



PARTIES TO THE NAURU AGREEMENT

21st Annual PNA Ministerial Meeting

10-12 June 2026

Majuro, Marshall Islands

Communique

Honourable Ministers from the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu met in Majuro from 10-12 June 2026 for their 21st Annual Meeting. Naoero was represented by the Chairman of the Board of the Naoero Fisheries & Marine Resources Authority. Papua New Guinea was represented by a Senior Official. The Honourable Minister from Vanuatu also participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Anthony M. Muller from the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The eight countries that are Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) control the world's healthiest and largest sustainable tuna purse seine fishery and also manage valuable tuna longline fisheries in their waters.

Mr. Alson Kelen, Master Navigator and Traditional Canoe Builder opened the meeting with a chant that recalled the way in which ancestors had to unite in purpose to overcome the challenges of long ocean voyages. The Opening was officiated by H.E President Dr. Hilda C. Heine, along with the Vice-Chairman Irojij Farrend Zakious who spoke on behalf of the Council of Irojij.

PNA Ministers came together at this meeting as representatives of Pacific Island countries whose identity, culture, livelihoods, and future are inseparable from the sea, connected as Pacific Island peoples by their deep ocean heritage.

The key outcomes from the meeting of the Ministers included the following:

Positive Progress for PNA

Ministers **welcomed** the continuing progress of PNA in the management and development of their tuna fisheries reported in the PNAO Annual Report for 2025. These achievements were the outcome of PNA Members working together to achieve common goals in the management and development of their tuna resources and fisheries, supported by a well-organised and well-resourced PNA Office.

Economic Benefits from Tuna Value Chain Participation

Ministers **endorsed** the PNA Collective Pathway to Tuna Development Initiative framework, **emphasizing the priority** that they attached to promoting their domestic tuna development, through implementing the East New Britain initiative (ENBi) and other development Initiatives. The Pathway is designed to transition the evolution of PNA from resource control to value chain participation and value addition to market influence, while maximizing economic returns, ensuring sustainability, and delivering equitable benefits to all the PNA Parties and their people.

FSM Arrangement

Ministers **confirmed** the continuing importance of the Federated States of Micronesia Arrangement (FSMA) as a centrally important instrument for PNA Members for securing enhanced benefits from domestic tuna development. They **looked forward** to the completion of the review of the FSMA to strengthen the contribution of the FSMA to PNA domestic development aspirations, including aligning the FSMA with the ENBi and other related development initiatives.

Global Tuna Trading Issues

Ministers **noted** the changes taking place in global tuna trading conditions. PNA Members are potentially vulnerable to difficulties in global tuna trading, because PNA waters provide around 50% of the tuna for canning globally. Ministers **appreciated** that PNA fisheries and the VDS in particular had proven resilient so far, to changes in tariffs and the effects of conflict in the Middle East, but PNA Members need to be prepared to respond if necessary to any additional emerging adversity, noting the forecast of a strong El Nino.

Climate Change

Ministers **recalled** the commitment of PNA Leaders at their 3rd Leaders' Summit in 2023, to task Ministers to develop a Climate Change Strategy focused on Climate Justice, that reflects the impacts of climate change on the tuna fishery and lends support to SIDS positions in the UNFCCC forum. Ministers **supported** continuous work on the development of the draft PNA Climate Change Strategy, with a view to the final Climate Change Strategy to be adopted at the 5th PNA Leaders' Summit:

PNA Observers

Ministers **commended** the PNA Observer Agency on achieving, in 2025, the highest level of activity and observer placement in its history. Ministers **supported** the continuing improvement in the processes for observer placements with respect to smaller national observer programs as well as working conditions, safety and allowances.

PNA Office Performance and Strengthening

Ministers **commended** the CEO and Staff as well as Officials, for the continuing high level of performance of the PNAO Office and **thanked** the Government and people of the Marshall Islands for their supportive hosting of the Office in Majuro. Ministers **approved** strengthening of the PNAO in the areas of policy, compliance and capacity development, **noting** the importance of the Office to Parties and the industry more widely because of its role in the operation of the VDS, and the provision of support to Parties more broadly in their efforts to maximize the socio-economic value of their tuna fisheries.

PNA Compliance Regime

Ministers **welcomed** the substantial progress in operationalising the newly established PNA Compliance Regime, including the conclusion of the first annual Summary Compliance Report, the full rollout of the PNA Compliance Case Register system and associated supporting procedures, and **endorsed** the emerging priorities for 2026, including rollout of the approved compliance capacity-building programme.

Healthy Stocks

Ministers **welcomed** the updated scientific advice from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community that all four tropical tuna stocks in PNA waters continue to be assessed as healthy. Ministers **recognised** the continuing need for further efforts to address the impacts

of commercial tuna fisheries on bycatches, ecosystems and the marine environment. Ministers **expressed concern** over the increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and the impacts on predictable fishing effort distribution in the fishery.

WCPFC Approach

Ministers **acknowledged** and **endorsed** the position PNA has taken, with respect to the processes of the WCPFC, including the adoption of the management procedure for bigeye tuna, the adoption of an implementing arrangement for the south Pacific albacore management procedure, running of the skipjack management procedure and the south Pacific albacore management procedure and the restructuring of the compliance scheme to ensure equitable representativeness across the respective WCPFC conservation and management measures for different fisheries. Ministers **also affirmed** their continued strong support for PNA engagement in the WCPFC, so it continues to deliver value to the PNA.

Marine Stewardship Council

Ministers **noted with satisfaction** that the PNA Purse Seine Fishery Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification remains valid until October 2029 and **welcomed** the commencement of the full MSC assessment of high seas catches by PNA-flagged vessels, which would expand market access and commercial opportunities for PNA Members' domestic industry.

Ministers **reaffirmed their commitment** to advancing the Blue Pacific Fisheries Standard and other certification initiatives as an alternative to MSC, that is regionally owned, administered and unifies PNA environmental stewardship, socio-economic justice, and sovereign control over the world's largest tuna fisheries.

PNA Leaders' Summit

Ministers **noted** that the PNA Leaders bi-annual summit is scheduled to be held in 2027 and **acknowledged** the Federated States of Micronesia's confirmation to host the 5th PNA Leaders' Summit, with dates to be finalized between FSM and the PNAO.

Done on the 12th Day of June, Two Thousand and Twenty Six.

Federated States of Micronesia

Republic of Kiribati

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Republic of Nauru

Republic of Palau

Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Tuvalu

Vanuatu (Observer)