



# PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES

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## **Finalized PSIDS Statement to be delivered for Our Common Agenda: Cluster 4 during Panel Discussions that will take place from 3-4 March 2022**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 members of the Pacific Small Island Developing States represented here in New York.

We welcome the proposals in Our Common Agenda report relating to “Protecting our planet and being prepared for the future”. We wish to provide feedback based on the following key proposals:

*1. Delivering this decade on the three goals of the Paris Agreement*

- (i) On temperature, limiting the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius

The Kainaki II Declaration-the strongest collective statement by the Pacific Islands Forum on climate change and SAMOA Pathway review are global turning points to ensure meaningful, measurable, and effective climate action. PSIDS are working towards ambitious net-zero emissions, but it takes the global community to take collective action and live up to their respective responsibilities and obligations to prevent a climate catastrophe. We are deeply concerned by the lack of urgency demonstrated by the major emitters on our current reality. The climate change emergency is happening now- a serious situation that requires immediate action. We support the call for all states to declare a climate emergency, and to address this emergency through policy and behavioral changes aimed at limiting global warming to no more than 1.5-degree Celsius.

- ii. On finance and on adaptation – Credible Solidarity Package

Access to finance will help countries transition to clean energy and invest in reducing climate risks and addressing loss and damage. Article 9 of the Paris agreement provides

that developed countries must provide financial assistance to developing countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation which was also highlighted at COP26. At the forefront of disaster, building resilience and adaptation to climate change is significant. It is becoming clear that current pledges are not enough to limit warming to meet the Paris Agreement goals. PSIDS wants to emphasize adaptation that is transformative rather than incremental, requires resources and financing. We need immediate and ambitious action now, not only to lower emissions but also to mitigate impacts of climate change felt across the world now and by future generations.

We welcome the Climate Finance Delivery Plan and its collective actions. However, we continue to impress on our parties the dire necessity on making good on the US100 billion dollars goal. Focus must also be directed towards the new collective quantified goal on finance as a means to hold the increase in global average temperature and to achieve the 1.5 Celsius target.

The Pacific SIDS also want to be clear that we expect real additional funds for climate action and not some creative accounting whereby resources are transferred from one privileged pocket to another. Solving the climate finance issue by creating another crisis is not an option. On adaptation we need to ensure that the metric used in the GGA are app to small island context. Doubling adaptation finance is an urgent priority for Pacific SIDS.

(iii.) Scaling up the contribution of non-state actors (local authorities, private sector, civil society and in particular youth) to climate action.

The UNFCCC processes and SAMOA Pathway highlights that a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society, and the private sector all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations. We need to scale up the contributions of non-state actors to progress the climate change agenda, including to address the urgent issue of loss and damage. Their input can shape transformative development policies and partnerships as well as increase in NDC implementation and reduce human suffering and the protection of human rights. We support the creation of a

Special Envoy for Future Generations for the youth's voices to be heard on a multilateral level.

2. *Territorial consequences of climate change and to respond to environmental displacement*

The idea of internal displacement may seem abstract, but the issue is real and happening in the Pacific due to climate change. We need to ensure dignified, safe and orderly migration of Pacific peoples affected by climate change that is wholly consistent with their human rights under international law. We recommend the following action points:

- (i) Accelerated global actions needed to ensure the inclusion of internal displacement in national development planning, legal frameworks, and guidelines. Displacement and disaster risks need to be recognized as a shared development priority.
- (ii) Expanding the prevailing narrative that displacement is a humanitarian issue to include that is a threat to livelihoods, well-being and national and regional security and the realization of human rights and managing internal displacement cannot be divorced from the broader challenge of sustainable development.
- (iii) Recognize and acknowledge the traditional and cultural knowledge and skills that are an integral part of any community and in any displacement and/or relocation policies/plans to ensure displaced local people and indigenous communities continue to thrive and are not lost in the relocation process.

3. *Global Vaccination and Emergency Platform to respond to complex global crises*

The unprecedented global crisis caused by COVID-19 has affected many sectors and it has enhanced the pressure for multilateral system cooperation. We have had our share of setbacks; economically, socially, and environmentally however, we should not let the pandemic hinder our efforts to implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support the proposed Emergency Platform to respond to complex global crises to act as a platform to address the gaps and consider the work of existing bodies. We would see the platform discuss the road to blue-green recovery, sustainable, inclusive growth agenda and a common agenda that requires effective public and private sector cooperation.

I thank you.