

## 3rd Oceania 21 Summit

### Lifou Declaration

#### “Paris 2015: Save Oceania!”

Lifou, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, 30 April 2015

1. We, Leaders, Ministers and representatives of 15 of the Member States and Territories of the Oceania 21 Initiative, gathered in Lifou, New Caledonia in the presence of Australia, France, New Zealand, European Union, representatives of SPREP, the PIFS, MSG Secretariat, SPC, USP, and consistent with previous Oceania 21 Summits, which brought together the customary authorities, research bodies, namely IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement) and youth strongly and resolutely commit ourselves to contribute to an ambitious and legally binding Agreement on Climate Change in Paris in December 2015.

2. We are all actual victims of climate change, a reality we cannot deny any longer and which is confirmed by the IPCC scientific reports. At a time when greenhouse gas emissions are constantly increasing, we observe in the Pacific region, which covers nearly half of all the earth's oceans and nearly one third of the globe's surface, the rise in average temperatures, the deteriorating ocean health, the rising sea level and extreme climate events including cyclone Pam and Typhoon Maysak which recently struck the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu with devastating effect.

3. We acknowledge the international community's efforts to combat climate change, but we recognize the following are still inadequate for vulnerable developing countries, in particular the Small Island Developing States: insufficient funding for mitigation and adaptation policy implementation, insufficient capacity building and transfer of technological advances, weakness of existing measures in terms of loss and damages as well as the lack of inclusion of civil society in climate negotiations.

4. Our countries are among the most severely affected in the world. However, Pacific Island countries and territories' emissions account for merely 0,03% (or 8 million tons) of global GHG emissions. On the other hand the Pacific Ocean absorbs 776 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

5. This observation alerts us and urges us to act. 2015 is the year for action. We sincerely want the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris this year to be the occasion to herald an international revolution in the way the World deals with climate change.

6. In line with the MSG Leaders Declaration on Environment and Climate Change made in 21 June 2013 in Noumea, New Caledonia and the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership adopted by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders on 5 September 2013, we solemnly ask the Parties to the UNFCCC that are actively negotiating the Paris Agreement, to hear our common voice. Our call is also fully aligned with the message from the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States that was held in Apia in 2014 called the “SAMOA Pathway”.

7. We believe it is the responsibility of all States to act urgently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adopt appropriate carbon sequestration mechanisms, restore the health of oceans and work together on adaptation and mitigation measures.

#### **Our approach:**

8. We want Oceania's claims to influence the *Ad Hoc* Working Group Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. We want our concerns, our sufferings, our hopes and our concrete proposals to be heard by negotiators to ensure that COP21 will effectively address the challenge posed by climate change to *our* region.

## **Our resolutions:**

9. The Paris Agreement will bring together all the Parties to the UNFCCC. The largest greenhouse gas emitting countries on the Planet must be Parties to commitments reached in Paris.

10. We, the Pacific Countries and Territories are not responsible for this climate change but we are its first victims in the Pacific. This reality is an emergency call for partners to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We want our voice to be clearly heard at the negotiating table as our governments and our peoples show us the way towards a stabilised climate.

11. We urge the Parties to the UNFCCC to sincerely commit to long-term, quantitative and ambitious legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. These targets must be clear and compatible with the objective of the Convention in limiting global warming to less than 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as per the AOSIS' position. The Parties will need to define precisely their commitments and be held accountable in a transparent manner. Pacific Island Countries and Territories are ready to set an example in this regard. At the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) held in Lima last December, it was agreed that countries that are in a position to do so could present their intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) before the time of the COP 21 to be held in Paris this December. We undertake to meet this obligation with the support of SPREP and other partners.

12. Well beyond the yet crucial challenge of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, we recommend the Paris Agreement deals directly with reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Already widely engaged in an energy transition, we wish to improve, through effective cooperation and strong support from international partners.

13. We call for the model of global economic development to change to a green and blue economy and low carbon development and be made more inclusive, encouraging solidarity with each other.

14. We commit to the education and training of our young generations through formal and non formal education, including integration in national school curriculum and programs of traditional knowledge and practices, in particular those related to Climate Change, with the help of customary authorities. We support ecosystems and nature based projects as a tool to Climate Change adaptation.

15. We commit to fully involve our youth, a major stakeholder, in planning, implementing and sustaining Climate Change adaptation measures; we invite them to come up with original solutions to be shared with all the parties at all our future meetings.

16. We commit to develop before April 2017 a common Oceanian platform on traditional knowledge and practices to collect, secure, enhance and transmit them, beginning with those necessary to fight against the effects of climate change;

17. We reaffirm the urgency to strengthen and develop observation systems in the Pacific in order to both, improve disaster risk management and monitor and enhance understanding of climate and environmental changes and their impacts. This will provide further useful scientific data and advice to Pacific Islands' decision makers for sustainable resources management and improved adaptation to climate change.

18. We affirm it is essential that the Paris Agreement promotes improved access by Pacific Island Countries and territories to Climate Finance, and include additional, predictable, sustainable and transparent financial resources, to support climate change responses in our countries and territories.

19. We are committed to implementing in the Pacific the Warsaw international mechanism for Loss and Damage to be defined in a concerted manner with all Parties.

20. We want this economic and environmental revolution to be clearly communicated to our peoples who need to be fully and directly involved.

21. We commit to communicating and implementing this Lifou Declaration.

Cook Islands

Federated States of Micronesia

French Polynesia

Kiribati

Marshall Islands

Nauru

Niue

New Caledonia

Palau

Samoa

Solomon Islands

Timor Leste

Tokelau

Vanuatu

Wallis and Futuna