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To Whom It May Concern

Letter of support for the candidacy of **Amelia Kinahoi Siamomua**, candidate of the Kingdom of Tonga for the position of Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Amelia Kinahoi-Siamomua is a distinguished development economist who has served in senior positions in the Asia-Pacific and at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Amelia is now a candidate for election to the position of Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). I believe that Amelia is uniquely qualified to lead the PIF Secretariat at this critical time. Amelia's professional background in both economics and in regional and international organisations equips her to support the nations of the South Pacific to chart their future in the difficult environment of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond and of the impact of climate change, both of which impact on prospects for sustainable development in the region.

Amelia currently heads the Gender Section at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Her previous positions span the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Community, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, UNIFEM, and CARE International. As PIF SG, she will be able to draw on her many international linkages in navigating the current delicate international economic and trade ecosystem, climate change challenges, and social dialogues as she supports building a prosperous future for the Pacific Island Forum members.

If elected, Amelia would become the second woman to serve as Secretary General of PIF, following the distinguished tenure of Dame Meg Taylor. The governments, business community, civil society, women, and youth of the Pacific can be confident that Amelia as Tonga's official candidate for the position has what it takes to lead the PIF Secretariat and to support Member States future sustainable development.

I believe that Amelia will be able to provide leadership for the reforms needed to bring about a sustainable economic recovery and for the Pacific. Members of the Pacific Islands Forum would benefit from her leadership on strategic co-operation and better co-

ordination among them, and from her commitment to implement policies and programmes with empathy and care for the peoples of the region.

Amelia understands the PIFS and its processes. She has a wealth of institutional expertise having previously worked for the organisation. Her experience there includes having led preparations for small states meetings, technical assistance to the Forum Leaders' Meeting, the Forum Officials Committee, and other standard Forum committees.

I have no hesitancy in recommending Amelia as an outstanding candidate for the position of PIFS Secretary-General. She is a proven consensus-builder. She would enable PIFS to meet the requirements of its members and to address the evolving demands of the 21st Century well.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Rt Hon Helen Clark

**Former Prime Minister of New Zealand
Former UNDP Administrator.**