

2019 PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Suva, Fiji
26 July 2019

OUTCOMES

The 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Suva, Fiji on 26 July 2019. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Finance of Nauru and attended by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Vice President of Kiribati, the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Ministers from Australia, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Samoa were represented by Officials and a Special Envoy. Wallis and Futuna attended as an Associate Member.

2. The meeting was also attended by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation (PASO), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

A 2050 STRATEGY FOR THE *BLUE PACIFIC*

3. Ministers acknowledged that climate change, the geopolitical context and the development challenges facing the *Blue Pacific* region called for deep and critical thinking about the future of Pacific regionalism and the role that the Pacific Islands Forum can play in securing the future of the Pacific.

4. In this context, Ministers considered the findings of the Interim Review of the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism* (FPR), including subsequent discussions by the Forum Officials Committee (FOC).

5. Ministers:

- (i) **considered** and **welcomed** the report from the FOC Sub-Committee on the Interim Review of the FPR, and the report from the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), as it related to recommendations 1, 4, and 9 of the Interim Review of the FPR;
- (ii) **reaffirmed** the importance of inclusivity and **agreed** to maintain the public consultation process as a fundamental principle of inclusivity for advancing Pacific regionalism;
- (iii) **supported** the development of a 2050 *Blue Pacific* Strategy for deepening Pacific Regionalism under the FPR, recognising the need to have practical short and mid-term strategies and initiatives such as the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030; and

- (iv) **agreed** for a FOC Sub-Committee to:
 - (a) take forward the review of the Terms of Reference and mandate of the SSCR, including for greater oversight by Members over SSCR; and
 - (b) develop the 2050 *Blue Pacific* Strategy for consideration at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum in Vanuatu.

STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONAL PRIORITIES TOWARDS A SECURE FUTURE

FISHERIES

6. Ministers recalled that in 2017, Leaders endorsed fisheries as a standing agenda item for their meeting in recognition of the vital importance of the fisheries sector, and that the multidimensional nature of fisheries issues necessitates a whole of government approach and Leaders' oversight.

7. Furthermore, in 2018 Leaders endorsed the proposal for an annual Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, in the margins of the Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting, to report to Leaders on all fisheries related matters.

8. Ministers discussed how the fisheries sector can best be supported to ensure that Forum Members are proactive in securing the region's fish for the future and that the region's development aspirations are not undermined.

9. Ministers emphasised the importance of regional coordination, to increase the economic returns and ensure the sustainable management of fisheries and welcomed the increasing efforts of CROP agencies in this regard.

10. Ministers:

- (i) **noted** the outcomes of the Sixteenth Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting;
- (ii) **welcomed** the establishment and outcomes of the Special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting (RFMM) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia;
- (iii) **noted** the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the RFMM;
- (iv) **noted** the Fisheries Ministers' recommendation to disband the Fisheries Taskforce comprising FFA, PNAO, PIFS and SPC;
- (v) **agreed** on the need for stronger coordination at national and regional levels, particularly through the RFMM, given the links and synergies between fisheries and trade, economic, security and environmental issues so as to ensure a

comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to the advice provided to Forum Leaders on issues and benefits relating to the *Blue Pacific* fisheries; and

- (vi) **noted** their concern that harmful fisheries subsidies can contribute to economic losses in the fisheries sector.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE: FORUM CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY

11. Ministers reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the Pacific region, as articulated by Forum Leaders in the *Boe Declaration*, and that effectively combatting climate change was central to securing our future in the Pacific.

12. Ministers noted that 2019 marked an important milestone for the region, with the meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) and the last year before the Paris Agreement becomes fully operational in 2020. This year also marked the inaugural visit of the UN Secretary-General to the region to meet with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, in the lead up to his Climate Action Summit in New York in September. Further, this year will see the release of the IPCC Special Reports on Oceans and Cryosphere and on Climate Change and Land.

13. Ministers discussed the current state of the regional and global debate on how to respond to climate change, building on the outcomes of Pacific Leaders' dialogue with the UN Secretary-General in May, the 2018 IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, and the outcomes from the UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn in June.

14. Ministers:

- (i) **recommended** that Leaders issue a high-level statement or declaration on climate change for the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and the UNFCCC COP25 to 'securing our future in the Pacific';
- (ii) **noted** the high-level priorities that were set out in the paper, and additional priorities, adaptation, mitigation, and other issues that may be further raised, as proposed core elements of the Pacific Region's climate change advocacy for the UNSG Climate Action Summit and COP25; and
- (iii) **tasked** the Secretariat to consult further with Members and work with the One CROP Plus and the FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to identify climate change priorities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE: PACIFIC RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

15. Ministers recognised the 2017 Leaders decision that supported an initial two-year trial period for the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) governance arrangements to ensure effective implementation of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP).

16. Ministers noted an update on the progress made over the past two years on the PRP governance arrangements, including the inaugural biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting convened in Suva in May 2019 under the theme of ‘*Youth Futures in a Resilient Pacific*’.

17. Ministers acknowledged that whilst the PRP was innovative, progress on implementation has been slower than expected.

18. Ministers:

- (i) **noted** the work carried out to date to implement the FRDP, including through the establishment and operationalisation of the PRP governance arrangement, and convening the inaugural, biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting held in May 2019;
- (ii) **recalled** the 2017 Leaders’ decision to trial the PRP governance arrangements for two years and, based on utility and progress, **recommended** that Leaders extend the trial period on the PRP governance arrangements until 2020 to be informed by a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance arrangements;
- (iii) **tasked** the PRP to further strengthen efforts to improve the regional commitment and contribution of stakeholders and consolidate the partnership under the FRDP noting the linkages with existing and emerging regional instruments; and
- (iv) **requested** the PRP Taskforce to provide an annual update to FOC on the progress of implementation of the FRDP.

REGIONAL SECURITY (BOE DECLARATION)

19. Ministers recalled Leaders’ endorsement of the *Boe Declaration* in 2018 and their call for an action plan to be developed for implementation and for the Secretariat to provide a progress report to the Forum Troika by June 2019.

20. Ministers considered and discussed the recommendations made by the FOC on the draft *Boe Declaration* Action Plan and the establishment of a FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security to coordinate and prioritise the implementation of the *Boe Declaration* and existing Forum security declarations.

21. Ministers:

- (i) **endorsed** the draft *Boe Declaration* Action Plan;
- (ii) **endorsed** the establishment of a FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security, and its role in further prioritising actions and activities under the *Boe Declaration* Action Plan, noting existing capabilities and regional security mechanisms; and

- (iii) **tasked** the Secretariat to design and develop a Pacific Security Dialogue through the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security in order to provide a more inclusive space for regional security discussions.

NUCLEAR CONTAMINANTS

22. Ministers acknowledged that the issue of the nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific has been a standing agenda item on the Leaders annual meeting, but in the context of the Marshall Islands' request for support in its efforts to resolve nuclear testing legacy issues with the Government of the United States.

23. While considering additional or alternative modalities for strengthening support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ministers also considered the potential threat of nuclear contamination to the health and security of the entire *Blue Pacific*, posed by the post-World War II nuclear testing programmes in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia, as well as the 2011 Fukushima nuclear reactor accident.

24. In the context of discussions, Vanuatu encouraged Members to sign up to the 2017 UN *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*.

25. Ministers:

- (i) **acknowledged** the importance of addressing the long-standing issue of nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific; and
- (ii) **endorsed** the proposal that the Forum Secretariat work together with Members, CROP agencies, and other partners to accelerate collective action to address the issue, and in particular:
 - (a) to **task** the Secretariat to coordinate the compilation and analysis of all available scientific assessments of the impact of nuclear testing activities on the health and security of the *Blue Pacific* and its peoples, including the request for inclusion of Kiritimati;
 - (b) to **task** the Secretariat to develop options on a stocktake of unexploded ordnances and World War II remnants;
 - (c) to **consider**, if necessary, the commissioning of an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the issue;
 - (d) to **consider** whether additional or alternative modalities for Forum support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and other Members similarly situated, is warranted; and

- (e) to **promote** the status of the entire *Blue Pacific* as a nuclear free zone, adopting modalities to foster meaningful international cooperation under the framework of the *Rarotonga Treaty* to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons globally, and to this end, to consider modernisation of certain operational provisions of the *Rarotonga Treaty* provisions where necessary.

OCEANS AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES

26. Ministers acknowledged the ongoing support by SPC, FFA, the Secretariat and other agencies and considered the ongoing regional work on the demarcation of maritime boundaries and delimitation of maritime zones, including to highlight for discussion the threat posed by sea level rise to Members' baselines and maritime claims established pursuant to the 1982 *Law of the Sea Convention* (1982 LOSC).

27. Ministers discussed the threat posed by sea level rise to Members' rights stemming from maritime zones under the 1982 LOSC and considered the options on a way forward to ensure that sea level rise and the potential permanent inundation of baselines and basepoints, in no way, shape or form, derogates upon the maritime interests and sovereign rights stemming from maritime zones, pursuant to the 1982 LOSC.

28. Ministers:

- (i) **encouraged** Members to conclude negotiations on maritime boundary claims and delineation of their maritime zones, noting Leaders' **commitment** to progressing the resolution of outstanding maritime boundary claims and the report back on progress to the 2019 Leaders' meeting in Tuvalu;
- (ii) **endorsed** the importance of preserving Members' existing rights stemming from maritime zones, in the face of sea level rise, noting the existing and ongoing regional mechanisms to support maritime boundaries delimitation;
- (iii) **committed** to a collective effort, including to develop international law with the aim of ensuring that once a Forum Member's maritime zones are delineated in accordance with the 1982 LOSC, that the Members maritime zones could not be challenged or reduced as a result of sea-level rise and climate change; and
- (iv) noting the cross-cutting nature of these maritime issues, the sovereignty issues associated therewith, and the multi-faceted components of the work, which will involve, legal, technical, policy, and high-level diplomacy and advocacy input, **tasked** the OPOC to work together with relevant CROP agencies to develop an overview paper that outlines existing regional mechanisms and suggests opportunities for closer collaboration between regional agencies to ensure effective coordination.

WEST PAPUA (PAPUA)

29. In view of the 2016 Forum Leaders' decision that the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda, Ministers discussed the Forum's position on West Papua (Papua).

30. Ministers:

- (i) **acknowledged** the reported escalation in violence and continued allegations of human rights abuses in West Papua (Papua);
- (ii) **agreed** to re-emphasise and reinforce the Forum's position of raising its concerns over the violence and:
 - (a) call on all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of all residents;
 - (b) call on all parties to work to address the root causes of the conflict by peaceful means;
 - (c) maintain open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue of alleged human rights abuses and violations in West Papua (Papua); and
- (iii) **welcomed** the invitation by Indonesia for a mission to West Papua (Papua) by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and **strongly encouraged** both sides to finalise the timing of the visit and make every endeavour to provide a report on the situation before the next Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in 2020.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY AS THE *BLUE PACIFIC*

FORUM INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2020

31. Ministers affirmed that strong and effective international advocacy, as one *Blue Pacific*, is critical given that many of the priorities and challenges facing the Pacific region are transboundary and crosscutting in nature and can only be effectively dealt with through international action.

32. Ministers considered the thematic priorities for the Forum's international engagement and advocacy in 2020.

33. Ministers:

- (i) **welcomed** progress on implementation of the *Strategy for PIF International Engagement and Advocacy*, while **calling** for further, sustained participation and support by all Forum Members, at Capital and in overseas missions, and through the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy;
- (ii) **noted** the financial constraints faced by Members to sustain participation in international engagement and the additional challenges for those Members facing graduation from Official Development Assistance (ODA);

- (iii) **encouraged** the Secretariat to secure funding for Members to attend ongoing BBNJ negotiations, noting the difficulty encountered by Members in accessing the BBNJ Trust Fund;
- (iv) **endorsed** maintaining the current international advocacy and engagement priorities for 2020 (climate change and resilience; regional security; sustainable oceans management, use and conservation; and 2030 Agenda including the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway), while elevating a focus on sustainable ocean management, use and conservation, and climate change and resilience, and in particular the links between ocean and climate; and
- (v) **tasked** the Secretariat to develop an Action Plan for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy for the consideration of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy, based on agreed international advocacy priorities for 2020 and the decisions of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting, for out-of-session endorsement of FOC, by December 2019.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH FORUM DIALOGUE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

34. Ministers noted that shifting geopolitics and rising development challenges has led to an increasing focus on, and engagement with, the *Blue Pacific* region from international partners.

35. In this context, Ministers noted the findings of the Secretariat's 2019 review of the Forum's 18 Dialogue Partners, including that the majority of Forum Dialogue Partners are increasing their regional engagement, through new or reinvigorated foreign policy strategies, interest in establishing dialogue mechanisms, and increasing involvement in Pacific regional organisations.

36. While welcoming Dialogue Partners' increasing engagement, Ministers emphasised the need for genuine partnership that reflects the collective priorities of the region and engages all Forum Members and not a sub-set of Forum members, reaffirming a *Blue Pacific* approach.

37. Drawing on the findings of the review, Ministers considered initiatives to strengthen engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners, as one *Blue Pacific*, and in support of the Leaders' vision and priorities for the region.

38. Ministers:

- (i) **endorsed** the findings of the 2019 Review of Forum Dialogue Partners;
- (ii) **endorsed** the proposed *Blue Pacific* Principles for Dialogue and Engagement, as follows:
 - *One Blue Pacific* – recognising and engaging with the full Forum Membership;

- *Regional priorities* – embedding and progressing the Forum’s regional priorities;
 - *Partnership approach* – joint planning, programming and delivery by both the PIF and the Forum Dialogue Partner;
 - *Utilising existing mechanisms* – aligning with, and seeking to build-off existing regional and international mechanisms, processes and meetings;
 - *Collective outcomes and impact* – developing joint outcomes statements and outlining a clear process for follow-up and implementation;
- (iii) **discussed** and **agreed** on those Forum Dialogue Partners that are critical to the achievement of the Forum’s priorities, and for which the Forum should prioritise regular dialogue and engagement, and ensure a strategic approach, as one *Blue Pacific*;
- (iv) **noted** the recommendations of the Forum Troika Review of PIF Meetings Processes to strengthen the annual PIF Leaders session with Forum Dialogue Partners and **agreed** to consider these recommendations in the context of this paper;
- (v) **tasked** the Secretariat to work together with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to lead on further strengthening and targeting PIF’s engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners; and
- (vi) **agreed** for the Secretariat to undertake a review of the criteria and guidelines for Forum Dialogue Partner membership, in consultation with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy, for consideration of FOC and Forum Leaders in 2020.

NORWAY AND CHILE – FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER

39. Ministers considered applications from the Republic of Chile and Norway for Forum Dialogue Partner membership.

40. Ministers:

- (i) **welcomed** the Republic of Chile and Norway’s interest in strengthening their engagement with the *Blue Pacific* region and the Pacific Islands Forum, through their application for Forum Dialogue Partner membership; and
- (ii) **agreed** for applications from the Republic of Chile and Norway to be considered by Forum Leaders in 2020, to enable further demonstration of both countries’ commitment to enhanced and sustained engagement with the region, including through the development of a 3 – 5 year strategy for proposed engagement with the Forum.

ICRC – FORUM OBSERVER

41. Ministers considered an application by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for observer status in the Forum.

42. Ministers:

- (i) **expressed** strong gratitude for the important work of the ICRC in the region, its alignment with the vision and objectives of the Pacific Islands Forum, and the ICRC's valuable humanitarian work;
- (ii) **noted** the ICRC's application to become an Observer to the Forum and that it does not meet a key criterion under the 2005 Policy Criteria for Observer status to the Forum; and
- (iii) **acknowledged** Forum Leaders' discretion to be guided by the 2005 Policy Criteria for Observer status to the Forum, and **recommended** Leaders respectfully decline the application of the ICRC to become a Forum Observer.

FORUM TROIKA REVIEW OF FORUM MEETING PROCESSES

43. Ministers recalled the direction of Forum Leaders in 2018 for the Secretariat to work with the Forum Troika (Samoa, Nauru and Tuvalu) to review the guidelines and format of PIF Meetings, and to subsequently report back to Leaders. The review was considered necessary to help standardise and codify the arrangements and processes surrounding the engagement of Forum Leaders in an increasingly more complex set of regional consultations that coincide with their annual meeting.

44. Ministers considered the findings of the final draft Report on the Review of Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Processes.

45. Ministers:

- (i) **welcomed** the Report on the Review of Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Processes;
- (ii) **noted** the findings of the Review Report and **agreed** to refer the Review Report to the FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy for further discussion, and to report to the 2019 FOC Budget Session; and
- (iii) **agreed** to provide, for the information of Leaders at their 50th Annual Meeting in Tuvalu, the Review Report and proposed ways forward to progress the recommendations of the Review Report.

CROP ISSUES

46. Ministers:

- (i) **welcomed** the ongoing work on the harmonisation of CROP remuneration and in other corporate areas, including joint purchasing and common procedures;
- (ii) **agreed** to maintain the position of flexible harmonisation of CROP remuneration, while continuing to monitor the relative settings of the four participating CROP agencies and pursuing harmonisation in other CROP corporate areas; and
- (iii) **considered** the retirement of the Pacific Islands Development Program as initial assessments suggests it no longer meets the criteria of the CROP Membership as outlined in the CROP Charter.

OTHER MATTERS

47. Ministers:

- (i) *50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting:*
 - (a) **welcomed** the update from Tuvalu on preparations for the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting.
- (ii) *51st Pacific Islands Forum Meeting:*
 - (a) **welcomed** an update from Vanuatu on preparations for the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Meeting proposed to coincide with Vanuatu's 40th Anniversary of Independence celebrations on 30 July 2020.
- (iii) *Pacific Fusion Centre:*
 - (a) **welcomed** an update from Australia on governance arrangements for the Pacific Fusion Centre, which were discussed and considered by the Pacific Fusion Centre Reference Group;
 - (b) **noted** the need for Members to fully appreciate this initiative at the national level, with appropriate regard to national legal and policy frameworks;
 - (c) **agreed** that the Pacific Fusion Centre report to the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security once established;
 - (d) **agreed** that the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security provide guidance to the Centre on focus areas, in line with *Boe Declaration* priorities;
 - (e) **tasked** the Secretariat to incorporate the Pacific Fusion Centre in the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security meeting's standing agenda;

- (f) **agreed** that a Pacific Fusion Centre Charter be developed with Forum members, considered by the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security during its first meeting in October 2019, and put before the FOC for endorsement at its November 2019 meeting;
 - (g) **agreed** that the governance model be reviewed by the FOC Sub-Committee, noting plans for routine program performance reviews in 2021 and 2023; and
 - (h) **noted** the key location attributes conducive to the Pacific Fusion Centre’s operational success, as identified through regional consultations.
- (iv) *UNGA Resolution relating to Climate Change:*
- (a) **noted** Vanuatu’s proposal for a draft UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution seeking an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change; and
 - (b) **supported** the referral of the proposal for Leaders’ consideration of the resolution, and to be reviewed as required based on negotiations in capitals and New York.
- (v) *Regional mechanisms to address oil spills and marine pollution events:*
- (a) **considered** a proposal by the Solomon Islands for the development of a robust and reliable regional mechanism to assist Pacific Island countries deal with oil spills and marine pollution events in the region should these occur in future and where the required interventions exceed the capacity and resources of individual island countries to deal with adequately;
 - (b) **acknowledged** the fact that most Pacific Island countries may not have the capacity to deal with oil spills and marine pollution events on their own, thus highlighting the importance of having a robust and efficient region-wide mechanism that can be activated to assist Pacific Island countries in the event of any oil spill or marine pollution event;
 - (c) **welcomed** the support rendered by Australia and New Zealand to assist Solomon Islands in its effort to contain the oil spill in Kangava Bay, in Rennell and Bellona Province and undertake recovery operations to minimise environmental damage to surrounding reef and lagoon;
 - (d) **acknowledged** the assistance provided by professional salvaging company engaged by the ship owners and ship insurers to stop the oil leakage,

undertake recovery work, re-float and remove the vessel from Solomon Islands waters;

- (e) **acknowledged** the challenges and difficulty in securing genuine and real-time commitment from the ship's insurers;
- (f) **further acknowledged** the effort made by the Government of Solomon Islands to respond to the oil spill disaster; and
- (g) **supported** the referral of this item, *Regional Mechanism to address Oil Spills*, for Leaders' direction on the next steps to address future potential oil spills and other marine pollution events in our *Blue Pacific* Continent, taking into account the review of the Pacific Island Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) being undertaken by SPREP.

(vi) *52nd Pacific Islands Forum and Related Meetings:*

- (a) **noted** Fiji's offer to host the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in 2021.

(vii) *Candidacies:*

- (a) **noted** New Zealand's candidate, Dr Penny Ridings, for the International Law Commission for the 2022 – 2026 term; and
- (b) **endorsed** the candidacy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Human Rights Council 2020, noting the need for some Members to complete national approval processes, and **welcomed** the update regarding the candidacy.

(viii) *Gender-based violence:*

- (a) **noted** Australia's plans to convene a regional event to discuss how Forum Members can intensify efforts to reduce violence against women and children, and expand services for survivors, and proposed Leaders continue discussion of these important issues on future occasions, including in Tuvalu.

(ix) *Pacific Games:*

- (a) **congratulated** the Government and people of Samoa for the excellent arrangements and successful hosting of the 2019 Pacific Games, and noted the next host in 2023 is Solomon Islands under the theme *Challenge, Celebrate, Unite*.