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## Bainimarama: We are all in the same canoe together

# Climate action

By AVINESH GOPAL in Berlin

PRIME Minister and COP 23 president Voreqe Bainimarama wants to see climate action in the Pacific.

"We have a particular interest in our oceans and seas because they are our lifblood," he said while opening the 8th Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, Germany yesterday.

"Rising sea levels, as well as ocean acidity and warmer waters have a direct effect on our reefs and fish stocks and the prosperity of our coastal communities.

"So oceans and climate change aren't separate. They are interlinked.

"A point that I will be making very strongly in June when I co-chair with Sweden the Ocean Conference in New York.

"I will also be emphasising as the year unfolds the absolute imperative of a technological and business transformation that can make the economic lives of our people better, while at the same time reducing emissions.

"We are excited by some of the advances in renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicles and other innovations."

He said the challenge was to take these innovations and scale them up so that they could become more accessible around the world.

He also said Fiji would not be able to give voice to the most vulnerable as president of the process without the help of Germany.

"Indeed, the combination of Europe's

largest economy and a small island developing state like Fiji is symbolic of the kind of co-operation that we need to success..

"It is a partnership rooted in the firm belief of both our nations that the fates of the developed and developing world are inter-connected.

"To put it simply, we are all in the same canoe together. And the sooner that idea takes root around the world, the sooner we can provide hope and security for our own children and succeeding generations," he said.

■ Editorial comment on PAGE 8

Voreqe Bainimarama.  
Picture: SUPPLIED



## World urged to unite if US leaves

By AVINESH GOPAL in Berlin

THE rest of the world should stand united should the US leave the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Germany's Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks said this while addressing

journalists before the opening of the 8th Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, Germany yesterday.

Ms Hendricks said times had changed in international climate diplomacy and Germany had ratified the agreement in record time.

She said the US and China had a major hand in this success but there was uncertainty over the behaviour of the US.

"The German Government is reaching out to the US Government regarding the Paris Agreement. I cannot see the US leaving the agreement will be of economic benefit to it."

"But should it leave, then the rest of the world should stand united. The rest of the world supports the Paris Agreement," she said.

"China plays a major role and now China has a leading role in international climate diplomacy," Ms Hendricks said.

What do you think?



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