



PROTECTING THE PACIFIC.



8th Polynesian Leaders Meeting
2018

The Polynesian Connection – Taina Fakapolenisia

Amatuku Declaration on Climate Change and Oceans

by the Polynesian Leaders Group

Tuvalu, 29th June 2018

1. We, the Heads of Government from the Polynesian Leaders Group met in Funafuti, Tuvalu on the 29th June 2018, wholeheartedly thank the government and people of Tuvalu for their kind and warm hospitality and hard work in hosting the 8th Polynesia Leaders Group meeting. We welcome this opportunity to have a *Sautalaga* (open discussion) about the serious implications of climate change in our region.

Impacts of Climate Change

2. We express our deep concern at the findings of the draft report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 1.5° C which outlines the risks to Small Island Developing States and territories including marine ecosystem impacts, sea-level rise and extreme weather events, threatening the survival of island communities, particularly those living on coral atolls.
3. We further note with alarm that current global efforts to combat climate change are insufficient to secure the 1.5° C limit, noting that limiting warming to 1.5° C is a matter of survival for Small Island Developing States and territories.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4. We urgently call on all nations and their communities to take dramatic steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through significantly raising the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) In this regard, we call on the international community, in particular financial institutions, to decarbonise the global economy and lead us to a low carbon, renewable energy and energy efficiency development pathway and **to** eliminate unfair trade practices that make decarbonizing the global economy difficult.
5. We call on all nations, whether or not they are party to the Paris Agreement to take stronger, comprehensive emission reduction targets as a matter of urgency. No nation can ignore the call for rapid and decisive action to address climate change. As such, we call on all OECD countries to quickly phase out their use of coal in the power sector, at

the latest by 2030 and we call on all major emitting Non-OECD countries to phase out their use of coal at the latest by 2040. Consequently, we call on all nations to cease the expansion of existing coal mines and the creation of new mines.

6. We note that our greenhouse gas emissions are very low but nevertheless commit to a low greenhouse gas emission development pathway. As such, we reaffirm our support for the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub and express our appreciation to the donors who have assisted in the establishment of this Hub. We look forward to availing ourselves of services provided by the Hub once its operational and look forward to receiving the necessary funding to help us decarbonise our economies.
7. We affirm that the Paris Agreement is the key international legal instrument to address climate change. We look forward to the completion of the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines at COP 24 in Katowice, Poland. We believe that a comprehensive approach to the Implementation Guidelines is necessary and that it should be a complete package on the implementation of all elements of the Paris Agreement. In this regard we give particular attention to the inclusion of Loss and Damage (Article 8) in the Implementation Guidelines.
8. We, the leaders of Polynesian commit to have a strong voice in the development and conclusion of the Implementation Guidelines to ensure that there is an ambitious, yet practical outcome that is consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Climate Change Displacement and Security

9. We are deeply alarmed at the growing number of people displaced by the impacts of climate change events. We note with concern that people that are displaced by climate change events and who are forced to cross national borders are not defined as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention. To this end, we call for the development of a legal regime to protect people displaced by climate change. We support Tuvalu's efforts to seek legal protection for people displaced by climate change through a UN General Assembly resolution. We will use all our diplomatic efforts to support this Resolution.
10. We welcome the work of the Task Force on Displacement and will strive to ensure that it becomes a permanent entity under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.
11. We also believe that the issue of climate change displacement and migration requires a regional response. In this regard, we call for the establishment of a ***Grand Coalition of Pacific Leaders on Climate Change Displacement and Migration*** to find regional solutions to the issue of climate change displacement and migration. This Grand Coalition should consist of leaders from government, churches and other civil society organisations and should be tasked with finding workable and socially acceptable options for addressing climate change displacement and migration in our region.
12. We confirm that the baselines that determine our territorial boundaries, once established, under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, shall remain unchanged despite the effects of sea level rise. Our sovereignty will not be compromised by climate change.

13. We note with concern the growing threat to peace and security brought about by the impacts of climate change. We strongly encourage the UN Secretary General to appoint a special advisor on Climate Change and Security. Furthermore, we encourage all countries that are seeking election as Non-permanent Representatives to the Security Council to support our call for a special advisor and call for the appointment of a special rapporteur to UN Security Council to regularly report on security threats caused by climate change. We invite the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to include climate change and security within its agenda.

Climate Change Finance

14. We welcome the presentation given by the Pacific representative to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and encourage National Designated Authorities of eligible Polynesian countries to develop GCF Country Programmes and to make use of the GCF Simplified Approval Procedures. We acknowledge that not all Polynesian Group members are eligible for GCF funding and in this respect, we need to ensure the *Taina Fakapolenisia* spirit is respected and to leave no-one behind.
15. Those eligible Polynesian countries look forward to participating in the high-level session of the upcoming Fourth GCF Structured Dialogue for the Pacific, to be held in Pohnpei, FSM on the 31st July 2018, with the hope this Dialogue will create new funding opportunities for our region.
16. We note with concern the costs of climate change-related severe weather events that continue to wreak devastation and loss of lives in our nations. Our nations struggle to recover from this climate change disasters. We also note the slow and insidious effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and ocean warming that will progressively threaten our islands and our livelihoods. As such, we welcome the work of the Task Force on the Pacific Island Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF) with its focus on climate change impacts. We also welcome the notion of establishing a financial disclosure mechanism within PICCIF which will play a role in encouraging the insurance and reinsurance industry to decarbonise their investments. We encourage the PICCIF Task Force to expedite its work.

Climate Change and the Marine Environment

17. We note with concern the devastating impacts of climate change on our marine environment. The nexus between oceans and climate is a critical concern as it affects our livelihoods, our culture, health, wellbeing, economy and the sustainability of coastal infrastructure. We welcome the launching of the Pacific Marine Climate Change Report Card and offer our commitment to review this Report Card and explore means on how it can be effectively used in our countries.
18. We further express our grave concern about the impacts that ocean warming due to climate change has had on the health of coral reefs in our region. We note that despite these impacts we have been informed that there are some reef ecosystems that host heat-resilient coral communities which some call "Super Reefs". We encourage all to contribute

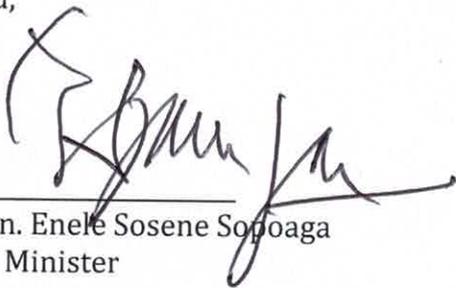
to a Pacific-wide collaboration to locate, study, manage and conserve heat-resilient coral communities.

19. We welcome the proposal to establish a Pacific Centre of Excellence for Coral Atoll Adaptation in Tuvalu.
20. We Polynesian countries and territories are highly reliant on sustainable supplies of tuna for our food security and economic well-being. We are deeply concerned that the impacts of climate change on our oceans are likely to alter the distribution and abundance of tuna in the Pacific Island region. We note the plans by Conservation International, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Forum Fisheries Agency to develop a greater understanding on the effects of climate change and to develop adaptation strategies to protect tuna stocks within the Pacific Island region. We encourage these organisations to advance this work.
21. We commit to continue to protect and conserve our oceans, particularly as they are being impacted by climate change. We call on our development partners to support initiatives that can develop adaptation measures associated with the coastal and marine environment.

Regional Initiatives

22. We are deeply concerned about the ongoing and emerging pressures on the marine ecosystems of the Pacific. We believe it is important to take a comprehensive and dynamic ecosystem-based approach to sustaining our islands and ocean resource. We commit to giving serious consideration to the Integrated Ocean Governance and Healthy Oceans Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.
23. Welcome efforts by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to develop regional policy initiatives that link climate change and oceans.

Signed,



Rt. Hon. Enele Sosofo
Prime Minister
Tuvalu



Hon Lemanu Peleti Palepoi Mauga
Lieutenant Governor
American Samoa



H.E. Leiatana Dr. Kilifoti Eteuati
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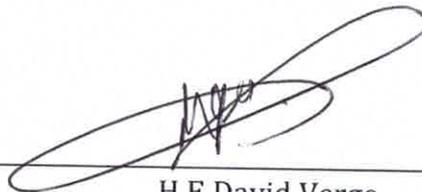
Samoa
for the Prime Minister
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