

**Pacific Islands Forum
with United Nations Missions**

Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,
Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau,
Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands,
Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.



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**Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) statement for the intergovernmental consultations on the
declaration for the 2022 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of
Sustainable Development Goal 14.**

24 – 25 March 2022

Co- Facilitators,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum with presence here in New York., namely, Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Fiji.

We welcome the latest draft Oceans Declaration with stronger urgency reaffirming our commitments made in the 2017 Declaration entitled, “Our Ocean, Our Future: call for Action.” In moving this work forward, our group remains committed and steadfast in progressing this agenda.

We welcome the inclusion of new language in OP3 based on A/RES/71/312, Glasgow Climate Pact and further support the inclusion of aquatic food as an important source of nutrition.

We support the inclusion of the new language in Para 11 (b) and (d). Furthermore, in addition to the references in Para 11 (c) to oil seepage, sewage, agricultural and aquaculture runoff and industrial waste, we also believe in focusing on nuclear contamination to ensure this source of pollution is also addressed and managed. We also support the current reference in Para 11 (c) to pollution from shipwrecks, which is a persistent and serious threat in many parts of the Pacific that fall within the maritime zones of a number of our members.

In the chapeau of paragraph 12, the focus on LDCs and SIDS is in accordance with the 2017 declaration, “Our ocean, our future, call for action” where paragraph 13(f) deals with science. We find it proper to target those who will benefit most from Ocean Science and we request that the listing remains as reflected in the text without any expansion.

We support the zero draft's references to traditional knowledge in Para 12 (e) and Para 12 (h). We do propose an amendment to the reference in Para 12 (h), so that it reads as "relevant traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities." This is in line with standard terminology in many fora, which take care to specify who the holders of such traditional knowledge are.

Finally, we welcome the strengthening of language in para. 4 on sea level rise, particularly the commitment to take urgent action to achieve all targets as soon as possible without undue delay. The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise seeks to address one aspect of these threats but much more needs to be done.

As we reflect on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, we must collectively enhance our understanding of the Ocean; strengthen the Ocean science and policy interface and focus on effective implementation of all commitments made while going further, to ensure a thriving Ocean now and for the future.

I thank you.

ENDS.