



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on

**Private Sector Engagement in Climate Change**

Between

**DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Private Mail Bag 9054, Port Vila, Vanuatu

**VANUATU BUSINESS RESILIENCE COUNCIL (VBRC)**

PO Box 2052, Port Vila, Vanuatu

VFSC Registration #500715

## Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are:

1. Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (the "VBRC"), PO Box 2052, Port Vila, Vanuatu
2. Department of Climate Change (the "DoCC"), Private Mail Bag 9054, Port Vila, Vanuatu

*(collectively referred to as "the Parties")*

## Recitals

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this MOU is to formalize a strategic partnership between the Government Parties and the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC), recognizing the VBRC as the principal focal point for private sector engagement in climate change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage in Vanuatu.
2. **Recognition:** The Parties recognize the critical and growing role of the private sector in achieving Vanuatu's climate change objectives, consistent with the Paris Agreement, the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016–2030 and Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030.
3. **Private Sector Focal Point:** This MOU establishes the VBRC as a recognized focal point for the private sector in Vanuatu for all climate change related matters, including but not limited to: climate change adaptation; climate change mitigation; loss and damage; climate finance; and public-private partnerships in climate action.

4. **NAB Participation:** The Parties acknowledge that the VBRC currently holds observer status on the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB) and recognize the aspiration of the VBRC to progress to full membership of the NAB, reflecting the growing necessity and involvement of the private sector in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage responses.
5. **Track Record:** The Parties acknowledge the VBRC's eight years of active participation in international climate change forums, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) and related processes, and its membership of the United Nations Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) since 2017.
6. **Intended Outcomes:** By entering into this partnership, all parties seek to strengthen Vanuatu's climate resilience, enhance private sector contributions to national climate objectives, and facilitate effective, inclusive and coordinated responses to climate change impacts and Hazards, strengthening private sector coordination in climate change Mitigation and Loss and Damage programming.

### **The Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC)**

The VBRC was established in late 2017 as a standing committee of the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote and strengthen mobilization of the local private sector to support the country in meeting its climate change and disaster risk reduction objectives.

The VBRC is a registered charitable organization under the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission, coordinating business engagement and multi-stakeholder partnerships between international and regional organizations, the Government of Vanuatu, civil society and the private sector in climate change and disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery initiatives.

The VBRC's mission is to provide a platform for the private sector to manage climate and disaster impacts to them, and to support government, civil society and development partners in building climate resilience, and in preparing for and responding to climate-related disasters and emergencies.

The VBRC is an active member of regional and international organizations focused on building resilience, including as a member network of the United Nations Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), co-managed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The VBRC is also a network member of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization's (PIPSO) Pacific Business Resilience Network.

Since 2017, the VBRC has participated in UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) processes and related international climate change negotiations, advocating for enhanced private sector engagement in climate action and supporting Vanuatu's positions on loss and damage, climate finance, and adaptation.

The VBRC currently sits as the official private sector observer on the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB), including the NAB's Climate Finance Working Group, Loss and Damage Working Group, Project Screening Committee, and the Logistics Cluster. Additionally, the VBRC participates in the Vanuatu Climate Action Network (VCAN) Climate Finance Working Group to improve collaboration with civil society. The VBRC holds observer status with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Parties support the VBRC's aspiration to progress from observer status to full membership of the NAB, recognizing that the increasing complexity and scale of climate change challenges necessitate enhanced private sector participation in national policy design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

## The Department of Climate Change

The Department of Climate Change (DoCC), established under the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), is the Government of Vanuatu's lead agency mandated to coordinate, implement, and oversee national climate change policy, programs, and projects. This mandate is guided by the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2016–2030), the DoCC Strategic Plan (2025–2030), and relevant national legislation and frameworks.

DoCC supports implementation of programming endorsed by the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB), and leads innovation in climate change initiatives across the country, and progresses compliance with international conventions to which Vanuatu is a signatory.

The DoCC works with all government and private sector stakeholders and NGOs working on climate change programs in Vanuatu.

## Roles and Responsibilities of the VBRC

As the recognized private sector focal point for climate change matters in Vanuatu, the VBRC agrees to undertake activities in the following key areas:

- a) **Climate Change Engagement:** Serve as a principal interface between the private sector and Government on all climate change related matters, including adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, and climate finance;
- b) **NAB Participation:** Continue to actively participate in NAB processes as an observer, contributing private sector perspectives to policy development, and work towards full NAB membership;
- c) **International Representation:** Support Vanuatu's delegations to UNFCCC COP and other international climate change forums, representing private sector interests and contributing to national positions;
- d) **Climate Finance:** Support the identification and development of private sector climate finance opportunities, including through the Green Climate Fund Private Sector Facility and other mechanisms;
- e) **Loss and Damage:** Support government efforts to access and utilize the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) and other loss and damage financing mechanisms, and contribute to loss and damage assessments;
- f) **Capacity Building:** Facilitate private sector capacity building in climate resilience, business continuity planning, climate change mitigation, and Loss and Damage programs
- g) **Coordination:** Coordinate with the Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) and other regional and international networks to share best practices and mobilize resources for climate action in Vanuatu. Lead coordination with private sector for initiatives supported by DoCC such as the Pacific Innovation Forum on Climate and Environment (PIFCE 2026).
- h) **Support Information management:** Support DoCC with information management programming including support to access ArcGIS.
- i) Ensure to regularly reporting is shared with DoCC on joint initiatives so that contributions from VBRC are properly communicated and can be acknowledged by DoCC. (Quarterly or biannual reports + Back to Office Reports after returning from travel from climate programming events). Reports should be shared with the Department of Climate Change to support documentation, coordination, and public awareness.

- j) Consult with DoCC during the initial stage design and formulation of any new climate adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage program proposals that VBRC seeks to develop.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of the Department of Climate Change**

The Department of Climate Change agrees to:

- a) Collaborate with the VBRC on climate change program development and implementation;
- b) Provide overall strategic direction for private sector engagement in climate change matters;
- c) Support VBRC in relevant climate change activities, bodies, and committees to enable private sector participation in policy design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- d) Provide technical support and information sharing on climate change initiatives;
- e) Support the VBRC's engagement in NAB processes and working groups.
- f) Recognize and promote the VBRC as a principal focal point for private sector engagement in climate change;
- g) Support the VBRC's aspiration to progress to full membership of the NAB;
- h) Support VBRC representation in national delegations to UNFCCC COP and other relevant international forums;
- i) Support private sector access to climate finance opportunities, including GCF, GEF, FRLD and other funding mechanisms.

## **General Provisions**

### **Duration**

This MOU shall come into effect on the date of signing by all parties and shall remain in force until terminated earlier by mutual agreement or by any party providing six (6) months written notice.

### **Review**

The parties shall review this MOU annually, to assess progress and identify opportunities for strengthening the partnership.

### **Amendment**

This MOU may be amended by mutual written agreement of all parties.

### **Non-Binding Nature**

This MOU represents a statement of intent and does not create legally binding obligations on any party. Implementation of specific activities under this MOU may be subject to separate agreements and the availability of funding.

### **Coordination**

The parties agree to meet at least quarterly or as otherwise agreed, to coordinate activities under this MOU and to address any issues arising from its implementation.


## Signatures

### Signed on behalf of the Department of Climate Change

Name: Nelson Kato

Date: 6/25/2026

Position: Acting Director

Signature: 



### Signed on behalf of the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council

Name: Klia Luen

Date: 6/25/2026

Position: Chairman

Signature: 