

## **2016** Regional Civil Society Organization Forum



## **Position Papers on Regional Policy initiatives**

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

## INTERGRATED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF OUR OCEANS, LAGOONS & MARINE RESOURCES

We recognise increased economic returns from fisheries activity and maritime surveillance as a priority of regional significance. We urge Pacific Island Leaders to visibly recognize the full scale of ocean issues, integrated sustainable approaches, high seas management, overexploitation, including governance climate change issues, coastal fishery and the emerging extracting industry - deep sea mining.

- CSOs affirm the commitment of our Leaders endorsing the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries and the joint taskforce of leading Fisheries organisations (FFA, PNA, SPC and PIFS). We also acknowledge our shared responsibility for our coastal and oceanic resources, which provide livelihood, subsistence and opportunities for sustainable development.
- 2. Furthermore, the Pacific CSOs request and recommend;
  - The Regional Roadmap is translated into a Regionalism Policy titled "Regional Coastal and Oceanic Framework for Integrated Sustainable Management".
  - That the formulation of the Regional Coastal and Oceanic Framework for Integrated Sustainable Management be developed, executed, monitored and evaluated by the joint taskforce which must have inclusion and representation from Umbrella National CSO and relevant Pacific CSOs,
  - That the national Umbrella CSOs representation be included at regional and global meetings/forums pertaining to issues involving our Fisheries, both Coastal and Oceans.
  - That Our Leaders consider, in support and agree to task the joint task force working with Umbrella CSO involvement, in order to reinforce the Pacific stewardship role of shared fisheries resources and commit to ensuring sustainability of these resources, this includes taking key measures to eliminate and manage over fishing of big eye tuna and other threatened species, high seas management, capacity enhancement, public awareness, the control of by-catch, whale sanctuaries, illegal fishing, pollution, recreation activities, precautionary approaches, licensing and more actively managing the southern albacore fishery.
  - That Our Leaders consider, with support and agree to task the joint task force working with Umbrella CSO involvement in the provisions of accessing shared information including reports of vessel activity.

<u>Disclaimer</u>: Please note that these papers present the views of the civil society representatives that participated in the Regional Civil Society Organisation Forum and do not necessarily represent the views of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.



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- 3. CSO's believe collective efforts to ensure that the fisheries issues raised under the Framework for Regionalism is consistent with the new sustainable development goals, integrating both the "Blue Economy" and "Green Economy" collectively. The following issues are recognized to be addressed:
  - Leaders to confirm policies based on this research addressing the loss of tuna resources eastwards and to the high seas. Pacific Island countries reaffirm their request for ocean management and investment under their collective stewardship to compensate for impacts of climate change on tuna stocks.
  - Rights of Indigenous People are always maintained.
  - CSO's also feel that the sustainability of fisheries is an adaptive challenge that should incorporate local culture, traditional skills and knowledge to develop Pacific technologies and innovations which create exportable intellectual property products and services for our region's economy.
  - We urge our Government Leaders will take a firm stand against sea bed mining. In this modern age it is unacceptable that Governments and multi-national companies should collude to impose an industrial activity that risks substantial social and environmental impacts without the fullest and most inclusive consultations and technical assessments. We must not advance activities that risk the long term sustainability of our oceans for the short term gains of economic expediency. The history of extractive industries in our islands region is not a happy one. We must divert resources to economic activities that will build a more inclusive and sustainable future for our island communities.
  - Leaders take a collective stand and STOP ALL WORK ON DEEP SEA MINING IN THE PACIFIC, BE THEY EXPLORATORY WORK OR DEVELOPING ENABLING LEGALFRAMEWORK
  - Leaders will continue their support of the specific programme for Small Island States recognising their vulnerabilities in relation to ocean and coastal fisheries.