



OUTCOMES STATEMENT

2nd Pacific Resilience Meeting

6 - 8 July 2021

The 2nd Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), a biennial meeting of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP), convened the 15 constituencies of the PRP, including national and subnational governments and administrations, civil society, communities, the private sector, academia, development partners, national, regional, and international organisations.

The PRM met at a time of significant stress. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to combine with the negative impacts of recent cyclones and drought as well as the ongoing biodiversity loss exacerbated by the Climate Emergency.

The meeting convened under the theme: **Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home**. The theme emphasizes that resilience begins at home and in our communities. It is a resilience that builds on the distinct culture and traditions of our Pacific. At the same time, it is a resilience that addresses new challenges and embraces fresh opportunities. It is a resilience in which all of us are stakeholders, with a responsibility to preserve and enhance it through our individual and collective actions and approaches.

Experiences and learning were shared in order to scale up implementation of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2017-2030 (FRDP)*.

Honourable Kausea Natano, Prime Minister of Tuvalu delivered the opening address. He urged the region to turn the unique challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic into an opportunity for all stakeholders to work smarter and more collaboratively emphasising that “our journey of resilience starts with us taking action now”. The Prime Minister emphasised that such an approach should begin at home, draw on traditional and cultural practice that has served the Pacific well in the past, while at the same time embrace advancements in science and technology. He concluded by saluting the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility by Pacific leaders as an example of a such a smart, collaborative approach.

Overall, the PRM urged members of the PRP, national and subnational governments and administrations, the private sector, civil society and communities, regional organisations, and development partners to reaffirm the importance of:

1. The FRDP to guide resilience action;
2. The PRP to drive, enhance, and promote various perspectives and capacities to strengthen national and community resilience;
3. Individual **and** collective self-reliance – within the wider Blue Pacific community – as a precondition of greater resilience and well-being;

4. A multi-dimensional partnership with a clear purpose and vision that is responsive to wide-ranging needs and which recognises all stakeholders equally given the complex and compounding nature of risk from multiple hazards;
5. The need for sustained engagement at all levels by all stakeholders individually **and** collaboratively and especially youth and children, to lead and support behavioural change using relevant approaches and mediums;
6. The culture of the Pacific as historically one of abundance and reciprocity which forms a solid foundation upon which future resilience can be built;
7. Monitoring progress of resilience action at the national level to guide policy and support reporting against the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 ensuring consistency with commitments to disability rights, gender equality and women's rights; and
8. Disseminating this PRM Outcomes Statement and PRM Youth Forum Outcomes Statement annexed hereto, as a consolidated 'perspective of the Pacific' to positively influence transparent and accountable policy and practice at the national, regional, and global level.

The PRM focused discussion and recommendations around the FRDP's 10 Guiding Principles and 3 Goals which essentially fall into four 'standards' for resilience, namely **Integrate, Include, Inform, and Sustain**. The standards share regionally agreed effectiveness and behavioural values for guiding and enhancing resilience building in the Pacific.

The meeting urged all stakeholders to

Integrate and mainstream climate, disaster, environmental, social, and health risks into development policy, law and practice. The PRM committed to

9. Strengthen integrated approaches to address climate change and disaster risk from national to community level, with consistent and enduring collaboration and coordination across levels, with the support of regional and international actors, to minimize duplication and waste of resources thus bridging the gap between national policy and community implementation;
10. Support building the leadership capacity of young people and community members in general to better interpret and disseminate information on integrated climate and disaster resilience, so that communities 'survive and thrive' before, during, and after disasters;
11. Draw from past lessons and traditional practices and utilize contemporary tools and approaches to enable resilience through sharing, trading and fostering a sense of community and self-reliance; and
12. Scale up climate and disaster risk financing to address national, sectoral and community needs using systems and institutional arrangements that are accessible, effective, and which deliver results;

Include and prioritise the rights and needs of those in vulnerable situations, including women, children, youth, LGBTQI+ and people with disabilities; and empower those most at risk to determine and implement resilience building actions. The PRM committed to

13. Highlight and address the intersectional impacts of multiple crises on women, particularly women with disabilities, women in rural and isolated areas and transgender people;

14. Encourage greater action to strengthen diverse women's leadership and resilience in an era when the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing issues of vulnerability, exposure, and risk;
15. Facilitate regular, open and frank dialogue at all levels to help dismantle biases that prevent the acceptance of diverse opinions and the equality of all groups;
16. Roll out more inclusive and accessible national level disaster risk finance networks to build comprehensive financial protection;
17. Build on the examples of local, women-led gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approaches to health emergencies and climate-related disasters;
18. Engage more with diverse young people and youth front-line workers and responders given their invaluable contributions in the COVID-19 response at community level;
19. Address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and provide support in terms of accessibility, assistive devices, community based inclusive development, support services, and social protection to enable them to become active agents for transformation and resilience;
20. Emphasize the need for utility and infrastructure service and system providers to be more inclusive in their approaches based on community needs, particularly in terms of health, safety, and protection;
21. Accelerate the documentation of traditional wisdom and practices, and support knowledge holders to mentor and share learning;
22. Reaffirm the importance of tradition and faith, and move towards a "renewed normal" for building trust and relationships that are critical for resilience in the face of current and future shocks; and
23. Strengthen partnerships with local women's organisations and networks and private sector to enable access to information;

Inform resilience building through open and ready access to traditional knowledge and contemporary disaggregated data; by incorporating cultural and traditional resilience, worldviews, and spiritual beliefs; and by strengthening partnerships for sharing lessons and good practice. The PRM committed to

24. Increase efforts to better understand climate and disaster risk and their impact; and clearly and inclusively communicate early warnings for early action, at all levels and across all sectors;
25. Reconnect more with Pacific traditional wisdom – based on a systemic, collaborative approach – to strengthen our culture of resilience, and therefore enabling quicker recovery from compound disasters, such as cyclones and pandemics;
26. Explore further our ancestors' culture of resilience developed over generations – such as farming practices – to alleviate the impacts of COVID 19 and address such challenges as food security;
27. Avoid negative recurring practices in disaster response that stress the environment and exacerbate underlying risks;
28. Increase collaborative action to address the adverse impacts of climate change that is driving mobility and displacement;
29. Increase the understanding and importance of climate justice;
30. Innovate through appropriate and accessible new technology digital and social media platforms for wider use across all demographics to enhance inclusive resilience decision-making; and

31. Reaffirm Pacific people's right to health, and related information to protect their families and communities from COVID-19 and other health threats;

Sustain resilience building by incorporating ecosystem-based management and guardianship; addressing the root causes of vulnerability including poverty and inequity; strengthening local capacity and ownership for timely and effective preparedness, response, recovery, and risk informed development; and by promoting low carbon development. The PRM committed to

32. Strengthen social-ecological systems and reinforce people-centered approaches to enhance humanitarian responses;
33. Promote the evidence and opportunities for a multi hazard and risk informed green recovery approach that reorients economic systems towards resilience and social and ecological sustainability;
34. Accelerate efforts to introduce and sustain low carbon development initiatives, such as infrastructure and transport development, at both national and community level;
35. Scale up the implementation of legislation to support climate action, including via a coordinated approach to multiple risk and hazards; and
36. Elevate the importance and encourage the development of robust nature-based solutions for resilience from a social, economic, and environmental perspective.

Engel Raygadas

Chair, Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce

**Deputy Permanent Secretary for International, European & Pacific Affairs,
French Polynesia**

8 July 2021

Annex I



OUTCOMES STATEMENT

2nd Pacific Resilience Meeting Youth Forum

5 July 2021

The 2nd Youth Forum at the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) was attended by more than 700 participants from across the Pacific Island countries and territories, under the PRM theme of **Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home**. Key to the discussions was the sub theme of 'Why Youth Matter', a reminder to us and others that youth are actively engaged in building resilience in our communities. It was precluded by an online consultation, particularly for those youth who were unable to attend the Forum.

The Youth Forum began with a statement delivered by Children's Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Resilience advocate, Ms. Tokasa Senibiau, from the DRR Club in Valenicina Community in Fiji¹. She emphasized children and youth are worried about an unsafe and unhealthy future. She stated it is a right of children and youth, and an empowering protection strategy, to participate in disaster and risk assessment, and designing and implementing integrated DRR and climate change initiatives. She declared that while genuine participation required the transfer of power and responsibility to children and youth, it is not a replacement for adult responsibility.

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Honourable Mr. Henry Puna, in his address, declared that 'Youth will be the lightning rod of change for our region'. He emphasized that youth bring a sense of reality, of urgency and a fresh perspective to policy conversations. Therefore, youth voice is instrumental to decision making and policy development. He commended youth for continually demonstrating courage and persistence, in mobilizing and advocating for resilience and climate action at all levels.

The Director General of the Pacific Community, the Honourable Dr. Stuart Minchin in his address emphasized that youth development is a cross-cutting issue, and to achieve genuine and lasting improvement in the region, a multi-stakeholder approach is necessary. He also encouraged youth to continue to be actively engaged in resilience work.

The Chair of the Pacific Resilience Partnership Youth Working Group², Mr. Seviloni Rokomatu Ratu, in his remarks called for children and youth engagement to be recognized and embedded as part of the Pacific Resilience Partnership governance arrangement, to support the implementation of the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific.

The Youth Forum focused its discussions around the four pillars of resilience, that is, **Integrate, Include, Inform** and **Sustain**, and to this end committed to:

¹ Tokasa Seinibiau, DRR Club in Valenicina Community, Lami, Fiji which is supported by Save the Children Fiji.

² PRP Youth WG Chair from IFRC Pacific and co-chaired with Pacific Youth Council, including members from: PIANGO, Save the Children, Live & Learn, Oxfam, USP, Commonwealth Climate Youth Network, PIFS and SPC.

- **Urge** collaboration amongst all partners to ensure the integration of disaster risk management and climate change.
- **Call** for the review of current national policies, frameworks, and legislation to ensure integration of disaster risk management and climate change.
- **Encourage** the development of local capacities and the provision of finance to design, implement and evaluate integrated disaster risk management and climate change initiatives at national and regional level.
- **Recognize and promote** children and youth as educators, advocates, agents of change, volunteers and as equal partners in the fight against climate change.
- **Encourage** young people to join the fight against COVID19 at the community, national & regional level.
- **Call** for the sharing and provision of resources to ensure the meaningful inclusion of children, youth, people living with disabilities, women, and persons of diverse genders, in disaster risk management, humanitarian response and climate change decision making processes and actions.
- **Recognize** the importance of traditional knowledge and practices in resilience building.
- **Urge** the promotion of intergenerational learning that will encourage young people and leaders to collaborate.
- **Promote** a citizen and people-centred approach to disaster risk management and climate change, to ensure access to humanitarian assistance and support required during disasters and climate emergencies, including the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.
- **Encourage** the provision of support to community leaders and communities, to build their capacity and engagement in strengthening their resilience, thus ensuring locally led resilience systems.
- **Support** the progress that has been made on the youth resilience hub as a mechanism to strengthen the sharing of information, awareness and advocacy, and the promotion of Pacific wisdom and traditional knowledge.
- **Welcome** the support of partner agencies in the development of the youth resilience hub.
- **Promote** the use of information technology including social media to share and receive information, including applications that can collate data during emergency response.
- **Encourage** the engagement of children and youth in the promotion of local and nature-based solutions to resilience.
- **Promote** green, low carbon COVID19 recovery that will contribute to sustainable, environmentally friendly communities thus reducing the impact of COVID19 and climate change.
- **Call** for access to equitable, critical, and intentional opportunities that cultivate new green jobs, entrepreneurship and financing which accelerates our regions capacity to address disaster risk and climate change.

WE encourage all constituents of the Pacific Resilience Partnership to disseminate and advocate the important messages outlined in this Outcomes Statement, recognizing its link to the overall PRM outcomes and its subsequent inclusion in the meeting report by the PRP Taskforce.

05 July 2021