

Pacific Islands Forum  
with United Nations Missions

Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji,  
Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau,  
Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands,  
Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.



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## Pacific Islands Forum Statement for the Food Systems Summit

Delivered by Hon. Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama,  
Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum

The Secretary-General António Guterres;  
The Special Envoy of the Food Systems Summit;  
Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Ni sa bula vinaka.

1. I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the 14 Members of the Pacific Islands Forum with presence at the United Nations. I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter for our Blue Pacific Continent.
2. At the outset, I wish to thank the Regional High-Level Champions, the President of Fiji, Hon. Jioji Konrote and Honourable Minister for Health, Kingdom of Tonga, 'Amelia Afuha'amango Tu'ipulotu for their efforts on behalf of the Pacific in the lead-up to this Summit.

3. I must also thank the technical organizations, food experts, civil society members, youth, persons with disabilities and the UN System for progressing issues around food insecurity in our region after months of national and regional consultations.

4. Mr President, it has been well established since the emergence of COVID-19 that communities are looking to us as Leaders to recover and build back better for a sustainable and secure future, bearing in mind the challenges that lie ahead,

5. Food security must be recognized as a cross-cutting aspect of human development and a fundamental building block for sustainable development. In 2018, the Pacific Sustainable Development Report had already highlighted food security as one of our region's key development challenges. We must act on the promises we make at

All of these combined will impact our culture, water and food security; livelihoods; biodiversity; health and well-being.

7. Pacific Island biodiversity is under intense pressure from climate change and human-induced disturbances. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors are vital to national and regional recovery efforts, therefore, coordinated, integrated and ecosystem-

8. Mr President, the Pacific region is also grappling with Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), a crisis that is closely linked to our food systems, health and nutrition. Intensifying multi-sector efforts and financing to address NCD crisis is necessary through:

- i) increasing resourcing for enforcement of policies and legislation;
- ii) strengthening preventative interventions across people's life cycles;
- iii) promoting nutrition and food security and limiting industries interference; and
- iv) enhancing investment, resource allocations and accountability.







This has reinforced the need for regional and global trade co-operation which are essential for sustainable Food Systems.

13. We are encouraged to see a growing recognition that Blue Food Systems serve as an anchoring pillar in the development and maintenance of sustainable food and we recognize that a successful management of Blue Foods requires co-operation among governments and between governments together with relevant stakeholders.

14. We are supportive of efforts to create a network to ensure that Blue Foods are brought into the heart of discussions and decisions about Food Systems, and to mobilize support for countries and

We join the call for all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, producers, women, youth and the business sector to work together to adopt a sustainable food systems approach which incorporates science, policy and action into diverse and complex food systems effectively.

16. It is critical that we redouble our multilateral efforts to address these vital issues