

**Conference Statement:  
G20 Interfaith Summit  
Pacific Regional Preconference**

We, the participants and attendees - academics, theologians, government officials, NGO professionals, religious leaders and students - from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Rotuma, Samoa and Tonga, at the G20 interfaith Summit, Pacific pre-conference held at the Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji, 2-4 May 2016, acknowledge that sustainable development in the Pacific necessarily includes religious and spiritual dimensions. Therefore, we make the following recommendations:

**I. Education**

We recommend that the Pacific Council of Churches and South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) in collaboration with appropriate organizations to pursue the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4, Quality Education), with particular emphasis on:

1. Continuous, holistic, lifelong learning;
2. Establishing localized Pacific curricula and assessment frameworks with particular attention to indigenous knowledges and epistemologies;
3. Implementing practical solutions to infrastructure challenges in schools;
4. Ensuring equitable educational outcomes for all people.

**II. Economic Development**

In order to address Sustainable Development Goal Eight (SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth) the churches and religious communities will:

1. Speak and act prophetically to oppose the unjust and unsustainable exploitation of the natural resources of the Pacific;
2. Educate themselves concerning Pacific indigenous, sustainable models of development in dialogue with global business and economic development.
3. Communicate details of relief and resilience planning projects to promote effective interfaith collaboration with appropriate UN and other agencies.

**III. Climate Change**

In order to address Sustainable Development Goal Thirteen (SDG 13 Climate Action) the churches and religious communities commit themselves to:

1. Modelling Pacific sustainable living;
2. Establishing a joint committee to develop climate change teaching resources from faith perspectives for our schools;
3. Engage churches and religious organizations overseas to highlight awareness of the impact of climate change in the Pacific;
4. Lobbying politicians and policy makers across the Pacific for further action on climate change.

We call on the G20 nations and all members of the United Nations that in recognizing the scientific evidence of rising sea levels and other effects of climate change that the Pacific regions, especially the low lying atolls, including Tokelau, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati. These peoples are being displaced from their homes and lands. It is imperative for the international community to establish a UN Framework to protect people and their nations who are or will be displaced, through no fault of their own, as a result of the effects of climate change.

#### **IV. Peace and Justice**

In keeping with their traditional role of upholding peace with justice and in order to address Sustainable Development Goal Sixteen (SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), the churches and religious communities commit themselves to:

1. Establish peaceful relationships with one another;
2. Draw on their historical experiences and indigenous Pacific models of peace-making when pursuing peace and justice in the contemporary context;
3. Come together in more structured and coordinated ways to pursue peace and justice cooperatively and collaboratively.

We call upon the churches and religious communities to actively develop inter-religious relationships for the purpose of action for social justice. In seeking to fulfill each of these commitments we must be attentive to gender justice and furthermore seek purposeful collaboration with governments.

We call upon the churches and religious communities to report back on the above commitments to the G20 Interfaith Summit, Pacific pre-conference, 2017.

We warmly thank the organizers, sponsors, speakers, facilitators, participants and our hosts, the Pacific Theological College.