

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)

Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

10, 11, 14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

PMC 8 Agenda 17.3: Update on Regional NDMO priorities

Purpose

This paper updates PMC 8 on the identified key strategic priorities by the 30th Pacific Regional Disaster Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM) 2026.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper are to:

- Update PMC 8 on the commitments and priority actions contained in the Koror Declaration;
- Present the key priorities identified through the 2026 Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM); and
- Highlight areas for regional cooperation and collective action in support of Koror Declaration for advancing disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, response coordination and resilience across the Pacific.

Background

The Pacific remains one of the world's most disaster-prone regions due to its exposure to both geophysical and hydrometeorological hazards. The region is highly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis, with climate variability and climate change further compounding existing risks. The combination of high exposure, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and limited adaptive capacity continues to place significant pressure on national disaster management, meteorological and hydrological services.

Recent regional analysis of hazardous events across 18 Pacific Island Countries and Territories found that between 2020 and 2025 the region recorded 165 hazardous events, including 115 disasters that resulted in human impacts and damage to assets. Hydrometeorological hazards accounted for approximately 92 per cent of reported disasters, with floods, tropical cyclones and landslides being the most frequently reported events. Over the same period, an estimated 1.7 million people were affected, 891 lives were lost, and total losses and damages exceeded USD 4.3 billion. Tropical cyclones alone accounted for approximately 55 per cent of the region's recorded disaster losses and damages.

The increasing frequency, intensity and complexity of disaster risks have reinforced the need for stronger collaboration between National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). As countries move towards impact-based forecasting,

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anticipatory action and multi-hazard early warning systems, closer integration of meteorological, hydrological and disaster risk management capabilities has become essential to support effective preparedness, response and resilience building.

Update from the 2nd Pacific DRM Ministers Meeting 2025, Koror, Palau

The Koror Declaration, adopted by Pacific Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Management at the Second Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting (2PDRMM) held in Koror, Palau in November 2025, reaffirmed the region's commitment to strengthening resilience under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Recognising the increasing frequency and complexity of disasters and climate-related impacts across the region, Ministers called for stronger political leadership, enhanced regional cooperation and sustained investment in disaster risk management and resilience.

The Declaration provides a strategic framework for collective action across the Pacific and identifies key areas requiring regional attention. These include;

- strengthening disaster risk governance and leadership,
- enhancing regional preparedness and response arrangements,
- improving access to early warning systems and risk information,
- addressing climate mobility challenges,
- strengthening disaster risk financing, and
- ensuring resilience efforts are inclusive and locally led.

Central to the Declaration is the recognition that disaster risk management is a shared regional responsibility that requires coordinated action by governments, regional organisations, communities and development partners.

Ministers highlighted the importance of strengthening national systems while also advancing regional mechanisms that can support countries before, during and after disasters.

Update from the 30th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting

The 2026 Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM) provided an opportunity for NDMO Directors and regional partners to translate Koror Declaration into practical and operational actions needed to support the Ministers commitments. Discussions focused on the evolving risk landscape in the Pacific and the capabilities required to strengthen preparedness, response and resilience across the region.

Regional NDMOs has identified the following strategic areas as priorities;

1. Ongoing Priorities: preparedness and emergency response capability. Particular emphasis was placed on;
 - a. strengthening emergency operations centres,
 - b. improving logistics and supply chain management,
 - c. expanding preparedness exercises and
 - d. strengthening interoperability among national agencies and regional partners.

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The discussions recognised that effective disaster response depends on robust preparedness arrangements and strong coordination mechanisms that can function across multiple jurisdictions and hazard contexts.

2. **Critical Priorities:** Risk information, early warning systems and anticipatory action were also identified as critical areas requiring continued attention. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for;
 - a. stronger disaster risk information systems,
 - b. improved hazard and vulnerability data, and
 - c. the importance of high-resolution baseline data, including LiDAR, for accurate risk-informed decision-making, and
 - d. greater use of forecasting and anticipatory approaches to support early action.

These priorities reflect the commitments contained in the Koror Declaration to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and improve community preparedness through timely and accessible risk information.

3. **Growing Priorities:** Professionalising the disaster management workforce across the Pacific. Particular emphasis placed on the need to;
 - a. strengthen leadership development,
 - b. expand training and accreditation opportunities, and
 - c. support implementation of the Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management.

Building a skilled and sustainable workforce was identified as essential for strengthening national disaster management capabilities and ensuring continuity of expertise across the region.

4. **Emerging Priorities:**
 - a. Water security emerged as an increasingly important issue during discussions. PRDM noted the growing impacts of drought, changing rainfall patterns and climate variability on communities and highlighted the need to better integrate water security considerations into disaster risk management planning. Greater collaboration between water, climate and disaster management sectors was identified as necessary to address these interconnected risks.
 - b. Climate-induced mobility and displacement. The meeting recognised the importance of planning for climate mobility within broader resilience and development frameworks and highlighted the need for stronger coordination across sectors to support affected communities.

These discussions align closely with the commitments contained in the Koror Declaration and the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility.

5. **Cross-cutting Priority: Coordination.** A recurring theme throughout PRDEMM was the importance of strengthening coherence across the region's resilience architecture. PRDM emphasised the value of regional coordination mechanisms, including the Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism (PResCoM), and called for greater alignment between disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and broader resilience initiatives. Strengthened collaboration among regional organisations, governments and development partners was viewed as essential to maximise the impact of investments and reduce duplication of effort.

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Considerations for PMC 8

The Koror Declaration provides the political and strategic direction for regional disaster risk management and resilience efforts, while PRDEMM provides the operational and technical perspectives required to support implementation of these commitments.

The priorities identified by PRDM demonstrate strong alignment with the ministerial commitments contained in the Koror Declaration, particularly in the areas of preparedness and response, early warning systems, risk information, climate mobility, professionalisation of emergency management, water security and regional coordination.

Together, the outcomes of the Koror Declaration and PRDEMM provide a coherent framework for strengthening disaster resilience and supporting collective action across the Blue Pacific.

Recommendations

PMC 8 is invited to:

1. Note the commitments and priority actions outlined in the Koror Declaration.
2. Note the key priorities identified through the 2026 Pacific Regional Disaster and Emergency Managers Meeting (PRDEMM).
3. Encourage continued regional collaboration to advance disaster preparedness, emergency response, resilience and risk reduction across the Pacific.

Annexes:

- 1 – Koror Declaration for Disaster Risk Management
- 2 – Pacific Regional Disaster Emergency Managers Meeting 2026 Report
- 3 – Hazardous Events and their impact in the Pacific 2020-2025