

SAMOA 2017 WATER MINISTERS DECLARATION

Preamble:

We, the Ministers' responsible for Water and Sanitation in the Pacific Island Countries and high-level representatives, gathered in Apia, Samoa on the 8th August 2017 at the Third Pacific Water and Sanitation Ministers' Meeting, with the full participation of member countries, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association members, partners and relevant stakeholders:

1. reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable social and economic development of Pacific Island nations and communities through effective and efficient provision of water and sanitation services.
2. commend all efforts by all partners to improve services but nonetheless collectively acknowledge the magnitude of responsibility required to advance further. We thus call for stronger partnerships and open dialogue amongst our alliances and network of people, governments, civil society, private sector and communities at large, all working together to achieve the future we want for present and future generations.

➤ Leadership

3. re-affirm our commitment made in PNG 2015, to lead and champion the Pacific Water Agenda by elevating the water and sanitation challenges faced by our member countries into prominence at the regional and international levels.
4. re-affirm our responsibility to lead the work to improve access to safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions in alignment with national, regional and global commitments.

➤ Linkages

5. acknowledge and support the ongoing efforts to contextualize the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for the Pacific through the SAMOA Pathway and Pacific Framework for Regionalism. We look forward to the deepening of this work for the Water and Sanitation Sector and advocacy for its elevation as a regional priority.

➤ Progress and Critical Challenges

6. recognize and commend the progress made by all member countries to improve our people's access to safe water and sanitation services. We note and reiterate previous commitments to prioritize actions to address the following critical challenges:

- (i) Investing in capacity and capability development so we can sustainably deliver safe, affordable and accessible water for our citizens, now and in the future ;
- (ii) In particular, investing in the development of our young professionals, the strength of today and leaders of tomorrow;
- (iii) Mitigating climate change and disaster risks and building resilience in our water and sanitation systems ;
- (iv) Ensuring that the unique contributions of women, persons with disabilities, youth and other vulnerable groups are valued and addressed effectively in the water and sanitation sector ;

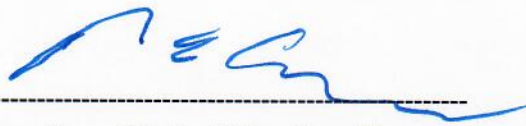
➤ **Collaboration and partnerships**

- 7. commit to actively seek and utilize all opportunities for collaborations and partnerships amongst ourselves and with other partners where it is the best option for progress.
- 8. note PWWA's commitment to develop its strategic direction and focus and we look forward to being advised on possible future areas for regional collaboration.

➤ **Monitoring**

- 9. commit to meeting annually/biennially/triennially, in conjunction with the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association conference to share progress and lessons learnt for continuous improvement.

Signed at Apia, this 8th day of August 2017:



Hon Papaliitele Niko Lee Hang

Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure, Samoa



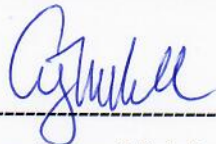
Hon Teariki Heather

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure Cook Islands, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Culture, and House of Ariki, Cook Islands



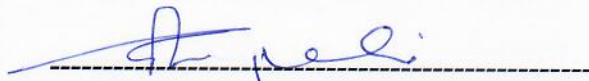
Hon Ruateki Tekaiara

Minister Public Works and Utilities Kiribati



Hon Tony M. Muller

Minister of Public Works, Republic of Marshall Islands



Hon Pokotoa Sipeli

Minister of Infrastructure, Niue

Hon Kelihiano Kalolo

Minister of Environment, Tokelau



Hon Poasa Tei

Minister of Public Enterprises, Tonga



Hon Ralph Regenvanu

Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Vanuatu

