

Global Employers' Climate Action Forum

25th July 2018, Holiday Inn Suva, Fiji



DRAFT OUTCOME

PREAMBLE

The Fiji Commerce and Employers' Federation as the current President of the Marrakech Business Action for Climate Network hosted the Global Employers' Climate Action Forum on the 25th of July 2018 in Suva, Fiji. Close to 160 participants attended the Employers' Forum from Private Sector Organisations', Pacific Island Governments and Development Partners. This Global Forum provided an opportunity to create synergy and permanent exchanges between relevant stakeholders, aligning discussions to the **Fiji Declaration, 2017** and recognizing the linkages to international and regional frameworks.

This OUTCOME is the result of the one-day dialogue between the Private Sector, Governments and Development Partners in their commitment to fighting climate change and transitioning to environmentally sustainable economies and society.

The dialogue was centered around three critical issues that have brought a lot of opportunities and challenges to the Private Sector:

1. Climate Finance;
2. Climate Insurance; and
3. Green/Blue Economy.

OBJECTIVES

- Bridging the gaps to support the Private Sector to be engaged in climate change discussions;
- Facilitate and guide Private Sector to contribute to their countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement;
- Support resilient and low carbon businesses; and
- Establish networks with other Employers' Organisations'.

Topic 1: Scaling up Private Sector climate finance

Outcome 1: Accessing Climate Finance provides an opportunity to foster Public Private Partnership.

The Employers' Forum highlighted the importance of strengthening partnership between the Private Sector and other actors for more ambitious climate action.

Investors and lenders are recognizing the value of investment in green infrastructure. The Employers' Forum valued this Public Private Partnership as resources will need to be invested and through Government leadership, support and generate more green investment.

The Employers' Forum recognized and acknowledged the work of the Fiji Development Bank as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) to the Green Climate Fund in supporting green investment in Fiji and possibly at the regional level with possible project proposal funding of up to US\$10 million (FJ20 million).

The Employers' Forum recognized and acknowledged the important role of the Central Bank in scaling up Private Sector finance and mainstreaming green finance standards for mapping climate finance risks. The work of the Reserve Bank in Fiji is supporting the Fiji Government Initiative on Green Bonds.

The Employers' Forum also recognized and acknowledged the contributions from the Financial Institutions and Banks in supporting green initiatives and investments.

Outcome 2: Addressing barriers to Private Sector finance through policy and regulatory means.

There was a clear indication from the Employers' Forum and essentially important for Government to provide an enabling environment for fiscal and monetary policy to boost collective action such as incentivizing green investment and finance, for example, Sovereign Green Bonds that can be used to finance Private Sector initiative.

Addressing barriers to climate finance is an ongoing discussion and the Employers' Forum identified key barriers that need to be addressed are **policy and regulatory requirements, accessibility, education and awareness.**

Consideration for Actions

In considering *Accessing Climate Finance provides as an opportunity to foster Public Private Partnership*, FCEF/MBA4 Climate will foster collaboration and partnership with Governments, Private Sector and key actors agreed to:

- support and build capacity in accessing climate finance;
- address policy and regulatory requirements to access/deliver climate finance;
- raise awareness on climate finance; and
- increase education and training on climate finance.

Topic 2: Opportunities in climate insurance and building resilient businesses

Outcome 3: Innovative and affordable insurance products for vulnerable communities, including awareness on these products.

Through a holistic approach to investment in climate change, the Employers' Forum recognized the importance of affordable insurance products to support vulnerable business communities and investment in climate proofing infrastructure.

The Employers' Forum strongly agreed that genuine and durable partnership between all relevant stakeholders was important to build the resilience of the businesses and the local communities.

The Employer Forum agreed that there was a constant state of disaster recovery in the Pacific and that this was a great challenge. Breaking out from that cycle required the investment in climate finance products that were affordable and available to support poor communities and vulnerable businesses.

The Business communities are vulnerable to natural disaster and climate change and the Employers' Forum expressed appreciation to the ongoing training on Business Continuity Plans to help businesses recover quickly after disasters.

The Employers' Forum strongly encouraged Governments to subsidize affordable insurance packages to assist vulnerable businesses (especially Small and Medium Enterprises).

Outcome 4: Use availability of scientific data to inform insurance products.

The Employers' Forum recognized the importance of collecting robust data to support insurance companies in packaging innovative insurance products for the local vulnerable businesses and communities in the region.

The Pacific Small Island Developing States are vulnerable from the impacts of climate change and disaster. The Employers' Forum strongly agreed that more research and information on best standards and building codes need to be developed and countries with out-dated standards or building codes must have them revised and enforced.

Consideration for Actions

In considering *Opportunities in climate insurance and building resilient businesses*, FCEF/MBA4 Climate will foster collaboration and partnership with Governments, Private Sector and key actors agreed to:

- encourage partnership with international agencies who have experience/ products in other countries;
- increase awareness raising among the businesses and local vulnerable communities;
- consider and explore opportunities in compulsory insurance for the local vulnerable communities and businesses; and
- strongly support the review and enforcement of the building code for some countries especially the case for Fiji for its 1990 Building Code.

Topic 3: Driving a Green/Blue Economy

Outcome 5: Building sustainable Blue/Green Economy through strengthened Public Private Partnerships and inclusive timely consultations.

The Employers' Forum recognized the importance of SDG Goal 14 in getting the right balance between sustainability and production to protect the Ocean and its resources.

The Employers' Forum recognized the opportunities that will be brought in by Green businesses for investment and employment opportunities with the creation of circa 14 million jobs in the Asia Pacific.

The Employers' Forum appreciated new regulatory environment and policies to encourage the transition to Blue/Green Economy that contributes to the protection of the environment, but agrees that there is a need for thorough consultations with all key stakeholders before implementation.

Outcome 6: Recognize the role of the Private Sector, Government, CSOs, partners, development partners in promoting Blue/Green Economy.

Recognizing that the Private Sector is a driver for low emission technology, the Employers' Forum expressed appreciation for the contributions of many Private Sector organizations' in their efforts to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

As the commitment to the Paris Agreement and the engagement of the Private Sector in climate change programme, the Employers' Forum agrees to participate and contribute to their countries' NDCs and support the role of the Pacific Regional NDC Hub.

The Employers' Forum agrees that everyone on this planet has a responsibility in protecting the ocean and its resources and the Employers' Forum will actively participate in any ocean gathering to advocate and raise awareness.

The pearl industry will be one of the first ocean industries to be negatively impacted by climate change from warming waters and ocean acidification. The Employers' Forum recognized the importance of this industry and its contribution to economic development and growth in the Blue Economy sector

Consideration for Actions

In considering *Driving a Green/Blue Economy*, FCEF/MBA4 Climate will foster collaboration and partnership with Governments, Private Sector and key actors to:

- Increase education and awareness raising for ocean users: ensure that youths and community members alike are educated and informed about the importance of environmental awareness and have a basic education on green/blue economies;
- Develop a proper education program on oceans conservation and ocean resource management. Having people trained with the right skills and credentials to incorporate a sustainable blue economy into all sectors;
- Provide support services for shipping industries to reduce their pollution and emissions outputs. Include designated areas and robust methods for cleaning vessels. Safety methods for identifying risks and hazards will make services more efficient and streamlined to reduce chances of bigger issues that affect the ability to have rich biodiversity and a sustainable Blue Economy;
- Provide an enabling environment with the review and adoption of new policies and legislation to support the Green/Blue Economy and the protection of the ocean;
- Support young entrepreneurship and women in businesses; and
- Increase awareness on a Just Transition to a Green/Blue Economy and opportunities for green jobs.