Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ratu Sukuna Road,
Suva, Fiji

Dear Secretariat,

On behalf of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) I write to offer our support for Pacific Islands Forum. Furthermore, we comprehensively endorse the recent Nadi Bay Declaration by the Pacific Islands Development Forum declaring a Climate Change Crisis in the Pacific. As the only international Public Health Federation that includes member organisations from the Pacific region, this is of the utmost importance to our values and goals. **We believe that health is a fundamental human right and a global public good.**

We are deeply concerned with the global health threats precipitated by climate change, and more pressingly, facing the Member States of the Pacific Islands Forum, who are particularly vulnerable to these effects. Unequivocal evidence provided by the International Panel of Climate Change demonstrates climate change is increasing temperatures, sea levels, and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and cyclones across this region. As the World Health Organization states, this climate upheaval translates to rises in vector-, food-, and water-borne diseases, and places secure access to food, water, and shelter under threat. The health and safety of the people of the Pacific are in direct jeopardy.

We urge you to keep climate change at the forefront of the discussions of The Forum. We support the Call to Action presented in the Nadi Bay Declaration urging States to uphold their responsibilities to meet and increase their National Determined Contributions as laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, we feel it is of the utmost importance to cease new coal mining and phase out existing coal production, especially in Australia. The air-pollution released from the burning of coal is not only directly detrimental to health, but it also contributes significantly to climate change. Phasing out coal mining and usage will make strides in protecting people’s health, and we hope this Forum will be productive in achieving its vision of free and healthy Pacific people.

Yours sincerely

Professor Laetitia Rispel
President: World Federation of Public Health Associations