

RESOLUTION FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE PACIFIC YEAR FOR THE OCEAN 2017

Leaders' Summit, Honiara, Solomon Islands
2016



The Leaders of the members of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, gathered in Honiara, Solomon Islands, for the Leader's Summit of the PIDF,

- *Recognising* the importance of the Ocean to our nations' economies, and our people's health and cultures;
- *Recognising* the threats posed to our oceans through the over harvesting and mismanagement of resources, as well as land-derived and sea-based pollution;
- *Recognising* the impacts of climate change on the Ocean's ecosystems and our people's livelihood and continued existence on low lying islands;
- *Recognising* the need to control emissions that cause climate change particularly carbon dioxide and methane emissions;
- *Acknowledging* the efforts of the Pacific Ocean Alliance and its member organisations;
- *Acknowledging* the high level United Nations Conference on Oceans and Seas which will be co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden in Fiji on 5-9 June 2017;
- Taking note of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" including its targets to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification and effectively regulate harvesting to restore fish stocks;
- *Emphasizing* the necessity for Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society of Pacific Island Countries and Territories to focus on the importance of the Health of our Ocean and its impact on the health of our nations and people;
- *Stressing* the importance of international cooperation in conserving our oceans and its resources for the livelihood of our people and future generations;
- *Proclaim* 2017 as the Pacific Year for the Ocean;
- *Encourage* PIDF members and all other organisations active in the Pacific to have focussed activities for the observance of the Pacific Year for the Ocean to be undertaken at the local, national and regional levels with the participation of all groups and citizens, to increase awareness on the contribution of the Oceans to our livelihoods, the threats that they face and the steps that need to be taken to protect them;
- *Requests* the PIDF Secretary-General to coordinate and where possible support the activities and also requests the PIDF Secretary-General to give widespread publicity to the Pacific year for the Ocean and the activities that will mark this year.

