



Concept Note

Date: 4th – 5th October 2022

Background

Climate change remains to be the single greatest threat to the Pacific people's livelihood, security, and wellbeing, and has over the years exacerbated other development challenges. In 2015, the global community agreed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees but have not lived up to this promise. In 2018, Pacific Leaders adopted the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* that reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific. Global commitments, and the pace and scale of actions to address the climate crisis continues to be insufficient to meet the 1.5-degree goal that was agreed to in Paris, which will give the Pacific a chance to survive.

In the Pacific, communities are at the frontline, experiencing and battling the adverse impacts of the climate crisis and further at the peripheries are marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, such as the indigenous people, youth, people with disabilities, persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, and elderly people whose rights are undermined. Pacific peoples and communities have also demonstrated strength and resilience in the face of the climate crisis, weaving traditional knowledge and indigenous wisdom in their efforts to mitigate, adapt and build resilience.

The event will bring together a wide range of key actors from grassroot communities, national governments, civil society, faith communities, and development partners with the primary objective of elevating the voices and issues of frontline Pacific climate affected communities and groups. The summit will provide an opportunity to enhance understanding on intersectional climate justice and will provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and experience among the key actors in the region. It will also aim to solidify a strong human right, people-centered and climate justice policy positions in lead up to COP 27¹.

Objectives

The Summit aims to:

- Strengthen and support the meaningful engagement of Pacific Island grassroot communities and groups in regional and global climate policy influencing.
- Provide a platform for dialogue, knowledge, information, and experience sharing on policy, advocacy, and practice in the context of climate justice.

¹ COP27 is the 27th session of the Summit of Parties of the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate and will be held in Sharm-el-sheik, Egypt.



- Garner greater awareness and visibility of PICAN member's programmes leading to greater appreciation and advocacy of climate justice issues.
- Identify priorities in the Summit that will create a strong foundation for partnerships with key stakeholders, development partners, government, and civil society organizations to promote human rights & climate justice.

Outcomes

As a result of this Summit, we expect to achieve the following:

- Finalize a set of people-centred, human rights-based and inclusive Pacific regional climate change policy positions that will inform regional and global climate advocacy, campaigns, and policy.
- A solidified human rights and climate justice position for key regional state and non-state actors in lead up to COP 26.
- Garner the support of national Governments, civil society, and communities to support and amplify the work of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change and Vanuatu Climate Action Network who are seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on human rights and climate change.
- Increased participation of frontline communities, such as indigenous people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups and their organizations in climate justice processes.
- Contribute to increased awareness/knowledge and skills on advocacy, research/evidence gathering; understanding of the policy development process; influencing skills; policy analysis; lobbying/campaigning; media relations; awareness raising.

Format

The two-day Summit will be on the 4th – 5th October 2022 and will be hosted physically in Suva, Fiji, with national hubs in Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu joining in virtually, alongside other participants from across the Pacific region.

Summit Language: The main language for Summit presentations will be in English, while translators may be arranged should the need arises. Sign language interpreters will be available to ensure reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities.



About the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network [PICAN]

The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) is a network of over 130 member organizations in Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji. We work across the region with members, partners, and allies to champion Pacific leadership on the climate crisis, amplify and support our members work on the ground, and jointly develop climate policy asks for influencing in national, regional, and international spaces.

Convened by:



In partnership with:

