

REPORT

THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

Hosted by the Government of Fiji

Friday, 18th of August 2023

Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji Islands

**Theme: "Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water
Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific"**

Acknowledgments

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- Fiji Government and Fiji Meteorological Services
- European Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Application (ClimSA)
- Government of Australia through the Climate and Oceans Support Program for the Pacific (COSPPac)
- Government of New Zealand
- Pacific Community
- Varysian Network
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Other Development Partners

The success of the 3rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology belongs to all of the participants from throughout the region and beyond. The PMMM-3 ensured the collective sharing of experiences and inputs will continue, to help shape and facilitate the interaction and knowledge on the needs and priorities of its Members in relation to meteorology, weather and climate and related fields for the empowerment of Pacific island people of the Blue Pacific Continent.

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Introduction

The Government of Fiji through the Fiji Meteorological Service hosted the third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3), which convened at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa in Denarau, Nadi, Fiji on 18 August 2023. The PMMM-3 included Ministerial and High-Level representation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United States of America, and Vanuatu. The PMMM-3 convened with the Secretariat support of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and with the presence of national, regional and global partners including from the United Nations, and Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. *Refer to annexes for agenda and participants list.*

The Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3) is the third gathering of Ministers responsible for meteorology. The meeting was held back-to-back with the Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) and the First PMC Development Partners and Donor Engagement Meeting hosted by the Government of the Fiji and supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and other Partners.

The PMMM-3 provided the opportunity for Ministers to be briefed on and have discussions around the critical role of NMHSs and their contributions to both national and regional safety and sustainable development through the provision of weather, climate, hydrology, ocean and related service. The Outcome from the PMMM-1 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in 2015 and the PMMM-2 in Honiara, Solomon Islands provided clear guidance for the PMC, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and their partners.

While NMHSs have benefited from considerable investment in the Pacific region over the years by national governments, development partners, collaborating organisations and institutions, CROP agencies and the United Nations agencies in the Pacific to strengthen capability and capacity and train meteorologists, climatologists, hydrologists and related expertise, develop infrastructure, and improve services; the demand for continuous monitoring and reliable services require continuous investment and support. The Weather Ready Pacific Programme endorsed by Pacific Leaders as well as the Early Warning For All (EW4ALL) initiative are testament to this.

The objectives of the PMMM-3:

1. Engagement of Ministers in the development of sustainable weather, climate, water, ocean and related development services in the Pacific.
2. Discuss opportunities including financial resources for strengthening the operations and provision of weather, climate, hydrology, ocean and related development services provided by the NMHSs, and their role in contributing to resilient development such as the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and EW4ALL initiative; and
3. To provide support and strategic direction for the development of the NMHSs for the provision of accurate, timely and action-oriented weather, climate, hydrology, ocean and related development services.

The Outcomes of the PMMM-3:

1. Strengthened engagement with Ministers through discussion of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and the EW4All initiative;
2. Provide support and direction for the development of weather, water, climate, ocean and related development services through a Ministerial Outcome Statement. The Outcome Statement can be presented to the leaders.

This report offers a short synopsis of the discussions during the Meeting, with inclusion of the Namaka Declaration for Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting for Meteorology, which was endorsed on 18 August 2023.

Please refer to the following website link for more information including presentations <https://www.pacificmet.net/pmmm/meetings/pmmm3>

Agenda Item 1: OFFICIAL OPENING

1. The third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3) opened with a prayer from the Reverend Tevita Ramokosoi Kete. The traditional ceremonies of welcome led by the High Chief Momo Na Tui of Nadi from the Narewa Village, Ratu Vuniani Navuniuci Dawai. The chief guest for the meeting was accorded to the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organisation, Professor Petteri Taalas.
2. The keynote addresses delivered by Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Professor Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), as the joint secretariat of the Pacific Meteorological Council and the Pacific Met Desk.
3. Mr. Nawadra highlighted the importance of Weather Ready Pacific as a priority for the National Meteorological and Hydrology Services and the vehicle by which resources and efforts to address Early Warning Systems of the Pacific region. Mr. Nawadra emphasised the urgency of enhancing working relations with community stakeholders and vulnerable groups including people with disabilities for a truly inclusive and Resilient Pacific. The Pacific Partnership Coordination Mechanism was shared as a platform that brought donors, the private sector and other partners to the table to understand first-hand the needs of the Pacific.
4. Professor Taalas shared the importance of the UN Global Early Warning Initiative. It was highlighted the need for accurate and timely data to inform decision making noting the failure to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, which are the two greatest risks to global economic development. Professor Taalas emphasised the need for training and human resources capacity on early warning systems. The challenges and gaps on global observation system, surface observation system and upper air observation were emphasised. It was shared that the data is showing climate change is visible for ocean data, glaciers on mountains and sea level rise, which has doubled in the last 20 years from 2mm to 4mm. The Report on economic losses from climate change was the highest for Small Island Developing States.
5. The opening statement delivered by the Government of Fiji through the Honourable Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services emphasised that climate change presents the greatest threat to Pacific Small Island Developing States in the entire sweep of human history. It was noted that the most negative impact of the rising temperatures caused by carbon emissions that have accompanied the industrial age, without having contributed to those emissions in any meaningful way at all. The experiences of the Pacific make the need to become more resilient and move forward together as a Pacific family. The Honourable Minister highlighted that Pacific Leaders endorsed the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment in 2021, which is an ambitious, innovative and transformative plan, that will bring about accurate and timely early warning information for early action. The Honourable Minister urged donors and development partners to coordinate resources through such an investment programme to ensure that every person in the Pacific region is protected by early warnings and resilient.

Agenda Item 2: ORGANISATION OF THE THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

2.1 Designation of Chair for PMMM-3 (Chair of PMMM-2/Solomon Islands).

The Meeting:

- I. **Confirmed** the Honourable Minister of Fiji as Chair.

6. The Meeting host Fiji was appointed as Chair of the third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3).

7. The Solomon Islands through Dr. Melchior Mataki on behalf of the Honourable Minister as the outgoing PMMM-2 Chair, expressed appreciation for the support received during their tenure and extended best wishes to the new Chair, Fiji by presenting the Honourable Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services with a traditional gift from the Solomon Islands. The Chair conveyed appreciation and acknowledged the leadership of the outgoing Chair, the Solomon Islands with the presentation of a tanoa to Dr. Mataki

2.2 Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work

The Meeting:

- I. **Considered** and adopted the Provisional Agenda; and
- II. **Adopted** the hours of work.

Agenda Item 3: OVERVIEW OF THE PMC AND ITS OUTCOMES AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE NUKU'ALOFA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AND THE HONIARA MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

3.1 Overview and objectives of the PMMM-3 and update on the achievements of the Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration (2015) and Honiara Ministerial Statement (2017).

The Meeting:

- I. **Noted** the overview and objectives of the PMMM-3 and update on the achievements of the Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration (2015) and Honiara Ministerial Statement (2017)

3.2. Outcomes from the Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council and the Development Partners and Donors Meeting

The Meeting:

- I. **Noted** the Outcomes from the Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council and the Development Partners and Donors Meeting.
8. WMO informed the Meeting that Australia and New Zealand have indicated their support for Early Warnings for All and requested to have wider inclusion from other partners such as Japan, and China.
9. The Honourable Minister for Papua New Guinea noted that it is the first time a state minister responsible for meteorology has been in attendance and reassured the commitment of Papua New Guinea to the work of its National Weather Service. The Honourable Minister acknowledged the support for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and National Disaster Management Offices from partners and expressed gratitude to the organisers for the outcomes of the meetings held so far.
10. The Honourable Minister for Samoa requested a copy of the presentation and stated that whilst the regional emphasis is evident, queried if there were any national level initiatives discussed in the Development Partners and Donors Meeting. The Honourable Minister for Samoa queried if there were any commitments from the development partners who attended. The PMC-6 Chair responded that all the work that is done at the regional level at the Pacific Meteorological Council is designed to support national priorities such as the Regional Training Centre, which a few countries have expressed their interest in, to be a part of the Task Force. The Secretariat responded during the Partners Dialogue held the day prior, it was an opportunity for partners to discuss areas of collaboration and map out the priorities of the region whilst matching donor priorities. The documentation will be shared once the reports are completed.
11. The Honourable Minister for Samoa noted the agenda and requested documents of the said meetings held prior to the Ministerial should be made available. On the issue of donors, it was requested that in future, there needs to be clear outcomes as this was an action from PMC-5, and there needs to be actions taken. The Secretariat responded that the information gathering held yesterday was the start of documenting the support mechanism for the Pacific Meteorological Council to deliver on the Pacific Islands Meteorology Strategy. The platform itself was an opportunity for dialogue.
12. The Chair instructed the Secretariat to note the points made by the Honourable Minister of Samoa.

Agenda Item 4: SUSTAINABILITY OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER AND OCEAN SERVICES FOR A SAFE, SECURE AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC

4.1 Costs of natural hazards and socio-economic benefit of investing in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Launch of the Pacific State of the Climate 2022.

The Meeting:

- I. **Noted** the costs of natural hazards and socio-economic benefit of investing in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
 - II. **Noted** the Launch of the State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022 Report
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13. WMO presented on the State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022 Report, which is an annual publication launched 3 years ago to take regional stock of the state of climate. The Report is to inform on climate variability and the impacts in the long-term context. This is the 3rd Pacific Report and complimentary to the IPCC Report, that includes 55 experts from the region and around the world. A video presentation was made by Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, who expressed deep appreciation for WMO to co-author the report since inception in 2022. Mr. Fa'anunu of Tonga, the President of Regional Association V (South-West Pacific), informed the Meeting that they were extremely proud to see the production of the Report, noting the impacts of climate change on the Pacific region and the urgent need for concentrated efforts to address them.
 14. The Chair thanked WMO and acknowledged ESCAP and Tonga, President of Regional Association V (South-West Pacific). The Chair noted the Report as being very informative and critical for the region noting the elements of climate modelling for informed decision making. The information noted warmer seas and within the context of the Pacific, indicates the need to better prepare for what is coming as in cyclones, a signal to governments and relevant entities to up the level of preparation moving forward. It was also noted that sea level rise is higher than normal. The economic loss shared from 2022, notes the importance of mitigation, and that preparations must also consider food security and agriculture. The Chair emphasised that as Ministers it is critical as political leaders to drive support for the technical arms in government at the political level, so preparations on the ground are elevated accordingly.
 15. The Honourable Minister of Tuvalu applauded the Report, which was viewed as critical for leaders to be better informed and more proactive. Echoed the concerns on climate change issues as shared in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) which convened in Brisbane in 2022. The scientific proof presented on sea level rise and the effects of climate change are experienced first-hand in Tuvalu. The Honourable Minister emphasised the urgency for governments to take action.
 16. WMO strongly encouraged Ministers, directors and partners to use the Report to inform policy action to promote adaptation and mitigation and prepare for the negotiations for COP28.
 17. The Chair thanked WMO, ESCAP, Tonga and all agencies involved for the informative report. The comments from the Honourable Minister of Tuvalu were duly noted that governments must take initiative as political leaders to support technical officers, better prepare for what happens on the ground in times of disaster.

Agenda Item 5: METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES SUPPORTING THE BLUE PACIFIC AGENDA

5.1 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

The Meeting:

- I. Noted the update on the work to finalise the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
 - II. Agreed to continue to support the development of the 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan, including by providing comment on the draft Plan when it is circulated for Members consideration.
18. The Honourable Minister of the Cook Islands highlighted the importance of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the Chair of the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, that shall be hosted in the Cook Islands from 6 to 10 November 2023. It was noted that the Cook Islands as Forum Chair has included Weather Ready Pacific as a key priority under the Pacific Partnership for Prosperity (PPfP) and recognises the urgency of ensuring that donors and partners support the initiative.
 19. The Honourable Minister of Niue supported the call by Tuvalu noting how extremely vulnerable SIDS are to the impacts of climate change and to ensure important data provided earlier in the State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2022 Report, are used to expedite urgent action to help implement priorities. The collaboration and coordination between Met Services and National Disaster Office has been traditional systems. It was recognised that there is a great need to upgrade the National Met Services building, as well as to improve the safety of staff. It was emphasised the critical importance of accurately managing and predicting water resources. The Honourable Minister of Niue further recognised the importance of the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment as the key vehicle to anchor and drive the important priorities reflected in each of the Panels of the PMC and the 2050 Strategy of the Blue Pacific Continent. The Honourable Minister of Niue reminded the Meeting that their work would leave behind a legacy and that they must support each other to rise above the challenges caused by climate change.
 20. The Honourable Minister of Samoa emphasised the importance of explicitly including meteorology in the Implementation and Monitoring Plan of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. It was noted the importance of including within the Plan meteorological systems to help better inform early warning systems and other sectors such as agriculture across the region.
 21. The Solomon Islands emphasised the importance of ensuring that meteorology is reflected in the Plan and also that the Plan does not duplicate existing efforts.
 22. The Honourable Minister of Palau commented on the thematic area on Climate Change and Disasters in the 2050 Strategy and noted the earlier comments of the Honourable Minister of Tuvalu. It was observed that in the Pacific they have seen the impacts on people, environment, and economies. The Honourable Minister of Palau sought consideration on the importance of traditional knowledge and how it may impact on vulnerability and impact assessments. The issue of impact versus climate change comes up as a burden in access to climate finance. There is limited data from observations, due to lack of systems. It was noted as important to consider how

traditional knowledge can be taken into consideration in climate projections. The Honourable Minister of Palau called for consideration of traditional knowledge in bridging the link between impacts of climate change, with the scientific rationale for climate change, which is largely focused on impact and vulnerability assessment.

23. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat noted the comments from the Honourable Ministers and acknowledged the importance of including meteorology and will work with the Secretariat to include it under the thematic area of Climate Change and Disasters in the Implementation and Monitoring Plan.
24. The Secretariat noted that the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is a Leaders endorsed framework document, which needed to be read in conjunction with the draft Implementation and Monitoring Plan that will be presented to the Leaders in the Cook Islands for their consideration. The Secretariat highlighted the need for the working groups previously used through the Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific mechanism to be reinstated.

5.2. Overview, progress and update of establishing a Weather Ready Pacific Programme and ways forward

The Meeting:

1. **Noted** the overview, progress and update of establishing a Weather Ready Pacific Programme and ways forward.
25. Tonga presented on the progress and update of Weather Ready Pacific, beginning with a short video regarding its conceptual background and rationale. The Prime Minister of Tonga's message in the Weather Ready Pacific video, highlighted the need for consolidated effort to build capacity on the ground to better inform weather and climate information.
26. An update on the progress of Weather Ready Pacific over the last four years was provided. Tonga referenced the PMC-5 decision in 2019, where the Meeting agreed that extreme weather events needed special attention, particularly with the impacts of global warming and climate change with respect to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and that PMC-5 agreed to commission a study supported by Australia, WMO and the Secretariat. It was reiterated that the PMC-5 agreed to use the outcomes of the scoping study to inform the Weather Ready Pacific.
27. Tonga presented on the components of Weather Ready Pacific which is valued at USD 167 million and aims to strengthen the region's resilience to the impacts of severe weather events by protecting communities, strengthening security, supporting economies, and enhancing connectivity. It was emphasised that the total value of the proposed programme would be reviewed. Following the study, a virtual PMC was convened to approve the Weather Ready Pacific ahead of submission to the Forum Leaders.
28. Tonga noted the Weather Ready Pacific as a vehicle to deliver people-centred end-to-end holistic multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories, which was endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2021. To date it has received an initial investment by Australia of AUD 30 million, with support from New Zealand on setting up the governance arrangements for Weather Ready Pacific and how it will operate.
29. Tonga delivered a presentation on the PMC-6 outcomes regarding the progress and outcomes of Weather Ready Pacific including the governance structure and way forward.

- a. Agreed to the Variation Option for Governance and requested the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the mechanism to operationalise for pre-approval out of session by the PMC by the end of September 2023.
 - b. Acknowledged Australia and New Zealand's offer of support to assist SPREP to enable the way forward.
 - c. Agrees to the Hybrid Investment Facility and request the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the mechanism to operationalise for PMC approval out of session by end of September 2023.
 - d. Requested the Secretariat to engage with donors and development partners to develop the implementation plan that will outline the next steps to bring Weather Ready Pacific to fruition for approval by the PMC out of session by the end of October 2023.
 - e. Agreed that implementation to start with the key priority outcomes from the PMC Panels and urgent needs within the PIMS Framework.
- 30.** Australia acknowledged with gratitude the willingness of the Cook Islands as Forum Chair in taking Weather Ready Pacific forward under the Pacific Partnership for Prosperity. Australia congratulated Tonga in advancing Weather Ready Pacific since it was endorsed by Leaders in 2021. It was noted that there is strong opportunity for engagement with the private sector in the region. The contribution of New Zealand was also acknowledged to the work that is being undertaken on Weather Ready Pacific. The comments on capacity building were noted including the lack of resourcing and shared the willingness of the Bureau of Meteorology to build that capacity. Australia will also have a big focus on gender equality, disability and social inclusion. It was emphasised the commitment of Australia for an additional AUD 1.7 billion in climate financing that will be available to the region.
- 31.** The Honourable Minister of the Marshall Islands shared their intention to develop and enhance their Met Office. Involvement in the Pacific on climate change and oceans programme, provides an opportunity to increase the number of staff and capacities in this area, particularly on climate science as a focus of need for capacity building to help build informed decisions on climate change mitigation.
- 32.** The Honourable Minister of Samoa noted the issue on infrastructure investment, that without technical capacity and staffing, equipment will not be of use. The Honourable Minister noted that capacity building and infrastructure must go hand in hand and that any new mechanism under the Weather Ready Pacific, must enhance national capacity.
- 33.** The Honourable Minister of Tuvalu applauded Tonga in leading on the Weather Ready Pacific initiative. Tuvalu remains committed to support Australia in lobbying for COP32, but called for the abolition of coal as it will impact Tuvalu.
- 34.** WMO presented on the Pacific Region Project and Programme Data Analysis Report, which is a consolidated effort to produce an interactive tool to visualise the Hydromet projects and investments in the Pacific in the form of a virtual dashboard. WMO shared that the virtual

dashboard was launched at the Development Partner and Donor Engagement Meeting on 17 August 2023. It was noted that the visualisation data collected provides a breakdown of the projects in the Pacific and the flow of funds within the region including how and where these funds are allocated. The tool link is available from [here](#).

Agenda Item 6: DISCUSSIONS, COMMENTS FROM MINISTERS.

6.1 Statements from Ministers on the Weather Ready Pacific and other priorities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

The Meeting:

- I. **Noted** the Statements from Ministers on the Weather Ready Pacific and other priorities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

35. Australia expressed commendation for the work completed on Weather Ready Pacific and reaffirmed support. Australia noted the level of work that had been put into the Weather Ready Pacific and the dashboard by WMO and UNESCAP.

36. The Honourable Minister of the Marshall Islands commended the Fiji Government for being an excellent host and for the welcome ceremony. The Honourable Minister agreed to actively support Weather Ready Pacific. It was also suggested that all islands contribute support towards Weather Ready Pacific.

37. The Honourable Minister of Samoa reaffirmed support for Weather Ready Pacific and reiterated that infrastructure and capacity development go hand in hand. Noted the importance at the national level of having the necessary people needed to operate the proposed infrastructure, and that a process is necessary to ensure that human capacity is developed.

38. Tonga reaffirmed that capacity development is a fundamental part of Weather Ready Pacific.

39. The Secretariat expressed gratitude to Australia for enabling an opportunity to be included in a high-level presentation to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) made up of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States of America.

40. The Honourable Minister of Tuvalu noted that the fundamental core of the Weather Ready Pacific initiative is to save people, and having reflected on the hazards that Tuvalu is suffering as a direct impact of climate change, trying to understand where Tuvalu fits in. The Honourable Minister sought advice on what Weather Ready Pacific will achieve in terms of whether it will warn people or develop infrastructure? Stated that there was no point investing USD 30 million for countries who are more vulnerable than others, because it was not clear how Weather Ready Pacific would benefit those who are smaller. The Honourable Minister supports the Weather Ready Pacific but reiterated that these questions are fundamental, because as leaders they remain accountable to present and future generations. The Honourable Minister reiterated that Tuvalu is ready to support Weather Ready Pacific, but the consequences of actions affect everyone.

Agenda Item 7: REVIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Meeting:

- I. **Noted** the Statements from Ministers on the Weather Ready Pacific and other priorities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.
 - II. **Adopted** the Namaka Declaration of the Pacific Ministers for Meteorology.
- 41.** The Honourable Minister of Samoa expressed appreciation to the Chair, the Honourable Minister of Fiji for the excellent chairing and hosting of the Meeting by the Fiji Government. The Meeting Secretariat of WMO and SPREP were also acknowledged for their support. The Honourable Minister appreciated the opportunity to have the open dialogue and be able to discuss the Weather Ready Pacific in detail. The AUD 30 million investment in the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment was duly acknowledged and the Honourable Minister encouraged other partners and multilateral organisations like the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to support the programme. The Honourable Minister of Samoa encouraged the PMC and SPREP to ensure a streamlined approach to ensure less burden on national mechanisms. It was noted the early warning systems needs to be people-centric and include impact-based forecasting. The Honourable Minister congratulated PMC for the foresight and support for bringing the hydrological sector into the Met space. The implementation of MHEWS and ensuring effective data management is necessary. It was noted the hope to strengthen the Met, Hydro, NDMO services through policies at the national level. The Honourable Minister acknowledged the support of partners Australia, European Union, New Zealand and the World Bank. The Honourable Minister highlighted the importance of integrating the Ministerial with Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure the goals are aligned.
- 42.** The Honourable Minister of Nauru expressed gratitude to the Secretariat of WMO and SPREP and development partners, as well as the Fiji Government for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality. The Honourable Minister noted it was an honour to address this esteemed gathering, resonating on the challenges and opportunities of the Pacific region as they seek to build a sustainable and resilient future. It was noted since the Met Services were established in Nauru in 2015 with 8 staff, they now have 11 more and are dedicated to providing essential services to the people of Nauru. Mammoth challenges however remain and include the need for climate proofing building and infrastructure to withstand hazardous events. The Honourable Minister encouraged the region to construct climate proof buildings. It was noted that while the Pacific are blessed with beauty the region is very susceptible to sea level rise, other threats and hazards including weather, climate, and water and that effective and timely weather and climate services can help contribute to a resilient Pacific. The Honourable Minister highlighted the importance of effective communication strategies, which are essential to support the infrastructure. The Honourable Minister concluded that a resilient Blue Pacific requires collaboration and partnerships, where sharing data, knowledge and expertise are vital to building a resilient and sustainable future.
- 43.** Kiribati congratulated the Chair and extended congratulations for the successful outcomes of PMC-6. Weather Ready Pacific was noted as one of the most important outcomes. It was expressed that Kiribati have a keen interest in Weather Ready Pacific for helping to improve access to accurate and timely products. The generous funding from Australia was acknowledged and the contribution of New Zealand towards the governance design. Kiribati encouraged other donors and partners to contribute. Kiribati sought clarification on how funds will be allocated among

members and how will country-specific priorities be addressed during implementation and complement national efforts without hindering the ability of members to secure alternative funding for local weather, climate, and ocean initiatives?

- 44.** American Samoa highlighted the importance of inclusive disaster risk management and inclusion of persons with disabilities and women. American Samoa extended support for Weather Ready Pacific.
- 45.** New Zealand acknowledged the Honourable Minister of Fiji as Chair. It was noted that New Zealand and Australia have committed to investing in Weather Ready Pacific and congratulated Tonga and the team for developing the programme. New Zealand shared that Weather Ready Pacific will be a strong waka which will navigate the Pacific's hazards. New Zealand highlighted how the Pacific is showing the world how the United Nations Secretary General's call for Early Warning Systems for all could be delivered, and through the Weather Ready Pacific. Emphasised that Weather Ready Pacific is for all countries of the Pacific as a family. New Zealand remains committed to call on partners such as Japan and UN agencies to come on board Weather Ready Pacific, which is an excellent model of partnership for the region.
- 46.** The Honourable Minister of Palau thanked the Fiji Government and people of Nadi for their hospitality, especially for the traditional welcome. Weather Ready Pacific was viewed as timely as Pacific people are always under threat, and tools and technology are needed to manage these hazards. Palau stands ready to support and to bringing in donors and partners to support Weather Ready Pacific.
- 47.** Solomon Islands congratulated the Honourable Minister of Fiji as the new Chair. Solomon Islands noted their support of Weather Ready Pacific and acknowledged that a lot of thought had been put into it, with the rigorous vetting process it has been through. The leadership of Tonga for driving Weather Ready Pacific was highlighted, as was the generous contribution of Australia and support of New Zealand. Solomon Islands welcomed the outcome of the PMC with regards to the Joint Meeting between NDMO and NMHS. It was noted that whilst Weather Ready Pacific has a few different thematic areas, important to have flexibility at country level to ensure programmes put in place that are fit for purpose and address the needs of countries. Solomon Islands encouraged partners and donors to contribute to the facility. The importance of getting enough resources to raise USD 167 million over the 10-year period of investment and more, for all the work that needs to be done. The Solomon Islands noted the importance of actioning low hanging fruit so that they may be implement Weather Ready Pacific right away and not wait. Solomon Islands highlighted the importance of looking at what can be done between the NMHS in the region. On the issue of expertise Solomon Islands suggested the secondment of Pacific island people to build their capacity including through mentoring and capacity building using regional expertise. On the issue of a financial facility, it was requested to not indulge in the process that makes it too stringent to access funds, especially in the context of accessing funding for rapid access.
- 48.** Tokelau acknowledged all the views shared and recognised the importance of Weather Ready Pacific extending the support of Tokelau.
- 49.** The Honourable Minister of Papua New Guinea thanked the Government of Fiji for hosting and Chairing the Meeting. The Honourable Minister acknowledged the Secretariat of WMO and SPREP for their coordination. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was noted as per the presentation from the Pacific Islands Forum. The Honourable Minister supported the comments

of Tuvalu on Weather Ready Pacific and emphasised the time for talking is gone, and the time for action is now.

- 50.** The Secretariat noted the process to develop the 2050 Strategy Implementation and Monitoring Plan with some of the resource mobilisers. The development of the draft is time bound as it is to be presented to the Leaders by November.
- 51.** The Pacific Community acknowledged the Meeting and recognised the efforts to reestablish the Joint NDMO and NMHS Forum. Recognised the joint work across NMHS and NDMO is already happening and collaboration with SPREP and the Pacific Islands Forum with the Pacific Community can complement the efforts already initiated.

Agenda Item 8: CLOSING OF MEETING

- 52.** Upon adoption of the Namaka Declaration the Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology was officially closed by the Honourable Minister of Fiji as Chair.

Annex: List of Participants

| Given Name | Surname | Country | Organisation |
|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| Abdul | Sattar | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Abraham | Nasak | Vanuatu | Director |
| Adarsh | Kumar | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Adil | Ali | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Alan | Porteous | New Zealand | NIWA |
| Alipate | Wadakelua | Fiji | - |
| Amit | Singh | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Amy | McGowan | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Services |
| Ana | Sovaraki | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Andre | Siohane | Niue | Government of Niue |
| Andrew | Jones | Australia | Australian Bureau of Meteorology |
| Andrew | Johnson | Australia | CEO, Bureau Of Meteorology |
| Arona | Ngari | Cook Islands | Director |
| Ashnil Ashish | Kumar | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Atesh | Gosai | Fiji | European Union |
| Awnesh | Singh | Fiji | USP |
| Bapon | Fakhruddin | | GCF |
| Ben | Churchill | | WMO |
| Bill (William) | Leathes | United Kingdom | International Development Manager - Met Office |
| Bipen | Prakash | Fiji | Acting Director Fiji Met Office |
| Caleb | Aw | Singapore | OTT Hydromet |
| Charlie | Reed | Samoa | SPREP |
| Chung Wei | Aw | Singapore | OTT Hydromet |
| Corinne | Malot | Australia | Campbell Scientific Australia |
| David | Farrell | Barbados | Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology |
| David | Corbelli | | Met Office |

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|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| David | Hiriasia | Solomon Islands | Director |
| Dilwei Maria | Ngemaes | Palau | Meteorologist In Charge / Director |
| Diminski | Reweru | Nauru | Director of Disaster Risk Management Office |
| Dipesh | Kumar | Fiji | Dept of Information |
| Dr. Melchior | Mataki | Solomon Islands | Permanent Secretary |
| Dr. Paula | Vivili | SPC | Deputy Director-General |
| Duncan | Tippins | Australia | Weatherzone |
| Edwin Stephen John (Stephen) | Hunt | New Zealand | MetService |
| Elinor | Lutu-McMoore | American Samoa | U.S. National Weather Service |
| Elisabeth | Thompson | United Kingdom | U.K. Met Office |
| Elisapeta | Alailima-Eteuati | | UNEP |
| Eric | Baptiste | United States | Enterprise Electronics Corporation |
| Esala | Nayasi | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | Deputy Secretary-General |
| Esiki | Tukana | Fiji | FMS |
| Espen | Ronneberg | Samoa | SPC |
| Felix | McGowan | Fiji | Drone Services Fiji |
| Folauhola | Latuila | Tonga | Assistant Geologist |
| Gabrielle | Emery | | UNDRR |
| Geoffrey | Gooley | Australia | CSIRO |
| Geoffrey | Kabino | Palau | Personal Assistant of Villaney Remengesau |
| Grant | Mathew | Australia | Campbell Scientific Australia |
| Graymea | Ika | Nauru | Director |
| Gregor | Macara | New Zealand | NIWA |
| H. Gingerlei | Porter | United States | Pacific International Training Desk, UH |
| H.E. Ewen | McDonald | Australia | Special Envoy to the Pacific and Regional Affairs and Australia's High Commissioner to Republic of Fiji |
| H.E. Junior | Aini | Marshall Islands | Marshall Islands Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji |
| H.E. Kay | Harrison | NZ | Climate Change Ambassador |
| H.E. Marie | Damour | US | US Ambassador to Fiji |

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|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| H.E. Tukabu | Tauati | Kiribati | Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative at Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the United Nations Kiribati |
| Herve | Dalmanian | Fiji | SPC |
| Hon. Ampelosa | Tehulu | Tuvalu | Minister |
| Hon. Esa Mona | Ainuu | Niue | Minister |
| Hon. Jesse | Jeremiah | Nauru | Deputy Minister |
| Hon. John | Silk | Marshall Islands | Minister |
| Hon. Nofo | Iupati | Tokelau | Minister |
| Hon. Ro Filipe Qaraniqio | Tuisawau | Fiji | Chair of PMMM-3 and Minister of Public Works and Meteorology Fiji |
| Hon. Steven Victor | Victor | Palau | Minister |
| Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric | Schuster | Samoa | Minister |
| Hon. Vaine | Mokoroa | Cook Islands | Minister |
| Hon. Walter | Schnaubelt | Papua New Guinea | Minister |
| Hong | Sunggin | South Korea | RAINBIRDGEO |
| Hyejin | Lee | South Korea | APEC Climate Center |
| Iosefo | Cauravouvinaka | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Isidore | Robert | Marshall Islands | Director |
| Jack | Kaobata | Solomon Islands | Water Resources Division; Solomon Islands Government |
| Jaclyn | Brown | Australia | Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) |
| Jacqueline | Reid | Fiji | SPC |
| James | Lunny | New Zealand | Meteorological Service of New Zealand Ltd |
| Janice | Mitchell | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Services |
| Jennifer | Strahl | United States | Pacific International Training Desk, UH |
| jerome | aucan | New Caledonia | SPC |
| Jimmy | Gomoga | Papua New Guinea | Director |
| JIn Ho | Yoo | South Korea | APEC Climate Center |

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| Jiuta | Korovulavula | Fiji | UNESCO/IOC |
| John | Strickland | Cook Islands | Director |
| Jonah | Taviti | Vanuatu | Water Sector Coordinator (Van CISRDP) |
| Jonathan | Tafiariki | Solomon Islands | Director |
| Joseph | Intsiful | | Green Climate Fund |
| Josephine | Wilson | Switzerland | OTT Hydromet |
| Karen | McCourt | United Kingdom | MET OFFICE |
| Katherine | Berryman | Australia | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Katie | Barkans | United Kingdom | Varysian |
| Kaushik | Singh | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Keni | Vure | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Kevin | Alder | New Zealand | Met Service |
| Kiniconi | Lomavere | Fiji | Ministry of Health |
| Koji | Kuroiwa | | JICA |
| Kristine | Tovmasyan | Fiji | UNESCO Pacific |
| Lagi | Reupena | | SPREP |
| Lealaisalanoa Frances | Brown Reupena | Samoa | MNRE |
| Leonard | Bale | Fiji | FMS |
| Litea | Biukoto | Fiji | Pacific Community |
| Luke | Pierce | | Varysian Ltd |
| Luteru | Tauvale | Samoa | Samoa Met/ MNRE |
| Mafua | Maka | Tonga | Director |
| Malaki Saufoi | Iakopo | Samoa | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment |
| Maria | Elder | USA | US Embassy Suva |
| Mariana | Tuinasavusavu | Fiji | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Martin | Palmer | Australia | Weatherzone/DTN |
| Merana | Kitione | Fiji | SPC |
| Michael | Brewer | New Zealand | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Michael | Yarofaitoar | Micronesia | Deputy Assistant Secretary |
| Michal | Choma | Slovakia | Barani Designs |
| Mile | Fonua | Tokelau | |
| Moirah | Matou | Vanuatu | Van-KIRAP Project - VMGD |
| Molly | Powers | New Zealand | NIWA |

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|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Montin | Romone | Vanuatu | Director |
| Mr. Faamao Obrien | Asalele | American Samoa | Director |
| Mr. Montin | Romone | Vanuatu | Director |
| Mr. Ofa Faanunu | Faanunu | Tonga | Director |
| Mr. Sefanaia | Nawadra | SPREP | Director General |
| Mr. Semo Veavea Jr | Veavea Jr | American Samoa | Director |
| Mr. Taitusi | Vakadravuyaca | Fiji | Permanent Secretary |
| Ms. Sophie | Martinoni | French Polynesia | Director |
| Naheed | Hussein | Fiji | SPREP |
| Nakul | Prasad | Switzerland | World Meteorological Organization |
| Narend | Kumar | Fiji | Pacific Aviation Safety Office |
| Nazgul | Borkosheva | Fiji | UNDRR |
| Nihmei Kaniaha | Salesa | Samoa | SPREP |
| Ofa | Faanunu | Tonga | DIRECTOR |
| Pakoa | Leo | Vanuatu | Department of Agriculture and Rural development |
| Patricia | Mallam | Samoa | SPREP |
| Paul | Bridge | United States | Campbell Scientific |
| Paula | Acethorp | New Zealand | Civil Aviation Authority New Zealand |
| Paula | Vivili | - | SPC |
| Peter | Dunda | Thailand | ICAO |
| Peter | Sinclair | Fiji | SPC |
| Professor Petteri | Taalas | World Meteorology Organisation | Secretary General |
| Ravinay | Kumar | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Reginald | White | Marshall Islands | Director/Meteorologist in Charge |
| Rhonda | Robinson | Fiji | SPC |
| Rich | Fitzmaurice | USA | US Embassy Suva |
| Robert | Ireland | Australia | Vaisala Pty Ltd |
| Robin | Hekau | Niue | Manager |
| Rosslynn | Pulehetoa-Mitiepo | Niue | Director |
| Roy Harry | Mumu | Papua New Guinea | PNG Department of Transport |
| Ruci | Senikula | Fiji | Pacific Disability Forum |
| Sairusi | Koroi | Fiji | MOFA |
| Sajiva | Sharma | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |

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|--------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| Sakeasi | Waibuta | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Organisation |
| Samisoni | Waqavakatoga | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Sebastien | Boulay | New Zealand | Tomorrow.io |
| Shweta | Shiwangni | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Simone | Esler | - | World Bank - Senior Climate Change Specialist |
| Siosinamele | Lui | Samoa | SPREP |
| Sivendra | Michael | Fiji | United Nations Development Programme |
| Sonia | Dick | Vanuatu | VBC |
| Sophie | Martinoni | French Polynesia | Meteo-France |
| Sosikeni | Ramese | Samoa | SPREP |
| Stephen | Hunt | New Zealand | MetService |
| Stephen | Meke | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Service |
| Sunny Kamuta | Seuseu | Vanuatu | SPREP |
| Takashi | Oba | Fiji | JICA |
| Takena | Redfern | Kiribati | Ag. Director Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management |
| Tauala | Katea | Tuvalu | Director |
| Tavita | Sua | Samoa | SPREP |
| Teuila-Jane | Fruean | Samoa | SPREP |
| Thierry | Nervale | Solomon Islands | Solomon Islands Maritime Authority |
| Thomas | Copping | United Kingdom | Varysian |
| Tiffany | Baldwin | Vanuatu | VBC |
| Tikiko | Koroivoutu | Fiji | MOFA |
| Tilo | Happ | Australia | CSIRO |
| Timothy | Cookes | Australia | Enterprise Electronics Corporation |
| Ueneta | Toorua | Kiribati | Director |
| Vasiti | Soko | Fiji | NDMO Director |
| Viliame | Vereivalu | Fiji | Fiji Met |
| Villaney | Remengesau | Palau | OMEKESANG |
| Vuniwaqa | Veitokiyaki | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Services |
| Wayne | Pene | Fiji | Fiji Meteorological Services |

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|----------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| William | Leathes | United Kingdom | Met Office |
| Yongjun | An | South Korea | RainbirdGEO |
| Zulfikar | Begg | Fiji | SPC |

Annex: Agenda

Agenda Item 1: OFFICIAL OPENING

- 1.1 Opening Prayer (Reverend Tevita Ramokosoi Kete).
- 1.2 Traditional Ceremonies of Welcome (Government of Fiji).
- 1.3 Keynote Address (Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, SPREP).
- 1.4 Keynote Address (Professor Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of World Meteorological Organisation, WMO).
- 1.5 Official Opening Statement by the Government of Fiji (Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services)

Agenda Item 2: ORGANISATION OF THE THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

- 2.1 Designation of Chair for PMMM-3 (Chair of PMMM-2/Solomon Islands).
- 2.2 Adoption of Agenda and Programme of Work

Agenda Item 3: OVERVIEW OF THE PMC AND ITS OUTCOMES AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE NUKU'ALOFA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AND THE HONIARA MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

- 3.1 Overview and objectives of the PMMM-3 and update on the achievements of the Nuku'alofa Ministerial Declaration (2015) and Honiara Ministerial Statement (2017).
- 3.2. Outcomes from the Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council and the Development Partners and Donors Meeting.

Agenda Item 4: SUSTAINABILITY OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER AND OCEAN SERVICES FOR A SAFE, SECURE AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC.

- 4.1 Costs of natural hazards and socio-economic benefit of investing in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Launch of the Pacific State of the Climate 2022.

Agenda Item 5: METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES SUPPORTING THE BLUE PACIFIC AGENDA

- 5.1 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
- 5.2. Overview, progress and update of establishing a Weather Ready Pacific Programme and ways forward.

Agenda Item 6: DISCUSSIONS, COMMENTS FROM MINISTERS.

- 6.1 Statements from Ministers on the Weather Ready Pacific and other priorities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

Agenda Item 7: REVIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

- 7.1 Interventions and comments by Ministers on the draft Ministerial Statement.

Agenda Item 8: CLOSING OF MEETING

Annex: Ministerial Speeches

Fiji

Honourable Ro Filipe Tuisawau

Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport

Salutations

- **Ministers** responsible for Meteorology and Hydrology from around the Pacific
- **Mr Sefanaia Nawadra**, Director General, The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- **Professor Petteri Taalas**, Secretary General, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Representatives of Governments in the Pacific
- Distinguished guests
- Members of the press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

Bula vinaka and a very good morning to you all.

It is an honour and a great pleasure to be part of the Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3).

On behalf of the Fiji Government, Prime Minister and the Fijian people, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to our friendly islands, and I must say that we are honoured with the opportunity to host this very auspicious event.

At the outset, it is fitting to acknowledge the support from the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), the European Union funded Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) program, the Australian DFAT funded Climate and Oceans Support program for the Pacific (COSPPac) and other partners.

Today marks the 8th year since the inception of the first Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology.

Resilient Pacific

It is no exaggeration to say that climate change presents the greatest threat to Pacific Small Island Developing States in the entire sweep of human history.

We survived the epidemics of influenza and venereal disease that our colonisers brought with them and which decimated our people. We survived the experience of having some of our people stolen

and forcibly taken to work in the plantations of our larger neighbours. We survived being used by the great powers as testing grounds for the most destructive weapons ever known to man.

But unless we stand in solidarity and fight this battle together, then the Pacific, as we know it, is doomed. Doomed to suffer the most negative impact of the rising temperatures caused by the carbon emissions that have accompanied the industrial age. Without having contributed to those emissions in any meaningful way at all.

Our experiences make one thing very clear and that is we need to become more resilient and move forward together as a Pacific family.

In this regard, the need to improve disaster risk reduction and response cannot be overstated.

Strengthening and sustaining our early warnings for all

We cannot be complacent due to the many challenges we face today.

Fiji government is committed to ensuring that we effectively play our role in providing people-centred early warning information to you all, especially from our regional specialized meteorological centre (RSMC) here in Nadi.

We stand ready to work with you all in sustaining our end-to-end early warning system, strengthen the infrastructure, capacity and resources needed in our region.

Resource mobilisation initiatives such as Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme

At this juncture, I would like to acknowledge all our partners and donors who have worked tirelessly in supporting and sustaining our early warning for all programs in our region.

On 27 of July 2021, your leaders endorsed the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment, an ambitious, innovative and transformative plan.

This will bring about accurate and timely early warning information for early action.

Now, I urge you our donors and development partners to coordinate resources through such investment program so that we can ensure that every person in the Pacific region is protected by early warnings and resilient.

In closing I would like to encourage us all to optimize the use of this opportunity. This is not just a meeting. It is an occasion that we can use as colleagues and friends to identify ways that our respective countries and this Blue Pacific region can strengthen our resilience to the various hazards and associated risks that we face. I want to encourage all of us to capitalize, for example, on the interaction that we will have later this morning with our partners. We are grateful for their presence and commitment to support our efforts. I am looking forward to the interaction and sharing with them.

When all is said and done, I feel confident that we will be able to make some significant commitments to action to help ensure the safety, security and resilience of our Blue Pacific.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Thank you and God

Cook Islands

Minister of the Crown responsible for:

Youth Sports; Ombudsman; Education; Financial Supervisory Commission; Financial Services Development Authority; Audit/ Public Expenditure Review Committee; Justice

3rd Pacific Meteorological Ministers' Meeting

Friday 17 August 2023

Nadi, Fiji Islands

Our geography and climatology

The specific geography and climatology of the Cook Islands make the country a prime candidate for investment in early warning systems. Six of our inhabited islands are not only very low-lying and therefore susceptible to an array of climate hazards, but they also have limited land area and are located over 1000km from the population centre of Rarotonga. This makes investment in many forms of climate adaptation economically prohibitive and logistically challenging. In contrast, early warning systems are a highly cost-effective means to strengthen resilience of these very remote communities.

The northern and southern Cook Islands straddle the South Pacific Convergence Zone, with the northern group atolls generally sitting to the north of the SPC and the southern islands to the south. This unique geographical arrangement means that at any given time either our southern islands or our northern islands experience the impacts of ENSO extremes – an example being La Nina that brings severe droughts to our north, or in contrast, El Nino that brings water shortages in the south. With the projection that ENSO phases will become more extreme with ongoing climate change, so too will the impacts for the Cook Islands. EWS enable us to more effectively plan and combat these climate impacts, such that the return on investment for EWS is clear.

We've laid the platform so we are now well positioned to benefit from EWS investment

With international support the Cook Islands has invested significantly in the data and infrastructure that underpins development of EWS. In the last 12 months alone this has included national-scale high resolution LiDAR mapping to provide a spatial baseline of our islands, the roll out of strengthened communications infrastructure such as 4G mobile internet across all islands, and the return-to service of automatic weather stations on most islands. With these projects nearing completion, we are now in a strong position to effect EWS in the Cook Islands, if the necessary investment is made.

In 2016, our met directors developed our roadmap called the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (PIMS in short) that clearly articulated our development priorities and guide our actions until 2026.

In 2021, we developed the Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme which our Leaders endorsed. We continue to shape what we want and what we need – it is Pacific led, Pacific Designed, Pacific driven, the challenge we face is the much-needed investment in to reduce the human and economic cost of severe weather events across the Pacific by protecting our communities and livelihoods. And this augurs well with the vision of our Leaders and aspirations of Pacific Peoples.

My country will be hosting the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' 52nd Meeting in November. As we are all aware this is an enormous event where Pacific Priorities get determined and matters of regional importance are considered. Along with key decisions being taken these issues being discussed and decisions taken, the Pacific becomes the focus for all. Member, development partner, civil society, private sector representatives will all want to converge in Rarotonga.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and its Implementation Plan, to be endorsed by Leaders in Rarotonga, provides a clear and well-defined roadmap to ensure that our regional development efforts are focused and targeted. Against this backdrop, the Cook Islands as Forum Chair is seeking to collaboratively select and promote a number of new and existing regional collective actions to ensure early and successful delivery of our 2050 Strategy. We have coined the phrase Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity or PPfP.

Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity (PPfP) is aimed at catalysing the Implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent by ensuring that its Implementation Plan is well supported politically and financially to deliver on its goals and outcomes.

Weather Ready Pacific has been collaboratively selected as a PPfP. We are determined to give WRP the prominence needed to catalyse funding, new money from old friends, new money from new friends. More importantly, ensuring that our partners start to really support us, the time for talk is over, we just need to start implementation and WRP with its agreed governance structure and investment facility, which our officials agreed the past 3 days, provides that avenue for funds to flow and action to be taken so we start to see delivery in our countries.

We urge our partners and technical agencies to support us through the Weather Ready Programme which is truly programmatic in its approach so as not to burden our small administrations with a plethora of individual projects. The administrative costs to our small islands administrations is enormous and far outweigh any possible benefits.

Meitaki ma'ata

KIRIBATI STATEMENT TO THE THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

18th August 2023, Sofitel Nadi, Fiji
H.E Mr. Tukabu Tauati
Kiribati Ag. High Commissioner to Fiji

Honourable Chair, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kam na bane n Mauri.

Allow me first to convey the best wishes of my President and Meteorology Minister H.E Taaneti Maamau, who unfortunately is unable to attend this very important meeting due to pressing parliamentary commitments. On that note, it is my absolute honor to be part of this esteemed ministerial gathering.

In keeping with customary protocols, let me congratulate you Honorable Minister on your assumption of the chairmanship of this very important forum. Kiribati is happy to pledge its unwavering support to you throughout your tenure.

I take this opportunity to also extend my sincere appreciation to your predecessor for his outstanding leadership.

Mr. Chair, my delegation would like to commend the accomplishments of the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) and the 3rd Pacific Meteorological Ministers Meeting (PMMM-3). An important outcome of these two meetings is the Weather-Ready Pacific (WRP) program designed to raise funds to implement the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy.

Kiribati notes with keen interest the many benefits the initiative is likely to bring about to member countries. In particular, we note:

1. the assurance of access to localized, accurate and timely forecast and warning products derived using world-leading forecasting capability;
2. enhanced hydro-meteorological-oceanic infrastructure network and associated IT equipment that meets emerging and future needs, as well as complements existing and planned infrastructure initiatives and;
3. a strengthened regional and national pool of trained and skilled forecasters, hydrologists, observers that members can derive from this initiative.

However, before it can be implemented, certain aspects of the Weather Ready Pacific Program, need to addressed first.

First is the issue of funding. Mr. Chair, in this regard, my delegation would like to note, with much gratitude, the initial contribution from Australia of \$30m to the initiative. The specific mention of “initial” in the language in the Ministerial Declaration is indeed encouraging.

We also note the offer from New Zealand to assist in the design of part of the program.

Obviously, we need more funds so we would like to encourage our other partners to also think about contributing.

Mr. Chair, there are also some other minor issues we would like to raise for consideration. Firstly, we would welcome clarification on how funds will be allocated among member countries under the Weather-Ready Pacific initiative. Secondly, how will country-specific priorities be addressed during implementation? And, lastly, how can the Weather-Ready Pacific program complement national efforts without hindering the ability of member states to secure alternative funding for local weather, climate, and ocean initiatives?

Mr. Chair, Kiribati fully supports the Weather-Ready Pacific Initiative and we look forward to its successful implementation in the near future.

Mr. Chair, let me conclude, by thanking our hosts, Fiji, for the warm welcome and hospitality it has extended to us and member delegations. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat, collaborating agencies, and donor partners for their support in making this meeting possible.

I thank you.

Nauru

THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY

Theme: "Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific."

Nadi Fiji

Nauru Statement by Honourable Jesse Jeremiah

Mr. Chairman
Honourable Colleagues
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

From the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to SPREP, the WMO, development partners, and the Fiji Government for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival.

Mr Chairman,

It is an honor to address this esteemed gathering at the 3rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology. Today, we gather under the theme of "Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific." This theme resonates deeply with the challenges and opportunities we face in the Pacific region, as we seek to build a sustainable and resilient future.

Mr Chairman

Nauru is slowly but surely and I commend the remarkable progress made by Nauru Meteorology and Hydrology Services since its establishment in 2015. From a humble team of 2 staff members, the Nauru Meteorology and Hydrology Services has grown to include 11 more dedicated staff, demonstrating its commitment to providing vital meteorological services to the people of Nauru.

Undoubtedly, the journey has not been without its challenges. One of the mammoth challenges faced by Nauru Meteorology and Hydrology Services is the urgent need for a resilient climate-proof building. As we witness the effects of climate change unfolding before our eyes, it is crucial to ensure that the infrastructure supporting meteorological operations is resilient and can withstand the impacts of extreme weather events. I encourage all development partners to collaborate and prioritize the construction of a resilient climate-proof building that will safeguard the continuity and reliability of Nauru meteorological services.

Mr Chairman,

The Pacific region is blessed with immense natural beauty and resources, but it is also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. Rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns, and increasing intensity of storms pose significant threats to our communities, economies, and ecosystems. It is imperative that we come together as a collective force to address these challenges and ensure the well-being of our Blue Pacific.

Weather, climate, water, and ocean services play a crucial role in building resilience and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Accurate forecasting, early warning systems, and effective communication strategies are essential for minimizing risks and enabling timely response and preparedness. By investing in robust meteorological and oceanographic infrastructure, we can enhance our ability to anticipate and respond to natural disasters, protect lives and property, and support sustainable development.

Furthermore, a resilient Blue Pacific requires collaboration and partnerships at regional, national, and international levels. We must foster stronger cooperation among meteorological agencies, governments, research institutions, and communities. Sharing data, knowledge, and expertise is vital for improving our understanding of weather and climate patterns, developing innovative solutions, and implementing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Together, we can build a resilient and sustainable future for the Pacific region.

Mr Chairman

In this regard, I call upon the Pacific Meteorology Council to Continue

1. Strengthen regional cooperation: Foster collaboration among member states and regional organizations to share resources, expertise, and best practices. Enhance data-sharing mechanisms, promote capacity-building initiatives, and facilitate the transfer of technology to improve meteorological and oceanographic services.
2. Promote research and innovation: Invest in research and development to enhance our understanding of regional weather and climate patterns. Encourage innovation in data collection, analysis, and modelling techniques. Support research on the impacts of climate change and develop tailored solutions for the Pacific region.
3. Enhance early warning systems: Develop and strengthen early warning systems for extreme weather events, such as cyclones, storms, and tsunamis. Improve the accuracy and timeliness of forecasts, and ensure effective dissemination of information to communities at risk. Empower local communities to take proactive measures and build their resilience.
4. Mainstream climate change adaptation: Integrate climate change adaptation into national policies and development plans. Promote sustainable land and water management practices. Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, eco-friendly technologies, and nature-based solutions. Support vulnerable communities in adapting to the changing climate.
5. Raise awareness and educate: Promote public awareness about the importance of weather, climate, water, and ocean services for a resilient Blue Pacific. Educate communities about climate change impacts and empower them to take action. Foster partnerships with educational institutions to integrate climate-related topics into curricula.

The Pacific Meteorology Council has a critical role to play in sustaining weather, climate, water, and ocean services for a resilient Blue Pacific. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen cooperation, harness innovation, and promote sustainable practices. Together, we can build a future where our Blue Pacific thrives, our communities prosper, and our environment is protected.

Mr Chairman,

Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their generous support and assistance to meteorology Nauru over the years.

- i. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology
- ii. The Government of Japan
- iii. The Government of Finland
- iv. The Government of India
- v. The European Union
- vi. WMO
- vii. SPC
- viii. Fiji Met
- ix. NIWA
- x. SPREP

Tubwa Kor, thank you very much, and God Bless

Niue

Niue Statement by Honourable Esa Sharon Mona Ainu'u Minister of Niue Meteorological Service, Ministry of Natural Resources

Fakaalofa Lahi Atu, Bula and Greetings to you all,

It is my honour and great pleasure to be a part of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology hosted in Fiji this year.

I congratulate Fiji Government, Fiji Met Service, PMC Members, SPREP, all development partners, organisations and every individual in contributing to make the Sixth Pacific Meteorological Council meeting a success.

As we consider the theme of this meeting, "Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific", we would remember that as leaders, we are committed to ensure a safe, secure and prosperous future for our planet earth.

Niue is highly vulnerable to tropical cyclones. In the last 19 years, since the devastation of tropical cyclone Heta and the trauma it left us, Niue's cyclone season has been mild and we are uncertain of what the future may hold.

Tropical Cyclone Tino in 2020, showed a different breed of cyclone impacts for Niue. The associated convergence zone embedded in the system, caused extremely high seas and swells of 6 metres high extracting all of the sand along the reef areas especially the west coast.

Our level of preparedness and plans in place are tested when it comes to mother nature, let us not underestimate it.

Collaboration and coordination between the Niue MET Service and the National Disaster Management Office has been our traditional system. Hence, our relationship is still firm over the past years until now. However, there is a great need for the upgrading of our national Meteorological Service building to support the early warning systems in place as well as strengthening safety of the staff, and especially expanding our work to support the Early Warning For All Initiative.

Accurate weather predictions are essential for effective disaster management and hydrological planning. Effective disaster management requires comprehensive planning, early warning systems, and the ability to mobilize resources quickly.

I strongly believe that these fields play a crucial role in understanding and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters and weather-related events. Additionally, understanding the impacts of climate change on these fields is imperative for developing sustainable solutions.

Earlier this year, Niue celebrated the installation of two new Automatic Weather Stations, this is fundamental in moving away from manual observations in order to advance data collection systems.

Restoration of the tide gauge is also underway, and we do hope to secure funds to install Automatic Groundwater Stations. In the pipeline are the deploying of the ocean monitoring buoys, installation of a radar and groundwater automatic station.

Having these systems in place will certainly help build our national data system to support our predictions today and for the future.

However, the challenges lie in accurately predicting and managing water resources, as factors like climate change and human activities impact on the availability and distribution of water.

Niue recognizes and supports the Weather Pacific Decadal Program, which is the key vehicle to anchor and drive the important priorities reflected in each of the panels of the PMC. This highlights the importance of collaborating at the regional level and draw closer linkages between The Pacific Meteorological Service Strategy and The 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent.

I would like to remind us that The 2050 Strategy is a living document which has been developed through comprehensive consultations at both the national and regional level with Members, CROP agencies, Non-State Actors and specialists from within and beyond the region. The thematic areas highlighted are; Political Leadership and Regionalism, People-Centered Development, Peace and Security, Resource and Economic Development, Climate Change and Disasters, Ocean and Environment, Technology and Connectivity.

To end, let's work together and support each other and rise above the challenges so we can build a better future for all vulnerable people and the younger generation to come.

When we leave this meeting room, we leave behind a legacy that will continue for many years to come that at least we can say we did something good.

Fakaaue Lahi Mahaki.

Annex: Agency Speeches

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra

Director General of SPREP

- As Leaders continue to reaffirm that climate change remains the region's single greatest threat. This week officials have been working tirelessly to bring to bear key priorities for our members.
- Weather Ready Pacific has been accorded the utmost priority as it embodies the shared aspirations of our region in order to:
 - Strengthen the Pacific region's resilience to the impacts of severe weather events – tropical cyclones, tsunamis, droughts, storm surges, flash floods.
 - Support economies and protect communities.
- Donors, both traditional and new have also worked alongside the Pacific Met Council – a testament to collaboration that is necessary and timely as we embark on the journey ahead of us for Weather Ready Pacific.
- Jointly our partner regional organisations have also being engaged as well.
- Whilst there has been considerable investment – more coherence, and targeted support is needed to this end as a Donors and Partners Engagement Platform Roundtable took place yesterday at the conclusion of the Pacific Meteorological Council.
- Moving forward a Partners Dialogue Mechanism will continue these important conversations to take place during the biennial meetings of the Pacific Meteorological Council.
- A key milestone this year has been the presence of the National Disaster Management Offices from throughout the Pacific, who have joined their Met counterparts during deliberations this past week.
- The presence of the private sector with technology for services, have been here.
- Members of the Pacific Disability Forum have spoken here – calling for partnership to ensure early warning systems development and related initiatives involve them. Only then we can say we have end to end for all warnings and response – ensuring we leave no one behind.
- This has been a long week but a necessary and fruitful one. We have seen a village come together with a common purpose – to build an inclusive and Resilient Blue Pacific.
- There are more seats at the table – everyone who shares this purpose is welcome.

- The Pacific Met Desk is made up of the WMO and SPREP and in this regard we stand ready to serve our members in the important work ahead of us as set down by our members.

Fa'afetai, Vinaka vaka levu.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

3rd Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology 18 August 2023

The Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Talking Points for Deputy Secretary General Esala Nayasi

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,
- Bula Vinaka!
- On behalf of the Secretary General, I thank you for this opportunity to provide a brief overview of the 2050 Strategy as well as an update on the ongoing development of Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
- I acknowledge that everyone would have heard about the 2050 Strategy in some shape or form over the last year.
- This afternoon, I would hope that through my presentation, you will be better placed to understand the value of the 2050 Strategy to your own sectoral discussions, including at this august forum today.

Features of the 2050 Strategy

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,
- Before you on the screen is, in essence, a snap-shot of what the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is.
- It sets a long-term political vision and strategic direction for the region for the next 3 decades. The vision is clear, and I quote – *As Pacific Leaders, our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives.*
- The achievement of this vision will be supported through 7 thematic areas – each, with its own level of ambition. As is provided on the screen, the thematic areas include: *People Centered Development, Peace and Security, Resource and Economic Development, Technology and*

Connectivity, Ocean and Environment, Climate Change and Disasters and ofcourse, Political Leadership and Regionalism.

- Our collective journey towards the achievement of the Leaders vision is not dependent on any one thematic area. It will require a concerted, strategic and collective effort across all sectors if we are to ensure that we respond to the political vision that our Leaders have charged us with.

Development of the 2050 Strategy and the Implementation Plan

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,
- The journey of the 2050 Strategy began with the Leaders decision in August 2019 at the 50th Forum Leaders Meeting in Tuvalu.
- Acknowledging the need for urgent, immediate actions on the threats and challenges of climate change facing the Blue Pacific and realising the health and wellbeing of Pacific people to secure a bright and prosperous future for the Pacific, Leaders ***endorsed the development of a 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.***
- Under the leadership of the Forum Officials Committee, Members developed a comprehensive and inclusive approach to ensure that all voices were represented in the development of this long-term political strategy for our region.
- This work culminated in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsement of the 2050 Strategy at their 51st Meeting in Suva, Fiji last July.
- Since then, work has begun on the development of the Strategy's Implementation Plan, to ground the high-level vision and political ambition of our Leaders into concrete goals, outcomes and actions that taken together will ensure that we are able to achieve our Leaders vision.
- We hope to table the completed Implementation Plan for Leaders consideration and endorsement at their meeting in Rarotonga in November this year.

Inclusive Policy Development Process

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,
- To support the work on the development of the 2050 Implementation Plan, four Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEGs) were established to develop detailed implementation plans and regional collective actions for each of the 7 thematic areas.
- In line with Forum Leaders directives, we adopted an inclusive approach to development of the 2050IP which saw each of the four MSEGs comprising representatives of CROP agencies, Civil Society, Private Sector and Development Partners together with Members to encourage alignment and coherence across all areas.

How do we achieve the Leaders Vision for 2050?

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,

- The 2050 Strategy and its Implementation Plan will drive our collective action as a region, moving forward.
- As alluded to earlier, the Strategy itself is an aspirational document that sets the collective vision of our leaders. But this vision would be futile if it is not underpinned by a concrete implementation plan to ensure that we are all working towards the same goal.
- Therefore, the Implementation that is currently being developed, becomes even more critical.
- The 2050 IP, as it is commonly referred to, draws on the 7 levels of ambition of the 2050 Strategy and articulates concrete goals for 2050. Underpinning these goals are decadal outcomes for 2030, 2040 and 2050 which represent the three iterations of the Implementation Plans for our collective Strategy.
- Indeed, work on the first iteration of the Implementation Plan for 2024 – 2030 is now underway.
- The pathways towards the achievement of our decadal outcomes is where the rubber hits the road for the 2050 Strategy – it is the set of regional collective actions that have been identified and whose achievement will move us closer, collectively, to the achievement of our Leaders 2050 Vision.
- Noting the interlinkages of the issues across the thematic areas, implementation will require an integrated, regional approach to considering the Means of Implementation – which will be a discrete part of the Implementation Plan.
- Similarly, consideration is also being given to the framing of a resource mobilisation and partnership engagement strategy to support the realisation of the regional collective actions from this work.

Strategic Alignment to the Discussions of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology

- Chair, Honourable Ministers
- At this juncture, allow me to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the support and contribution of our regional agencies throughout this process.
- Director General Nawadra and your Team, Vinaka vakalevu for your technical support and contribution to ensure that what has come through from Members is technically feasible, sound and will realistically guide us towards our collective vision.
- That being said, Honourable Ministers, as it relates to this august body, two thematic areas are perhaps the most closely linked to your oversight – the thematic areas on climate change and disasters, ocean and environment and Technology and Connectivity.
- In saying so, I do not that your issues are generally cross-cutting across the thematic areas but I will focus specifically the areas that have emerged from the comprehensive discussions with Members during the development of the 2050 IP and the related collective actions.
- In relation to first thematic area on climate change and disaster:

- A key regional collective action for achievement by 2030 that has emerged from the consultation process is the need to ***strengthen cooperation on Climate Science using existing mechanisms early warning systems and weather ready programmes to deliver Pacific led adaptation and resilience initiatives.***
- In relation to Ocean and Environment:
- A key regional collective action for achievement by 2030 is the need to strengthen regional cooperation on ocean and environment science and research as well as the establishment of a pool of scientific expertise in the region.

Strategic Alignment to the Discussions of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology – ICT only

- In relation to Technology and Connectivity;
- I recognise that a key outcome of the 2nd Meeting of this august body in Honiara in 2017 discuss the importance of ensuring reliable ICT infrastructure for the effective communication of data, alerts and multi-hazard early warnings – this is key to our ongoing efforts on disaster preparedness and response and should be inbuilt into the actions that emerge from the 2050 IP.
- Indeed, a cross-cutting issue that has also emerged from the consultations to date is the need to ensure that all our regional policies, strategies and frameworks are evidence-based and draw on qualified scientific expertise, where necessary.

Strategic Alignment to the Discussions of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology – *Weather Ready Pacific Programme*

- That said, Chair and Honourable Ministers,
- I am particularly encouraged that this meeting will consider the operationalisation of the **Weather Ready Pacific Programme** – a programme that has garnered support across multiple regional fora including the Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers as well as Forum Leaders.
- This represents a *low-hanging fruit* in alignment with regional collective action under the thematic area on climate change and disasters and responds directly to our overarching 2050 Vision.
- If I may offer, this very alignment is also demonstrative of strengthening collaboration and cooperation between our regional agencies which continues to be an issue that Members call for consistently.
- However, alignment alone is not sufficient to realise these the potential of initiatives. The political will and support of our Members is crucial to leveraging the partnership support we need to bring these initiatives to life.
- The ***Pacific Partnerships for Prosperity*** initiative by the current Forum Chair has identified the Weather Ready Pacific Programme as a key regional priority that it will champion to corale further partnerships to realise the objectives of this regional collective action.
- In essence, the Weather Ready Pacific Programme is a microcosm of what we hope to achieve in a targeted and strategic manner with all regional collective actions under the 2050 Strategy, that is, to:

- identify collective initiatives that respond to the long-term vision of our region;
- build sectoral support for these initiatives to develop them in a technical and feasible manner; and
- identify partnerships that will come together to support an initiative on the basis that it is a collective priority that responds and contributes to a longer-term strategy.

Next Steps

- Chair, Honourable Ministers,
- In terms of next steps, the first draft of the IP is being considered today by Members through the Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy.
- Once agreed by the Sub-Committee, the IP will be released for broader national and regional consultations.
- Similarly, we will also consult the IP through the CROP agencies and their respective Governing Councils, including sectoral technical groups such as the meteorological ministers.
- As the draft is circulated for consideration, we would encourage Ministers and Senior Officials to carefully review the goals, outcomes and regional collective actions, in particular:
 - Are these regional actions sufficient to take our region forward? Or do we need more ‘game-changing’ actions to truly transform the state of our region – in line with the objectives of the Strategy?
- Following the consultation period, the 2050 IP will then be conveyed through our standing Forum processes, to Forum Leaders for their consideration when they meet in Rarotonga in November.
- Chair and Honourable Ministers, in summary, let me again thank you for the opportunity to present on this work, and we look forward to your continued engagement in the process as it proceeds. Vinaka vakalevu.

Bless us All.

Namaka Declaration
For
Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a
Resilient Blue Pacific
Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology

18th August 2023, Nadi, Fiji

1. The Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3) was held on the 18th August 2023 in Nadi, Fiji, with delegations from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Vanuatu under the theme of “Sustainable Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific”. The PMMM-3 was convened by the Government of Fiji with the support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
2. **WE**, the Pacific Island Ministers responsible for Meteorology and designated high-level representatives, present this Declaration as a statement of our political will and commitment to strengthen and sustain weather, climate, water, ocean and related environmental services in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and commend the investments by partners to help achieve our national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;
3. **RECOGNISING** and **RECALLING** our Leaders’ endorsement of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 – 2030 and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.
4. **REAFFIRMING** our values and principles to strengthen leadership, good governance, full inclusivity, equity and equality for all persons and people, the importance of solidarity and a shared commitment to work together and strengthen and develop partnerships, the need to protect human rights and prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable;

5. **RECOGNISING** the global, regional and national reports on climate variability and change as critical products for policy and decision makers to guide climate actions and negotiations;
6. **CONTINUE** our commitment to the mission of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, as stated in the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization, to provide weather, climate, water, ocean and related environmental services in partnership and collaboration with civil society, private sector, and other government agencies to protect lives and property, safeguard the environment and inform policy and investments;
7. **COMMEND** the foresight of the Pacific Meteorological Council to design the Weather Ready Pacific Programme;
8. **RECALLING** the 51st Communique of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders and the Declaration of the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction endorsing the Weather Ready Pacific Programme;
9. **COMMIT** to support people-centred, end-to-end multi-hazard early warning for all Pacific Island Countries and Territories in the implementation of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme in collaboration with our national, regional and global partners to protect communities and livelihoods and contribute to economic and social development in the Pacific;
10. **FACILITATE** the engagement with private sector and academia in implementing Weather Ready Pacific Programme;
11. **WELCOME** the Government of Australia's initial contribution of AUD 30 million to the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and also acknowledge New Zealand's contribution;
12. **INVITE** other development partners and donors to invest in the Weather Ready Pacific Programme;
13. **ACKNOWLEDGE** that Weather Ready Pacific Programme is utilised as the vehicle to deliver the United Nations' Early Warnings for All initiative in the Pacific;
14. **AFFIRM** that investment in the Weather Ready Pacific Programme in infrastructure and capacity is amongst the most critical priorities to addressing the impacts of climate change in the Pacific;
15. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the donors and partners for their continued support and investments in end-to-end, people-centred multi-hazard early warning system;
16. **URGE** National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to collaborate with national and regional partners to collect, document, manage and disseminate relevant

Traditional Knowledge and practices to complement and enhance conventional early warning systems, acknowledging Traditional Knowledge is used by Pacific communities to forecast and predict impending events;

17. **ENDORSE** the establishment of the Pacific Partner Coordination Mechanism for the Pacific Meteorological Council as agreed to by the 5th Pacific Meteorological Council;
18. **URGE** the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific to support the governance of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme and realise the outcomes of the 6th Pacific Meteorological Council; and
19. **AGREE** to convey the Namaka Declaration to the 2023 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Ministerial and the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.

Adopted the Namaka Declaration on 18 August 2023