



LISTENING TO THE PACIFIC

FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM REGIONAL INITIATIVE SUBMISSION TEMPLATE 2016

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism represents a high-level commitment to pursuing deeper regionalism and establishes a process for developing and prioritising regional public policy. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism. It also sets out an inclusive process by which anyone can propose ideas for regional initiatives to address key challenges facing the Pacific. For more information, [click here](#).

Regional Issues and Guidance

When preparing your submission, think carefully about why this is an issue of regional significance and why it should be placed before the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum. For further information on the process and types of submissions being sought, please refer to the guideline below.

To Submit a Regional Initiative

1. Complete the below regional initiative template below.
2. Submit initiative to the Forum Secretariat by deadline: **5pm, Fiji time, Sunday 10 April 2016.**
3. Initiatives should be submitted to the Forum Secretariat, through one of the following ways:



FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM – REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Please complete each section below.

1. Contact Details

Please provide the following contact details:

Name of individual or group submitting initiative

Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane

Name and position of primary contact

Peter Arndt

Email address

[_____](#)

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

2. Name of Initiative

The PIF to Take Action on Human Rights in West Papua at the UNGA and the UNHRC



3. What is the common regional issue or challenge that this regional initiative aims to address?

You may also want to address the following: What are the causes of this issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

We make this submission hoping that the PIF will build on its efforts in 2015 to address the serious human rights situation in West Papua.

Last year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting resolved to seek the agreement of the Indonesian Government to a high level Pacific human rights fact-finding mission to West Papua. To date, the Indonesian Government has not officially responded to approaches concerning this proposal although various Indonesian Government Ministers have made public statements which clearly indicate that the Indonesian Government will not permit such a mission to take place.

The PIF Leaders decision was made on the basis of substantial and compelling evidence of serious human rights abuses being presented to PIF leaders. Since the Leaders Meeting in Port Moresby in September 2015, the human rights situation in West Papua continues to be grim.

Our Commission's Executive Officer, Peter Arndt, visited West Papua in 2015 and 2016 with other Christian representatives and spoke to many church and community leaders about the state of human rights in West Papua. He also spoke to many survivors of human rights abuses. Papuans expressed enormous distress and concern about the human rights situation in their land. They told him of disruption of peaceful public assemblies by security forces, on-going beatings, torture, detention and killing of Papuans engaged in peaceful political activism and of citizens generally. In this year alone, while he was in Papua and soon after, he received reports of 27 tribal leaders being beaten severely by security forces because they complained about not being paid for their work, organisers of a peaceful opening of a United Liberation Movement for West Papua Office in Wamena being harassed and threatened with a charge of treason, and a number of activists gathered in a church in Timika to pray for independence being arrested by police. Large numbers of soldiers, police and intelligence officers were visible in public spaces throughout West Papua. Papuans also reported that any sign of significant public activity by peaceful political activists invariably results in a build-up of military numbers in those regions. The security forces are not used to protect the people but to intimidate, harass, control and oppress the Papuan people.

Indonesian security forces operate within West Papua with almost total impunity. Most of the beatings, torture and killings committed by security forces goes unpunished. The Indonesian Government has not reigned in its security forces in any way. A cloud of fear persists over the whole of West Papua because of the unchecked brutality of security forces and the Indonesian Government resists any attempt by other governments and international organisations to lift that cloud.

In Mr Arndt's most recent visit, he also heard the immense concerns of Papuans about their rapid economic and social marginalisation. Many tribal chiefs spoke to him about the lack of access of Papuans to education and economic opportunities and the loss of traditional culture because of massive land grabbing, official prohibitions on the practice of traditional culture and the imposition of Indonesian cultures resulting from the enormous influx of migrants from Indonesia over many years since Indonesian occupation.

Papuans are worried about their rapidly declining proportion of the population of their land. When they look at the combined effect of all these abuses of political, civil, economic and social rights, many Papuans Mr Arndt spoke with believe they are being subjected to a "slow burn" genocide.

Our Commission's official report on our most recent delegation to West Papua in February 2016 will be published in late April and it will be happy to provide this to the Forum Secretariat.



4. Briefly describe this regional initiative

You may also want to address the following in this section:

How would this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region?

Who are the main beneficiaries?

How would the initiative contribute to the vision, values and objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism?

Has the initiative been carried out previously?

What are the key risks in implementing this initiative?

Are there any complementary projects and programmes that are currently active?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

In the face of the Indonesian Government's refusal to enable a human rights fact-finding mission from the PIF, it is necessary for PIF leaders to work together to bring resolutions to both the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly to express the deep concern of the international community about the many credible reports of systematic and significant human rights abuses in West Papua and to call on the Indonesian Government to permit a credible, independent, international investigation into human rights abuses in West Papua.

The human rights situation in West Papua is a stain on the reputation of the Pacific region as a place of peace, harmony and respect for human rights. Decisive action by PIF leaders at the UN will give hope to Papuans who have suffered horrendous abuses for so long. Papuans have suffered enough and strong action by PIF leaders will give them hope that their suffering will soon end. It is important to stress that the existence of strong human rights standards are for the benefit of individual human beings, the "common people" as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls them; but, when all individuals in every part of the Pacific, including West Papua, can live in peace and safety without fear that their basic rights will be abused or ignored, the whole of the Pacific community benefits. Where all individuals are able to contribute to the life of their local and national communities as a result of being able to participate without fear or exclusion in the economic, social, cultural and political life of those communities, enrichment at many levels is made possible. When this happens consistently across all the communities of the Pacific, the life of each community in the Pacific is enriched and the interaction between such lively communities builds, harmony, peace and creative energy throughout the Pacific.

This initiative supports the vision, values and objectives of PIF. It contributes directly to peace, harmony, security and social inclusion within the Pacific. It addresses one of the key PIF values concerning the defence and promotion of human rights throughout the Pacific.

While individual Pacific leaders have spoken strongly at the UN General Assembly about the distressing human rights situation in West Papua, a concerted Pacific collaboration to effect an independent, international human rights investigation in West Papua has not been attempted to our knowledge. To our knowledge, no resolution seeking action to address the human rights situation in West Papua has been discussed at the UN Human Rights Council.

While such an initiative may risk developing tensions between the Indonesian Government and the PIF and its individual member countries, failure to act is likely to lead to a human tragedy of enormous proportions in the Pacific. How could the peoples of the Pacific and their leaders be at peace with their consciences if they stood by while a whole nation of Pacific peoples, their many cultures, traditions and values, disappear as a result of brutal repression and systematic marginalisation?



5. Why does this initiative require the attention of the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum?

Please consider whether this initiative requires the attention and consideration of the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in order to be implemented and outline why this is the case. Could it not be overseen or implemented at the level of Ministers, officials or by a regional agency?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

Systematic human rights abuses are deeply entrenched and long running in West Papua. The Indonesian Government, through its military approach in West Papua, has successfully isolated West Papua from international monitoring and investigation for many decades. Attempts by journalists and human rights organisations to investigate claims of human rights abuses have been thwarted by preventing such groups from entering West Papua, by evicting international organisations from West Papua and by imposing restrictions on the operations of development agencies which are allowed into West Papua.

Previous efforts by other governments, regional bodies and even UN special representatives to undertake human rights investigations have also been blocked by the Indonesian Government.

For too long, the Indonesian Government has thumbed its nose at other governments when they have sought to convince the Indonesian Government to allow international scrutiny of the human rights situation in West Papua.

The level of human rights abuses and the obstinacy of the Indonesian Government require a response at the highest level. Attempts have been made by leaders at the regional level to address this serious problem without success. It seems obvious that all these circumstances warrant action at the level of national leaders working collaboratively at the United Nations.

6. Attachments

Please attach additional information in support of this initiative.

Please attach no more than 3 pages.

7. Uploading initiatives to the Forum Secretariat website

In line with the process outlined in the [Framework for Pacific Regionalism](#), all submitted initiatives, inclusive of all attachments, will be publicly available via the Forum Secretariat website.

8. Guidelines and Contact Details

For further information on completing this template, consult the submissions guideline below or contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



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FORUM SECRETARIAT

Submission Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to assist those submitting regional initiatives through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. For more information contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:

1. About the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism represents a high-level commitment to pursuing deeper regionalism and establishes a process for developing and prioritising regional public policy. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism. It also sets out an inclusive process by which anyone can propose ideas for regional initiatives to address key challenges facing the Pacific. For more information, [click here](#).

2. How do I submit a regional initiative?

To submit a regional initiative, complete all sections of the submission template and submit to the Forum Secretariat by no later **5pm, Fiji time, Sunday 10 April 2016**.

Submissions must be made on this template. Submissions made directly via email, letter or other format will not be considered.

3. Who can submit an initiative?

Any interested stakeholder can submit a regional initiative. This may include individuals, or groups of individuals or organisations, including government, civil society (including church or religious organisations), the private sector, community groups, multilateral agencies and CROP agencies.

4. What information is required?

In completing the regional initiative template, you should:

- a. Identify and seek to respond to issues and challenges that are common to the Pacific region and that could be best addressed through a regional response.
- b. Demonstrate that a high level political decision needs to be made.

This is not a process for seeking endorsement of existing projects or activities. No standing fund exists in which to allocate funds to initiatives that are endorsed. Submissions that consist of projects or initiatives that may be ordinarily carried out under the governance arrangements or work-plan of the submitting organisation are unlikely to be successful.

- c. Demonstrate how the initiative would contribute to one or more of the objectives of the Framework for



Pacific Regionalism.

5. What assistance will the Forum Secretariat provide through this process

The Forum Secretariat will provide general advice and suggestions to those making submissions. This advice will include clarifying the information set out in this guideline, such as how initiatives can be completed and submitted; the type and level of information sought; the assessment process; and clarification of the overall process.

6. Assessment process

- Step 1** The Forum Secretariat will collate all submitted initiatives and check them for completeness.
- Step 2** The Forum Secretariat will, in collaboration with CROP agency officials and other experts as required, conduct a first round of assessment of all submitted initiatives using the tests for regional action (see Table 1 below).
- Step 3** The Forum Secretariat will provide all assessed initiatives to the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), which will assess initiatives against the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework (see Table 2 below). Reports on current regional initiatives under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism that are in progress will also be considered by the SSCR when they assess initiatives.
- Step 4** Based on its assessment of all submissions, the SSCR may recommend a limited number of initiatives to Forum Leaders. Those initiatives recommended to Leaders will be first sent to the Forum Officials Committee for commentary and incorporation on the Leaders' annual meeting agenda. Forum Leaders



will then receive the final recommendations of the SSCR and make decisions on these at the annual Forum Leaders Meeting. In 2016 this meeting will take place in the Federated States of Micronesia

Proponents whose initiatives have been selected for Leaders' consideration will be informed of this selection within two weeks of the SSCR's decision. All proponents will be informed in due course of the outcome of their submissions.

7. Leaders' decisions on initiatives

Forum Leaders' decisions on initiatives will be publicly announced through the Forum Leaders' Communique that is issued at the conclusion of the Leaders' meeting. As directed by Leaders, the Forum Secretariat will initiate implementation of the decisions in consultation with the proponent, the proposed implementing agencies, funding partners, and other relevant organisations or stakeholders.

8. Further help and feedback

For further information or guidance or to provide feedback on the process, contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:



Table 1 – Tests for Regionalism

TEST	CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
Market test	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
Sovereignty test	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
Regionalism test	<p>The initiative should meet one of the following criteria at a sub-regional or regional level, in support of national priorities and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ establish a shared norm or standard▪ establish a common position on an issue▪ deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope realise economies of scale▪ overcome national capacity constraints▪ complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public goods like security or the rule of law▪ facilitate economic or political integration▪ Where benefits accrue sub-regionally, the contribution to broader regionalism should be clear.
Benefit test	<p>The initiative should bring substantial net benefits, as demonstrated by a cost-benefit analysis. The distribution of benefits across countries and across stakeholders within the region should also be considered—particularly with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The relative costs and benefits for smaller island states (an “SIS test”)▪ How inclusive the proposal is of all stakeholders who might benefit from regionalism.
Political oversight test	The initiative should require the Leaders’ attention and input (as opposed to being within the mandate of Ministers or other governing bodies).
Risk and sustainability test	The initiative should demonstrate a robust risk and sustainability evaluation, be based on a sound implementation plan, be supported by some identified funding, and demonstrate available capacity and experience for successful implementation.
Duplication test	The initiative should not be currently under progress by another organisation or process, and there should be no duplication of effort.



Table 2 – Vision, Values and Objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Vision:

Our Pacific Vision is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives

Values:

- We value and depend upon the integrity of our vast ocean and our island resources.
- We treasure the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and seek an inclusive future in which cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed.
- We embrace good governance, the full observance of democratic values, the rule of law, the defence and promotion of all human rights, gender equality, and commitment to just societies.
- We seek peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring full security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific.
- We support full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific.
- We strive for effective, open and honest relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships—based on mutual accountability and respect—with each other, within our sub-regions, within our region, and beyond.

These Pacific regional values will guide all our policy-making and implementation.

Principal Objectives:

- Sustainable development that combines economic social, and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably;
- Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable;
- Strengthened governance, legal, financial, and administrative systems; and
- Security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all.