



# Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Nadi, Fiji

Hybrid Meeting: In-person and Virtual

## SESSION 8

TOPIC OUTLINE	
Title	Resilient Recovery
Coordinator	<p>Litea Biukoto, PIFS</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:liteab@spc.int">liteab@spc.int</a></p> <p>Napolioni Boseiwaqa, Government of Fiji</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:napolioni.boseiwaqa@govnet.gov.fj">napolioni.boseiwaqa@govnet.gov.fj</a></p>
Moderator	Dr. Viliamu Iese
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPC</li> <li>• Government of Fiji</li> </ul>
Background	<p>Disaster impact on Pacific Island countries is well chronicled and there is typically a significant hive of activity to develop a more comprehensive understanding of economic and social impact and in turn a comprehensive approach to disaster recovery planning and implementation.</p> <p>Countries such as Tonga are currently benefitting from assistance made available through donors such as the World Bank and other partners to strengthen and make infrastructure more resilient to future hazard events. In Tonga, over the period 2019 – 2021 a number of investments were made to rehabilitate/reconstruct schools affected by Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018. In RMI there is a USD50 million project that is seeking to construct specially designed seawall in Ebeye that would better protect the community from storm surge and king tides.</p> <p>The investment being made have yielded a number of interesting experiences including some of the challenges that the local industry and stakeholders must address to effectively 'build back better' or 'build forward better'. It has become obvious through the experience of Tonga and other countries that it is important to consider many implications of resilient investment planning and implementation, not the least of which is the sustainability of investments over the longer term.</p>
Description	<p>The facilitated discussion under this topic provides a link to the earlier topic on risk informed development. Discussion on the topic however takes a step further and acquaints Ministers with some of the challenges being faced through recent country experiences. The challenge faced by Tonga for example, in terms of local capacity to construct to donor-prescribed standards. The challenge in RMI on sourcing aggregates for major capital works from outside the country and the related costs of this. Other challenges deal with the ability of the local supply market to provide materials that meet acceptable standards.</p>

	<p>The discussion amongst Ministers will be preceded by a short presentation of the experience of Tonga and RMI in their existing attempts to develop more resilient infrastructure in terms of the reconstruction of schools following Tropical Cyclone Gita in Tonga in 2018 and the effort to construct coastal protection in Ebeye, RMI.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Moderator will reiterate the points in the presentation and request Ministers and stakeholders to discuss how best countries can address the challenges of resilient investment planning and implementation.</p> <p>Some questions to consider are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can countries more effectively address the challenges linked to BBB approaches?</li> <li>2. What is needed to ensure the longer-term sustainability of investments in resilient infrastructure?</li> </ol> <p>The Moderator will canvas responses from Ministers and other stakeholders and draw out a consensus on how resilient recovery from disasters can be enhanced. Follow up questions to support the dialogue may be asked by the Moderator if needed.</p> <p>The results of this discussion will help to frame commitments that Ministers can consider.</p>
Intended Outcomes	<p>§ Improved understanding by Ministers of the developments taking place in constructing resilient infrastructure and disaster recovery reconstruction</p> <p>§ Clear guidance on the actions that Ministers can take on this issue</p>
NDMO Preparations	<p>NDMO Directors (in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Works) will need to ensure Ministers are briefed on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The levels of pipeline resilient capital investments being pursued by countries</li> <li>2. Any issues and opportunities experienced in connection with disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts such as donor requirements.</li> </ol>