

# DELAP COMMITMENT

## EOÑOD IM JAB KŪNBŪT

**reshaping the future to take control of the fisheries**

### **SECURING OUR COMMON WEALTH OF OCEANS**

Leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu met in Majuro, Marshall Islands, on 2 March 2018

#### **LEADERS,**

**Taking into account** the Nauru Agreement concerning cooperation in the Management of Fisheries of Common Interest and the First, Second, and Third Implementing Arrangements setting forth additional measures to implement the Nauru Agreement;

**Noting** the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement for Regional Access and the Palau Arrangement for the Management of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery;

**Welcoming** the overwhelming success of the Purse Seine Vessel Day Scheme in controlling fishing effort and in increasing the economic value of the tuna fishery to the Parties and the enormous success of the PNA in the past eight years;

**Recalling** the *Bikenibeu Declaration on Securing Greater Value from their Common Fisheries Wealth* adopted by Fisheries Ministers done at Tarawa on 22 October 2009 calling for the adoption of additional conservation and management measures

**Further recalling** the *Koror Declaration Committing Parties to the Nauru Agreement to Joint efforts to increase the Economic Value and derive greater benefits from the tuna resource* adopted by Leaders on 25 February 2010.

**Having adopted** the decision to certify the world's first PNA purse seine free school skipjack and yellowfin tuna under the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), hereby acknowledge the change that this has contributed to the effective management of the fishery, inter alia, through the development of Limit Reference Points (LRP) for all four tuna stocks and an Interim Target Reference Point (TRP) for skipjack and call for the development of a PNA standards that integrates the unique features of the Pacific Ocean;

**Reaffirming** their commitment to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and to the calls by Forum Leaders for the establishment of zone-based and rights based fisheries management measures for PNA's tuna fisheries.

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**Reiterating** the aspirations of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement to enhance the controls that the Parties have over their common tuna fisheries.;

**Acknowledging** the importance of regional co-operation as underlined in the Vava'u Declaration and reaffirming the Parties' support for co-operative regional fisheries management through the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat;

**Acknowledging** also the challenges presented by their unique vulnerability and the threat to the integrity of maritime boundaries and the existential impacts due to sea level rise;

**Encouraged** by the scientific advice that fishing on all three major tropical tuna stocks (bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin) currently appear to be sustainable.

**Noting** the importance of measures adopted by the Parties in contributing to this outcome, with most of the catches of these stocks being made in PNA waters;

**Conscious** nevertheless of the need for continuing improvement in the management of these stocks within the Parties waters and throughout their range to ensure sustainable regional tuna fisheries

**Desiring** to maximize economic gains from the tuna fisheries through the adoption of effective conservation and management measures and exertion of greater control of the fisheries for the Pacific Islands to ensure the social and economic wellbeing of their peoples are met;

**Fully Aware** that for many of the Parties, the tuna resource represents the primary source of achieving greater economic self-sufficiency;

**Believing** that the prospects of enhancing economic growth for many of the Parties depend to a large degree on the sustainability of their common tuna resource and that this must be managed for the betterment of their people's livelihood.;

**Recognizing** that economic gains may be maximized through the development of additional arrangements that control output and limit effort to create scarcity and increase the value of the tuna resources;



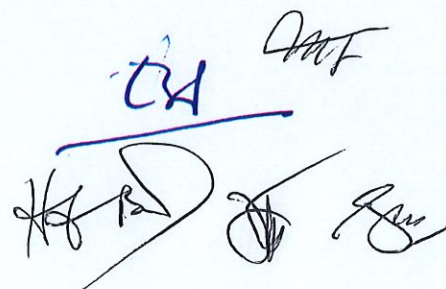
**Expressing** their wholehearted appreciation and gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality on hosting the second PNA Leaders' Summit;

**HAVE AGREED:**



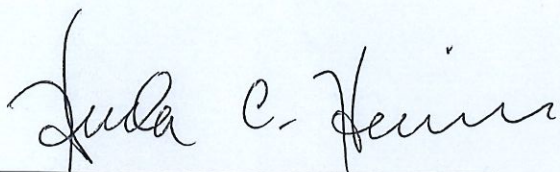


1. To renew their vision of safeguarding our rights, exercising our control, supporting sustainability and ensuring maximum returns from the utilization of our fisheries.
2. To reaffirm the PNA core business of collaborating on strategy and policy, to coordinate and harmonize the management of fisheries of common interest for the benefit of their peoples.
3. To use their resources to create self-reliance and independence and not be bystanders in the development of their tuna fisheries.
4. To develop a strategy on sustainability by developing improved standards for their fishery.
5. To continue efforts with the development of initiatives to increase Parties share of the value of the tuna fishery through vertical integration.
6. To endorse the decision by Ministers to invite Papua New Guinea to purchase iFIMS.
7. To implement the Forum Leaders Decision to prohibit purse seiners bunkering in the high seas.
8. To pursue legal recognition of the defined baselines established under the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* to remain in perpetuity irrespective of the impacts of sea level rise.
9. To convene a PNA Leaders' Summit more frequently at least every three to five years.
10. To task Ministers to explore measures to reduce marine pollution and the carbon footprint of the fishery sector.
11. To task Ministers to provide a draft strategic plan on the future direction of the PNA to the PNA Leaders at the Forum Leaders Meeting in September in Nauru.
12. To task Ministers to develop additional conservation and management measures for high seas fishing.
13. To task Ministers to develop measures to reduce bycatch including the improvement of the management of FAD fishing.
14. To direct Ministers to strengthen good governance and management of the PNA Office



Done at Majuro, Marshall Islands this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2018



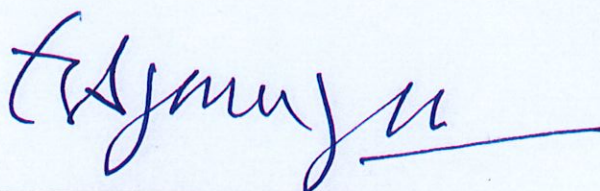
Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine Ed.D  
President  
Republic of the Marshall Islands



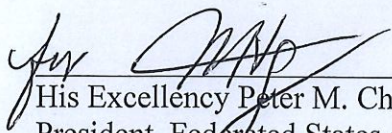
His Excellency Baron Divavesi Waqa  
President  
Republic of Nauru



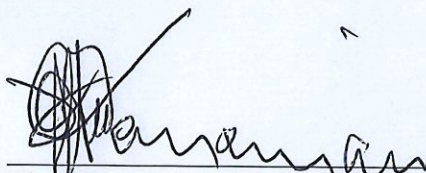
His Excellency Taneti Maamau  
President  
Republic of Kiribati



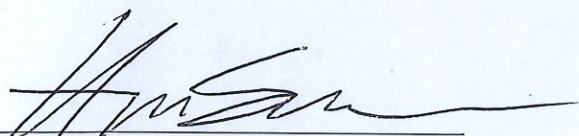
The Honorable Enele Sosene Sopoaga  
Prime Minister  
Tuvalu



His Excellency Peter M. Christian  
President, Federated States of Micronesia  
Represented by the Honorable Marion Henry  
Secretary of Resources and Development



The Honorable Rick Houenipwela  
Prime Minister, Solomon Islands  
Represented by the Honorable John Maneniaru  
Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources



His Excellency Tommy Remengesau Jr  
Represented by the Honorable F. Umiich  
Sengebau  
Minister for Natural Resources, Environment  
and Tourism  
Republic of Palau



The Honorable Peter O'Neill  
Prime Minister, Independent State of Papua  
New Guinea  
Represented by the Honorable John Kasu  
Managing Director National Fisheries  
Authority

