

BLUE PACIFIC OCEAN OF PEACE DECLARATION

PREAMBLE

1. **Recalling** our vision and values under the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives,
2. **Recognising** Pacific peoples as custodians of the Blue Pacific Continent, and recalling that peace is integral to the Pacific Way in guiding interactions within and beyond the region through dialogue, consensus, respect for national sovereignty, and cultural traditions,
3. **Recognising further** the diversity of Pacific peoples and cultures across our region, and the importance of grounding peacebuilding, peacemaking and peacekeeping approaches in national governance systems and cultural contexts,
4. **Reaffirming** the equality of all Forum Members and their national sovereign right to exercise autonomy and self-determination over their governance, resources and development pathways, in accordance with international law, and the shared responsibility to ensure the peace, security and well-being of all Pacific Peoples and the Blue Pacific Continent,
5. **Acknowledging** the wide-ranging impacts of geo-politics, growing development needs of the region and economic uncertainty, the rapidly changing and unstable climate environment, external coercion, undue influence, and the increasing and diverse threats to international peace and security, including the continuing risk of nuclear war that poses an existential threat to humanity,
6. **Recalling** the *2005 Establishment Agreement of the Pacific Islands Forum*, the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*, the *2000 Biketawa Declaration*, and other relevant regional instruments, arrangements and Leaders' decisions, and reaffirming the long-standing principle and commitment in Pacific regionalism as a path to peace, security and shared prosperity,
7. **Recalling the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace and convinced** that the establishment of a Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace will contribute towards strengthened international peace and security, de-escalate international tension and promote international law including the purpose and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations*,
8. **Reaffirming** our commitment to the rules-based international order, that is aligned to the norms and principles of international law, including the *1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*,
9. **Recalling** the *1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty*, and our shared commitment to a Pacific, free from nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons testing and the dumping of radioactive waste, and to the elimination of nuclear weapons, recognising the treaty's enduring role in promoting peace, security, and environmental stewardship across the Blue Pacific Continent to ensure the peaceful enjoyment of our shared heritage by present and

future generations,

10. **Recognising** the Pacific's long-standing traditions of customary peace and reconciliation practices, and affirming their valuable contribution to global peace in alignment to the principles of peaceful dispute settlement enshrined in *Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations*,
11. **Reaffirming** that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and the wellbeing of Pacific peoples, and our commitments on climate change as framed in the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now*, the *2021 Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise* and the *2023 Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons in the Face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise* and other regional commitments,
12. **Acknowledging** the critical role of inclusive approaches to peace that recognise the unique contributions of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society, faith-based organisations, the private sector, women and girls in all their diversity, persons with disabilities, youth, and other marginalised or vulnerable groups in building and sustaining peace and resolving conflict across our Blue Pacific Continent,
13. **Positioning** the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace as a statement of our Pacific worldview, where peace, security and development are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and where our priorities, including economic, social, cultural, environmental, and human wellbeing, are defined on our terms and advanced in alignment with our values, interests and aspirations,

WE, THE LEADERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, THEREFORE:

14. **Declare** the Blue Pacific Continent as an Ocean of Peace,
15. **Re - Commit** to strengthening Pacific regionalism in advancing the Ocean of Peace, through the Pacific Islands Forum, as the apex of the regional architecture,
16. **Further Commit** to:
 - (i) cultivating a culture of peace grounded in the Pacific Way, drawing on the depth and diversity of our cultural practices and Indigenous knowledge systems, and strengthening inclusive, culturally anchored, and national led approaches to peace that uphold and promote human rights,
 - (ii) embed the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace as a cornerstone of future national and regional policies and strategies, supported through partnership and investment in inclusive governance, cultural revitalisation, education and sustained Pacific leadership, recognising that peace is an intergenerational responsibility,
 - (iii) deliver collective peace and security initiatives, which respects national sovereignty, to strengthen and safeguard our shared Pacific peace, including through greater sharing between Forum members of information, technology and resources, supported by a flexible and responsive regional architecture that enables

peace.

- (iv) advancing coordinated, integrated and inclusive development pathways that position economic, social, environmental and human dignity as foundational to lasting peace and resilience across the Blue Pacific Continent,
- (v) supporting a rules-based international order, grounded in the *Charter of the United Nations*, harnessing international norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour, including measures and protocols to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, and suppress all acts of aggression,
- (vi) protecting our shared Blue Pacific Ocean from multidimensional threats, and upholding the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* as the foundation that upholds legal certainty, stability, security and predictability for our island nations,
- (vii) preserving the region from acts that undermine peace, including the proliferation of nuclear weapons, consistent with the *1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, and other weapons of mass destruction,
- (viii) strengthening inclusive and people-centered approaches to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, mediation and dialogue at all levels, in alignment with established regional mechanisms, and deepening Pacific engagement with global peace mechanisms to promote sovereign Pacific contributions to global peace,
- (ix) pursuing approaches to climate action which considers human rights and sustainable development in relevant multilateral processes, recognising the need to protect Pacific peoples, including future generations, from the escalating impacts of climate change, and
- (x) addressing the nuclear legacy in the Pacific and safeguarding against the potential threat of nuclear contamination, as well as addressing hazards posed by unexploded ordnances and other remnants of war, by advancing support towards bilateral, regional and multilateral action to provide national and regional capacity building for nuclear issues as well as, other consequences of war, including recognition, remediation, and reparations for affected communities, as critical to promoting peace in the region.
- (xi) upholding the right of all states to conduct their domestic affairs, and to the principle of friendly relations.

17. **Call upon** all states and non-state actors to:

- (i) engage with the Blue Pacific Continent in a manner that honours the Pacific Way, respects the national sovereignty of all Forum Members, and supports national and Pacific-led approaches, including through Forum-endorsed mechanisms, to safeguard Pacific peace and security,
- (ii) support the integration and advancement of the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace, by respecting its principles and aligning all engagement with the Pacific's vision for peace,

- (iii) support the Blue Pacific Continent in strengthening the conditions for peace to thrive, through long-term investment in inclusive and resilient development that upholds national ownership, fosters stable governance, and builds Pacific capacity and capability to sustain lasting peace for all Pacific peoples, including the role of women in peace building,
- (iv) recognise the special needs and circumstances of Small Island Developing States and their vulnerabilities,
- (v) promote the responsible use of technology and innovation, and
- (vi) join the Blue Pacific Continent in taking bold, decisive and transformative action, through the *Paris Agreement* and other relevant mechanisms, to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, recognising this is critical to the peace and security of our Blue Pacific Continent.