

Outline
Side Event at UNFCCC/COP30

Adapting to climate change in the marine environment and fishery sector – Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilient, regenerative and sustainable blue economies in Pacific small island developing states

Date and time: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 14:00 – 14:50 pm

Venue: Moana Pacific Blue Pavillion (Blue Zone)

Organizer: Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Outline:

Climate change and sea level rise threaten livelihood of small island developing states in the Pacific (P-SIDS). Rising sea temperature, intensified rain storms and severe drought are other climate change impacts that undermine the efforts of SIDS in promoting sustainable blue economies. SIDS face disproportionate risks that often go beyond their coping ability while they also need to tackle pollution, overfishing, and IUU fishing. Building capacity for climate change adaptation is critical for strengthening local resilience. Tailored strategies must align with island contexts, integrating traditional knowledge with innovative solutions for sustainable practices. Regional and sub-regional cooperation among SIDS is essential to amplify voice, share resources, and scale solutions. Innovative and collective measures will be explored in order to build capacity to adapt to climate change in ocean and fishery sectors and to build resilient, inclusive and sustainable blue economies for SIDS.

Proposed speakers

- H.E. Steven Victor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment, Republic of Palau
- H.E. Esa Mona Ainuu, Minister for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Niue
- Ms. Leba Gaunavinaka, Technical Specialist, Adaptation Unit, Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister, Fiji
- Dr. Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Dr. Pio Manoa, Deputy Director-General, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
- Dr. Achala Abeyasinghe, Director, Investment Services, Green Climate Fund
- Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation