Seventh Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD)

21-22 November 2023

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Conference Hall, Suva, Fiji

Hybrid Format (in person and virtual)

CONCEPT NOTE & DRAFT PROGRAMME
(20 November 2023)

A. Background

The annual Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD) serves as a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss pressing and emerging issues confronting the Pacific region. The Seventh Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD) will focus on SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Sustainability is at the core of the 2050 Strategy and its Implementation Plan 2023-2030 that Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed at the the Fifty-Second (52nd) Pacific Islands Forum held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from 6-10 November 2023. The 2050 Implementation Plan sets the foundation for transformational change that balances economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship in alignment with global commitments and frameworks, and advocates for the interests of the Blue Pacific Continent on the world stage. The Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy is being carefully aligned with both regional priorities and national development goals, ensuring coherence, efficiency, and localised impact.

Key messages from the seventh PFSD will be presented to the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD), 20-23 February 2024, which outcomes will be reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), 8-17 July 2024, under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”.

As in previous years, the seventh PFSD will include opportunities for policymakers and stakeholders to interact and exchange solution-oriented approaches, and a capacity building element for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda with a focus on follow-up actions highlighted through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). The PFSD aims to showcase success stories and lessons learned as members shape the direction for a post-SAMOA Pathway framework.

B. Objectives

The PFSD, the Pacific preparatory multi-stakeholder meeting for the APFSD and HLPF, provides a unique platform to share perspectives and learn from one another on common priorities and approaches to address ongoing and emerging challenges of COVID-19, climate change and conflict for the Pacific member States.
The PFSD will include discussion on the progress in SDG implementation with a focus on SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17. A related objective is to focus on the VNRs and SDGs national implementation and follow-up actions, regional cooperation and global solidarity through a programme of actions for the SIDS.

C. Organization

ESCAP and PIFS will co-host the PFSD, along with the support of the CROP and UN system, including the Resident Coordinator Offices in the Pacific.

D. Participants

By invitation:

1. Representatives from Pacific countries and territories;
2. National Development, Economy, Planning, Climate change, Statistics and VNR focal points;
3. Representatives of CROP agencies, Pacific subregional organizations and associations, UN agencies and Development Partners; and
4. Private sector, academia, think tanks, and civil society representatives.

E. Expected Outcome

The outcome of the PFSD will include clear messages, priorities and recommendations from the Pacific to inform deliberations at the APFSD 2024, the report to the 2024 HLPF as well as other key regional and global engagements, including COP28.

The outcome documents and related resources including recommendations on the VNR process will be shared with participants and made available via the ESCAP website.

F. Further Information and Registration

The Seventh PFSD will take place from 21-22 November 2023 at the PIFS Conference Hall, Suva, Fiji in hybrid format (in person and virtual).

Participants will be required to complete online registration at https://forms.office.com/e/rwYwi8QNtb.

Further information including the final programme is available at https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-pacific-forum-sustainable-development and virtual Zoom connection details are available at: https://zoom.us/j/97375070896.

For any questions on the agenda and meeting procedures, please contact Ms Ranhee Kim, ranhee.kim@un.org and copy to escap-pacific@un.org.
## G. Draft Annotated Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Opening Session</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Master of Ceremony - <em>Ms. Tracey Robin Choko</em>, University of the South Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Opening Prayer:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Mr. Penisoni Naupoto</em>, Engagement Adviser, PIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Welcome Remarks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Mr. Lesikimacuata Korovavala</em>, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Special Remarks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana</em>, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Ms. Miliana Iga</em>, Coordinator, Pacific Youth Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introductory Remarks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Mr. Dirk Wagener</em>, Resident Coordinator, UN Multi-Country Office, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Tea/Coffee Break [ Group Photo ]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Stocktaking SDGs in the Pacific</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This session will set the scene for the two-day forum, providing an overview of efforts and progress made on the SDGs since the Sixth PFSD. It will discuss how the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration can support the Pacific’s priorities at COP28 and upcoming 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and High-Level Political Forum in 2024. This session will also discuss how efforts to achieve the SDGs complement the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> <em>Mr. Tingika Elikana</em>, Associate Minister, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introductory presentations:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <em>Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu</em>, Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Ms. Manaini Rokovunisei, Policy Adviser, PIFS

**Plenary Discussion:**

The session will discuss, among other things:

- Subregional progress in the Pacific to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Progress made since the 2022 PFSD based on the key recommendations while showcasing regional and national initiatives to accelerate the SDGs; and
- Highlight the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan in synergy with the key Goals of the 2030 Agenda that require accelerated Pacific-wide policy actions and strategic interventions.

**Wrap up session:**

**References:**

1. SDG Summit 2023, 18-19 September. Political Declaration | United Nations

| 11:00 – 12:00  
(60 mins) | Session 2: SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger) - Impact of Polycrisis on Poverty and Food Security |
|---|---|
| **11:00 – 12:00  
(60 mins)** | **Session 2a. SDG 1 (No poverty)** |

While extreme and absolute poverty is relatively low in the Pacific, an estimated one in four Pacific Islanders are likely to be living below their respective national poverty line. The war in Ukraine has exacerbated hardship, particularly for the most vulnerable, as food and fuel prices rise making basic needs increasingly unaffordable. Increasing adverse climate events across the Pacific are further threatening food security. This session will review SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger) in the context of their impact on hardship and food security challenges and solutions in the Pacific.

**Introductory presentation:**

- Mr. Travis Klaus Mitchell, Team Leader-Economist, UN Multi-Country
Talanoa session:
- Ms. Eseta L. Cama, Head of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- FC OSS Representative

Guiding questions:
- What are examples of hardship in your country?
- How have the food and fuel price increases affected the hardship and poverty situation in your country?
- How has climate change impacted hardship and the poverty situation in your country?

Wrap-up session:

References:

12:00 – 13:00 (60 mins)
**Session 2b: SDG 2 (Zero hunger)**
The second part of the session focuses on measures and initiatives to address food security and nutrition issues, drawing on experiences in the Pacific and exploring the enabling environment to support those measures.

**Moderator:** Ms. Vani Catanasiga, Executive Director, FC OSS

**Introductory presentation:**
- Mr. Joseph Nyemah Nyemah, Food and Nutrition Officer, FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands

**Issue presentations:**
- Ms. Temarama Anguna–Kamana, Head of Ministry of Agriculture, Cook Islands
- Mr. Moses J. Amos, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Vanuatu

**Plenary Discussion:**
**Guiding questions**
- What are the actions (policies, measures, etc) taken/required by governments to provide an enabling environment?
• What are the resources (administrative and technical capacity, finance, etc) required to upscale/effectively implement solutions and initiatives?
• What are the lessons from the (innovative) solutions and initiatives in the country and for the Pacific?

Wrap-up session:

References:

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Session 3: SDG 16 (Peace, justice, strong institutions) – Tackling the Challenges through Good Governance and Partnerships

Peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to sustainable development. This session will discuss the need to improve institutional readiness to strengthen governance in building resilience against future shocks and uncertainties. The discussion will also focus on leadership in delivering public policies through inclusive, participatory and accountable approaches at all levels.

14:00 – 15:30 (90 mins.)

Moderator: Country representative

Introductory presentations:
• Mr. Richard Howard, UN Resident Coordinator, Papua New Guinea
• Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser, PIFS

Issue presentations:
• Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
• Ms. Tuya Altangerel, Resident Representative, UNDP Pacific

Plenary discussion:

The session will discuss, among other things:
• Key policies and frameworks to improve institutional readiness in building resilience against future shocks in the Pacific;
• Promoting governance and leadership through inclusive, participatory and accountable approaches to accelerate SDGs in the Pacific.

Wrap-up session:

References:
1. A New Agenda for Peace. A New Agenda for Peace | Department of Political and
Peacebuilding Affairs (un.org)

2. Principles of effective governance for sustainable development, UNDP Governance principles (un.org)


Session 4: SDG 13 (Climate Action) – Accelerating Climate Action in the Pacific

This session will take stock of the outcomes from the 2023 Forum Leaders’ Meeting and hear key priorities of the Pacific which will be advocated at COP28. In addition, the session will focus on a targeted climate challenge which the Pacific countries are facing, that is, collective action and advocacy needed for transition from fossil fuel for keeping global warming to 1.5°C.

15:30 – 17:00 (90 mins.)

Moderator: Dr. Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner

Introductory presentation:
- Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser, PIFS

Panel discussion:
- Mr. Sergey Tulinov, UNESCAP and Ms. Florence Ventura, SPC
- Mr. Karunesh Rao, Chair of Business Disaster & Resilience Council, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation

Plenary discussion:
Guiding questions
- How can the decisions of the Forum Leaders and Pacific priorities be advocated at regional and global fora, including at the upcoming COP28 and the APFSD and what is the role of governments, regional and international organizations and the private sector?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for the Pacific in transitioning from fossil fuel?

Wrap-up session:

References:
- Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting: EFATE outcome statement, 12 May 2023. Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting: EFATE outcome statement | The Pacific Community (spc.int)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:15-18:00</td>
<td>Special event: Launch of UNESCAP Pacific Flagship Publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pacific Perspectives 2023: Advocating the aspirations of Small Island Developing States</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderator: Ms. Teea Tira, PACRES Coordinator, PIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key findings of the publication:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special remarks:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr. Tingika Elikana, Associate Minister, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr. Kamal Krishnan Gounder, Head of Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance, Fiji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ms. Virginia Dawson, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; Trade, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• PRNGO Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00-19:30</td>
<td>Networking Reception @ The Fale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 2 | Wednesday, 22 November 2023**

**09:00 – 10:50**

**Session 5: Accelerating Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)**

This session will focus on SDG implementation progress through VNRs and allow for sharing of experiences and the lessons learned from stakeholder engagement, particularly on follow-up of national commitments. This session will also deep dive into the SDG progress tracking and indicators guidelines, against the backdrop of multiple reporting obligations of governments under the global, regional and national frameworks.

**9:00 – 9:45**

(45 mins)

**Moderator:** Mr. Shiri Krishna Gounder, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Fiji

**Introductory Presentation:**

• Ms. Gabrielle Emery, Head of Pacific Subregional Office, UNDRR

**Panel discussion:**

• Mr. John Ezra, Director, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination, Vanuatu
• Ms. Charlene Mersai, Bureau of Budget & Planning, Ministry of Finance, Palau

**09:45 – 10:25**

(40 mins)

**Group Discussion (Break out room) for Session 5**

• Group 1: Post SDG-Summit Follow-up (in-person)
10:25 – 10:50  
(25 mins)  
**Plenary Session for Group Discussion for Session 5**  
Report back by each Working Group  
Wrap-up session  

10:50 – 11:10  
Tea/Coffee Break  

**Session 6: SDG 17- Fostering Stronger Regional Cooperation and Partnerships for Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**  
This session will look at the actions required to implement the high impact Pacific-led initiatives identified at the SDG Summit in September 2023. This session will also explore ways to strengthen partnerships between governments and an array of stakeholders on key areas of SDG acceleration such as energy compacts, social protection and digital services. The implementation of the high impact initiatives, in close collaboration with CROP agencies, will complement the 2050 Strategy by prioritising human capital, supporting education, healthcare, technology, and innovation, and laying the groundwork for long-term growth and prosperity.

11:10 – 11:55  
(45 mins)  
**Moderator:**  
Country representative  

**Introductory presentations:**  
- **Mr. Friedrich Soltau**, Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, SDG Unit, UNDESA  
- **Mr. Denton Rarawa**, Senior Economic Adviser, PIFS  

**Panel discussion:**  
- **Ms. Sarah Nisbet**, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, New Zealand  
- **Mr. Neelesh Gounder**, Chief Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Fiji and Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of the South Pacific  
- **Mr. Aholotu Palu**, CEO, The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC)  

**References:**  

11:55 – 12:35  
(40 mins)  
**Group Discussion (Break out room) for Session 6**  
- **Group 1: SDG Summit-National initiatives (in-person)**  
- **Group 2: SDG Transitions (in-person)**  
- **Group 3: 2050 Strategy and Partnership for Prosperity (in-person)**  
- **Group 4: All three topics (virtual)**

12:35 – 13:00  
**Plenary Session for Group Discussion for Session 6**
### Session 7: Strengthening global solidarity for the SIDS Development Agenda

This session will highlight key messages from the “Nuku'alofa Outcome Document” of the Pacific Preparatory Meeting of the 4th International Conference on SIDS, 16-18 August 2023, Tonga. This session will also focus on how the SIDS’ development agenda can accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. This session will be an opportunity to highlight regional actions in shaping and advancing long-term Pacific SIDS’ priorities that will feed into the 4th International Conference on SIDS to be held from 30 May – 1 June 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 14:00 – 15:30| **Moderator:** H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, High Commissioner of Samoa to Fiji

**Introductory presentations:**
- Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, UN DESA
- Ms. Ma’u Leha, Director, National Planning Department, Prime Ministers’ Office, Tonga

**Issue presentations:**
- Ms. Nicole Napihin Masta, Senior Aid Coordinator, Department of National Planning, Papua New Guinea
- Mr. Setareki Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum
- Mr. Faaso’otauloa Sam Saili, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, SkyEye

**Plenary discussion:**
The session will discuss, among other things:
- Mainstreaming key Pacific SIDS’ priorities in view of the upcoming 2024 4th SIDS Conference
- Highlighting key development partnership initiatives in the Pacific to accelerate SDGs implementation.

**Insight-regional to global:**
- Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, ESCAP
- Ms. Tishka Francis, Head, SIDS Unit, UNOHRLLS

**Wrap-up session:**

**References:**
1. *Nuku'alofa Outcomes Document*, Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Pacific region | Department of Economic and Social Affairs (un.org).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30 – 16:00</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
<td><strong>8: The Way Forward and Closing Remarks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This session will identify the key messages from the 2023 PFSD sessions, identify priority actions and the way forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Mr. Tingika Elikana</strong>, Associate Minister, Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Closing remarks:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mr. Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary General, PIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Conclusion of the 7th PFSD</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get connected. Follow us.

- www.unescap.org
- facebook.com/unescap
- twitter.com/unescap
- instagram.com/unitednationsescap
- youtube.com/unescap
- linkedin.com/company/united-nations-escap