



**PACIFIC ISLANDS  
FORUM SECRETARIAT**

## **LISTENING TO THE PACIFIC**

**FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM  
REGIONAL INITIATIVE SUBMISSION TEMPLATE 2016**



## FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM – REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

*Please complete each section below.*

### 1. Contact Details

*Please provide the following contact details:*

<b>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</b>	FemLINKPACIFIC in collaboration with GPPAC – the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
<b>Name and position of primary contact</b>	Sharon Bhagwan Rolls – Executive Producer-Director, FemLINKPACIFIC (Chairperson of GPPAC)
<b>Email address</b>	<input type="text"/>
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### 2. Name of Initiative

Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Gender Inclusive Conflict Prevention & Peacebuilding



**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.*

It is widely acknowledged that conflict prevention is a challenge that can only be addressed through the combined effort of many different groups, agencies and sectors. Such different groups working together on a common objective, is what makes a multi-stakeholder approach which can choose the most advantageous institutional forum for preventing and resolving a crisis.

This initiative responds to many prevailing root causes of conflict and (human) insecurities and lessons learnt from the efforts of civil society, including women's peace networks and the Pacific Islands Forum and other regional inter-government organisations in the Pacific to enhance the conflict prevention and human security agenda since 2007 in order to respond to the drivers of conflict, instability and insecurity include economic inequalities; land management and tenure systems; weak governance capacity; unemployed and alienated youth; increasing migration from rural to urban areas and poorly planned urbanisation; and inter-group tensions and the mobilisation of grievances and (mis)perceptions. The impact of climate change, including associated land and food insecurities and forced displacement require an enhancement of a multistakeholder approach.

This proposal is informed by the work of GPPAC – the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict which strives to demonstrate the importance of a united civil society in building and sustaining a durable peace. As GPPAC has found (see <http://kroc.nd.edu/sites/default/files/RICO%20print2.pdf>) *empirical studies show that civil society participation in support of negotiations is critical to securing long-term peace. High levels of civil society involvement are directly correlated with the sustainability of peace agreements. Civil society involvement helps to bring a broad range of social and political interests to the negotiating table, making the process more inclusive and participatory. Citizen groups tend to have direct communication channels with community leaders of aggrieved constituencies and can conduct back-channel, bottom-up discussions to encourage disaffected groups to seek political solutions. The participation of civil society enhances the legitimacy of the reconciliation process, builds social consensus around the terms of an accord, and helps to hold political elites accountable to their promised agreements.*

Furthermore, as the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP-WPS) (2012 – 2015) identified *in many violent situations in the Pacific region, women and women's organisations have demonstrated their capacity to contribute to solutions, whether as mediators or as part of groups working to improve conditions in local communities, or as providers of safe havens for women and children affected by violence and demanding accountability and respect for human rights. Women have generally been the first to actively work across ethnic divides at considerable personal and organizational risk. . If women and young women's contributions are recognized, sustained, strengthened and expanded, they can make a significant impact in realizing the Leaders' vision of a prosperous, stable and peaceful Pacific region and ensure conflict is avoided and peace is sustained.*

Regional intergovernmental organizations are increasingly playing a greater role in peace and security affairs. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has supported the delegation of some security responsibilities to RIGOs, within the limits of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. States are increasingly expected to submit disputes to RIGOs as well as to international institutions. An example of this can be seen during the 2011 Thailand-Cambodian border conflict when the UNSC referred the conflict to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for mediation. At the same time, the number of CSOs working on preventative diplomacy, peacebuilding, and effective global governance has grown exponentially in recent decades. The UN has encouraged cooperation between RIGOs and CSOs, calling for joint



strategies and a “division of labor” with CSOs that support Track II and Track III diplomacy, but the gap in implementation remains wide. CSOs complain that existing mechanisms for interaction with RIGOs are symbolic or do not allow CSOs any influence into policy making. RIGOs are very often unaware of the work that CSOs are doing and vice versa. In the absence of spaces for public participation, RIGOs also face broader credibility issues since they are not seen as useful instruments to the people they represent

The initiative will therefore work towards strengthening a gender inclusive multi-stakeholder approach in line with successive UN Security Council Resolutions and reports which requires a greater role for Regional Inter-Government Organisations to enhance inclusivity and contribute to broader ownership of conflict prevention strategies building and drawing on local efforts – including through a strong preventive action approach that will enable improved use of gender inclusive early warning- early response mechanisms incorporating peace education, dialogue and mediation and community based advocacy.

#### 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 complexity of global security threats and the rise of intra-state conflicts have prompted a growing regional approach to security management. To some extent, this responds to the realization that many conflicts are essentially regional and therefore the analysis of the causes and the potential responses should also be approached from a regional perspective.

The trend towards a regional approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding can be explained by three main factors:

- (1) conflicts are rarely isolated within the borders of a state,
- (2) those who are closer to the problem are often in better position to understand and influence it,
- (3) their proximity ensures that they have a long-term interest in its outcomes.

The analysis of the conflict dynamics as well as the policy responses should also take in consideration this regional dimension.

The Pacific Framework for Pacific Regionalism strives to meet a Pacific Vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives by ensuring stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all while also supporting the opportunity to enhance the recognition of the nexus between peace and human security sustainable development by contributing to the development of peace and security indicators which address economic social, and cultural development including environment security.



This initiative will support this vision through multistakeholder partnership within the Forum Secretariat and across CROP agencies that will enable Women's rights activists in the Pacific, Civil society organisations in the Pacific, Regional inter-governmental organisations, UN office in Pacific and regional media networks to work with the Pacific Islands Forum to review the strategies of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to develop a regional policy and programmatic framework that compliments and supports national efforts and provides guidance to national and local initiatives that will also help to save scarce resources, in order to:

- Strengthen civil society, women's groups, including young women and gender equality advocates engagement with regional security and conflict prevention policy and decision-making by drawing on the UN Civil Society Advisory Models to establish an advisory group comprised of women's peace and security experts, youth activists and civil society leaders (including from faith and media organisations) to provide strategic advice to the Secretary General Develop
- The advisory group will assist the Secretary General convene consultative forums at the local/national and regional levels to improve women and young women's leadership in conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping, security policy decision-making ensuring women's and girls' human rights are protected;
- Develop a partnership between government representatives from Pacific Island Countries and Territories, CROP and UN agencies and civil society, which will help to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication and overlap;
- Pool at the regional level Peace and Security technical assistance, capacity development support and financial resources;
- Collect, store and share research and analysis on gender inclusive conflict prevention and human security that will be used to inform regional and national policy and programming efforts;
- Publication of a policy guidebook that will tackle the key recommendations discussed and present case studies and good practices to further the work on equality and enhance cooperation and coordination among all the relevant actors and players in this field;
- Support reporting and monitoring of existing commitments and help to assess progress including linkages with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16

While there are a host of variables (risks) including funding, personalities, and the priorities shaped by broader cultural and political forces within CSO countries, or lack of clarity on defined thematic purposes this can be addressed by an initial step of working with regional civil society networks/organisations that have been working specifically at the regional and global level with national and local networks on peace and security priorities such as UNSCR1325 and the Arms Trade Treaty as well as supporting young women's leadership. Additionally it should further be recognised that the Pacific Island Forum through the PIFS-CSO mechanism for FRSC has previously used innovative approaches to engage with the FemLINKPACIFIC led UNSCR1325 network as well as collaborating with FemLINKPACIFIC and GPPAC Pacific on the Human Security consultation series.

A monitoring, evaluation and learning framework as well as additional support can be provided by the GPPAC Global Secretariat including by supporting cross-regional learning with the African Union and Organisation of American States which further provides an important platform for inter-regional cooperation and exchange of good and emerging practices.

Funding for such an initiative could be undertaken jointly with the UN and other inter-governmental agencies such as the European Union who have supported such mechanisms in other regions.



## 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.*

Linked with Biketawa Declaration and efforts to date to improve the architecture for conflict prevention, this initiative provides a practical approach for the Pacific Island Forum to work together with civil society to probe more deeply into both the accomplishments and the obstacles contribute to the collective vision of a peaceful and stable Pacific Island region.

Given the changing nature of armed conflict and the emergence of new security threats, this strategy will support the vision of Forum Leaders to be more effective in the prevention and management of violent conflicts by using a comprehensive approach to security and work closely with the citizens of their member states. In that sense, to champion a human security approach.

With the increasing importance of Human Security, CSOs are becoming more significant actors in peace and security governance. CSOs can contribute to articulate the ‘people centered – bottom up’ perspective that is often missing in state-centric security analysis. As the Pacific Islands Forum progressively takes over greater responsibilities preventing and managing conflicts, the development of spaces for consultation and coordination with CSOs becomes critical.

This will contribute to efforts to realise a robust and responsive regional inter-governmental peacebuilding architecture that is gender-inclusive and linked to national and local processes that will contribute to *the realisation of a gender-sensitive and responsive regional inter-governmental peacebuilding architecture that is linked to national and local processes in the Pacific region* is in line with the recommendations of the 2015 Forum Regional Security Committee in particular to “Support expanding the scope of the women, peace and security agenda in the region to reflect key gender inequality and security priorities in the context of sustainable development (in line with the Leaders Gender Equality Declaration); and Support the continued mainstreaming of women, peace and security commitments into National Security Policies, in line with the Security Sector Governance Principles endorsed by Leaders in 2014” as well as building on the findings and recommendations of the UN Global Study on UNSCR1325 FemLINKPACIFIC’s Policy for Peace report 2015.



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## **6. Attachments**

Please attach additional information in support of this initiative.

*Please attach no more than 3 pages.*



**Table 1 – Tests for Regionalism**

<b>TEST</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION</b>
<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.