3rd PIDF SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Her Excellency, Ms. Mary Robinson, the UN’s Special Envoy for Climate Change, told Pacific leaders at the historical Third PIDF Leaders Summit in Suva, Republic of Fiji that their leadership was crucial at the UN Climate Talks at the end of the year.

Speaking at the Summit that met from 2-4 September 2015, she told Leaders:

"Because of your lived experience, you understand climate change in a way that few do. You are witnesses to the human impacts of climate change, and know how lives and livelihoods can be damaged. So your voice and your leadership matter, your knowledge and your insights are needed."

She also reminded on what happens after Paris: "As well as speaking with a coherent, united voice, I suggest you need to be clear on what you want on your return from Paris."

The victims that are emitting less than one per cent but facing the full brunt of Climate changes had much to place on the table with the presence of the UN Special Envoy-Climate Change.

The Pacific Leaders collectively voiced as one for compensation in terms of migration and in terms of loss, damage from Climate change and the reduction in emissions to be aimed at 1.5°C.

They also posed a question as to addressing the seriousness of Climate Change; whereby the Pacific is aware that UNFCCC has set up a Green Climate Fund in which Pacific islands are trying to define ways of accessing these funds. In this aspect, the UN Special envoy focused her interventions on the main success of the fund as well as the bold initiatives taken by Least Developed Countries as a clear indication of serious engagement by the countries that are not responsible for the climate change impacts.

With a theme of “Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Pacific Economies”, discussions focused and recognised that climate change is of critical strategic importance to the Pacific which has the potential to hold back economic progress, or reverse the gains made in our development, exacerbate social and economic problems and even totally destroy some of our communities.

The Pacific Leaders at the Summit took a pivotal decision on climate change and overwhelmingly adopted the Suva Declaration on Climate Change as the Pacific’s position on Climate Change.

“I suggest you need to be clear on what you want on your return from Paris.”
THAILAND A FRIEND OF THE PACIFIC

In his Keynote Address to the PIDF Summit, Hon. Thanasak Patimapragorn, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand affirmed his country's commitment to assist the Pacific advance their mutual interests on a sustainable future.

He announced that Thailand was ready to work with the Pacific and PIDF in three areas: agriculture, sustainable development and human resources, to share their experiences in sustainable agriculture, disaster management and fisheries and to join our advocacy of SDG 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT SIDS

We are here to support Small Islands Developing states (SIDS), promises Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma in his address at the Third PIDF Summit.

Reiterating the Commonwealth's long-standing reputation as a champion of Small Island Developing States, the SG said, “The Commonwealth was the first body whose Heads warned against the critical danger the world faced through global warming. We have been in the forefront of global advocacy on behalf of small states, and to raising awareness and practical approaches to meet their distinctive needs.”

Mr Sharma concluded with an undertaking that the Commonwealth will assist build a more resilient Pacific.

SUVA CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

The product of an inclusive, participatory and holistic collaboration beginning in New York with Pacific UN Ambassadors and culminating at the Summit with leaders and representatives of governments, civil society and private sector from over 40 countries, the Suva Climate Declaration was a historical document for the Pacific.

Speaking on the Declaration at the closure of 3rd PIDF summit, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Honorable Josaia V Bainimarama said, “We go from here to Paris with a clear signal - in our Suva Declaration on Climate Change - of our determination to finally get the world community to act,” said Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Honorable Josaia Bainimarama during the closing ceremony of the 3rd PIDF summit.

“The Suva Declaration is destined to be an historic document of an historic moment in which the Pacific came together as one,” further added, Hon. Bainimarama.
**PIDF CHARTER FORMALLY ADOPTED AT PIDF SUMMIT**

After a comprehensive public consultation process unmatched in the region, that included two regional workshops, the PIDF Charter was formally adopted at the Third PIDF Summit.


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**PIDF SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIAL**

On Friday 20 November 2015 the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Mr François Martel met Dr. Ma Peihua, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, Vice President of China Oceania Friendship Association, at the PIDF Secretariat.

The two sides explored how they may push forward the Pacific China comprehensive partnership and the sustainable stable development of the Pacific's China relations.

“China has been a keen supporter of the Pacific and we are very happy that we could explore with the visiting Chinese Delegation on how we could build relationship for our mutual benefit,” expressed Mr Martel.

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**INDONESIAN DELEGATION VISITS SECRETARIAT**

Following on from the 2nd PIDF Summit by Indonesian President, H.E Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, of a $20 million assistance to the Pacific, an Indonesian government delegation visited the PIDF Secretariat to discuss further areas of cooperation between the two sides.

Discussions also included Indonesia’s experience on the Green Growth Framework and the development of a Center of Excellence on the Green Economy.

Both parties reassured their support to strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

PIDF and Indonesia had initially established relations at the 2013 PIDF Inaugural Meeting.
TUVALU THANKS PIDF AT INDC LAUNCH

On the eve of the COP21 Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Enele Sopoaga visited PIDF Secretariat, to launch his country’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The INDCs was prepared with the assistance of Dr Mahendra Kumar, the PIDF Climate Change Advisor who was also instrumental in the preparation of the INDCs for Marshall Islands.

At a media conference at the PIDF Secretariat, PM Sopoaga thanked the PIDF for its support. Tuvalu has committed to reduce emissions of green-house gases from the electricity generation (power sector), by 100%, i.e. almost zero emissions by 2025. Tuvalu’s indicative quantified economy-wide target for a reduction in total emissions of GHGs from the entire energy sector to 60% below 2010 levels by 2025.

These emissions will be further reduced from the other key sectors, agriculture and waste, conditional upon the necessary technology and finance.

By putting up such a huge target, Tuvalu wants to demonstrate to the rest of the world that it is prepared to walk the talk.

Hon. Sopoaga said he and other negotiators will work hard to seal a legally binding agreement that sees the best possible outcome for everyone at the climate change talks in Paris in 2015.

PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPMENT FORUM SECRETARIAT

VISION

A United, Distinctive and Sustainable Pacific Society

MISSION

Enabling Green–Blue Pacific Economies through Inclusive Strategies, Multi-stakeholder Governance, and Genuine