



The Funafuti Call for Climate Justice

Honourable Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre
Funafuti, Tuvalu · 10–11 September 2026

PREAMBLE

1. As our region prepares to host global and regional leaders, and partners in Tuvalu and Fiji ahead of Pre-COP, Pacific and Tuvaluan civil society gather during a critical moment for our Blue Pacific. Pacific civil society convened for the *Civil Society Regional Dialogue for Pacific Voices Ahead of Pre-COP31* and COP31 in Funafuti, Tuvalu, 10th -11th September 2026.
2. We gathered as representatives of Pacific civil society, communities, women in all their diversities, Pacific Islanders of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions and sex characters (PIDSOGIESC), children, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, faith-based organisations, community organisations and development partners. We **reaffirm** our collective commitment to climate justice, human rights, Pacific solidarity and a resilient future for all Pacific peoples. We recognise that climate change remains the greatest threat to our peoples, cultures, livelihoods, sovereignty and survival. Pacific communities continue to demonstrate leadership, innovation and resilience as climate impacts increase.
3. Yet our convening is not a mere response to the approaching Pre-COP in the Pacific or COP31 in Türkiye. In the practice of *sautalaga*, our Pacific voices rise in unison here in Tuvalu, carrying forward our fight for climate justice that Pacific peoples have led for decades.
4. Tuvalu stands as a pivotal place to ground civil society's long journey and ongoing demands for climate justice. In May, climate activists and communities in Tuvalu convened the *Tuvalu Climate Justice Dialogue 2026, Amplifying Underrepresented*

Voices in Climate Change Debates: Youth, Children, Women, and People with Disabilities. The voices of Tuvalu resounded loudly here, rejecting a story of these islands written only through vulnerability, loss and victimhood.

5. We **reject** a future in which the Pacific is remembered for what the world allowed to disappear. We **claim** instead a future shaped by Pacific peoples themselves, not as passive victims of climate change, but as active agents of justice, custodians of our lands and ocean, and leaders of the transformation the world urgently needs.
6. We join Tuvalu in their rallying call:

Lose Tuvalu, Lose Our World.

Save The Pacific, Save Our World.

7. This declaration carries a message far beyond these islands. Tuvalu's leadership for what the world must now defend sets the stage for what we carry forward – a regional call grounded in the lived realities, knowledge, rights and leadership of Pacific peoples.
8. We **affirm** that partnerships must not coexist with hypocrisy. Partners arrive in our region offering solutions to the climate crisis whilst they continue to drive it. The immediate cessation of harm is what is necessary for true partnership, and we call upon our leaders to hold all partners to one standard.
9. We **offer** the following outcomes not simply as recommendations for another COP, but as a mandate for collective Pacific leadership. We **call** on Pacific Leaders, across government, civil society, traditional, community, faith-based organisations, and the private sector, to carry these priorities through COP31 and beyond. We further **call** on regional institutions, development partners and the international community to act urgently on these priorities.

PRIORITIES

1.5 °C

1.5°C remains our non-negotiable survival threshold. It is critical to protecting Pacific peoples, cultures, health, livelihoods, sovereignty and future generations. Temperature overshoot is harm, driven overwhelmingly by those most responsible for the climate crisis and borne disproportionately by those least responsible. The UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/263 operationalises the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Obligation of States in respect of Climate Change (ICJ AO) and reaffirms the legal obligation of the 1.5°C target.

10. We therefore **call** for stronger accountability measures for major emitting countries to deliver climate ambition and action consistent with the 1.5°C target and meet their legal obligations.

Science

Our indigenous knowledge systems and science together help us read the weather patterns and prepare for climate-induced disasters and building back post-disasters. The ICJ AO held that Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports constitute the best available science on the causes, nature and consequences of climate change. These, together with Indigenous Knowledge Systems, traditional practices, lived experience, and robust disaggregated data serve as the evidence base guiding climate action and the foundations of resilience and adaptation.

11. We **call** upon leaders to *uphold* best available science, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and practices and lived experiences as the foundation of any decision and action on climate.
12. We **call** for the adoption and resourcing of local knowledge, community experience and traditional practices as essential foundations for climate resilience, adaptation and sustainable development across the Pacific.
13. We further **call** for the safeguarding of Indigenous governance, knowledge systems, and practices, and of Pacific climate, ocean and environmental data, through dedicated policies and laws grounded in free, prior and informed consent, customary law and benefit-sharing, and for States without such protection to enact it. This protection must extend to artificial intelligence, which trains on our knowledge without consent, attribution or return, and which conventional intellectual property law does not restrain.

Fossil Fuels and Energy

States failing to take appropriate action to protect the climate system from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions may constitute an internationally wrongful act, attributable to that State, as confirmed by the ICJ AO. These include fossil fuel production, fossil fuel consumption, the granting of fossil fuel exploration licences or the provision of fossil fuel subsidies.

14. We **call** for an immediate phase-out of coal, oil and gas and a rapid reduction across greenhouse gases in line with 1.5°C temperature limit.
15. We **call upon** States to cease exploration, licensing and expansion, and end fossil fuel subsidies immediately in line with their obligations under international law. Managed decline must begin with developed States first and fastest consistent with Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, though all States must follow-suit.
16. We **reject** false solutions such as Carbon Capture and Storage, nuclear energy, offsetting, geoengineering and managed transition pathways as substitutes for the reduction of production and consumption.
17. We **call** on all Pacific Leaders to endorse the Tassiriki Call for a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, and **demand** that development partners provide the grant-based finance and technology transfer required to end the region's dependency on imported fossil fuels. This year's energy crisis showed that no Pacific State can exit this dependency alone. Renewable and sustainable energy systems must align with Pacific priorities and development aspirations including reaching highlands, outer islands and maritime communities. Energy

deployment must not proceed at the expense of flexible adaptation, land or food security and must not reproduce extractive patterns.

18. We **assert** the transition must be just, equitable, inclusive, gender responsive and safeguards marginalised groups including, women, girls, children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, PIDSOGIESC, migrants and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
19. We **recognise** plastic pollution begins with fossil fuels as a problem of production and call for measures to tackle the plastic crisis across its entire life cycle, starting with the extraction of raw materials, including the production of plastics, its feedstocks, and precursors, including the remediation of existing plastic pollution in the marine environment, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Ocean-Climate Nexus

The Ocean is central to Pacific life, culture, health, identity, food security, livelihoods, sovereignty and survival. The ocean-climate nexus underscores the crucial role of ocean systems to regulate our climate, sustain Pacific cultures and support our food and economic security. Threats to ocean ecosystems come through climate change, the over-exploitation of resources and emerging extractive and destructive ocean industries. Ocean protection must remain a core priority in climate action and sustainable development.

20. We **affirm** the ICJ AO that States are under no obligation to update established baselines and maritime limits in the face of sea-level rise, and that the loss of a constituent element of statehood does not entail the loss of statehood itself. We **call** for the sovereignty, statehood, maritime entitlements, national identity and rights of Pacific nations and peoples threatened by sea-level rise to be upheld and permanently protected.
21. We **reject** extractive and destructive climate solutions such as deep-sea mining for renewable energy transition and acknowledge its connection to the expanded militarisation of our region through the pursuit of critical minerals.
22. We **support** the Vanuatu-led Global Scientific Assessment of Deep-sea Ecosystems initiative to better understand the impacts that climate change can have on marine ecosystems, recognising that further assessment is needed on the potential cumulative and transboundary climate impacts on tuna stocks, food security, government revenue, livelihoods and more broadly on Pacific economies and its independence.
23. We **call** for investment in safeguarding our oceans, coastal ecosystems and. Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems Ocean governance and climate action must be grounded in ocean justice, human rights, equity, self-determination and intergenerational responsibility to safeguard the wellbeing of present and future generations.

Law and Accountability

The ICJ AO, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights constitute the legal floor for climate action and the ocean-climate nexus. They cannot be invoked selectively. States that welcome the findings on adaptation are bound

equally by the findings on production, consumption, licensing and subsidies. We recall that General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/263 carries those obligations forward and calls upon States to comply with them. Climate reparation is the appropriate frame for what is owed for climate harms.

24. We **call** for recognition and implementation of the legal and moral responsibilities of States to prevent, address and remedy climate-related harm. This includes adequate support for communities already experiencing irreversible climate impacts. We **recall** that State obligations extend to the conduct of corporations within their jurisdiction. We **call upon** Pacific States to explore all legal avenues including those opened by the Advisory Opinions, so that the region's positions carry legal leverage across multilateral fora.
25. We **recall** that resolution A/RES/80/263 requests a report of the Secretary-General on advancing compliance with the Court's findings, and **call** upon Pacific States to make coordinated, substantive submissions to that consultation, developed with civil society and affected communities, addressing sea-level rise and the continuity of statehood, non-economic loss and damage, corporate conduct and the gaps in existing arrangements for remedy.

Peace and Security

Our ocean carries the legacy of eighty years of nuclear testing, and this year it carried missiles fired across the exclusive economic zones of Forum Members. The pacts and basing arrangements negotiated in our waters are presented as protection but concentrate risk in our islands while decisions are made elsewhere. Military competition does not provide peace and survival against rising seas, contaminated lands and the unfinished business of nuclear justice. Peace in the Blue Pacific must continue to be defined by Pacific peoples.

26. We **reaffirm** that the Pacific Ocean cannot continue to be a securitised, militarised, and nuclearized zone. Security must be determined by Pacific peoples for a true nuclear-free Pacific where it rejects strategic ambiguity such as AUKUS, Pukpuk Treaty, Vuvale Union.
27. We **demand** a cessation of the misappropriation of our Pacific concepts, and values to national and regional development cooperation plans and foreign policies.
28. We **condemn** the missile tests by China and the United States, and any future weapon testing in our region by any State. We reaffirm the Treaty of Rarotonga and reject the growing militarisation of the Pacific. True security must focus on community-centred climate and nuclear justice instead of military competition.
29. We **call** upon Pacific leaders to be consistent in holding all parties and partners accountable to ending fossil fuel expansion and extractive industries, including deep sea mining.

Human Security

Human security, food and water security, and the preservation of culture are essential and interconnected pillars of climate action, resilience and sustainable development across the Pacific.

Security is not measured only by borders or national interests, but by harsh realities of access to food, safe water to drink, healthcare, education, and the means to prepare for, recover, respond, and rebuild from climate impacts. Climate change is placing all these foundations under pressure. Pacific communities are often the first to respond and lead recovery, drawing on kinship, faith, culture, traditional knowledge and community systems that no external mechanism can replicate. However, communities still lack the resources and investment needed to strengthen these systems to reflect the scale of needs.

30. We **call** for direct investment in climate resilient food systems, water resource management, and locally led adaptation to protect sustainable livelihoods and drive livelihood diversification. Furthermore, human security demands dedicated investment in health, mental health and psychosocial support as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
31. We **call** for inclusive investment in national plans for disaster preparedness, early warning systems, emergency response capacity, and recovery funding mechanisms that reach affected communities directly.

Finance

Climate finance must deliver climate justice. It must be new and additional, grant-based, locally led and directly accessible to the Pacific communities facing the frontlines of the crisis. Finance arrives late, arrives as debt, or does not arrive at all, and the organisations closest to affected communities are the least able to access it. Meanwhile official development assistance is falling faster than at any point in a generation. Climate finance is not charity owed to the vulnerable, but obligation owed for harm caused.

32. We **call** for new and additional, adequate, predictable and predominantly grant-based climate finance that does not deepen debt or undermine essential services. It must reach frontline communities directly and enable Pacific communities, civil society organisations and marginalised groups to lead climate action through simplified access, flexible capacity support and proportionate requirements.
33. We **call** for the urgent reform of climate finance systems to align with small island realities. Funders must simplify application, approval, procurement, fiduciary and reporting requirements; reduce transaction costs; accept proportionate and risk-based due diligence; and remove accreditation and co-financing barriers that exclude Pacific organisations.
34. We **affirm** that climate finance must reach outer islands, maritime communities and informal settlements, with transparent, disaggregated reporting on funds committed, delivered and spent. It must be integrated into national plans and budgets, with inclusive and accountable governance.
35. We **call** for the full capitalisation and rapid, accountable operationalisation of the Pacific Resilience Facility through binding, transparent and additional pledges.

Loss and Damage

Some of what we have lost will not be adapted to or recovered. Villages have already moved, burial grounds sit below the tideline, and the reefs and species that carry our names and our stories are disappearing. These are harms already inflicted, by emissions we did not produce, on peoples who warned the world decades ago. Reparations are owed. This is a matter of justice and survival, requiring grant-based support that responds to the full economic, cultural, spiritual and social realities defined by Pacific communities.

36. We **reaffirm** that loss and damage constitute a matter of reparations owed by countries most responsible for the climate crisis. Responding to loss and damage is a non-negotiable Pacific priority grounded in climate justice, health equity, human rights, dignity and survival.
37. We **call** for accessible, adequately resourced and community-centred loss and damage financing and support mechanisms that respond to the needs and realities of affected and vulnerable communities. Finance must be provided as grants at the scale required to address the climate impacts already unavoidable and the increasing loss and damage caused by further warming. As temperatures rise, communities will face more irreversible harm and fewer opportunities to adapt.
38. We **call** for loss-and-damage responses that address the full range of economic and non-economic losses, including impacts on culture, health, education, identity, traditional knowledge, livelihoods, ancestral lands and Pacific peoples' relationship with the ocean. Non-economic loss cannot be priced, and valuation must never be used to deny or delay support; losses of land, language, burial grounds and totemic species must be recognised and addressed in ways defined by affected communities.

Climate Mobility and Migration

Climate-induced displacement risks removing the choice of Pacific people to move with dignity. Without people-centred approaches communities are forced to relocate in a manner that strips us of our right to decide where to go, when, on what terms, and whether to go at all. Mobility arrangements written without us, or traded against our sovereignty and our security, are not protection. Current climate mobility policies, frameworks, and interventions are fundamentally failing Pacific peoples. They are overwhelmingly top-down, externally imposed, and without Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

39. We **call** for a people centred, people led, socially inclusive and gender responsive approach to climate mobility that recognises and upholds our right to remain with dignity; our faith; our traditional knowledge; our health; our cultural identity; our cultural rights; and our guardianship of our lands and sea.
40. We **urge** that policies advance Pacific climate priorities by upholding FPIC and integrating Pacific principles and practices of migration. Civil society and communities must be empowered to formulate policy recommendations and lead decision making

processes based on community defined criteria, including the documentation of stories and lived experiences.

41. We **emphasise** the need for people led children, youth and gender informed dignified mobility and settlement processes that strengthen the connection between communities, people, places and practices thereby enhancing social cohesion and inclusion.

Pacific Leadership and Democratic Climate Governance

Pacific communities and civil society networks are climate infrastructure who hold institutional memory, prepare successive leadership, carry evidence from communities into regional and global processes, and remain long after projects close. Despite their frontline leadership, Pacific civil society, community organisations, and Pacific-led knowledge systems are systematically excluded from the formal architecture of climate governance, financing, and decision-making.

42. We **recognise** the leadership of children, youth, women and vulnerable communities leading climate action and resilience and call for the nurturing of enabling spaces and participation at national, regional and international levels.
43. We **call** for sustained, flexible investment in Pacific civil society networks, community organisations and Pacific-led knowledge systems, recognising them as essential climate infrastructure rather than as project partners.
44. We **call** for the meaningful and sustained participation of civil society and communities to be institutionalised in climate governance, policy development, financing, implementation, monitoring and accountability at national, regional and international levels, through shared decision-making and co-creation rather than consultation after positions are settled.
45. We **affirm** that participation must be intersectional at every level, with women in all their diversity, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, children, youth, persons with disabilities, faith communities, grassroots organisations and PIDSOGIESC present in climate, ocean and security governance as partners, decision-makers and solution providers.
46. We **call** for the immediate dismantling of systemic barriers that limit participation, access to climate finance and influence in decision-making, particularly for marginalised and underrepresented groups.
47. We **call** for climate solutions to be contextualised to local cultures, ideas and languages, and for civic space to be protected, with transparency and accountability mechanisms that allow communities to hold decision-makers to their commitments.

Climate Justice and Human Rights

Women, girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities, aging populations, rural and maritime communities, and marginalized groups bear a disproportionate burden during climate events—facing increased unpaid care work, loss of subsistence food and water sources, and severe disruptions to health and livelihoods. Climate emergencies and resource scarcity amplify structural inequalities and heighten the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), domestic violence, and exploitation for the Pacific’s most vulnerable communities, making survivor-centred protection critical to disaster preparedness and resilience.

48. We **call** for gender justice, disability and social inclusion to be mainstreamed across every climate decision and actions at Pre-COP31 and COP31 and beyond, consistent with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and global agreements to which the Pacific is committed.
49. We **call** for the mainstreaming of human rights, gender equality, disability inclusion, and social inclusion across climate policies, programmes and investments, dedicated resourcing that must explicitly recognize and redistribute unpaid care work and social protection floors (SPF) that safeguard vulnerable households, prioritise safe disaggregated data collection, local-language climate education materials and support inclusive early warning systems.
50. We **call** for transformative actions to challenge cultural and systemic norms that limit full and inclusive participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities at all levels of governance and decision-making and that impinge on human rights of vulnerable populations in frontline communities.
51. We **affirm** that women, children, youth and indigenous communities are rights-holders and decision-makers. We **call** for sustained investment in youth leadership, innovation, climate education, mentoring, capacity strengthening and intergenerational knowledge sharing so that current and future generations, who stand to inherit decisions of today, can lead climate action, safeguard local sovereignty and drive resilience-building across the Pacific.

Implementation and Monitoring

Our communities are not short of frameworks, declarations, and commitments written on their behalf. They are short of water tanks, seawalls, clinics and the finance that has been committed but rarely delivered. National and regional commitments that cannot be tracked cannot be kept. Pacific States that do not measure its own delivery, cannot credibly demand delivery from others.

52. We **call** for a regional mechanism to operationalise climate declarations and Leaders' decisions, with timeframes and named institutions accountable for each commitment, and public annual reporting on what was committed, delivered, funded and outstanding.

53. We **call** for robust monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms that track progress, report regularly on outcomes, and hold governments, regional institutions and development partners to timely delivery.

Digital Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence

We commend Pacific states that have made meaningful efforts in advancing equitable access to information and services through digital connectivity, recognising its useful contribution to education, knowledge sharing, climate response, disaster preparedness and sustainable development, particularly for remote, rural and disadvantaged communities.

Pacific communities and institutions are already using digital technologies and AI in ways that respond to local priorities and strengthen our own development needs.

At the same time, we recognise that the infrastructure (land-based and space-based) behind AI is physical and is increasingly arriving in our region—through cables crossing our waters, orbital technologies, and data centres requiring land, energy and water that are already under pressure. These developments are often framed as investment, security and connectivity, with insufficient attention to their environmental, social and resource costs. The Pacific should not bear disproportionate energy, water and waste burdens for systems developed elsewhere, particularly where our knowledge and data contribute to their development without adequate local oversight, benefit-sharing or accountability. The absence of evidence on how digital and AI infrastructure interferes with natural cycles and biomes reflects the absence of research rather than the absence of impact, and that gap must be closed through dedicated scientific assessment.

54. We **call** for artificial intelligence infrastructure (air, land, surface, subsurface, or space platform), data centres, subsea cables and compute facilities serving our region to report their energy, water and emissions footprint, and we *affirm* that such demand must not be used to justify new fossil fuel generation. We **call** for Pacific data sovereignty over this infrastructure and for take-back obligations covering electronic waste.
55. We call on Pacific governments to secure sovereignty over our data, ensuring that information generated in the region remains under Pacific control and is not stored, processed, governed, or shared without free, prior and informed consent to entities outside of the Pacific and beyond our jurisdiction.

Our Commitment and Closing Declaration

We enter Pre-COP and COP31 united with clear regional priorities for global climate action. Advancing these priorities requires meaningful partnerships, accountable leadership and implementation that delivers real benefits to Pacific communities, protects our people and cultures, safeguards our ocean and lands and ensures a just and resilient future for present and future generations.

56. We **call** for urgent and sustained action on keeping 1.5°C within reach, elevating the ocean-climate nexus, improving access to finance and amplifying Pacific voices and leadership.

57. We ***acknowledge*** our ongoing partnerships with Pacific governments and partners on climate justice and remain ***committed*** to the partnership in advocating for and implementing the region's climate action and ambitions. We ***call*** for institutionalised and meaningful civil society participation in national, regional and international climate processes, including policy development, implementation, monitoring and accountability.