

**New Zealand Statement  
Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 10-11 June 2026**

Thank you co facilitators,

I would like to take this opportunity to echo the sentiment of many speakers at this dialogue - and further reinforce the spotlight on the Pacific-region, and its leadership in advancing the ocean-climate nexus.

Pacific countries collectively steward 20 per cent of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones, while at the same time face disproportionate impacts from sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification.

Despite the Pacific's outsized stewardship responsibility over this important carbon sink, around one per cent of global climate finance is directed toward the Pacific, with even less allocated specifically to ocean-based action.

We therefore urge Parties to consider the direction of climate finance, including capacity building and technology transfer, to better support ocean stewardship and adaptation in the Pacific region - in a way that is accessible, targeted and of quality.

We also reiterate the upcoming COP31 Pre-COP in Fiji and Tuvalu as a unique and critical opportunity to significantly elevate the profile of the ocean-climate nexus.

Furthermore, we see clear opportunities to utilise the upcoming Global Stocktake, alongside existing indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation, to further mainstream the ocean-climate nexus across the UN Climate system. As reflected in the outcome of the first Global Stocktake at COP28 - which reaffirmed the urgent need to conserve, protect, and restore marine and coastal ecosystems, and to strengthen ocean-based climate action as indispensable pathways to achieve the 1.5 degree goal - we should aim to build on and strengthen these signals in the second Global Stocktake.

Thank you.