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Majuro Declaration sparks new wave of Climate Leadership

As the world grapples with the latest devastating scientific report on climate change, the [Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership](#) adopted at this month's Pacific Islands Forum gathered critical momentum this week with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joining the call for leadership and the United States, European Union, United Kingdom and the State of Hawai'i all signing up to be 'Climate Leaders' and listing more ambitious efforts to reduce and phase down greenhouse gas pollution.

RMI President Christopher Loeak presented the Majuro Declaration to the UN chief this morning, calling it a "Pacific gift" in support of Ban Ki-moon's own efforts to catalyze more ambitious action on climate change. On Tuesday, the Secretary-General challenged world leaders to bring "bold pledges" to his Climate Summit next September, en route to the inking of a new global climate treaty in 2015.

At today's meeting with Pacific island leaders, Ban said: **"Climate change is the greatest single threat to our sustainable development agenda and to our long-term security. Pacific Islands are among those that contribute least to global warming, yet suffer most. I congratulate you on the adoption of the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership. I commend your resolve to be 'Climate Leaders' and I join you in your call to others [to lead through action]."**

On Wednesday, the United States committed to the Declaration by submitting President Obama's new Climate Action Plan "as a broad set of additional actions announced in June 2013 to enhance efforts in furtherance of [its emissions reduction target]." Before meeting with Pacific Leaders in New York today, US Secretary of State John Kerry said: **"The US is deeply committed to leading on climate change. We will work with our partners around the world through ambitious actions to reduce emissions, transform our energy economy, and help the most vulnerable cope with the effects of climate change."**

The State of Hawai'i also became the first sub-national government to support the Declaration, with Governor Neil Abercrombie declaring: **"The State of Hawai'i stands with island nations around the world in recognizing the urgent threat of climate change. We have signed onto the Majuro Declaration to share our ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovative energy transformation."**

These positive developments follow President Loeak's address to the [UN General Assembly](#), his [opinion piece](#) in the *New York Times*, and a keynote speech at Columbia University's World Leaders Forum. The Marshall Islands also attended the US-led Major Economies Forum on Climate and Energy for the first time on Wednesday.

Speaking prior to his return home, President Loeak said: **"The US commitment under the Majuro Declaration is a big step forward. We want it to spark an upward spiral of more ambitious action, especially from the world's biggest emitters. The new IPCC report could not be clearer. The world must follow our lead and transition quickly to clean, green energy and a low-carbon future. Otherwise, my country is destined to go under the waves."**

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