



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

MEDIA RELEASE

(23rd September, 2025)

“Unity of the Forum Family at Pacific Leaders Reception”

Roosevelt Island, New York – 22 September 2025:- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders gathered this evening at The Sanctuary, Roosevelt Island for a reception held on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event was hosted to reaffirm the unity and shared aspirations of the Pacific Family as they continue to advance regional priorities on the global stage.

The evening’s programme began with welcome remarks delivered by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr. Baron Waqa.

The keynote address was delivered by the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Honourable Jeremiah Manele.

Tonga's Prime Minister Hon Dr 'Aisake Valu Eke, and Troika Leaders, President of Palau, His Excellency Surangel Samuel Whipps Jr., were in attendance, including other Forum Leaders, attending the UNGA80.

Guests were then treated to a cultural performance by the Pacific Islands New York Community, showcasing the rich traditions and heritage of the Blue Pacific.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks from the Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations, Her Excellency Mrs. Jane Waetara.

The reception provided an opportunity for Pacific leaders, partners, and the diaspora community to come together in celebration of Pacific identity, resilience, and leadership.

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