



## PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual PNA Ministerial Meeting

4-5 June 2025

#### Communique

Ministers from FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Tokelau met in Tarawa from 3-4 June 2025 for their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu were represented by Senior Officials. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Ribanataake Tiwau, Minister for Fisheries and Ocean Resources of Kiribati.

The eight countries that are Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and Tokelau and Vanuatu control the world's largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery and also manage valuable tuna longline fisheries in their waters.

The Ministers were welcomed, after their arrival, with a dinner reception hosted by the Honourable Minister Ribanataake Tiwau. The Ministers acknowledged the President of the Republic of Kiribati His Excellency Taneti Maamau for officiating the opening of the meeting.

The key outcomes from the meeting of the Ministers included the following:

#### ***Positive Progress for PNA***

Ministers **appreciated** the continuing achievements of PNA in 2024 and 2025 to date, in the management and development of tuna fisheries. These achievements were based on the strength of cooperation by the Parties through PNA in standing steadfastly together to maintain their collective control over their tuna resources and the tuna fisheries in their waters.

#### ***Wealth Creation from Tuna Value Chain Participation***

Ministers **emphasized the priority** that they attached to promoting their domestic tuna development through implementing the East New Britain and Tripartite Initiatives. Through these Initiatives, PNA Members will build on the achievements in managing PNA tuna fisheries to generate revenue and conserve stocks to secure a much greater share of the wealth created throughout the tuna value chain.

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[Signatures]

Ministers **welcomed the progress** being made in promoting increased Pacific Islands participation and collaboration in onshore tuna activities through the East New Britain Initiative Working Group.

Ministers **encouraged** PNA Officials and the Office to continue to prioritise work to reframe and strengthen PNA arrangements to serve the Parties' domestic development aspirations.

Ministers **further encouraged** looking at broader PNA fisheries certification standards for fisheries, beyond existing arrangements and strategically leveraging supply in-zone catches to enhance vertical integration along the value chain, promoting in region processing including increased dockside offloading and promoting electronic monitoring.

#### **FSM Arrangement**

Ministers **confirmed** the importance of the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA) as a centrally important instrument in their path to enhanced benefits from domestic tuna development.

Ministers **noted** the importance of the review of the FSMA eligibility criteria to strengthen the contribution of the FSMA to PNA domestic development, including aligning the FSMA with the East New Britain and Tripartite Initiatives.

#### **Global Tuna Trading Issues**

Ministers **discussed** the changes taking place in global tuna trading conditions. PNA waters provide 50% of the tuna for canning, globally, from the world's largest sustainable tuna fisheries.

Ministers **considered** that with healthy tuna stocks, well managed tuna fisheries in PNA waters and global tuna supplies tightening, PNA tuna fisheries would likely be resilient to changes taking place in global tuna trading conditions.

Ministers **noted** that the enhanced measures being adopted by PNA Members to encourage greater investment in onshore tuna handling and processing, are particularly important when there is increased economic uncertainty around tuna trade.

#### **Climate Change**

Ministers **recalled** the Commitment of PNA Leaders at their 2nd Leaders' Summit in 2018, to preserve their rights, irrespective of the effects of climate change.

Ministers **continued to affirm** that climate justice is an essential element of the PNA work, with respect to climate change. They **supported** the work being undertaken to seek climate justice for the damage done to PNA tuna fisheries by climate change, including through access to high seas fisheries.

### ***Vanuatu Participation in the PNA Longline Vessel Day Scheme***

Ministers **welcomed** the Vanuatu delegation and **commended** Vanuatu on its implementation of the Longline Vessel Day Scheme in 2025.

Ministers **noted** that this new partnership with Vanuatu was a very important step in strengthening collaboration on tuna management in the region, and the management of the regional longline fishery.

### ***PNA Observers***

Ministers **commended** the PNA Observer Agency (POA) on achieving, in 2024, the highest level of activity and observer placement in its history.

Ministers **acknowledged** the tremendous contribution of PNA Observers not only to the effective implementation and integrity of the Vessel Day Scheme, but also to the broader goal of sustainability in PNA waters and across the Western Central Pacific Ocean.

Ministers **noted** the vital role that observers played in the success of the VDS, and in ensuring that the measures put in place to sustainably manage tuna resources in PNA countries are maintained.

Ministers **supported** the continuing improvement in their working accommodations, safety and pay.

### ***PNA Office Performance***

Ministers **noted** the continued increasing effectiveness, use and success of the PNA Office in 2024 and **commended** Officials, the Office, and the Marshall Islands on this achievement. They **recognized** that effective management of the Office is critically important to the Parties, because of its role in administering the VDS, managing funds of the Parties, and supporting the Parties, more broadly, in their efforts to maximize the socio-economic value of tuna fisheries to the people of PNA.

### ***Healthy Stocks***

Ministers **welcomed** the updated scientific advice, from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, that all four tropical tuna stocks in PNA waters continue to be assessed as healthy.

Ministers were **encouraged** to see continued stable tuna catches and effort in the main tuna fisheries in the region, which indicated the effectiveness of regional tuna fisheries management, especially through the PNA Vessel Day Schemes (VDS).

Ministers **noted** that the Western and Central Pacific is still the only oceanic region in the world where the tropical tuna resources are being fished sustainably. While the major target stocks are healthy, Ministers **recognized** the continuing need for further efforts to address the impacts of commercial tuna fisheries on bycatches, ecosystems and the marine environment.

Ministers **expressed concern** over the increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, and **encouraged** stock assessments to routinely capture the impacts of climate change.

#### ***WCPFC Approach***

Ministers **acknowledged** the collective work of the PNA in the successful processes of the WCPFC, such as the adoption of the management procedure for skipjack tuna, delivering a balanced tropical tuna measure, and the restructuring of the compliance scheme to ensure equitable balance across the obligations of the conservation and management measures for different fisheries.

Ministers **affirmed their continued strong support** for PNA engagement in the WCPFC, so it continues to deliver value to the PNA and strengthen the management of high seas fishing by reinforcing the Third Implementing Arrangement of the Nauru Agreement.

#### ***Marine Stewardship Council***

Ministers **commended** the continuous improvements that PNA were making to ensure sustainability of tuna fisheries in PNA waters.

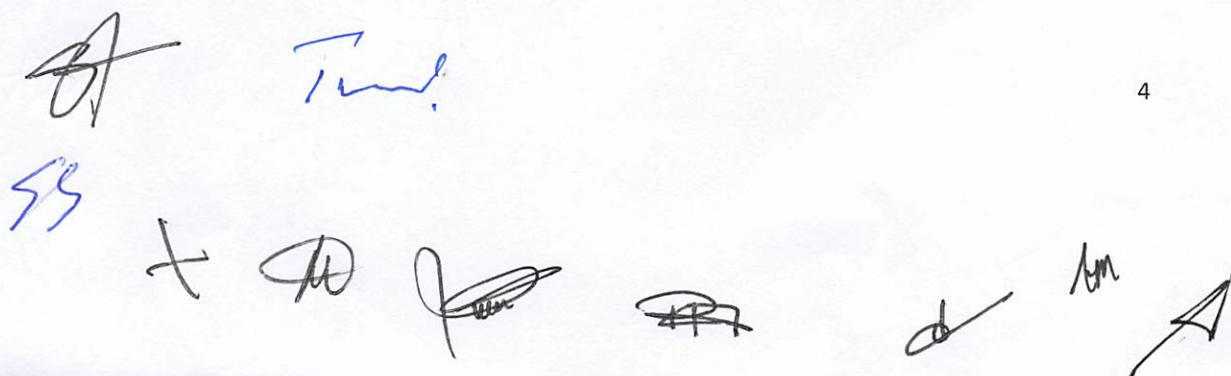
Ministers **welcomed** the recertification of the Purse Seine Fishery for the next 5 years with an expanded scope of bigeye catches and catches from FAD sets and look forward to the development of a broader PNA fisheries certification standard. This has led to an increase of industry partners interested to participate in the PNA MSC program, and the increased volume of catch certified under the program.

Ministers **appreciated** that this would enable high quality, affordable sustainable tuna products from PNA waters to continue to be supplied to consumers globally.

#### ***PNA Leaders' Summit***

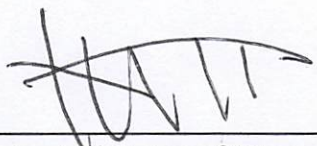
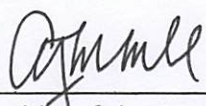

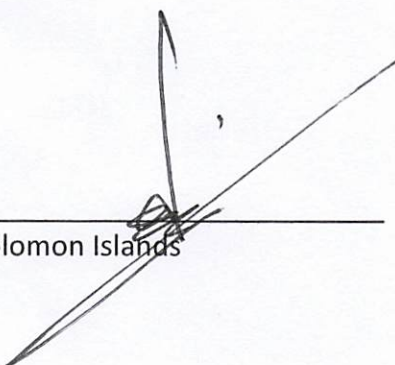
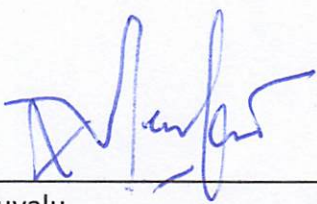
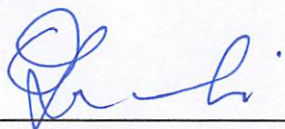

Ministers **noted** the next session of the Leaders' two yearly summit was scheduled for 2025, and **acknowledged with appreciation**, the invitation from Tuvalu for the PNA Leaders to meet in Funafuti in September.

Ministers **noted** that they would be reporting to PNA Leaders on the work undertaken towards achieving Economic Independence Through Collaboration in Sustainable Tuna Fisheries.



Handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink at the bottom of the page, including a large signature on the left, the word 'Tuvalu' in the center, and several other initials and signatures on the right.

Done on the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of June, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

  
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Republic of Kiribati  
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Republic of the Marshall Islands  
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Tuvalu  
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Tokelau (Observer)  
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Vanuatu (Observer)