



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

AGENDA ITEM: 6.1

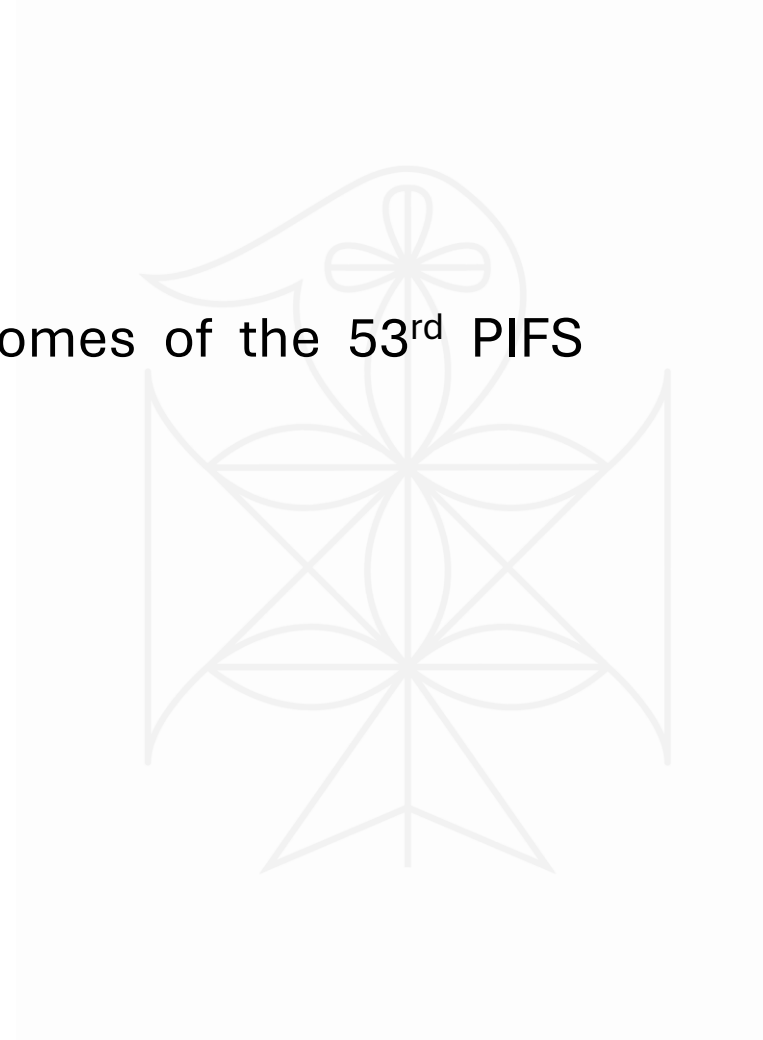
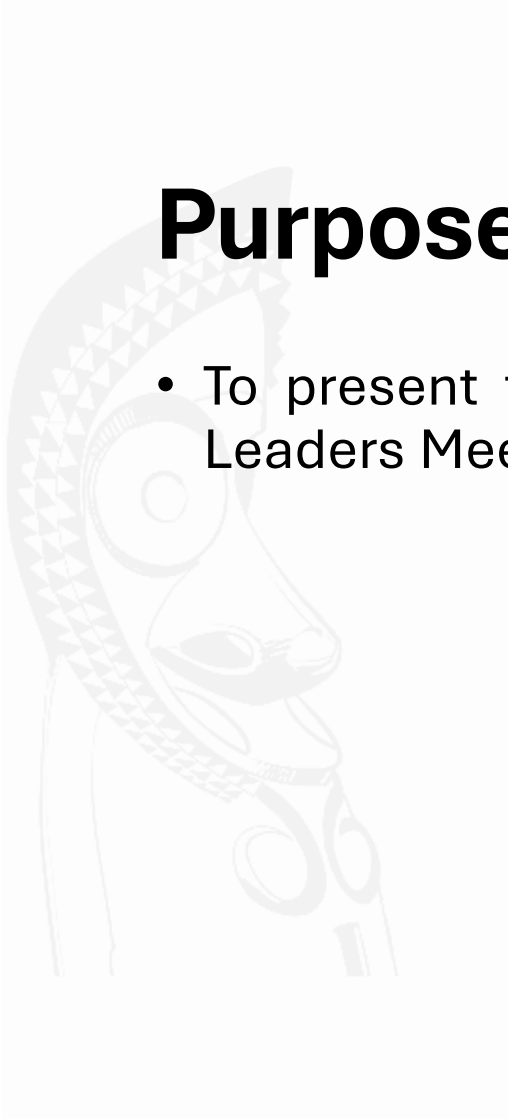
Title: Outcomes from the 53rd PIFS Leaders Meeting

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Purpose of the Paper

- To present to the Pacific Meteorological Council the outcomes of the 53rd PIFS Leaders Meeting on decisions related to the work of PMC.





Background

- The PIFS Leaders meeting was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga from the 26th – 30th August 2024
- The formal session was attended by the Government of Australia and Heads of State from various SPREP Member countries whilst Tokelau attended as an Associate Member.
- The Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) were mostly represented by their respective Heads of Organizations and senior officials and a Forum Leaders' Retreat was later held on Vavau Island on the 29th August 2024
- Leaders expressed their deep gratitude to His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister, the Government and people of the Kingdom of Tonga for successfully hosting the 53rd Pacific Island Leaders Forum.



Objectives

1. TRANSFORMATIVE AND RESILIENT PASIFIKI: BUILD BETTER NOW

Leaders congratulated the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for the 53rd Pacific Island Forum Leaders' meeting theme reiterating the importance of integrated resilience across all our Pacific communities and sectors.

2. 2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT

Leaders:

- **reaffirmed** the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the region's collective commitment to a resilient Pacific.
- **welcomed** the progress of the 2050 Strategy and **emphasized** the importance of the integration of Smaller Island States priorities in the implementation phase of the Strategy.
- **Endorsed** the Executive Summary of the 2050 Baseline Report and the High-Level Summary of the Prioritized Regional Collective Actions.



3. REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Leaders:

- **discussed** the progress on the RRA, emphasized the value of the RRA work in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and highlighted the need for continuous CROP collaboration strengthening effective support delivery for Members.
- **reiterated** the significance for the RRA to consider the decisions outlined in the Suva Agreement ensuring relevance and aligned to Members' needs.
- **endorsed** the recommendations of Phase 2 of the RRA (Annex A) discussing the key issues requiring political guidance.

Leaders also **endorsed** the framing of Phase 3 (Annex B) and have tasked the Secretariat to:

- Progress Phase 3 in consultation with Senior Forum Officials and provide update to Leaders in 2025
- Undertake review of Forum-related treaties and respective synergies therein.



4. RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

Leaders:

- **discussed** the vulnerability of the region's health system to climate change effects such as sea level rise and extreme weather, recognizing that **62%** of the critical health facilities are situated within 500 meters of the coastlines.
- **acknowledged** that improving climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure is essential to mitigate risks and manage climate sensitive diseases effectively.
- **recognized** the importance of prioritizing investment in Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities (CRESHCF) and to advocate for increased international climate finance to support transition towards these facilities.
- later **agreed** to develop a comprehensive region-wide health workforce strategy that focuses on quality training and retention measures for consideration by Pacific Health Ministers.



5. RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Leaders:

- **Discussed** the importance of resilient education systems in the Pacific region.
- **Considered** key areas of focus;
 - a) Investment in climate-resilient and digital infrastructure
 - b) Developing localised and culturally relevant curriculum
 - c) Enhance preparedness to deliver quality learning outcomes and trainings building capacity for both students and teachers.
- **Recognized** prioritizing investment in climate-resilient education infrastructure and digital platform across Pacific region.
- **Supported** the need to develop and implement a localized, culturally relevant curriculum that integrates disaster preparedness and environmental education in the Pacific.



6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

Climate Change continues to be a matter of priority to the Pacific region and relatedly, the issue of resilient development.

Leaders:

- **reaffirmed** the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) as their commitment to inclusive and innovative solutions to the enhancement of resilience in well-being.
- **noted** the findings and recommendations from the FRDP mid-term review including the progress achieved under the Pacific Resilience Partnership.
- **welcomed** the adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- **strongly** urged all development institutions to build on this tool to better integrate vulnerability factors into their consideration and decision-making processes



Negotiations at the International Maritime Organization

- Leaders:
 - **noted** update and the ongoing efforts by the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 6Pac+ Coalition proposal in the IMO on the universal mandatory levy that aligns with the 1.5C trajectory pathway.
 - **recognized** the urgency to complete these negotiations

Bid to host COP 31 by Australia in partnership with the Pacific

- Leaders:
 - **welcomed** the update by the Government of Australia on its bid to host the 31st United Nations Climate Change Convention Conference of the Parties in 2026 and its commitment to hosting it in partnership with the Pacific region.



Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting

- Leaders:
 - **recognized** the need to coordinate regional efforts to effectively:
 - Address disaster risks
 - Manage humanitarian action and response
 - Advocate for timely access to disaster risk finance
 - Engage in international meetings meaningfully
 - **endorsed** the Declaration by the Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting.
 - also **endorsed** of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting to be held on a biennial basis (every two years)
 - **Supported** the role of a Pacific Ministerial Champion for Disaster Risk Management.



Sea Level Rise

- Leaders:
 - **discussed** and **agreed** to elevate issue of sea level rise politically and **welcoming** the dedicated High-Level Plenary Meeting on the theme “Addressing the Existential Threats posed by Sea-Level Rise” scheduled to take place in New York on 25th September, 2024
 - **reaffirmed** the 2021 Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-related Sea-Level Rise and the 2023 Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change-related Sea-Level Rise.
 - **acknowledge** the unanimous Advisory Opinion delivered by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in May 2024
 - strongly called for the inclusion of sea-level rise as a standalone agenda item in the UNGA and other relevant UN processes.



7. PACIFIC RESILIENCE FACILITY

- Leaders:
 - **reaffirmed** their support and commitment for the PRF and warmly welcomed the commitment by the UN Secretary General to Forum Leaders in support for the capitalization of the facility.
 - **noted** the update of the PRF legal establishment and transnational arrangement and directed that these be finalized through a Special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in consultation with Members.
 - **welcomed** several monetary commitments from Australia, Saudi Arabia, China and USA to the facility in 2023 and further urged Forum Dialogue Partners' pledges to ensure PRF reaches its initial financing target before 1 January 2026
 - further **acknowledged** pledges from the Government of Nauru and the United Kingdom and an additional pledge from USA
 - Later **endorsed** the Kingdom of Tonga as the country of domicile for the Pacific Resilience Facility.



Associate Membership Application

- Leaders:
 - **considered** Guam and American Samoa's applications for Associate Membership in line with the 2005 Leaders Policy on Associate Membership, reports from the Forum Teams and the Outcomes of the FOC & FFMM for both countries.
 - later **endorsed** the membership applications for Guam and Am. Samoa

Date and Venue of Next Meeting

- Leaders:
 - **confirmed** the dates for the 54th Pacific Islands Forum and related meetings in Solomon Island on 8-12 September 2025 and further noted the invitation by the Prime Minister of PNG to attend PNG's 50th Anniversary celebrations on 16th September 2025
 - **endorsed** Palau as the host for the 55th Pacific Island Forum Leaders and related meetings in 2026 and Nauru being the host for the 57th related meetings in 2028.



Remarks from UN & WMO

United Nations Secretary General

- Antonio Guterres attended the PIFLM53 and commented “*The World needs your leadership*” and carried out these activities during his visit:
 1. Launched the COPE Series – Tongan Translated Booklet on Tropical Cyclones for schools
 2. Witnessed a panel discussion on Tonga’s evacuation procedures
 3. Launch of Tonga Radar
 4. Launch of the State of the Climate Report for the South-west Pacific.

WMO Secretary General

- Prof. Celeste Saulo Antonio Guterres attended the PIFLM53 and carried out the following Early Warning activities:
 1. Co-launched the State of the Climate Report for the South-west Pacific 2023 with UN Secretary General
 2. Visited Tonga Met Service
 3. Visit to the construction site of the new Joint Tonga Met Service/NDMO Head Office at Matatoa



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the Report
- **Recommend** for Weather Ready Pacific to continue its visibility at the PIFLM by implementing targeted pilot activities/projects for demonstration at the PIF host country.
- **Recommend** that SPREP strategically position itself to meet the growing needs of the Pacific region in climate and meteorological science, in alignment with the outcomes of the PIFLM and the region's focus areas. This includes enhancing SPREP's capacity to support regional priorities and contribute effectively to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.