Regional Coherence and Sustainable Development:

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent & Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development

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Forum Leaders’ Decisions

• Escalating climate change related impacts and the intensification of geostrategic competition is exacerbating the region’s vulnerabilities.

• The future prosperity and viability of the Blue Pacific requires a *long-term vision and carefully considered strategy for regionalism*, and a collective commitment to achieve it.

• Leaders have called for the development of a *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, to be prepared for Leader’s consideration in Vanuatu at their Forum next year.

• Leaders tasked the review of the regional CROP architecture to re-examine and ensure the requisite governance and resourcing arrangements that promote, govern and deepen collective responsibility and accountability to deliver the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

• Such a strategy is likely to be a significant undertaking if it is to be developed in a way that is robust, comprehensive, and most importantly, owned and driven by the people of the Pacific.
Forum Leaders’ Decisions

Cornerstone Priorities:

• Climate change action;
• Protecting our Ocean’s health and integrity;
• Sustainably managing our island and ocean resources;
• Connecting our oceanic continent (air, sea and ICT) and
• Ensuring healthy people in the region
The 2050 Strategy

• The Pacific Islands Forum has successfully forged a community of nations that co-exist peacefully and work collectively on a range of trans-boundary issues.

• But today, the future viability of our Blue Pacific is not guaranteed.

• What could or should the PIF community of nations do to assure the future viability of the Blue Pacific? In what ways can the PIF work together to combat the key threats and maximize the opportunities for securing a viable future for our region?

• The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent seeks to address these questions by identifying where and how the countries of the Pacific should work together as one ‘ Continent’.
Sustainable Development in the Pacific
Total value of the fishery production in PICTs waters is $3.6 billion, $2 billion was taken by offshore fishing fleets.

Achieved 8% of 10% target for MARINE CONSERVATION

The Pacific is making good progress towards achieving marine life protection.
Climate Change: The greatest threat to the region

Cost of natural disaster to GDP:
Fiji 30% and Vanuatu 64%

Natural disasters cost Pacific island countries an average of 2% of their GPD each year

Six of the 15 most vulnerable countries in the world are in the Pacific

It is anticipated the impact of global warming on coral reefs will seriously impact earnings from fisheries & tourism

-20% -30%
One in four Pacific islanders live under their national poverty line.

Unemployment, particularly of women and young people is a major concern.

Vulnerabilities and inequality are increasing especially pronounced between urban and remote rural communities and amongst men and women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

On average men outnumber women in formal employment:
- Pacific 2-1
- Melanesia 3-1

Women are significantly under-represented in Pacific parliaments.
15% of the total Pacific population is living with some kind of disability.

Vulnerabilities and inequality are increasing especially pronounced between urban and remote rural communities and amongst men and women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Pacific governments are providing extremely low levels of finance to certain sectors.

High numbers of Pacific women experience sexual violence by their intimate partner.

Vulnerabilities and inequality are increasing especially pronounced between urban and remote rural communities and amongst men and women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Pacific governments are providing extremely low levels of finance to certain sectors.

NCDs ARE AT CRISIS LEVELS IN THE PACIFIC

OF DEATHS IN THE PACIFIC ARE DUE TO NCDs

OF DEATHS IN TWO PACIFIC COUNTRIES ARE DUE TO NCDs
2019 Communique: Leaders emphasised the importance of genuine partnerships that reflect the collective priorities of the region and engages all Forum Members, reaffirming our Blue Pacific approach.

- Partnerships and engagement with non-state actors improving but still a challenge
- Partnerships with development partners improving but still challenges

Still challenges with quality and use of public financial management systems:
The Pacific lags behind (46%) the rest of the global average (52%) in terms of levels of use of PFM Systems.
• Significant partnerships and commitment for SIDS
  • From 304 in 2014 to 527 in 2018
  • Around 2.3b pledged over 4 years across 223 partnerships for the Pacific
  • Focus of the partnerships are aligned to Pacific’s transboundary priorities of oceans and climate change as well as Means of Implementation and economic development
  • 62% of the partnerships for which the Pacific SIDS lead on can and should be accounted for at the regional and country levels (74 National and 60 regional)

• Challenges remain
  • Accountability – limited numbers have reported officially
  • Limited awareness and tracking at country level of the partnerships
  • Limited funding, human resource capacity are key challenges hindering progress
Scope and Intent

• Game Changing Regionalism opportunities
• Policy Roadmaps/Pathways

Past Initiatives
Current Initiatives
Options for Next Steps
Near-term possibility (2-5 years)
Medium Term possibility (5-10 years)
Long term possibility (10-30 years)

2050 Blue Pacific Continent

Focus of Leaders discussions at Forum
Approach and Process

• Phase 1: Concept Development
  ✓ Develop possible future scenarios
  ✓ Identify regionalism opportunities
  ❖ Inclusive consultations

• Phase 2: Options Development
  ✓ Testing assumptions, scenarios and opportunities against evidence
  ✓ Constructing potential policy pathways
  ❖ Expert advice

• Phase 3: Refinement
  ✓ Agreement on 2050 Strategy options for Leaders consideration
Importance of Regional Coherence: Moving Beyond Business as Usual

• Silo approaches are not able to address increasingly complex challenges facing our region.

• Integrated approaches that take into account the interlinkages across the different pillars of development policies are critical to enhance growth, well-being and sustainable development.

• Without co-ordination, some populations and issues can fall between the cracks increasing marginalization of vulnerable groups and fragmented use of resources.

• There is a need for more strategic, integrated and co-ordinated work to identify strengths, align policy actions and develop a shared vision and implement important strategies.

• Strengthening inclusion and leaving no one behind by ensuring inclusive participation, equal access to rights & justice, resources (equity, coverage).
In conclusion:

• Leaders acknowledged the increasing strategic competition and cooperation in the Pacific and the opportunities presented for securing our Blue Pacific Continent. Leaders remained cognisant that the challenge for the Forum would be maintaining regional solidarity in the face of more intense political engagement, which may serve to divide the Forum collective.

• Leaders emphasised the importance of genuine partnerships that reflect the collective priorities of the region and engages all Forum Members, reaffirming our Blue Pacific approach.
Coordinating to succeed