



## 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

<Enter text here>

Sisters of St Joseph Justice Network

Name and position of  
primary contact

<Enter text here>

Sister Susan Connelly. Member.

Email address

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

### 2. Name of Initiative

<Enter text here>

Admit West Papua into the Pacific Island Forum



**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.*

<Enter text here>

**See attached. I could not place text in this place.**

**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.*

<Enter text here>

**See attached**



**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.*

<Enter text here>

**See attached**

**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:



## 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
<b>Market test</b>	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
<b>Sovereignty test</b>	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
<b>Regionalism test</b>	<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"><li>▪ establish a shared norm or standard</li><li>▪ establish a common position on an issue</li><li>▪ deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope realise economies of scale</li><li>▪ overcome national capacity constraints</li><li>▪ complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public goods like security or the rule of law</li><li>▪ facilitate economic or political integration</li><li>▪ Where benefits accrue sub-regionally, the contribution to broader regionalism should be clear.</li></ul>
<b>Benefit test</b>	<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"><li>▪ The relative costs and benefits for smaller island states (an “SIS test”)</li><li>▪ How inclusive the proposal is of all stakeholders who might benefit from regionalism.</li></ul>
<b>Political oversight test</b>	The initiative should require the Leaders’ attention and input (as opposed to being within the mandate of Ministers or other governing bodies).
<b>Risk and sustainability test</b>	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.
<b>Duplication test</b>	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.

### **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 support the goal of the nations of the Pacific region that their peoples live free, healthy, and productive lives. We acknowledge that these nations value and honour all their cultures, traditions and religious beliefs, that they consider that people are equal, and that the defence and promotion of all human rights is the basis of just societies.

It is of particular concern to us that the peoples of West Papua (the provinces of Papua and West Papua) are experiencing severe challenges to their participation in these goals and values at the present time.

The fundamental problem is the basis on which West Papua was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969. The process consisted of a statement written by the Military declaring that Papua was part of Indonesia which was read aloud and accepted by just over 1,000 hand-picked leaders, whose opposition had been weakened by separation from family and supporters for weeks and the threat of reprisal if they didn't comply. This so-called "Act of Free Choice" is popularly known among Papuan people as the 'Act of No Choice'.

That basic problem aside, the condition of the people points to deficiencies in government policies and practices in the decades since Indonesia took control.

The Papuan people do not enjoy equality in their ancient land. The deaths of hundreds of thousands over the last half century, as well as the high volume of government-sponsored migrants from Java and other areas, have reduced the indigenous population from 96% forty years ago to about 48% now.

Not only are there concerns about the ethnic make-up of West Papua, but there are serious pressures on the cultures, religions and human rights of the remaining Papuans.

The allocation of huge tracts of land to multi-national companies is a threat both to the environment and to the traditions of the people. The replacing of the forests by palm oil plantations and the use of widespread single crops is contributing to erosion and soil degradation. The practice is affecting climate change, as the Papuan forests are akin to those in the Amazon in their role in the health of Earth. Non-involvement of Papuan people in land management destroys their way of life but also deprives the normal process of development of the very expertise which is needed.

The Special Autonomy which was established to provide incentives for economic development has not been a success. Finances which may have flowed to West Papua have not benefitted the Indigenous people, putting Papuans on the outside of economic growth. There has been no understanding or development of the traditional methods of producing and selling goods, and instead the practices of outsiders have taken over, forcing Papuans to sell their produce on the streets. They cannot make enough money to buy or rent a shop, nor to finance loans, with the result that only the migrants have the infrastructure necessary for progress. This situation applies across the provinces.

Lack of economic opportunity affects the ability of Papuans to access good education and skills training, and the vicious circle continues.

Hospitals are said to be not the place for healing, but for dying. There are too few nurses and doctors and very limited services. In emergency departments, the non-Papuans get preferential treatment.

The people experience fear and resentment about the overwhelming presence of Indonesian military and police in every area in West Papua. This strong military and police presence itself creates conflict, and the security budget is increased to enable the military and police to deal with it. Furthermore, a force raised in Indonesia in recent years to deal with terrorist threats, and partly financed by international partners, Densus 88, is used in West Papua to deal with anti-government incidents, e.g. West Papuan flag raising and public meetings. Thus, the political rights of people are being eroded further in the name of protecting the state from terrorism.

The situation of the West Papuan people is dire. No progress has been made towards their happiness or fulfilment over the past decades, and now they say they are in danger.

For these reasons, it is imperative that the West Papuan people be invited to take their rightful place at the table in the Pacific Island Forum. Their voices must be heard among their brothers and sisters in the region.

#### **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.***

Numerous human rights abuses have occurred recently in West Papua, making the situation in the territory similar to that which has applied for nearly 60 years. This fundamental problem could be assuaged by the membership of West Papua in the Pacific Island Forum. The reason for this is obvious: where silence and concealment are allowed to reign, individuals, groups and governments have been known to continue practices to which a more open process would pose a challenge. Where transparency is accepted and the rule of law is applied, a brake is put on actions because of the possible consequences to the perpetrators.

This was the case with Timor-Leste from 1975 to 1989. During this first period of the 24-year occupation, East Timor was closed to the world and the killings and torture through which the pacification of the people was sought went unreported. The hidden nature of the crimes against humanity prevented justice being done.

The same is true for West Papua. The unwillingness of the Indonesian government to discuss the situation with the West Papuans, the crack-down on assemblies of the people, and the prevention of visits by journalists are designed to limit knowledge of what is going on. The fact is that the human rights of people in West Papua are under serious and escalating threat. It is also true that Indonesia has failed to deliver the services, protection, education, and opportunities which each

and every government is required to provide for its people.

One of the contributors to East Timor's oppression during the 1980s was Australia's argument that East Timor be taken off the agenda of the UN, thus encouraging other nations to ignore the situation. Resisting Indonesian calls for West Papua to be removed from any international forum is necessary if the human rights of the people are to remain to the fore. Membership of the Pacific Island Forum would make a difference to the fortunes of the West Papuan people because it would provide a deterrent to Indonesian military agencies concerning their current practices.

Ultimately, the ULMWP wants the Pacific Island Forum to send a human rights fact finding mission to West Papua. This initiative is essential for the future of the West Papuan people and it should be carried out freely and without official constraint. To have West Papua's voice at the PIF would be another avenue of pressure upon Indonesia to allow this to happen. It is imperative that West Papua attends the next Forum meeting in the Federated States of Micronesia in September 2016.

The work of the Pacific Island Forum to be open to citizen engagement as in this opportunity to comment should be congratulated, as it provides an example of leadership to all other nations in the region. The PIF's inclusion of West Papua at its table would indicate that it exists for all relevant peoples, and that its charter applies even in difficult and risky situations, as is the case with West Papua.

## **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.***

The situation of West Papua's status as two provinces of Indonesia places West Papua's membership of the PIF outside the jurisdiction of the Indonesian government for the simple reason that it would never be allowed. The PIF's criteria of Sovereignty does not apply in this case, because of the peculiar nature of the original incorporation of West Papua. This incorporation is rejected by many Papuans, and although it was conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, it is increasingly seen as an aberration, and is an embarrassment to 21st century civilisation. It is neo-colonialism of the highest order, made even worse by the fact that it happened in the 20th century as the old colonial powers were divesting themselves of their colonies in acknowledgement of the rights of all peoples to self-determination.

Indonesia's pursuit of control of West Papua was partly an exercise in expansionism, a desire to take the whole of the archipelago and to be the full successor of the Dutch colonisers. But as the Papuan people realise all too well, it was also partly for the riches of the land of Papua and of its contribution to the coffers of Indonesia. The people say, "They want our land, but they do not want us."

It is necessary for the PIF to take some responsibility to allow the voice of the Papuans to be heard, because without such forums, the Papuan people's slide into obscurity then obliteration will be complete.