MEDIA CONFERENCE
Pre Summit and Summit Summary
PRE-SUMMIT CONCLUSIONS

The Pre-summit made a number of conclusions and recommendations.

These include that:

- PIDF work with countries who have not yet ratified the Paris Agreement for them to do so as soon as possible while encouraging larger emitters of Green House Gases to also ratify
- PIDF to keep working on pursuing reductions of shipping and aviation emissions that are not part of the Paris Agreement, through IMO and ICAO processes.
- PIDF to maintain the coordination of the strong international position taken by the region on climate emission reductions
- PIDF to focus on Ocean issues and encourage regional cooperation towards the management of our Ocean
- The Pacific look at innovative ways in Ocean related investments so the Pacific takes full ownership of its rich resource and its processing happens within the Pacific.
- The Pacific island countries and territories consider the threats related to sea-bed mining and explore the possibility of setting up regional regulatory body for this industry in the Pacific.
- The Pacific works on reshaping its trade relationships with developed nations who benefit from its marine resources to retain more benefits locally.
- Pacific island countries and territories give importance to regional cooperation and collaboration in the management of the Ocean, particularly with regard to compliance and enforcement
- The Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life under Water) to be integrated into national development plans and prioritised as a regional focal area.
- Pacific island countries and territories to take the lead in prioritising transformative development, while regional organisations should support these initiatives.
This Report is a summary of the issues discussed during the Leaders’ Summit on 13th July, 2016 at the Mendana Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

All PIDF Members attended the Summit, as well as a number of other Pacific States and Territories such as Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna, along with Regional organisations, Development Partners and NGOs.

ORGANISATION OF WORK

HANDOVER OF CHAIR

- 2016 was the year for Fiji to handover the Chair of PIDF.
- The Prime Minister of Fiji, as outgoing Chair, presented to the new Chair, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands a gift of appreciation and dedication from all the members of PIDF to his excellency in recognition of his coming assumption of the high office of Chair of the PIDF for 2016-2018.

SECRETARY GENERAL’S REPORT

The Secretary General’s Report presented his report which was endorsed by the Leaders’ Summit.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2020)

- PIDF is developing its strategic plan (2017-2020) using the guidance provided by such policy documents as the Charter, the Outcome Documents of the PIDF Leaders’ Summits 2013-2015 and the Suva Declaration on Climate Change. Of particular relevance to PIDF’s planning are the 10 priorities identified by Leaders in the inaugural Summit of 2013. The planning process also derives its guidance from the principles of Green Economy published by the Green Economy Coalition in 2012 and the 17 sustainable development goals endorsed in 2015.

- The PIDF Secretariat presented a first draft of the strategic plan (2017-2020), incorporating comments made by members during the last SOC meeting.

- The Leaders’ Summit (a) noted the annexed draft PIDF strategic plan (2017-2020) and (b) tasked the Secretariat to undertake a thorough consultation process for the strategic plan (2017-2020) to be presented for adoption by the Conference in 2017.
WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2017 – close session

PIDF’s Budget 2017 and Work Programme 2017 was presented to PIDF Members.

The Leaders’ Summit discussed the proposed PIDF budget and work programme for 2017.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

- Article 17 of the PIDF Charter states the PIDF will establish a Regional Development Trust Fund dedicated to the development of long-term sustainability of the activities of the PIDF. The Fund shall, subject to this Charter, consist of contributions from Members and Development Partners, and such other sources for the purposes and functions of the organisation as defined in this Charter.

- The Leaders’ Summit noted the update made on the Regional Development Trust Fund and is awaiting the final report to be distributed by PIDF secretariat.

PIDF ROADMAP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

- According to its Charter, the PIDF is expected, through national, regional and international frameworks and transformative changes to focus on the sustainable and inclusive development of Pacific Islands by:
  - Advocating the very real and pressing significance of climate change for the lives and livelihoods of Pacific Islands and Pacific Islanders;
  - Implementing policies for sustainable development and especially poverty eradication that respond to the challenges posed by climate change and globalization.

3.4.2 A PIDF roadmap for Climate Change was presented.

- The Leaders’ Summit noted the annexed Climate Change Roadmap, noted the interdependance between the roadmap and the draft strategic plan (2017-2020), and approve that further consultations on the draft Climate Change Roadmap be undertaken and that the Secretariat reports back on the next Summit.

PACIFIC CLIMATE TREATY

- The purpose of this submission was to present a draft of a proposed ‘Pacific Climate Treaty’: a new regional treaty among Pacific Small Island Developing States (P-SIDS).
This proposed initiative – a new Pacific Climate Treaty – builds on the moral and political leadership already shown by Pacific island states in their efforts to tackle climate change. This treaty will form a new source of international law, will provide a beacon of inspiration for other states working together to tackle climate change, and help drive the sustainable development of the Pacific through enhanced cooperation among Pacific island states and their development partners. This initiative follows closely a similar initiative in 1985 when the Pacific enacted the Treaty of Rarotonga the common name for the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which formalised a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the South Pacific.

The Leaders’ Summit noted the content of the draft Pacific Climate Change Treaty and approved that further consultations on the draft Pacific Climate Treaty be undertaken and that the Secretariat reports back at the next Summit.

THE PACIFIC YEAR FOR THE OCEAN 2017

The purpose of this submission was to present a ‘Resolution for the Observance of the Pacific Year for the Ocean 2017’ in recognition of the importance of the Ocean to our nations’ economies, and our people’s health and cultures; the threats posed to our oceans through the over-harvesting and mismanagement of resources, as well as land-derived and sea-based pollution, and the impacts of climate change on the Ocean’s ecosystems and our people’s livelihood and continued existence on low lying islands;

The Leaders’ Summit approved the attached resolution to declare 2017 as Pacific Year for the Ocean.

2017 1ST HIGH LEVEL PACIFIC BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

The PIDF’s 1st High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference shall be held in early 2017. It will bring together Civil Society, the Private Sector and Governments to focus on the latest knowledge, lessons learned, best practices and private-public partnerships to inform policies, sustainable management and conservation of ocean resources for the people of the Pacific Islands. The event shall provide the Pacific region the platform for regional preparatory meeting for the UN Conference on Oceans and Seas to be held in Fiji in June 2017.

The Leaders’ Summit approved PIDF’s proposal to host the first high level Blue Economy Conference in preparation for the UN conference on oceans and seas.

PIDF ROLE in the UN Conference on Oceans and Seas.

Preparations of the 2017 UN Conference on Oceans and Seas shall require national level preparations that feed into the regional preparatory process. The PIDF’s 1st High Level Pacific Blue Economy Conference scheduled for early next year shall provide the Pacific region the platform for a regional preparatory meeting for the UN Conference on Oceans and Seas.

The Leaders’ Summit noted the content of the submission and supported PIDF in its role of preparing the PSIDS and Territories for the UN Conference.
CLIMATE INDUCED MIGRATION

- PIDF as part of the Pacific network on climate change migration, displacement and resettlement is working with sister organisations in the Pacific to explore innovative solutions to climate induced migration and displacement. PIDF’s added value is to be an inclusive organisation, a unique Pacific voice, and aims at the empowerment of vulnerable Pacific Communities in order for them to take ownership of this issue.

- The Leaders’ Summit noted the contents of this submission and endorsed the Secretariat’s participation in the process of preparing a Declaration on Climate Induced Displacement and Migration.

IMO EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The Leaders’ Summit noted the PIDF, USP and the Government of Marshall Islands successful Expression of Interest.

4. INSTITUTIONNALL MATTERS

APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE UN

- The Leaders’ Summit noted the progress of the submission with the Sixth Committee on the PIDF observer status to the UN.

Arrangements for the next Summit

- The next Summit in 2017 will be held co-jointly with the PIDF Conference and the Members Representative Council in Honiara in the Solomon Islands. The theme and dates of the 2017 leadership meetings will be announced in due course.