

## Press Release: PNAO Supports Pacific Elders on COP27

The PNA Office has welcomed and supported the Statement by Pacific Elders on the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP27) calling for *“decisive actions within the broad principles of climate justice, human rights and equity, to enable nations to implement the agreed goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement.”*

Dr Clark, the PNAO CEO, said that recent scientific studies have highlighted the potential losses to PNA Members and other Pacific Island Countries from the damage to their tuna and other fisheries resources, caused by climate change. She noted that the implications for fisheries resources cannot be separated from the broader threats to maritime boundaries, livelihoods and the existence of communities, cultures, and countries.

This global environment damage is unfair and unjust because some countries are benefiting hugely from polluting activities while others, particularly small island developing states, face damage to their resources, sustainable development and, in certain cases, threats to their very existence.

There has to be a reduction in activities that cause Climate Change; some activities have to stop. But at this point, damage is already done and even if effective actions are taken, the damage will still be there, including in fisheries. As the Pacific Elders have said *“Pacific Island countries are already suffering significant loss and damage from the impacts of climate change.”* That loss and damage is unjust.

The PNA Office supports the Pacific Elders’ call to *“welcome the inclusion of Loss & Damage on the COP agenda and look to the international community to meaningfully address this critical issue”* as a matter of climate justice.