

Leaders' Declaration on the Establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility

The Governments of Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, being Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and the Governments of Wallis and Futuna and Tokelau, being Associate Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, in accordance with the 2005 *Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum*;

Recalling the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which highlights the impacts of climate change and disasters and their threats to the future of the Pacific region's people and the full realisation of a peaceful, secure and sustainable future for our region;

Recognising the need for a facility that is Pacific owned and led, and is designed to:

- (i) To build systemic resilience to the impact of climate change at the national level by strengthening the collective financial resilience of Forum Member Countries:
 - (a) to receive and make climate and disaster grants for climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, nature-based solutions, loss and damage projects;
 - (b) to support disaster rapid response; and
 - (c) to receive and make social and community grants for Sustainable Development Goals and to support resilient and sustainable communities;
- (ii) Provide administratively-efficient, cost-effective, community-centred and nationally-contextualised financing, that may evolve over time, for resilient development projects in the Pacific region, including (collectively or separately) by, or through national governments, private sector, civil society and community organisations;
- (iii) Strengthen strategic partnerships with key development partners and global-climate-change and disaster-risk funding sources to harness collective support for resilient development initiatives in the Pacific region;
- (iv) Support capacity building and development in resilient-development planning and budgeting, through strengthened public financial management systems in the Pacific region; and
- (v) Ensure that the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) is a compelling mechanism for climate change and disaster risk investors to contribute capital in support of climate and disaster resilience, and resilient and sustainable communities, in the Pacific region.

Recalling that in 2019, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the establishment of the PRF as an international organisation;

Recalling that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) was mandated by the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM) in August 2022 to review and reframe the PRF in light of post-covid considerations and Forum Member Countries' needs;

Aware that the FEMM in August 2023 welcomed the PRF as a potentially transformative financing mechanism for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and expressed strong support for the redesigned PRF as reframed in response to a complex post-covid economic and

social recovery environment to include an expanded definition of climate and disaster risk resilience;

Aware that building resilient and sustainable societies in Forum Member Countries requires addressing climate change and disaster risks, and integrating these risks, to risk-inform national development planning and budgeting;

Recalling that Article 9 of the Paris Agreement calls for the mobilization of climate finance to support country-driven strategies, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing states;

Further recalling that Priority 3 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction recognizes the importance of public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment;

Further recalling the importance of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders in 2016 as an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management, and its supporting Pacific Resilience Partnership, which seek to strengthen a coordinated enabling environment for resilient investments in Forum Member Countries;

Determined to work with each other and with regional organizations, public and private partners and other stakeholders;

Determined to create the PRF as a financing institution and vehicle for funding climate change adaptation, increased resilience and disaster risk initiatives in the Pacific region designed on the principles of regional ownership, affordable and contextualised financing, simplified access procedures, additionality, complementarity and administrative efficiency;

Wishing to establish the PRF as soon as is reasonably feasible with the legal rights, capacities, privileges and immunities necessary to enable the PRF's resilient development objectives and facilitate PRF programmes across the Pacific region now, and in response to Forum Member Countries' evolving needs;

Direct PIFS, in consultation with Forum Member Countries, to undertake such steps as may be required to establish the PRF and manage its transitional arrangements under the guidance of FEMM; and

Affirm Forum Member Countries' political will and commitment to participate in the PRF establishment processes.