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**Pacific Leaders Meeting**  
**High-Level Event “Improving food security and nutrition, building resilient livelihoods and promoting partnerships for sustainable development in the Pacific Islands”**

**11 November 2017, Rome, FAO HQ**

**Joint Statement<sup>1</sup>**

1. The High-Level Event on “*Improving food security and nutrition, building resilient livelihoods and promoting partnerships for sustainable development in the Pacific Islands*” was organized in Rome, Italy at FAO headquarters on 11 November 2017 and attended by **six** Pacific Heads of States and Heads of Governments, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers, as well as high representatives of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries and Pacific Power Association and Rome base agencies.
2. Leaders recalled existing international frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
3. In addition, they recalled the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the 48<sup>th</sup> Summit of Pacific Island Forum Leaders’ Communique and the inaugural Pacific Week of Agriculture and stressed the importance of utilizing existing regional mechanisms as a means for greater coherence in provision of support to provide to Pacific Nations.
4. Leaders are **alarmed by the negative impact of climate change on food systems and food security** in the region and called upon all countries to exceed previous commitments and

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<sup>1</sup> This Statement represents the views of the participants and encompasses the substantive discussions held during the event.



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pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, as this would reduce the adverse impacts on food security and nutrition, coastal habitats and the livelihoods of those depending on oceans. The 1.5 degrees limit will also allow for a greater change at maintaining resilient livelihoods and promote partnerships for sustainable development in the Pacific Islands.

5. In recalling Pacific Finance and Health Ministers commitment to the Pacific Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Roadmap, Leaders expressed concern about the **negative impacts of malnutrition** evidenced in the growing incidence of NCDs in the Pacific Island nations and called for more proactive and integrated actions to promote policies to tackle challenges on Food Insecurity and especially on issues related to obesity, stunting, wasting and NCDs.
6. Leaders reiterated their anxiety about ecosystem degradation and other challenges encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goal 14 and called upon the international community to assist in maximizing the sustainable utilization of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the benefit of the small island developing states.
7. Leaders further recalled the endorsement of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS and called for immediate implementation.
8. Leaders called upon the international community to ensure partnerships are genuine and enduring south-south and triangular cooperation are encouraged and facilitated, and synergies to maximize the use of financial resources for the Pacific Islands are pursued and built.
9. Leaders underlined the importance of the thematic areas of this event and called for bringing the outcomes to the attention of relevant regional and global fora, such as the COP 23 UN



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Conference on Climate, Paris Climate Summit in December 2017, FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Fiji in 2018, the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the UN Secretary-General 2019 Climate Summit.