

Signing Page

The Cook Islands:



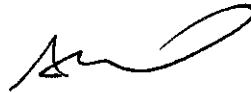
The People's Republic of China:



The Republic of Fiji:



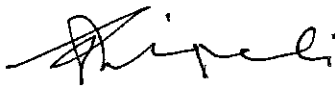
The Republic of Kiribati:



The Federated States of Micronesia:



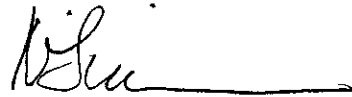
Niue:



The Independent State of Papua New Guinea:



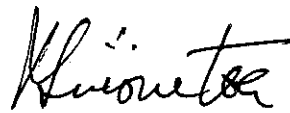
The Independent State of Samoa:



~~The Solomon Islands:~~



The Kingdom of Tonga:



The Republic of Vanuatu:



China-Pacific Island Countries Program of Action on Economic Development and Cooperation

Preface

The third China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum was held in Apia, Samoa on Oct 21, 2019. Attending the forum are Leaders, Ministers and other delegates from the People's Republic of China, the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga and the Republic of Vanuatu, as well as observers from the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.

I. General Provisions

1. China and Pacific Island Countries (hereinafter referred to as "the countries") will actively implement the consensus reached at the group meeting between the leader of China and the leaders of Pacific Island Countries in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in November 2018. The countries will work together to strengthen a comprehensive strategic partnership based on mutual respect and common development and build a community with a shared future for humanity.
2. Bearing in mind the Belt and Road Initiative, countries appreciate the positive progress in advancing mutually-beneficial economic and trade cooperation. Recognizing the diverse characteristics of the countries in terms of their economic development, the countries are willing to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation that is mutually beneficial for the peoples of the countries, following the principles of extensive consultation and joint contribution.
3. The countries share the view that sustainable development is key to responding to many global issues, hence the need for collective efforts, guided by the principles of innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing of experiences and ideas, to continue to advance economic development and cooperation between China and Pacific Island Countries to realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
4. The countries will insure that economic development and cooperation between China and Pacific Island Countries will be in accordance with the relevant international and domestic laws and national policies of each

country, and do not hinder the process of regional integration or the countries' efforts to meet their obligations under international treaties.

II. Inter-governmental Cooperation

5. The countries wish to maintain close interactions at all appropriate levels to strengthen and enhance mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral consultations on economic and trade relations and cooperation, so as to further our comprehensive strategic partnership in this regard.

6. The countries continue to support the idea of openness in the world economy by upholding economic globalization, the rules-based Multilateral Trading System while opposing unilateralism and trade protectionism. The countries will advance the common interest of developing countries and concept of inclusive growth globally. The countries agree to strengthen cooperation and advance positions that are of mutual interest and benefit.

III. Trade

7. The countries continue to strengthen trade cooperation by promoting openness and exploring avenues to expand bilateral trade. China welcomes Pacific Island Countries to continue to take advantage of platforms including the China International Import Expo to promote their competitive products and expand their exports to China.

8. The countries are encouraged to exchange views on free trade agreements, as needed, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

9. The countries will identify ways to strengthen cooperation on cross border e-commerce as means of expanding and upgrading bilateral trade as needed and where appropriate.

10. The countries will strengthen cooperation on trade in services by encouraging policy dialogue and information sharing, where appropriate, to foster an enabling environment for trade and investment in the services sector. This will include ensuring the private sector engagement.

11. The countries will strengthen exchanges and cooperation on inspection and quarantine at customs by engaging in cooperation on sanitary and phyto-sanitary compliance to ensure that the food and agricultural products entering the countries' markets do not harm or

threaten people and the environment, but also do not pose unnecessary barriers to trade.

IV. Investment

12. With the view of creating enabling environment for investment cooperation, the countries endeavor to consider ways to improve their investment environment and establish legal frameworks for investment promotion and protection.

13. The countries will enhance policy and information sharing regarding investment, and consider means of strengthening cooperation on investment, including the signing of the relevant memoranda of understanding. This may be achieved through dialogues on investment cooperation to encourage businesses to consider cooperation and to take advantage of investment opportunities that is beneficial for the investors and host country.

V. Cooperation on Infrastructure

14. Noting the importance of quality infrastructure, the countries may consider strengthening infrastructure connectivity through the appropriate dialogues and other mutually determined means, including through the signing of the relevant memoranda of understanding. Such cooperation may be in the following areas: transportation, communications, energy, electricity and tourism.

VI. Cooperation on Tourism and Transportation

15. The countries will encourage respective tourism promotion agencies and enterprises to engage in exchanges, and strengthen cooperation on the operation and management of the tourism industry. The countries will also encourage enterprises of both sides, where appropriate, to jointly develop tourism products such as cruise liners sailing from China to Pacific Island Countries.

16. Through bilateral consultations, the countries will explore ways to advance expansion of air services between China and the Pacific Island Countries and civil aviation cooperation through relevant competent authorities and entities. Such expansion and increased cooperation will be driven by market demand and in accordance with international law and standards.

17. China will continue to hold tourism human resources training sessions for Pacific Island countries, and help Pacific Island countries step up tourism promotion through platforms like the "China International Travel Mart". China will help develop, promote, encourage and support the concept of Sustainable Tourism to ensure support is given to protect the environment, culture and the local residence.

VII. Cooperation on Agriculture

18. The countries shall seek to conduct exchanges on agricultural policies where appropriate, and share best practices in relation to their respective agricultural development strategies. Noting the outcomes of the Nadi Declaration of the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting of China and Pacific Island Countries, and the 2020-2022 Action Plan on Agriculture Cooperation of China and Pacific Island Countries, the countries endeavor to set the direction and identify priority areas for agricultural cooperation, leverage their strength and identify complementarities, and boost agricultural development nationally and between the countries.

19. The countries will enhance trade and investment cooperation on agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery, and push forward cooperation on the sustainable development of fisheries sector. The countries can take steps to encourage enterprises to conduct cooperation on areas of infrastructure development for the agriculture sector, animal husbandry and fishery, crop planting, mariculture, farm machinery production, processing of agricultural and fishery products, and added value promotion. An emphasis of this cooperation is ensuring inclusive agriculture through the promotion of Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises and better integration of women into the sectors.

20. The countries will strengthen people-to-people exchanges and capacity building cooperation on agriculture and the cooperation on agricultural technologies.

VIII. Cooperation on Finance

21. The countries aspire to enhance exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Pacific Island Countries' financial institutions, and provide high quality financial services for enterprises and people from these countries. Subject to the law and regulations of each country, the countries support Chinese-invested banks in operating financial business and innovative financial products in Pacific Island Countries, and vice versa.

22. The countries will encourage enterprises to actively explore cooperation based on models of Engineering Procurement Construction, Public-Private Partnership and investment-construction-operation integration, and diversify financing channels for bilateral cooperation by virtue of export credit insurance or other internationally accepted financial instruments as and when appropriate.

IX. Cooperation on Environmental Protection and Climate Change

23. The countries agree to promote cooperation on sustainable and clean energy.

24. The countries shall seek to conduct cooperation on natural disaster management, including cooperation on earthquake monitoring and earthquake disaster resistance capabilities where appropriate, discuss cooperation on capacity building in meteorology. Other areas of cooperation may be explored with respect to marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, and the relevant capacity building for Pacific Island Countries.

25. Under the framework of South-South cooperation on climate change, China is committed to in-depth exchanges and practical cooperation with Pacific Island Countries, including implementing donation projects, and hosting training sessions with a view to increasing Pacific Island Countries' capabilities to mitigate, adapt and respond to climate change.

X. Cooperation on Capacity Building

26. With the view of building capacity of the Pacific Island Countries, the countries will consult and mutually determine training plans based on the needs of different countries, and carry out multilateral and bilateral human resources development cooperation projects.

27. In response to the specific requests by Pacific Island Countries, China will offer continued support to the healthcare development of Pacific Island Countries and dispatch medical teams to relevant countries as needed and where appropriate.

XI. Local Cooperation

28. The countries agree to continue to support Guangdong Province of China in introducing a batch of high quality and exemplary projects under the frameworks of local cooperation agreements signed between

Guangdong Province and individual Pacific Island Countries.

29. The countries seek to encourage cooperation at the sub-national and municipal levels, within the framework of cooperation established bilaterally.

XII. Follow-up Meetings

30. The fourth China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development and Cooperation Forum will be held in China, during which time the outcomes of the third Forum will be examined and evaluated.

The Program of Action is drawn up in Chinese and English, both versions being equally authentic, one for each participating country.

October 21, 2019
Apia