



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

Pasifika

Name and position of primary contact

Dr Jason MacLeod, Coordinator of Pasifika, a regional NGO based in Vanuatu and Australia

Email address

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

2. Name of Initiative

West Papua: the need for the PIF to take the issue to the United Nations



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.

Last year, through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, West Papua, the Pacific's longest running conflict was listed as one of five prominent agenda items to be discussed at the Pacific Island Forum in Port Moresby.

At their meeting in September 2015 Pacific Island leaders agreed in their [46th communique](#) (points 16 and 17) that a human rights fact finding mission to West Papua was urgently needed.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill was tasked with formally approaching the Indonesian government about the human rights fact finding mission (HRFFM).

Unfortunately, the HRFFM has not eventuated.

At the same time serious cases of human rights violations have continued. The Indonesian government has failed to protect West Papuans right to safety and to peacefully express a political opinion. Despite being granted observer status at the Melanesian Spearhead Group, West Papuan leaders from the ULMWP continue to be harassed. Since the previous leaders meeting Edison Kendi was jailed in Serui and Apolos Sroyar, Wamoka Yudas Kossay, and Dorteus Bonsapia were all jailed in Biak. All four men were imprisoned for nonviolently expressing their support for the ULMWP.

In December 2015 four West Papuans were shot dead by Indonesian police and military simply for raising the West Papuan flag. That same month 49 West Papuans were arrested in Nabire for organising a prayer service while in Jakarta 306 West Papuan students calling for West Papuan's right to self-determination to be respected were arrested by Indonesian police.

In February 2016, ULMWP leaders Edison Waromi and Markus Haluk of the ULMWP were accused of treason simply for opening an office and holding a peaceful ceremony and earth oven. Fr John Djonga, a local Catholic Priest, was questioned for five hours by police and also threatened with treason. Then on 7th of April Steven Itlay and Jus Wenda were arrested and charged with treason for organising a prayer service in support of the ULMWP.

Serious human rights cases like the shooting of four unarmed school children in Enarotali on 8th December 2014 remain unaddressed and the perpetrators, officers from the Indonesian police and military, are still free. Although the Indonesian National Commission for Human Rights (KomNasHAM) remains ready to address the case the Coordinating Minister for Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights refuses to release funds for them to do so. My colleagues and I have met the family members and they are distressed that there has been no justice. They are scared because they continue to be threatened by the security forces who watch their every move and interrogate them whenever they meet as a group.

While these individual cases are distressing in themselves what makes the situation worse is that they are



illustrative of the fact that the Indonesian government is unable and unwilling to address human rights cases in West Papua. Widely respected human rights organisations like KomNasHAM, the Asian Commission for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, the International Coalition for Papua together with local human rights defenders like ELSHAM (The Institute for the Study and Advocacy of Human Rights in West Papua) and West Papuan human rights lawyers like Gustaf Kawer and Yan Christian Waranussy all state categorically that the legal and political institutions have failed to protect human rights in West Papua.

Failure to address civil and political rights and the impunity of the police and military is not the only problem. West Papuans economic, social and cultural rights are also under threat. Indonesian and transnational corporations continue to seize indigenous land. There is no form of legal redress and indigenous people's right to free and fair consent is not respected or guaranteed by the state. The situation of the 1.2 million hectare land grab as part of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate is but one example.

In order to ensure these state crimes do not gain international attention the Indonesian government continues to restrict journalists, diplomats and other internationals from visiting West Papua (Human Rights Watch, 2015). Since the last PIF meeting the media has also reported and colleagues have confirmed that international non-government organisations will be expelled from West Papua. This will deepen West Papua's international isolation and increase the government's lack of accountability.

The most serious concern of all is perhaps unregulated migration. According to my colleague Dr Jim Elmslie (2013) from the West Papua Project at the University of Sydney, by 2020 it is anticipated that West Papuans will make up 28.99% and non-Papuans 71.01% of the total population, further alienating West Papuans from their land and contribution to a deepening marginalisation. Demographic change coupled with the allegation that the Indonesian government is intentionally trying to exterminate pro-independence West Papuans (Elmslie and Webb-Gannon 2013) makes addressing human rights in West Papua not only serious but extremely urgent.

If the PIF leaders are unable to secure a fact finding mission then it is necessary to take the Indonesian government's failure to protect West Papuans human rights to the United Nations.

Notes:

Elmslie, Jim., 2010, 'West Papuan Demographic Transition and the 2010 Indonesian Census: "Slow Motion Genocide" or not? ', CPACS Working Paper No. 11/1 September, University of Sydney.

Elmslie, Jim and Camelia Webb-Gannon, 2013, 'A slow-motion genocide: Indonesian rule in West Papua', *Griffith Journal of Law and Human Dignity*, Vol 1(2), pp. 142-165.

Human Rights Watch, 2015, 'Something to Hide', <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/11/10/something-hide/indonesias-restrictions-media-freedom-and-rights-monitoring-papua>, accessed 09 April 2015.

International Coalition for Papua, 2015, 'Human Rights in West Papua 2015', International Coalition for



Papua, <http://humanrightspapua.org/hrreport/2015>, accessed 09 April 2015.

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.

West Papua is the most pressing foreign policy challenge for the region alongside decolonisation of Kanaky (New Caledonia) and Maohi Nui (French Polynesia). Together with and climate change it is arguably the most important issue for the Pacific. Incidentally resource extraction in West Papua – including massive logging and palm oil plantations which all have links to the Indonesian military and police –is driving climate change.

The world is increasingly looking to the Pacific to show leadership on the question of West Papua. Addressing the conflict through peaceful Pacific Island diplomacy will benefit West Papuans, Indonesia and the region, even though this path will not be easy.

Taking the issue of the failure of the Indonesian government to address human rights abuses in West Papua to the United Nations is a dignified, peaceful and diplomatic response to the regions most protracted conflict.

Failure to do so will compel West Papuans to escalate the conflict. Even if this is done through nonviolent means it will involve considerable disruption, raising the economic and political costs for Indonesia and Papua New Guinea in the first instance, then the entire region.



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.

Increasingly West Papua is becoming a domestic foreign policy concern for Pacific Island nations.

As inter-connectivity and West Papuans command of English improves this will increase, pushing the issue to the top of Pacific Island nation's foreign policy agenda.

Growing domestic pressure will translate into growing regional pressure.

In the absence of action that pressure will continue to be felt at the MSG and the PIF and in other forums. It will dominate the agenda and make it more difficult for Pacific Island leaders to address other issues that are also important to the people of the region.

Pacific Island leaders through the PIF could play a global leadership role in addressing the conflict in a dignified and peaceful manner.

Failure to do so, or to lose control of the political process, is not in the interests of Indonesia or PIF members.

In the ULMWP the PIF has a partner. The ULMWP executive are experienced diplomats and are committed to nonviolently resolving the conflict.

It is significant that the PIF supported the HRFFM last year. Given the Indonesian government's failure to respond to this initiative it is time to escalate the response. If not, Pacific Island leaders will face electoral backlash at home.

By taking the issue of the failure of the Indonesian government to address human rights abuses in West Papua to the United Nations PIF leaders will clearly demonstrate the PIF's concern about their fellow Pacific Islanders.

By keeping West Papua on the agenda PIF leaders will demonstrate their respect for international norms, including human rights. This is about respecting human rights and recognising the failure of the Indonesian government to provide for the safety and security of indigenous Melanesians. Self-determination and respect for human rights in West Papua is a persistent and deeply held regional concern. Peacefully resolving this conflict is perhaps the most important foreign policy challenge for individual island nations, a growing concern for the region and a serious test of moral and political leadership for the PIF.



Taking the issue to the United Nations may even compel the Indonesian government to enter into political negotiations with the ULMWP which is necessary to resolve the conflict.

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

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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



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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.