Thematic Area – Political Leadership And Regionalism

The history of Pacific regionalism demonstrates the importance of strong and enduring leadership and political will to address the increasingly complex geopolitical environment and to respond to emerging issues. The delivery of collective actions will be driven by effective governance, inclusivity and ownership that will build leadership and diplomatic capacity and commitment to regionalism.

Success under this thematic area depends on the region working together, including with Non-State Actors, through a regional system that complements national efforts, and drives our joint aspirations and priorities as the Blue Pacific Continent. While respecting national sovereignty and in order to protect our collective interests, the region will act in unity and solidarity in its engagement and advocacy with partners.

Since its inception the Forum has led the implementation of a series of regional cooperation measures including in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The region faces a number of multifaceted security and political challenges and a dynamic geopolitical environment.

There is a fragmented regional architecture with different levels of engagement between non-state actors and development partners.

The Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific consists of nine organisations with each having differing memberships and governing council arrangements.

All Pacific peoples will benefit from our Forum Leaders working together to safeguard, secure, and progress the Blue Pacific Continent, achieving regional priorities through a united and cohesive political leadership supported by the Pacific Islands Forum and a responsive regional architecture that aligns to the region’s priorities and values. Partners recognise and respect our collective approach as the Blue Pacific Continent.

**Present Situation**

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**Strategic Pathways**

**Governance**

Ensure an effective regional architecture and invest in leadership capacity and relationship building to support accountable and unified regional leadership to drive the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.

**Inclusion and Equity**

Ensure representation of all Pacific voices and interests, including Non-State Actors, in all their diversity to implement and monitor the 2050 Strategy and key declarations and commitments.

**Education, Research and Technology**

Strengthen the use of scientifically based research and technology, and our cultural values and traditional knowledge to enhance leadership and evidence-based decision making.

**Resilience and Wellbeing**

Assert our leadership, collective ownership and political will to protect the wellbeing of Pacific peoples and environments.

**Partnerships and Cooperation**

Strengthen Pacific leadership, voice and engagement to ensure recognition and alignment to Pacific cultures, values and priorities, and our collective interests.

**Level of Ambition**

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