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MEDIA RELEASE

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PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: BONN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The Papua New Guinea delegation attending the UNFCCC Technical Negotiation Sessions in Bonn, Germany recently were graced by the presence of His Excellency Hon. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji who was there as the incoming 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23) President.

Prime Minister Bainimarama spoke passionately about the priorities of the upcoming COP 23 meeting and the plight of Pacific Island Countries including his own island country Fiji to extreme changes in weather and events of climate change. PNG was represented by the Managing Director, of the Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA), Mr Ruel Yamuna, Ms Rensie Panda, Lead Climate Change Negotiator and Mr Jonah Auka, Senior Adaptation Policy Analyst.

PNG's focus was on a number of agenda items such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) discussions, Article 6 on Carbon Markets and Framework for Non-Markets, Adaptation Fund, and other broad Financial issues, including REDD+. The PNG Technical officials were working closely with colleagues from other Pacific Nations through negotiation groups such as Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS), G-77 & China and Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

The discussions in Bonn, have also led to a new dynamic era whereby climate change issues and implementation under the Paris Agreement, are no longer a standalone thematic area of focus, but will include and incorporate aspects of sustainable development, sustainable trade practices and promotion of the extensive role of Private Sector investment. For the PNG Team, Fiji's Presidency of the COP in advocating a holistic approach to addressing climate change and sustainable development, embraces PNG's preparation towards it's APEC 2018 hosting by also giving prominence to some of it's policy issues on sustainable growth and connectivity.

PNG looks forward to working closely with the COP 23 Presidency and the Pacific People to ensure that the Talanoa process – reflecting the true Fijian spirit of dialogue – is inclusive, participatory and transparent and leads to some concrete decisions at COP 23.

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Authorized by:

Mr Ruel Yamuna
Managing Director

Picture : From Left to Right : Mr Jonah, Auka, Ms Rensie Panda, His Excellency Hon. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and Mr Ruel Yamuna, Managing Director of CCDA.

