



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

2022 FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

Hybrid Meeting

11-12 August 2022

Secretary General's Opening Remarks

- Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Management of Vanuatu, Mr Johnny Koanapu Rasou,
 - Honourable Ministers of Finance and Economy of Forum Countries,
 - Senior Economic Officials of Forum Countries,
 - Representatives of CROP agencies and Development Partners
 - Excellencies, Distinguished Participants
 - Ladies and gentlemen,
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- As I said in my comments earlier, we are thankful to the Vanuatu Government for hosting this important meeting in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Calendar of Events. I thank the Prime Minister of Vanuatu for gracing the opening of our meeting this morning despite his many other commitments.
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- I would also like to thank the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for setting the global and regional scene for our meeting. His presentation provided very useful context and perspectives that are relevant for our consideration.
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- Honourable Ministers, we have important issues affecting the region that we need to deal with during our meeting and I am confident we will address these issues because our people expect us to do so.
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- As Ministers of Finance, you are well familiar with these issues and I would encourage frank interaction and sharing of ideas, experiences, especially success stories that would benefit our other Members dealing with the same issues.
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- As stewards of our region's financial health and wealth, the Pacific looks to Finance and Economic Ministers during this critical time for vision, prudence and innovation to balance austerity with economic prosperity and to lead our Blue Pacific with courage and dignity.
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- Thank you tumas.