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*

Agenda Item 17.5: PCRIC as an Enabler of Anticipatory Action or Early Action Financing

Background:

PCRIC's participation in the Pacific Meteorological Council Meeting in Tonga reaffirmed its commitment to bridging early warning systems and disaster risk financing. By working with SPREP, national meteorological services, and regional partners, PCRIC demonstrated how forecasts can be transformed into funded, government-led action. This partnership advances the Early Warnings for All agenda and positions the Pacific as a leader in connecting climate science with financial resilience.

Principle of Establishment:

Founded on regional solidarity, PCRIC provides Pacific Island nations with a collective financial protection mechanism against natural disasters. Emerging from a World Bank and FEMM pilot, it was designed to reduce reliance on unpredictable aid, safeguard fiscal stability, and accelerate recovery through swift, pre-arranged payouts.

Strategic Role in Early Action Financing

PCRIC is evolving beyond post-disaster liquidity to become a regional enabler of anticipatory financing. Its parametric and forecast-based products ensure governments can act before hazards intensify, supporting evacuation, relief pre-positioning, and protection of livelihoods.

By embedding financing into national AA frameworks, PCRIC strengthens operational efficiency, reduces humanitarian costs, and enhances fiscal resilience.

Integration with National AA Frameworks

AA frameworks provide protocols for acting early but often lack reliable funding. PCRIC fills this gap by offering parametric insurance linked to forecast triggers, ensuring immediate liquidity for anticipatory measures. This integration delivers:

- Financial certainty – guaranteed resources when needed.
- Operational efficiency – early action plans become executable.
- Strategic resilience – reduced recovery costs and stronger fiscal stability.

Case Study: Tonga Drought Payout

The recent PCRIC drought payout to Tonga illustrates anticipatory action in practice. Funds were released before conditions worsened, enabling the government to protect livelihoods, secure food supplies, improve water access, and safeguard livestock, to name a few. This proactive support reduced humanitarian costs and strengthened community resilience, showing how early financing transforms warnings into decisive interventions.

Return on Investment
Anticipatory action is both a moral imperative and a sound financial strategy.

Every dollar spent in advance yields multiple dividends, lower humanitarian expenditure, reduced economic disruption, and faster recovery. PCRIC's evidence of early payouts demonstrates the efficiency and transformative value of forecast-based financing.

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

I. **Note** the PCRIC presentation on Anticipatory Action and its role as a regional risk financing pool providing financial protection against climate and disaster-related risks, and recognises its commitment to disaster resilience in the Pacific Region.
II. **Support** the work that PCRIC is implementing to strengthen Anticipatory Action and safeguarding against multi-hazards in the Region.
