



## GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

### MEDIA RELEASE

(12 February, 2026)

#### **“Prime Minister takes on Champion Role for Weather Ready Pacific Programme.”**

**Nuku‘alofa, Tonga** - The Prime Minister, Lord Fakafanua, has formally accepted the role of Champion for the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Programme, coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific region’s leading environmental agency. His appointment underscores Tonga’s commitment to strengthening climate resilience and early warning systems across the region.

Confirmed during his meeting with the Director General of SPREP, Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, on 30 January 2026, the Prime Minister’s Champion role marks a significant step in supporting Pacific-led initiatives that address the growing impacts of climate change and strengthen community resilience throughout the region.

“The Weather Ready Pacific programme is about saving lives and protecting livelihoods from extreme events,” said Prime Minister Lord Fakafanua. “Reliable, timely, and accessible weather and climate information empowers our communities to prepare, respond, and adapt in a collaborative, transformative, and sustainable way. I am proud to champion this programme and to advocate for stronger global support for Pacific-led solutions.”

In this role, the Prime Minister will lend strategic leadership to elevate the programme’s profile with international partners and donors. His advocacy will help strengthen collaboration with development agencies, multilateral organisations, and climate finance institutions, positioning Weather Ready Pacific as a key initiative for protecting lives, livelihoods, and economic stability across the Pacific region.

The programme, developed by the Pacific for the Pacific through the Pacific Meteorological Council and endorsed at the 51st Forum Leaders Meeting, aims to strengthen National

Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), improve early warning systems, and ensure that life-saving weather and climate information reaches communities when it matters most.

The Champion role will also support alignment between regional priorities and global commitments under frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the UN Early Warnings for All initiative. By showcasing Pacific leadership and success stories, Weather Ready Pacific demonstrates the high return on investment that comes from strengthening meteorological services and early warning systems.

Prime Minister Lord Fakafanua's leadership underscores Tonga's ongoing commitment to climate resilience, regional cooperation, and advocating for stronger international support for Pacific nations in addressing the impacts of extreme weather and climate events.

**-ENDS-**