

FACT SHEET

PACIFIC COP 26 POLITICAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Championing Pacific priorities for COP 26 for a 1.5 Degrees World

- Climate change is an existential threat to our Blue Pacific people, islands, and ocean. Right now, at 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming, our seas are rising, oceans are warming, and extreme events such as cyclones and typhoons, flooding, drought and king tides are frequently more intense. Our very survival is at stake.
- The recent IPCC Working Group 1 Report shows us that the science is clear. We know the scale of the climate crisis we are facing. We also have the solutions to avoid the worst of climate change impacts. What we need now is political leadership and momentum to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.
- That is why COP 26 in Glasgow in November is critical. Global leaders must deliver major emissions reductions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees; finalise the Paris Agreement Rulebook; provide the US\$100 billion of climate finance for vulnerable countries; enhance support for adaptation, resilience building and nature-based solutions; decide on dedicated financing for loss and damage; and advance the work on ocean in the UNFCCC process.
- At their 51st meeting in August 2021, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed strong political advocacy and engagement at COP 26 including the appointment of Pacific COP 26 Political Climate Champions.

Who are our Pacific COP 26 Political Climate Champions?

Our Political Champions have volunteered to lead advocacy of the Pacific priorities at COP 26.



Climate Finance Champion -
Honourable Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.



Climate Ambition Champion - **Honourable Bruce Bilimon**, Minister of Health and Human Services for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Oceans and the Climate Nexus Champion -
Honourable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General, Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, and Climate change for Fiji.



Loss and Damage Champion - **Honourable Seve Paeniu**, Minister of Finance for Tuvalu.



Environmental Integrity Champion -
Honourable Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Environment for the Republic of Palau.

What is the role of our Pacific Political Climate Champions?

- Our Political Climate Champions will advocate and influence decision making at COP 26 on issues of critical importance to our region, guided by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now.
- Supported by the Pacific island officials and regional organisations (PIFS, SPREP, SPC, USP and FFA), our Champions will advocate and negotiate to ensure COP 26 delivers on the US\$100 billion climate change finance commitment by developed country Parties, drives greater ambition in support of emissions reductions towards a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway and support for adaptation to the impacts of climate change, safeguards the environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement by disallowing measures that would undermine ambition, supports dedicated financing for loss and damage, and advance the work on ocean in the UNFCCC.
- Our Political Climate Champions will represent Forum Island Countries' collective views at COP 26 negotiations, meetings and events and inform Pacific Leaders and Ministers on progress and outcomes. The approach respects and acknowledges the sovereign rights of Forum Island Countries and is sensitive to their national priorities.

Engaging with our Political Climate Champions

To assist us in sounding the alarm on the climate change crisis at COP 26 and profiling Pacific voices and calls for action, our Political Climate Champions are available for high-level meetings, events, and media at COP 26.

CONTACTS FOR CHAMPIONS:

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