

CHAIRS SUMMARY

1. Climate change, oceans health and marine pollution are all interlinked and have profound impacts on the sustainable development of the region. We here in the Pacific region have inherited an exceptional natural environment and biodiversity. We recognise that the natural environment plays an important role in climate regulation, and carbon sinks need to be protected for resilience of the local communities.
2. As the Pacific we have a shared experience of our climate change journey - being amongst the smallest contributors yet one of the regions most affected. **We must continue to make bold decisions** in our responses to climate change, encourage others to set higher ambitions to reduce their emissions as while the Pacific may be small, collectively our voices are bringing positive change in the world.
3. The transition to a low carbon economy needs to happen at a scale of the industrial revolution and at the speed of the digital revolution. **Low emission economies can be achieved but will need leadership, patience and engagement with all partners at all levels for just transition that is equitable and inclusive.**
4. Our region must work together, get our house in order, and coordinate ourselves regionally and internationally so we champion the **push for climate change to be considered at the UN Security Council Standing agenda bringing about effective results for our island region and our Pacific people.** The Pacific must work collectively to keep pressure on the UN system.
5. Our region has been leading with effective **ocean management models** that have proven to give life back to our ocean. Two examples which are well known in the region and the world are the Marae Moana and the Palau Marine Sanctuary. With regard to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, the value of wide and inclusive consultations with all affected stakeholders is of paramount importance.
6. **Marine Protected Areas have high biodiversity values** and are recognised internationally for example through World Heritage listing and other international designations. The decision to refrain from issuing fishing licenses to foreign fleets and a ban on destructive fishing, specifically purse seine and trawling are key milestone examples of the MPA's at work in the region. One of the key solutions to addressing challenges in maintaining our MPA's include robust public-private partnerships and collaboration.
7. Building resilience of marine ecosystems is vital because oceans is viewed as an important part of our livelihood because of its economic, social and environment importance. It is **unique in the Pacific because it contributes to our identity and cultural connectivity.**

8. **Establishing effective management measures** that protect the key ecosystems have prevented impacts such as flooding from destroying properties. **Traditional management methods have been applied** to various areas to sustain management of the biodiversity resources.
9. Much work has been done on understanding the environmental impacts of deep sea mining but **still more needs to be done** which will require further financial support. **The Pacific is cautioned against relying on advice from the private sector.** Regarding the precautionary principle Papua New Guinea believes the granting of the environment permit for exploration was based upon extensive scientific knowledge and accept some Parties are calling for a moratorium but ask the Meeting to understand and respect their decision to continue exploration.
10. **Plastic pollution is a disease that is much easier to address than climate change. Pacific islands are showing leadership** with 10 countries have policies to address single-use plastics and eight more have intentions to put in place policies to address single-use plastics. **The Pacific calls for an international framework** to address marine litter and plastic pollution as well as **ownership at the national level for addressing this issue.**
11. World War 2 wrecks are a ticking time bomb due to the risk of oils pills complicated by unexploded ordinances (explosives – torpedoes etc) with war graves, **these vessels have no insurance and are a liability** – partnerships such as the Major Projects are the insurance. **Regional Plans such as PACPLAN will assist with the response to this.**