

## **DECLARATION BY THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. The Pacific Islands Forum Member States and the European Union have agreed to this Declaration on Climate Change on 7 November 2008 as a commitment between the two regions to address the challenges posed by climate change, including their priorities for mitigation and adaptation.
  
2. They noted that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol constitute the main framework for addressing climate change. They also noted that measures for adapting to climate change provided for under the Nairobi Work Programme; the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States (BPoA); the Mauritius Strategy, as well as the outcomes of other relevant United Nations conferences and summits, all provide important contributions for addressing global warming, climate change and sea level rise, which have serious current impacts on and pose a growing threat to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being, security and future survival of Pacific Island countries.
  
3. They welcomed the progress made by the international community in the “Bali Road Map” towards a comprehensive global climate change agreement under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, along with the accompanying Bali Action Plan covering mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology, and a dramatic enhancement of effort under the Kyoto Protocol. They also welcomed the decision to finalise the operational details of the Adaptation Fund in light of the role that it will play in financing concrete adaptation projects that are also consistent with national priorities in the most vulnerable developing countries.
  
4. They recalled the Niue Declaration on Climate Change, which commits Forum members to continue to develop Pacific-tailored approaches to combating climate change, consistent with their ability to actively defend and protect their own regional environment, with the appropriate support of the international community.
  
5. They welcomed the EU’s recently adopted Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) with developing countries, which is designed to help Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in particular to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change and pursue sustainable development strategies. In this respect, they noted that the GCCA will provide a platform for dialogue and exchange as well as practical cooperation in support of the international negotiations on an ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement and of effective measures at national and regional level. They underlined its significance for the Pacific region particularly to complement and strengthen the Pacific’s regional mechanisms for fostering political dialogue and cooperation on climate change.
  
6. They highlighted the global nature of climate change and its causes, and emphasised the importance of the international community agreeing on a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long term global goal and a set of near-term reduction commitments and actions collectively far more ambitious than those currently in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol. In this regard, they acknowledged that a comprehensive

and effective international response by all countries, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, would need to include efforts to significantly reduce emissions by all of the world's major economies.

7. They recalled that the process launched at UNFCCC Conference in Bali aims to establish an effective and comprehensive post-2012 framework under the UN by the end of 2009, in response to the findings of the 4th Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that warming of the climate system is unequivocal and that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve lower stabilisation levels and increases the risks of more severe climate change impacts.

8. They further recalled that the AR4 indicates that global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak in the next 10 to 15 years and be reduced to very low levels, well below half of levels in 2000 by 2050 in order to stabilise their concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest levels assessed by the IPCC to date in its scenarios.

9. They also emphasised that achieving the long-term global goal for emissions reductions requires respective mid-term goals, commitments and actions to be reflected in the agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan, taking into account differences in social and economic conditions, energy mix, demographics, and infrastructure among other factors, and the IPCC scenarios. In this regard, the developed major economies will implement, consistent with international obligations, economy-wide mid-term goals and take corresponding actions in order to achieve absolute emission reductions and, where applicable, first stop the growth of emissions as soon as possible, reflecting comparable efforts among them. At the same time, developing major economies will pursue, in the context of sustainable development, nationally appropriate mitigation actions supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, with a view to achieving a deviation from business-as-usual emissions.

10. They noted the importance of support to integration of climate change into national development planning and development cooperation programmes and projects.

## **PACIFIC POLICY**

11. They acknowledged that climate change and sea level rise are urgent and threatening developmental issues for Forum Island Countries, in particular for low-lying atoll countries, requiring new and additional resources, and which need to be addressed within the broader perspective of poverty reduction and sustainable development, including human security, energy, food and water security and disaster risk management.

12. They recognised the urgency and human security dimension of climate change, in particular of the small island developing states with low-lying atolls, and reiterated the Niue Declaration's call for increased technical and financial support for measures to address the challenges presented by climate change, while acknowledging the importance of retaining the Pacific's social and cultural identity, and the desire of Pacific peoples to continue to live in their own countries where possible.

13. They also recognised the undertaking of Forum Island Countries to the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) which sets out time-bound, ambitious actions to be taken to reduce the impact of climate change through the implementation of effective and concrete adaptation measures, as well as by improving the region's capacity in science and observation and by promoting cooperation and partnerships for climate change action, including the convening of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.

## **EU POLICY**

14. They noted the EU commitments, as expressed by the EU Heads of State and Government in March 2007 concerning very significant cuts in EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

15. They further took note of the adoption of an EU Energy Action Plan for the period 2007-2009 on energy efficiency and all forms of renewable energies.

## **JOINT PIF-EU ACTION**

16. They affirmed the need to take urgent action to address the issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Pacific region.

17. They also agreed to work together to mobilise political support, including through the UN and other fora, for stronger action on climate change. This action should be supported by cooperative efforts and should include urgent actions to achieve low-carbon development, climate-safe paths and reduction of vulnerabilities to climate change, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the Pacific Island LDCs and SIDS.

18. Considering that substantial finance and investments will have to be mobilised to meet the current and future challenges of both mitigation and adaptation and the needs of developing countries in this respect, they agreed to seek to mobilise all possible resources to further the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation. In particular they stressed the need for new and additional resources for the implementation of the PIFACC and other relevant programmes in the Pacific region, and national priorities.

19. The Pacific Islands Forum Member States welcomed the EU's commitment to assist and support the Pacific region in its adaptation and mitigation (including reducing emissions from deforestation) efforts, through the Global Climate Change Alliance, and other appropriate instruments; as well as the continuing assistance provided by Australia including its International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, and by New Zealand. They noted that, while this Declaration has been agreed by all Forum Member States, EU financial assistance will only be granted to Pacific States that are Parties to the Cotonou Agreement. They noted the importance of ensuring that assistance aligns with regional and national priorities and supports regional and national delivery mechanisms (in accordance with the Pacific Aid Effectiveness Principles 2007, and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005).

20. Recalling those commitments, Forum members and the EU jointly identified the need for technical and financial support to be provided for the implementation of the PIFACC, the convening of the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable and related programmes and activities there under, bearing in mind the following principles identified by PIFACC: implementing adaptation measures; governance and decision-making; improving understanding of climate change; education, training and awareness; contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and partnerships and cooperation.

21. They agreed that, consistent with PIFACC and its Action Plan, the following immediate priorities for action should be supported by technical and financial assistance from the EU, in cooperation and coordination with other development partners, including Australia and New Zealand:

(a) To support country-identified adaptation projects and programmes that assist PACPs adapt to adverse impacts of climate change; by developing, financing and implementing appropriate adaptation measures as a priority, ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable societal groups are addressed;

(b) Improved conservation and management of the region's natural resources, including the creation of an enabling environment for the sustainable development of agricultural productivity and the promotion of agricultural diversification, and as a means for greater self sufficiency and food security;

(c) Provide technical and financial support to PACP countries to introduce, maintain, and disseminate appropriate renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions;

(d) Assist the PACP in the development and maintenance of regional, national and local expertise including institutional capacity for research and development on climate change and sea level rise, and in providing resources to facilitate the capacity development of PACP working on climate change related issues through intra-regional cooperation and training, regional scholarship funds, mentoring programmes and expert training in support of national actions, as a cross-cutting issue;

(e) capacity building for PACPS to undertake mitigation of and adaptation to global climate change impacts and sea level rise, while addressing sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction of local communities.

22. The Pacific Islands Forum Member States and the EU have agreed to cooperate closely to ensure appropriate follow up action to this Declaration primarily through the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable for the cooperation aspects. In this regard they invited the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable to translate the proposed priorities into concrete cooperation activities under the GCCA for further discussion, including in Poznan in December 2008, during the UNFCCC 14th Conference of the Parties.