

2022 PACIFIC ENERGY OFFICIALS MEETING

5-7 July 2022
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

The 2022 Pacific Energy Officials Meeting was held virtually on 5-7 July 2022 and hosted by the Government of Vanuatu. The opening address was delivered by Mr Abraham Nasak, Acting Director General of the Ministry of Climate Change in Vanuatu.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) governments, utilities, regulators and private sector from American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Representatives of the following agencies also attended the meeting: Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN), Private Finance Advisory Network (PFAN), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Power Association (PPA), Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), HDF Energy, CBS Power Solution, CAMCO Clean Energy, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), University of New South Wales (UNSW), Hale & Twomey Limited, Mana Pacific, International Solar Alliance (ISA), Australia's Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Australian High Commission in PNG, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), PCS Limited, Get.Invest Finance Catalyst, Global Sustainable Energy Solutions (GSES), Secretariate of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP), Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA), Fuel Technology Limited, Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), University of the South Pacific (USP), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Leaf Capital, and FCG New Zealand.

A formal apology was received from French Polynesia.

The Participants' List is attached as **Annex 1**.

Session 1: Official Opening

Participants were welcomed to the meeting by the Director of Energy in Vanuatu.

The meeting began with a prayer led by the SPC's Deputy Director – Georeources and Energy Programme.

Mr Abraham NASAK, Acting DG Ministry of Climate Change in Vanuatu, delivered the Opening Remarks, attached as **Annex 2**.

Session 2: Country Updates on Energy Transition

The following outcome statements are to provide updates on developments at the national level and to provide guidance and direction for the ways forward and to inform the priority energy initiatives in 2022 and beyond.

The meeting:

1. Noted the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the planning and delivery of national energy initiatives and the eventual achievement of national energy targets.
2. Recognised the slow progress of implementation of NDC initiatives in the PICTs. Donors and development partners are urged to support the implementation of NDC commitments.
3. Noted with concern the current high prices of fossil fuel and its impacts on the power tariff and the flow-on effects to the fragile island economies.
4. Concerned about the current high prices of fossil fuel and re-emphasised the need for regional back-up assistance for petroleum services. Reaffirming the Ministers' decision in 2019 in recognising the need to strengthen the regional petroleum advisory service at SPC. In response to the high fuel price, some countries are requesting for power tariff review.
5. Acknowledged the progress made by PICTs in developing, finalising and implementing their climate change mitigation and energy-related roadmaps, strategies, policies and legislations. The meeting recognised the development partners who assisted the countries in this regard.
6. Noted the request by PICTs for development partners to support relevant capacity development initiatives for national energy offices, regulators, power utilities and the private sector.
7. Noted the progress made by the countries, in collaboration with partners, in installing additional renewable energy capacities and the increasing role of IPPs in accelerating this development.
8. Noted the current emphasis to decarbonise the power sector and the priorities highlighted by the countries to urgently decarbonise the transport sector, in particular land and maritime transport.
9. Acknowledged the need for innovative financing mechanisms and to strengthen and incentivise Private-Public-Partnerships to accelerate the energy transition in the region.
10. Emphasised the need to implement gender mainstreaming initiatives in the energy sector, including clean cooking.
11. Recognised the financial and technical issues relating to the sustainability of rural electrification (e.g. solar home systems, solar freezers and mini grids) and called for the necessary steps to rectify these issues.

12. Recognised green hydrogen as a potential energy option for the future in the Pacific and the need for PICTs to learn from development partners that are leading the research and development on green hydrogen.
13. Recalled the 2019 Ministers outcome statement urging PICTs and development partners to develop other renewable energy sources such as floating solar and ocean energy.
14. Proposed the use of robust design and internationally recognised renewable energy and energy efficiency standards (hardware and software) in the region, subject to verification by relevant national agencies.
15. Noted the potential for solar rooftop in increasing renewable power generation in the PICTs, particularly for atoll nations. Power utilities and development partners are urged to look into this matter.
16. Supported the need to embrace and accelerate the uptake of clean cooking technologies such as solar cook stove and domestic biogas system, in rural communities.
17. Noted the severity of natural disasters affecting the energy systems that cause significant economic damages and losses and called for concerted actions to strengthen disaster risk management and climate change adaptation of the energy systems of the member countries.

Global and Regional Priorities

COP 26 Outcomes

18. Supported the countries to take the necessary steps to further reduce their carbon emission and keeping the 1.5 degree Celsius alive and accelerating the transition to zero emissions vehicles to meet climate change goals.
19. Recognised the progress made against the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAMOA Pathway and supported the efforts of developed nations to mobilise funds (both public and private sectors) to help developing nations to tackle climate change.

Progress on the Implementation of the 4th PRETMM Outcome Statement

20. Noted the significant progress in the implementation of the 4th PRETMM outcomes through the collective effort of PICTs and development partners in supporting energy transition in the last 3 years.
21. Acknowledged all the development partners that have supported and contributed to the implementation of the 4th PRETMM outcomes.

Implementation of SPC Energy Projects

Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)

22. Acknowledged the financial and technical support provided by Austria, Norway and UNIDO to the PCREEE.

23. Noted the progress with the implementation of the PCREEE Business Plan and encouraged member countries to make use of the services provided by the PCREEE. PCREEE encourages and welcomes genuine partnerships including organising joint events with partners.

Implementation of the FSM SEAM Project

24. Enhanced local stakeholder engagement and participation in the project, strengthened state-state collaboration building on synergies with development partners. Encouraged the participation of vendors from nearby markets such as Guam, Hawaii, and Philippines.
25. Noted the worsening EURO-USD exchange rate that necessitated a project work plan and budget revision.

Implementation of the PAWES Project

26. Acknowledged the EU and OACPS for funding the PAWES project and noted the progress made thus far in project implementation.
27. Encouraged the countries to share their waste and renewable energy data and information with the Project Team.
28. Noted the interest from other PICTs on waste-to-energy, the need to share project data and information and explore opportunities for replication and scaling up.

FESRIP Priorities

Priority A: Energy Policy, Planning and Capacity Development

Strengthening Partnership for the Implementation of the FESRIP

29. Acknowledged the significant progress made in the last 3 years in developing, reviewing, endorsing, and implementing the FESRIP, and thanked the PICTs, SPC, PIFS, SPREP, USP, PPA, PRIF, UNDP, IRENA, NDC Hub and GGGI for their collective effort.
30. Endorsed the FESRIP as the mechanism that supports energy transition and enables the realisation of energy security and resilience in PICTs.
31. Called on donors / development partners to work with SPC and other CROP Agencies in supporting the development of concept notes / proposals and the resource mobilisation efforts to effectively implement the FESRIP.

Enhancing Energy Regulation through OPERA

32. Recalled the Energy Ministers Meeting in 2019 and thanked ADB and SPC for their effort in the last three years to support the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA) including the hosting of OPERA within SPC Regional Office in Suva, Fiji.

33. Acknowledged and thanked ADB for providing the technical assistance grant of 600k USD to engage 6 Experts to carry out priority OPERA activities for the next 2-3 years and urged other development partners to support OPERA.

STAR-C Update

34. Supported the institutionalisation of capacity building process including testing, innovation, and knowledge in local institutions, and the establishment of links with partners such as government ministries, local governments, and authorities.
35. Encouraged the active participation of PICs in the STAR-C Programme PCREEE Validation Workshop supported by the ISA-UNIDO-France Project.
36. Acknowledged the technical and financial support is key to the success of the STAR-C Programme and urged the Private Sector, Multilateral and Bilateral Donor agencies, and Governments to assist in this regard.

Priority B: Energy Sector Finance and Cooperation

Enhancing Climate Financing in the Pacific

37. Noted the ongoing PFAN, CFAN and NDC Hub work in the Pacific region, and endorsed PFAN and CFAN to identify priority climate change energy solution that need climate finance.
38. Supported the ongoing work of PFAN and CFAN to collaborate with PICTs and relevant partners to develop proposals and secure climate finance in support of the energy transition in the region.
39. Supported the mobilization of donor funding for the continued presence of embedded CFAN advisors and expansion of CFAN advisors to more PICTs.

Enhancing private sector participation in the energy transition across the Pacific

40. Supported in principle the SPC partnership with CAMCO to catalyse private sector participation in renewables investment in the Pacific.
41. Supported the creation of a working group with CAMCO and PCREEE to coordinate the delivery of regional market capacity building activities, and the design of the Results Based Facility (RBF) to adequately cater for each country needs.

Priority C: Sustainable Electric Power Development

Update from PPA

42. Noted that PPA is considering an in-person annual meeting later this year and the completion of the 2021 benchmarking report.
43. Thanked PPA for securing the Pacific Power Association Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) Facility through the World Bank.

44. Acknowledged the World Bank funded study on Impact of e-mobility policy demand on the power grid for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and RMI.

Energy Resilience in the Pacific

45. Endorsed the World Bank to continue the next phase assessments targeting wider PICs, and to further discuss with their respective financial authority priority engagement areas with the World Bank.
46. Noted the request by the World Bank to further discuss the project concept for the proposed Pacific Regional Energy Database and Regional Energy Resilience Project with PICs, SPC and PPA.

ADB Energy Projects in the Pacific

47. Acknowledged the significant multifaceted contribution of ADB to the energy transition of Pacific nations and encouraged ADB to continue working with PICs and partners to implement their work program in the next 3 years.
48. Endorsed ADB's proposal to focus more on cross-sectoral approaches to meet country needs, reducing risk for private sector investments through wider use of established instruments as well as the need for partnerships/co-financing.

World Bank Energy Projects in the Pacific

49. Noted the increase access to modern energy services in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, FSM, and in outer islands of other countries.
50. Noted the improving power system resilience to climate change through a regional approach and acknowledged the improved operational and financial performance of utilities, reform of SOEs, and the mobilization of private investment.
51. Reaffirmed the decarbonization of the power and transport systems and the displacement of expensive and unsustainable diesel and other fossil fuels.

GGGI Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification Projects in the Pacific

52. Acknowledged GGGI's contribution to the energy transition of its Pacific member countries particularly in policy support, rural electrification, and other solar PV applications.

Fuelling the Pacific Through Green Hydrogen

53. Supported the selection of suitable geographical locations for solar and wind farms in alignment with grid infrastructure developments, and accelerating the deployment of renewable energies, particularly solar and wind technologies, coupled with battery storage.
54. Endorsed the identification of suitable mix of grants, soft loans, independent power producers (IPPs), and climate finance for green hydrogen research and development.

Encouraged small grant-funded pilot projects for green hydrogen production and utilisation in the power sector and maritime transport.

55. Supported alignment of the procurement of the proposed renewable systems to international best practices to attract international players (e.g. suppliers, EPC companies and developers) and bring down the overall costs through competitive bidding.

Priority D: Low-Carbon Transport Energy

Implementation of the Regional E-Mobility Policy and Program

56. Acknowledged the progress in the roll out of the regional e-mobility program by SPC/PCREEE in collaboration with various development partners including ADB, GGGI, NREL, UNIDO, PRIF, PPA, World Bank, and UNESCAP.
57. Supported the convening of an in-person meeting to discuss the coordination of the EV developments in the PICTs and the early adoption of EV policies, standards, and roadmaps at the national level to guide and facilitate the transformation in the energy and transport sectors.

Priority E: Improved Energy Efficiency

Experiences from Enforcing the MEPSL in Vanuatu

58. Noted the amendment of the regulation of the Act to include Televisions and Clothes Washers into the regulated product list, and the upgrading of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window (VeSW) System.

Priority F: Petroleum and Other Liquid Fuel Services

Update on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Study in the Pacific

59. Recalled the Ministers decision in 2017 and supported the fossil fuel subsidy study conducted by PRIF and PICT government agencies are urged to support this study. The findings of this study will be presented at the 5th PRETMM in 2023.
60. Noted the opportunity to review the effectiveness of fossil fuel subsidies in light of the current very expensive fuel prices, budget challenges during the COVID-19 recovery, and as an opportunity to help fund the transition to renewables.

Petroleum Pricing Monitoring

61. Acknowledged the ongoing support provided by Hale and Twomey to PICs Energy regulators on the quarterly updates.
62. Recognised the urgent need for a Regional Petroleum Regulators Forum and encouraged development partners to support the formation of this forum. All PICTs petroleum regulators are encouraged to share their petroleum pricing data and participate in regional regulators forum and webinars.

5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting

63. Noted that Vanuatu will host the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting in April or May 2023. CROP Agencies and the Government of Vanuatu are requested to work with development partners to secure the necessary resources / funding for this meeting.

Annex 1

Participants List

#	Name	Job Title	Organization	Country
1	Simona Kilei	Director	Department of Energy	Tuvalu
2	David CLEMENT	VP Oceania	HDF ENERGY AUSTRALIA	Australia
3	Abraham Simpson	Project Implementation Manager	Pacific Power Association	Fiji
4	Vanda Faaso Chan Ting	Pacific Regional NDC Hub Technical Adviser	SPREP	Samoa
5	Toiata Uili	ACEO-Renewable Energy Division	MNRE	Samoa
6	Geoff Stapleton	Executive Office SEIAPI and Director-International Training	SEIAPI	Australia
7	Tadayuki OGAWA	Senior Advisor	Japan International Cooperation Agency	Japan
8	Arthi Kumar	Programme Associate	UNDP	Fiji
9	Kengo HOSHINA	Project Formulation Advisor	JICA	Solomon Islands
10	Amit Singh	Director	CBS Power Solutions (Fiji) PTE Ltd	Fiji
11	Darryl Woo	ICT Technician	Pacific Community	Fiji
12	Shakil Kumar	Energy Advisor	Hale & Twomey Limited	New Zealand
13	Heremoni Suapaia-ah hoy	Assistant CEO - Energy Policy Coordination and Management Division	Ministry of Finance	Samoa
14	Samantha Frick	Director of Business Development	Mana Pacific	United States
15	Katie Eberle	Manager, Markets and Partnerships	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Australia
16	Anastasia Likouresis	First Secretary Infrastructure	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Australia
17	Gentjan Sema	International Energy Expert	UNIDO	Austria
18	Sione Lousiale Kava	PETROLEUM OFFICER	OPM	American Samoa
19	Midhun Ajaykumar	Director of Energy	DCCNR	Nauru
20	Mits Motohashi	Pacific Hub Energy Program Coordinator	World Bank	Australia
21	John Korinihona	Director of Energy	MMERE	Solomon Islands
22	Akisi Rokovunisei	Finance and Administration Assistant	SPC	Fiji

23	Akuila Tawake	Deputy Director - Georesources and Energy Programme	Pacific Community	Fiji
24	Adrien MOINEAU	Team Leader Technical Assessment	Pacific Community	Fiji
25	Nemani Waqanivalu	Director of Engineering Services	MISE	Kiribati
26	Belinda Strid	Manager	PCS Limited	Vanuatu
27	Talei Tora	Communications Advisor	SPC GEP/GEM	Fiji
28	Deepak Chand	Assistant Director of Energy	Dept of Energy.	Fiji
29	Ofa Sefana	Acting Director of Energy	MEIDECC	Tonga
30	Sosefo Tofu	Energy Planner	Tonga Department of Energy	Tonga
31	Andre Siohane	Regulator	Government of Niue	Niue
32	George Valiana	General Manager	Niue Bulk Fuel	Niue
33	Billy Tukutama	Member	Niue Energy Review Committee	Niue
34	Brandon Kulatea	General Manager	Niue power	New Zealand
35	Eliate Laulaupea'alu	Principal Energy Planner	Department of Energy, MEIDECC	Tonga
36	Inia Saula	Energy Officer	SPC	Fiji
37	Peter Lothian	Assistant Director - Climate Finance and Partnerships	DFAT	Australia
38	Paula Langi	Energy Officer	MEIDECC	Tonga
39	Alain Ouedraogo	Senior Energy Specialist	World Bank	United Kingdom
40	Solomone Fifita	Manager - PCREEE	SPC	Tonga
41	Mohammed Tazil	Senior Regional Officer	Global Green Growth Institute	Fiji
42	Misel Sisi	Manager, Energy Security Unit	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
43	Willie Obed	PSO - Energy Efficiency and Conservation	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
44	Keefe Techitong	National Energy Planner	Palau Energy and Water Administration	Palau
45	Lilian J Penaia	Principal Energy Officer	Energy Division, Ministry of Finance	Samoa
46	Gary Erick	Principal Scientific Officer - Rural Electrification	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
47	Joanna Kay	Senior Advisor	International Solar Alliance	India
48	Saba Kalam	Programme Specialist	ISA	India
49	Ranishka Wimalasena	Energy Specialist	Asian Development Bank	Fiji
50	Ndivhuho Tshikovhi	Intern	UNIDO (ESI/GN-SEC)	Austria
51	Shakil Kumar	Energy Advisor	Hale & Twomey Limited	New Zealand

52	Sione Tausinga	Principal Energy Planner	MEIDECC	Tonga
53	Alvin Tepo Togba	Project Associate	UNIDO	Austria
54	Charlotte Turk	Regional Technical Lead	GGGI	Fiji
55	Gabriel Castellanos	Programme Officer	IRENA	Germany
56	Kipola So'otanga	Energy Planner	MEIDECC	Tonga
57	Zach Bloomfield	Advisor	GET.Invest Finance Catalyst	United States
58	Viliame Kasanawaqa	Director Island Resilience	Pacific Islands Development Forum	Fiji
59	Gordon Chang	Acting Executive Director	Pacific Power Association	Fiji
60	Kakau Foliaki	Programme Delivery Officer	PCREEE	Tonga
61	Arieta Gonelevu Rakai	Programme Officer (Lead), SIDS Lighthouses	International Renewable Energy Agency	United Arab Emirates
62	Martin Garrood	lead adviser energy	NZ MFAT	New Zealand
63	Sione Misi	Pacific Islands Energy Professional	SPC - PCREEE	Tonga
64	Katerina Syngellakis	Pacific Regional Director	Global Green Growth Institute	Fiji
65	David Eyre	Regional Coordinator Pacific	Private Financing Advisory Network	Fiji
66	Antony Garae	Director	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
67	Peceli Nakavulevu	Pacific Focal Point	IRENA	United Arab Emirates
68	Abraham Nasak	Director	Ministry of Climate Change	Vanuatu
69	Atul Raturi	Academic	USP	Fiji
70	Andrew Campbell	Director	Fuel Technology Limited	New Zealand
71	Frank Vukikomoala	FSM.SE project Manager	SPC	FSM
72	Om Bhandari	Energy Investment Specialist	SPC	Bhutan
73	Koin Etuati	Implementation Adviser	Pacific Community	FSM
74	Joseph Temakon	Principal Scientific Officer-Urban Electrification	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
75	Shelveen Kumar	CFAN Advisor	GGGI	Fiji
76	Charlotte Sheppard	CFAN Advisor	GGGI	Fiji
77	Walter Malau	Climate Finance Advisor/Investment Officer	GGGI	Fiji
78	Clinton Chapman	Director - Department of Utilities	Department of utilities	Niue
79	Lano Fonua	CFAN Advisor	GGGI	New Zealand
80	Lesieli Tuivai	Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting Planner	Department of Energy	Tonga

81	Sandip Kumar	Pacific Technical Officer	GSES	Fiji
82	Toutai Vaea	Marketing and Business Planner	MEIDECC	Tonga
83	Faustino Yarofaisug	Assistant Secretary, Energy Division	Department of Resources & Development	FSM
84	Miguel Alberto Londoño Gómez	Climate Finance Advisor	GGGI	Fiji
85	Manu Rawali	Lecturer	University of Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
86	Kilisimasi Ma'asi	Acting CEO	Tonga Electricity Commission	Tonga
87	Len George	Principal Energy Specialist	ADB	Singapore
88	Paul Makumbe	Director	Camco Clean Energy	United Kingdom
89	Matthew Tasale	Manager Electrification	Department of Energy	Vanuatu
90	Christine Serreyn	Climate Finance Advisor	GGGI	Kiribati
91	Matthew Wittenstein	Chief of Section, Energy Connectivity	UN ESCAP	Thailand
92	Julia Hollnagel	Senior Officer, Sustainable Transport & Mobility	GGGI	Fiji
93	Eva Diaz Ugena	Project Manager	GGGI	Vanuatu
94	Edmond Tambisari	Senior Economist	Vanuatu Utilities Regulatory Authority	Vanuatu
95	Tatafu Moeaki	Minister	Ministry of Finance	Tonga
96	Alex Reddaway	Director	Leaf Capital	Fiji
97	Sandradee Fifita	Director Consumer Protection & Fair Trade	Ministry of Trade and Economic Development	Tonga
98	Sean O'Sullivan	Team Leader	Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility	Australia
99	Maureen Malas	Manager Economics	Vanuatu Utilities Regulatory Authority	Vanuatu
100	Ian Twomey	Director	Hale & Twomey	New Zealand
101	Luke Smith	Economist	PRIF	Australia
102	Robert Matthews	Programme Manager MFAT KURP	FCG New Zealand	Australia
103	Avneet Singh	Senior Analyst Energy	Fijian Competition & Consumer Commission	Fiji
104	Keith Vusi	Senior Engineer	Vanuatu Utilities Regulatory Authority	Vanuatu
105	Loise Tinilau	Price Control Inspector	Price Control Unit	Tuvalu
106	Ilaisaane Mila	Senior Price Control Officer	Ministry of Commerce, Consumer, Trade, Innovation & Labour	Tonga

Annex 2

2022 Pacific Energy Officials Meeting Opening remarks: SPC DDG – DDG Ministry of Climate Change

Excellencies,
PICT Government Officials,
Representatives of Development Partners,
SPC Staff,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning and warm greetings to you all. I am pleased to accept the invitation to deliver the Opening Remarks for this important meeting this morning. As the host of the upcoming Energy Ministers Meeting, the Government of Vanuatu is indeed honoured to provide a few remarks on the current status of the energy sector in the region and challenges that the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are confronted with in our collective aspiration to transition away from fossil fuel to clean, reliable and affordable renewable energy.

Many of us are aware that despite our ambition to transition away from fossil fuel, PICTs are still heavily relying on fossil fuel for power generation and transport. Overall, about 80% of PICTs commercial energy are still using petroleum. Approximately 70% of electricity is generated from fossil fuel and transport remains nearly 100% petroleum-fuelled.

This is largely attributed to the fact that petroleum powered generation has grown at same rate as Renewable Energy Technology installations in the region. The current progress in electricity transition to Renewable Energy is not sufficient to achieve the Pacific Island Country Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals and commitments. We are not spared from the current global escalating fossil fuel prices due largely to the war in Ukraine.

Further, most of us are aware that whilst the Pacific Islands region has a collective estimated carbon footprint of 0.03% of the global emissions, it bears the biggest impacts of climate change. These include sea level rise that makes many coastal villages and settlements uninhabitable, the increased frequency of natural disasters has weakened the PICTs' ability to recover from repeated and worsening catastrophes, and pro-longed droughts that affect food production and livelihood. Our resilience, as a region, to these unabated natural disasters has been severely tested.

Fortunately, all is not doomed. I suggest that we consider these challenges as an opportunity to accelerate our collective efforts at the regional level as well as at national level to explore new ways of doing business that will enable us to meet our energy transition targets. Most PICTs have made ambitious commitments and set targets for 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030, and carbon neutral economies by 2050.

While these targets may seem difficult to achieve, they are doable.

In collaboration with other CROP Agencies and relevant partners, SPC is implementing the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030, that was endorsed by our Leaders in 2021. The FESRIP has a total of 6 priority areas, namely, (i) Energy

Policy, Planning and Capacity Development; (ii) Energy Sector Finance and Cooperation; (iii) Sustainable Electric Power Development; (iv) Low-Carbon Transport Energy; (v) Improved Energy Efficiency; and (vi) Petroleum and Other Liquid Fuel Services. These priorities have been identified during a very consultative process of developing the FESRIP. I therefore call on PICTs and partners to support the ongoing effort of SPC and other CROP Agencies in implementing the FESRIP in the next decade.

I understand that the main objective of this meeting is to prepare for the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (5th PRETMM) that will be hosted by the Government of Vanuatu in 2023. I request PICTs to bring to the fore their respective success stories, challenges, lesson learned, opportunities, and recommendation for next steps and ways forward during the country presentation sessions. This is an excellent way of sharing information and learning from each other. Similarly, I call on development partners to listen to the countries and formulate their development assistance based on those country priorities. Further, we request development partners to assist PICTs in exploring new renewable energy sources such as ocean energy and green hydrogen as well as innovative ways of supporting our energy transition.

I wish you well with your deliberation and I look forward to receiving the outcome of your meeting.

With those remarks, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hereby declare the 2022 Pacific Energy Officials Meeting open!

Tankyu Tumas