



PACIFIC  
METEOROLOGICAL  
COUNCIL



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SIXTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-6) THIRD PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON METEOROLOGY (PMMM-3)

● [HTTPS://WWW.PACIFICMET.NET/PMC-6-2023](https://www.pacificmet.net/PMC-6-2023)

## Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

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### **Agenda item 11.2: Realising the Disaster Risk Management Priorities in the Declaration by the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction**

#### **Purpose:**

1. Update and inform the Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC - 6) of the Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting (PDRRMM) held from the 14 – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Nadi, Fiji.
2. Inform PMC - 6 of areas provided for in the outcomes that strengthen collaboration and support for risk informed development, disaster preparedness and response and resilient recovery
3. Provide the Declaration from the PDRRMM to PMC 6 for noting<sup>1</sup>

#### **Background:**

1. The Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting (PDRRMM) was held from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 hosted and chaired by the Government of Fiji and jointly convened by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). Meeting details can be found here - <https://gem.spc.int/meetings/inaugural-pacific-disaster-risk-reduction-ministers-meeting-14th-16th-september-2022>
2. Given the frequency and emerging complexity of hazard events, the increasing exposure and vulnerability of Pacific communities to these events and other external shocks, alongside the existing regional fora and platforms there was a need for higher level dialogue.
3. The PDRRMM served as an initial convening with this in mind and in response to a call by our Pacific senior officials for high level engagement to secure interest and commitment by our Pacific Disaster Ministers to address a select number of current strategic disaster risk management and broader resilience imperatives.
4. Previous regional meetings dating back to 1992 included national officials through the participation of the heads of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) from each country and this still continues to date supported by SPC.
5. With that, the inaugural PDRRMM focused on addressing the following areas:

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<sup>1</sup> Annex A: Declaration by the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction

- a. Risk informed Development
  - b. Disaster preparedness and response
  - c. Resilient Recovery
6. The PDRRM Declaration is attached herein as Annex A and we call attention to the following areas within the Declaration that are of significance for the PMC 6 to note.
  7. *“We commit to supporting the wide implementation of people-centered end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories and invite development partners to support enabling initiatives including the Weather Ready Decadal Programme of Investment endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2021 as an opportunity for collaboration between national warning services and response agencies, mindful of the significant benefits and challenges involved to develop and maintain such systems.” (Outcome 4)*
  8. *“We call upon the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) to strengthen coherence and bring together agencies and regional actors working on resilience and ensure stronger linkages between relevant fora, platforms and networks”. (Outcome 12)*

**Recommendations:**

The Meeting is invited to:

- Note the progress made to convene the PDRRMM from the meeting held 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Suva Fiji.
  - Note the Declaration of the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Suva Fiji and opportunities to progress critical areas within as needed.
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ANNEX A - Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting (PDRRMM) was held from the 14 – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, Fiji.



## **Declaration**

by the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction

Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji

September 2022

RESPECTING the sovereign right of every country to conduct their affairs free of external interference and coercion, we affirm our stewardship of disaster risk management in the Blue Pacific Continent;

RECOGNISING and RECALLING our Leaders' endorsement of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 – 2030*, *2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*;

REAFFIRMING the values and principles which have been established under these policy instruments to guide climate change and disaster resilience building in the Pacific, such as commitment to strengthened leadership, good governance, support for full inclusivity, equity and equality for all persons and peoples, the importance of solidarity and a shared commitment to work together and strengthen and develop partnerships, the need to protect human rights and prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable;

RECALLING the recent devastating impact of hazard events including COVID-19 on the economies and communities in the Pacific and the ongoing efforts in the Pacific at the local, national, subregional and regional level to strengthen resilience to climate change and disasters, and;

ACKNOWLEDGING that as Ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction and disaster management in the Pacific we can collectively and individually galvanise meaningful action towards the achievement of strengthened levels of resilience;

ACKNOWLEDGING that notwithstanding the significant investments in reducing disaster risk, the region will continue to be impacted by more severe and extreme climate and weather events and as well geological and other hazards;

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. We commit to the full implementation of *the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017 – 2030*, *2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security*, *the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, *the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030* and related national policies.
2. We commit to strengthen efforts at the regional, national and local level in the Pacific to gather, collate, assess, analyse and promote the sharing of relevant data and information including traditional knowledge and spiritual worldviews and ensure their accessibility and useability to inform sound resilient development alternatives and address the root causes of vulnerability and risk;
3. We commit to ensuring resilient and sustainable development in the future, our development approaches are risk informed and address climate change and disasters ensuring that development does not create new risk
4. We commit to supporting the wide implementation of people-centered end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories and invite development partners to support enabling initiatives including the Weather Ready Decadal Programme of Investment endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2021 as an opportunity for collaboration between national warning services and response agencies, mindful of the significant benefits and challenges involved to develop and maintain such systems;
5. We commit to supporting the strengthening of national and regional capabilities in response to the call by our Leaders in the Boe Declaration Action Plan for the establishment of a regional Humanitarian and Disaster Response (HADR) mechanism that will enable trans-boundary support between countries in the region and with the international community, which includes a Pacific-wide incident management system, competency-based training, peer to peer learning and collaboration, opportunities for resourcing and other related initiatives as the foundational elements of the regional HADR, noting that the governance arrangements will be discussed further in 2023;
6. We commit to strengthening anticipatory action and disaster preparedness measures including through regional and subregional pre-positioning of approved goods and pooling of resources noting the

potential for the Blackrock Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Facility to be used as part of this effort;

7. We commit to ensuring that our future recovery and Building-Back-Better and Stronger processes will be based on a comprehensive understanding of the full impact of disasters which include the costs of damage sustained and the costs of the related economic, environmental and social impact, and that the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk members of our communities will be awarded the highest priority in our recovery planning and implementation;

8. We commit to working in genuine and inclusive partnership and in collaboration with the wider stakeholders and communities with the leadership of governments to strengthen national disaster risk management and resilience efforts and foster innovative and creative approaches addressing the many dimensions of disaster risk. In this connection, we support the Pacific Resilience Partnership established by Pacific Leaders in 2017 as the appropriate mechanism to coordinate local, national, subregional and regional resilience building.

9. We call upon on all the international, regional and national development partners and donors to facilitate improved and timely access to flexible, responsive and predictable resourcing and other forms of support, taking into account our respective specific circumstances and capabilities, noting the particular case of smaller island states in the design, development and implementation of appropriate programmatic approaches to resilience building;

10. Commit to integrating climate and disaster risk management financing into national development strategies and strengthening of public financial management systems to enable access to and effective use of disaster and climate financing for risk informed infrastructure and development, risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery

11. We commit to continuing the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting supported by the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, other regional and global disaster risk management fora, with ongoing support from regional agencies, with the endorsement of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Conference of the Pacific Community.

12. We call upon the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) to strengthen coherence and bring together agencies and regional actors working on resilience and ensure stronger linkages between relevant fora, platforms and networks.

Adopted  
Nadi  
16 September 2022