss and damage for Pacific Island Countries and Territories and call for support, as appropriate, to further efforts to secure an international mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to address loss and damage resulting from the impacts of human-induced climate change, recognizing the existential threat posed to Pacific Island Countries and territories from mounting greenhouse gas emissions;
19. STRENGTHEN the process of developing an integrated strategy for disaster risk management and climate change with a clear focus on resilient development in line with the milestones in the Roadmap;
20. REQUEST the Secretariat to have the Chair's Summary of the Joint Meeting made available to participants by August 2013.

CALL ON the disaster risk management and climate change communities to:

21. EXPEDITE the development of an integrated strategy for disaster risk management and climate change towards resilient development for the Pacific in accordance with the milestones in the Roadmap;

22. DISSEMINATE and advocate the messages contained in this Statement to a wide audience at national, regional and international level and ensure that these are taken into account in the ongoing processes of the post 2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, post 2015 Development Agenda and the Post Rio+20 process in particular the 3rd SIDS Conference 2014.
23. RECOGNISE and undertake harmonisation of synergies between the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention of Biological Diversity, including relevant programmes in other multilateral environment agreements that support resilience building.

Adopted on: Thursday July 11, 2013