



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:



Email

FPR@forumsec.org



Post

C/O Pacific Regionalism Adviser
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji



Hand Delivery

Reception
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ratu Sukuna Road
Suva, Fiji



Fax

+679 322 0215 Attention: Pacific Regionalism Adviser

Please note that all submissions must be made using this template.

For more information contact Pacific Regionalism Adviser Joel Nilon at the Forum Secretariat:
Email: FPR@forumsec.org | Phone: +679 322 0327

Feedback

Any feedback on this template or process: Email FPR@forumsec.org



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

Abdul Shameer Aziz

Name and position of primary contact

Abdul Shameer Aziz (Individual)

Email address

Phone number

Fax number

Mailing address

2. Name of Initiative

Reducing Energy Costs through Regionalism



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.

The common regional or issue that “regional issues or challenge that “reducing energy costs through regionalism” initiative aims to address is the high cost of fossil fuel imports in the Pacific and the level of dependency we have on it. The Pacific being made up of mainly developing island nations puts us in a position where the cost of renewable energy technologies are too high to be used as a mainstream energy source which is a reason why fossil fuel is still the main source of energy in the Pacific. The Fiji government in its budget announcement stated that Fiji would bulk buy fuel and then distribute to the oil companies hence reducing the fuel costs. This commitment by the Fijian government shows that Pacific Island nations are willing to think outside the box and develop new solutions.



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.

The “Reducing Energy Costs through Regionalism Initiative: is a step up version of what the Fijian government has embarked on through its budget announcement. Instead of only Fiji adopting this model, the region could establish a regional organisation which could bulk buy fuel for the Pacific. Further to this the region could also look into the possibility of having its own refinery where crude oil is processed and products produced for the Pacific market, which this the use of fuel mixtures at a regional level could also be looked at. A long term goal for this initiative could also be to sell products for the refinery to other countries as well. The market exists with fuel imports crossing the one billion mark.

The initiative would reduce fuel costs and help with the economic prosperity of the region. At the end of the day the people of the regional who are consumers would be the biggest beneficiaries from this. To my knowledge this initiative has not been carried out yet. One major risk for implementing this initiative is to look into the economic feasibility of having a refinery in the Pacific. Fiji having embarked on the bulk fuel purchase model and Fiji being the hub and the most developed island nation, regional neighbours could also adopt this model in collaboration with other member countries together with Fiji.



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 initiative requires the attention of the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum since the magnitude of this initiative is such that without a regional collaboration this would not be possible. The Pacific Islands Forum would be the best avenue to properly address this so that it could be further discussed and a method to properly execute this initiative be found so that the maximum benefit to the region could be gained.

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: Email: FPR@forumsec.org | Phone: +679 322 0327