

Pacific Maritime Technical Officers Workshop on Shipping Emissions
7th – 9th February 2018 | Tanoa Plaza, Suva, Fiji

Speaking points by His Excellency Mr. Sujiro Seam, Ambassador of France in the Republic of Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.

IMO Pacific Maritime Technical Officers Workshop organized by PIDF in the context of the implementation of the arrangement between France and Fiji on cooperation in the field of reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from ships.

France and Fiji and Pacific Island Countries share common interests on the matter:

- 1) They are committed to climate change, with the French Presidency of COP 21, leading to the Paris Agreement on Climate and the Fijian Presidency of COP 23, resulting in a very successful meeting in Bonn. French President Macron reaffirmed the French commitment to climate and hosted the One Planet Summit on 12 December 2018 to mark the 2nd anniversary of the Paris Agreement on Climate. Fiji Prime Minister Bainimarama participated as President of COP 23. The ambition is to “Make Our Planet Great Again”.
- 2) They share the same interest in maritime affairs, with France having the 2nd largest maritime zone in the world, and Fiji launching the Ocean Pathways as one of the priorities of its Presidency of COP23.
- 3) They are nations of the Pacific, through the French territories of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. The challenges faced by Pacific Island Countries in terms of climate change, ocean acidification and warming, sea level rise, destruction of corals, increase in intensity and frequency of extreme weather events such as cyclones are challenges faced by France. “We are in the same canoe”.

France and Fiji and Pacific Island countries have to take decisive action and support each other to address greenhouse gas emissions from ships in the International Maritime Organization. The signature of the Tony de Brum declaration, named after the climate leader from the Marshal Islands and launched at the One Planet Summit in Paris should be a first step.

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