



Pacific Conference of Churches

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PACIFIC CHURCH LEADERS MEETING STATEMENT FOR COP 23 AND BEYOND

'For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also' James 2:26

On the occasion of the Church Leaders Meeting representing *Anglican Church of Melanesia, Anglican Diocese of Polynesia, Catholic Bishops in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Churches of Christ Vanuatu, Congregational Christian Church in Samoa, Cook Islands Christian Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue, Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, Fiji Council of Churches, United Church in Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Samoa National Council of Churches, Etaretia Porotetani Maohi, Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Kiribati Uniting Church, Nauru Congregational Church and the Methodist Church of Samoa* on Rethinking the Ecumenical movement in the Pacific, the Pacific Church Leaders have issued the following statement in support of the Pacific through Fiji taking over the presidency of the COP 23 and as a build up to the pre and post 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23).

We exercise our prophetic voice as churches and believers of the faith to amplify the cries of our people and *Moana* who are directly or indirectly affected by Climate Change and encourage the spirit of stewardship among ourselves as custodians of God's creation.

In 2015, the Paris Agreement marked the first time that governments have agreed legally binding limits to global temperature rise and aimed to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. Emphasizing the urgency of processing this legally binding agreement, we call on our governments and international institutions to:

- Increase pledges to reduce emissions in line with keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level;
- Advance the National Determined Contribution and long term strategies in line with the 1.5°C limit of global average temperature increase;
- Clearly outline and implement National Adaptation Plans in full accordance with the Paris Agreements and recognizing the needs and the basic human rights of the most vulnerable groups;

- Insist on the rapid phase out of all fossil fuel subsidies and transition from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy by 2050;
- Undertake immediate measures to close the remaining gaps between international, national and in particularly local level action, hindering community based climate adaptation and risk management approaches fostering resilience and overcoming poverty;
- Provide means of implementation required, to shift relevant financial flows towards transformational climate resilient zero carbon pathways, and to fulfill the commitment of developed countries to provide at least 100billion USD annually to developing countries for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resettlement of populations, risk reduction, risk transfer and climate induced loss and damage.

We recognize the existing local knowledge and community strengths as an important factor to consider in building a more sustainable and climate resilient Pacific. We therefore call for full consultation and due participation of our communities in national climate adaptation planning processes from inception, to fully take into account their potential, and to create a new culture of proactive rather than reactive risk management, improving efficiency, protecting lives and livelihoods, and reducing economic and non-economic losses and damages. The engagements of members of community includes the participation of all sub-groups of the community namely the women, youth, children, people living with disability and other minority groups.

Anglican Church of Melanesia

Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu

Samoa National Council of Churches

Anglican Diocese of Polynesia

Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue

Etaretia Porotetani Maohi,

Catholic Bishops in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands

Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands

Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma

Churches of Christ Vanuatu

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Kiribati Uniting Church,

Congregational Christian Church in Samoa

Fiji Council of Churches

Nauru Congregational Church

Cook Islands Christian Church

United Church in Papua New Guinea

Methodist Church of Samoa

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea Council of Churches

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Fiji

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

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