



LISTENING TO THE PACIFIC:

FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM – REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Introduction

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism was endorsed by Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum in July 2014. It represents a high-level commitment to pursuing deeper regionalism and establishes a process for developing and prioritising regional public policy.

The Framework resulted from the findings of the 2013 Review of the Pacific Plan which was undertaken by Sir Mekere Morauta. The Review concluded that the Pacific region was at a crossroads and needed regionalism more than ever before.

Forum Leaders acted on this advice and, at a Special Leaders' Retreat held in Cook Islands in May 2014, they declared their commitment to progressing beyond regional cooperation towards deeper forms of regional integration where there are clear and equitable benefits to be gained. Subsequently, extensive consultations were undertaken to develop the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which was approved by Leaders at their 2014 summit in Palau.

A New Process for Regional Public Policy Development

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism establishes an inclusive and transparent process for determining the priorities for the region. This process allows any individual, organisation or group from any country or territory in the Pacific to put forward a regional initiative for Pacific Island Forum Leaders to consider at their annual Forum.

As described in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, these regional initiatives should address and deal with key public policy issues and challenges for the region that require the oversight of Pacific Island Leaders as a whole, and that are most appropriately dealt with at regional (or sub-regional) level. Examples might be to do with political dialogue and processes, international diplomacy, regional policy and regulatory reforms, new norms and standards for the Pacific, region-wide services and infrastructure, as well as numerous other things.

These regional initiatives should be consistent with the values of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which underpin regional policy and implementation. Initiatives should demonstrate a defence and promotion of these values, including human rights, gender equality, a commitment to just societies, full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific.

In line with this process, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat invites members of the public from any country or territory in the Pacific to put forward a regional initiative for Pacific Island Forum Leaders to consider. Organisations, including government, civil society (including faith-based organisations), the private sector, community groups, and CROP agencies are invited to make submissions, as are groups of individuals or organisations.

The strength of an initiative’s justification and argument is more important than format in which it is presented. However, all submitted initiatives should demonstrate how they support and contribute to the achievement of the vision, values and objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism., which can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document, available at the Forum Secretariat website: <http://forumsec.org/> under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism page.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is accepting regional initiatives from **27 April – 12 June 2015**.

To Submit a Regional Initiative:

- Complete the below regional initiative template below;
- Submit initiative to the Forum Secretariat by deadline: **5pm, Fiji local time, Friday 12 June 2015**;
- Completed initiatives should be submitted to the Forum Secretariat, through one of the following ways:

Email	FPR@forumsec.org
Post	C/O Pacific Regionalism Office, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Hand Delivery	C/O Pacific Regionalism Office, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji
Fax	+679 322 0215 (C/O Pacific Regionalism Office)

For further information on submitting a regional initiative, consult the submissions guideline or contact:

Email: FPR@forumsec.org
Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324

REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Please complete each section below.

1. Contact Details

Please provide the following contact details:

Name of individual or group submitting initiative	Pacific Youth Council
Name and position of primary contact	Tarusila Bradburgh – Coordinator, Pacific Youth Council Secretariat (on maternity leave from 19 June 2015) Please contact Mereia Carling as secondary contact during Ms Bradburgh’s maternity leave – Social Development Advisor, Youth, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Email address	pacificyouthcouncil@gmail.com or TarusilaB@spc.int
Alternate email address	MereiaC@spc.int – secondary contact
Phone number	+679 337 9352 (+679 337 9354 for Mereia Carling)
Fax number	+679 337 0021
Mailing address	Private Mail Bag Suva Fiji

2. Name of Initiative

Youth Advancing Pacific Development

1. Background and Rationale

You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

In response to Forum Leaders’ acknowledged need for greater action in mainstreaming youth¹, this initiative focuses on increasing investment in youth employment, youth health, and youth engagement in environmental action across Pacific development agendas by strengthening the drivers for investment: development accountability; engagement of beneficiaries and stakeholders; and statistical and analytical evidence, and strategic information, to inform decision-

¹ PIFS, 2011. *Leaders’ Communiqué*. Pacific Islands Leaders Forum, Auckland 2011.

making for policy and programming.

More than half of region's population of 10 million, across 22 countries and territories, is under the age of 25. It is growing fast, placing huge – and increasing – demographic pressures on basic resources and core services. Average youth unemployment rates in the Pacific are 23%² compared to a global average of 12.6%.³ Despite the substantial size of the youth population in the region and the significance of issues such as youth employment and young people's sexual and reproductive health, there remains a lack of targeted investment required to meet the needs of *all* young people in the Pacific. The resulting impact has been minimal change in the overall youth status since 2005–2011⁴. A concerning and significant proportion of the youth population are marginalised from mainstream development efforts, creating development burden and hindering the region's progress. For example, in Kiribati, 58% of young men aged 20–24 years are not engaged in productive activities⁵. Key youth populations marginalised from mainstream development efforts⁶ include:

- young people who are not in education, employment and training;
- young women;
- rural youth;
- young people with disabilities;
- youth who are discriminated because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

With little systematic engagement of youth and a marginalisation of key youth populations, youth disenfranchisement can lead to many negative consequences.⁷ Increased targeted investment in these key youth populations to address priority youth development issues will benefit Pacific communities as a whole. Such investment is vital for sustainable development and is shown to have greater economic benefit.⁸ The Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023 comprises of four priority outcome areas that have been determined by young people.⁹

1. Employment and training;
2. Health;
3. Governance and participation;
4. Environmental action.

The PYDF focuses on a set of strategies that address barriers to implementation, maximise available resources for youth, mobilise new resources for youth and that support PICTs to implement their own youth policies, achieving development outcomes for youth across development sectors. The development of the PYDF was noted by Pacific Forum Leaders,¹⁰ and Commonwealth Youth Ministers,¹¹ and endorsed by the Third Meeting of the Pacific Ministers

² <http://www.spc.int/nmdi/youth>

³ ILO (2013). *Global employment trends for youth 2013. A generation at risk*. International Labour Office, Geneva.

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ SPC and UNICEF, 2011. *The State of Pacific Youth Report, 2011*.

⁶ See **4. Additional Information** for analysis and description of these target populations.

⁷ Noble, C. & N. Pereira, 2011. *Urban Youth in the Pacific: Increasing resilience and reducing risk for involvement in crime and violence*.

UNDP Pacific Centre, 2011. Study prepared for the Forum Regional Security Council.

⁸ UNFPA, 2015. *The State of World Population 2014*. New York: UNFPA, 2015.

⁹ See **4. Additional Information** for more detail of these priority outcome areas.

¹⁰ Pacific Islands Leaders Forum, 2012. *Leaders' Communiqué*. Cook Islands 2012.

¹¹ 8th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (8CYMM), 2013. *Final Communiqué*. Papua New Guinea, 2013.

Youth and Sports, New Caledonia, December 2013.¹² At the latter, Ministers endorsed the vision and the four key regional priority areas of the Framework, and highlighted the importance of securing sustained funding to support coordination at the national and regional levels.

The Review of the Pacific Youth Strategy (SPC, 2010), the State of Pacific Youth Report (UNICEF & SPC, 2011) and the Urban Youth Report 2011 (UNDP, 2011) are key documents that have informed the development of the PYDF. Their confronting analysis demands a change to the way the region addresses youth. Improved statistical data and analysis on youth is critical to identify gaps and provide evidence to guide investments – many PICTs do not measure youth unemployment with international standards and thus vastly underestimate the real situation. Much census and national survey data are not analysed to determine youth profiles. Without hard evidence, ‘youth’ is still considered a ‘soft’ issue.

Youth issues are often treated as stand-alone issues, unconnected to other issues, and often without addressing root causes. As both a cross-cutting and a multi-sectoral issue, coordination is essential to ensure all aspects of youth development are addressed and monitored across sectors and to bring youth focus and engagement to new sectors. National youth policies need to be implemented across a range of ministries and need high-level commitment from core ministries.

A key reason attributed to previous lack of implementation is the lack of commitment and engagement of partners, governments and young people. Without a regular high-level forum for decision-making on youth, there is little development accountability to deliver on youth. The review of the previous strategy recommended the establishment of a strong mechanism for regional cooperation and regular cross-government progress reporting. In a resource-scarce environment, regional coordination is important to avoid duplication of efforts and to work collaboratively, sharing resources more equitably to meet resource gaps.

2. Description

Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

This initiative proposes the establishment of a regional facility to strengthen evidence on youth, coordinate technical assistance to PICTs, support youth engagement and youth-led development, develop strategic guidance and regional advocacy to drive increased investment and increase effectiveness of existing investment in PYDF outcome areas¹³. *Youth Advancing Pacific Development* will bring about positive change by moving from rhetoric to action – bridging the

¹² 3rd Meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Youth & Sports, 2013. *Communiqué*. New Caledonia, 2013.

¹³ See **4. Additional Information** for more detail of these priority outcome areas.

gaps that leave youth out of current development frameworks and creating the opportunity for Pacific youth to contribute positively to social, economic and political development in the region.

The two main features of this initiative are:

- **Youth Observatory** – a regional service that will determine a regional set of youth indicators most appropriate for the Pacific region, the PYDF and its surveillance mechanisms (in alignment with international standards of measurement and with the Youth Development Indicators). Regular regional forums eg. annual Heads of Planning and Statistics Conferences, and delivery of technical assistance will be used to support PICTs to collect data and analysis through integrated national surveillance, to inform development of their policies and programmes. Regular monitoring including regional consolidation of national mapping of technical assistance, gaps and reach will be conducted on an annual basis. These will be used to inform improved regional coordination of technical assistance across the region.
- **Pacific Youth *Talatalanga***¹⁴ – a regional advocacy strategy to convene relevant stakeholders, including government and youth representatives, as well as development partners, and facilitating critical conversations to embed youth objectives across development sectors, donor strategies and other key regional development agendas. Pacific Youth *Talatalanga* will change development practice by adopting a new participatory decision-making model, moving away from the Ministerial meeting model which focuses primarily on governments, with development partners in advocacy roles, and young people delegated to subordinate positions. The Pacific Youth *Talatalanga* model will position governments/administrations, development partners and youth representatives with equal voice, recognising the valued roles and responsibilities of each. Using information, communication technology and using existing regional platforms will be cost-effective and practical. Young people will be supported through a regional small grants scheme to lead their own advocacy for change initiatives.

Strategic communications will be a core function of both of these features, including publications of key documents and related guidance material and tools, sharing of best practices and other information, and a strong focus on networking to support Pacific Youth *Talatalanga*.

The regional facility will be hosted by the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). PYC and SPC are therefore, responsible for the overall implementation. The tasks of the regional facility will be managed by a team: Regional Facility Manager; Youth Statistics Specialist; Communications Specialist; Project Officer; two youth interns; finance and admin officer. It will be provided with guidance and advice from a PYDF Steering Committee.¹⁵

Prime beneficiaries are Pacific governments and administrations. These will have increased data, analysis and strategic

¹⁴ *Talatalaga* is a Samoan word, similar to the Fijian word *Talanoa* literally meaning 'telling stories without concealment' and the Tongan word *Talanga*. Like the Tongan word, *Talatalaga* has added implications referring to the process of unravelling all the elements of a particular issue – through exploring, assessment and analysis – with the aim of weaving them all back together through dialogue, coordination, collaboration and agreed conclusions, towards solutions and action. *Talatalanga* represents a combination of the Fijian, Tongan and Samoan words.

critical conversations, analytical debate and strategic and considered decisions and resolutions.

¹⁵ Members of the interim PYDF Steering Committee have contributed to the development of this submission. Details of members and contributors are included at **4. Additional Information**.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A REGIONAL INITIATIVE

These guidelines are designed to assist those submitting regional initiatives through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. For further information or guidance, contact the Forum Secretariat Pacific regionalism office:

Email: FPR@forumsec.org

Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324

1. About the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism is a strategy for strengthening cooperation and integration between the states and territories of the Pacific region. It articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism, and sets out a process for identifying 'game-changing' public policy initiatives that aim to take the region forward. For more information visit:

<http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/framework-for-pacific-regionalism/>

2. Who coordinates the process for submitting a regional initiative?

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

3. How do I submit a regional initiative?

To submit a regional initiative, complete all sections of the regional initiative template and submit to the Forum Secretariat by no later **5pm, Fiji time, Friday 12 June 2015**. Submissions can be made via one of the following:

Email	FPR@forumsec.org
Post	C/O Pacific Regionalism Office, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Hand Delivery	C/O Reception, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ratu Sukuna Road, Suva, Fiji
Fax	+679 322 0215

4. Who can submit an initiative?

Any member of the public from any country or territory in the Pacific can submit a regional initiative. Groups of individuals or organisations, including government, civil society (including church or religious organisations), the private sector, community groups and CROP agencies may also submit initiatives.

5. What kind of information is required?

In addition to background and technical information, initiatives should demonstrate that they require the oversight of Leaders, that they will positively benefit the Pacific and its people, and that they are regional (or sub-regional) in nature (rather than local or national). If the initiative is unable to demonstrate these things, it will not be recommended for Leaders' consideration, or it may be recommended for Ministerial or officials level oversight.

6. What assistance will the Forum Secretariat provide to those submitting initiatives?

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 basis on which initiatives are assessed; and clarification of the overall process. Forum Secretariat staff can also provide background information, such as that on the Pacific Plan Review and on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

7. Selection and Assessment Process

Initiatives will be received by the Forum Secretariat. Secretariat staff will collate all initiatives and check them for completeness and viability. Forum Secretariat staff will forward complete and viable initiatives to the specialist sub-committee on regionalism who will apply the tests for regional action, each of which has an indicative weighting attached (see Fig. 1 below). The specialist sub-committee will also assess initiatives against the vision, values and strategic objectives set out in the Framework (see Fig. 2 below). Progress reports on current regional initiatives under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism that are in progress will also be considered by the specialist sub-committee when they assess initiatives.

Following their assessments, the specialist sub-committee will select initiatives to be forwarded to Leaders for their consideration. Those initiatives selected for Leaders consideration will be first sent to the Forum Officials Committee for further consideration and incorporation on the Leaders annual meeting agenda, and then to Leaders at their annual Forum, to take place in 2015 from 7-11 September in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Those whose initiatives have been selected for Leaders oversight will be alerted of the progress of their initiative within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision. At this stage, the specialist sub-committee is expected to meet on the week starting 13 July.

In addition to these selections, the specialist sub-committee will determine if initiatives not selected for Leaders consideration should be put forward to Ministerial or officials meetings for their oversight. Those whose initiatives have been selected for Ministerial or officials level oversight will be notified of the progress of their initiative within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision.

The specialist sub-committee may also recommend some initiatives be further developed and re-submitted at a later date. Those whose initiatives are in this category will be notified within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision. The specialist sub-committee will also recommend that some initiatives not be taken forward. Those in this category will also be notified of this outcome within one week of the specialist sub-committee's decision.

In all of the above scenarios, the Forum Secretariat, as the coordination point for this overall process, is responsible for maintain contact with all groups and individuals that have submitted initiatives.

8. What if an initiative is selected for implementation by Leaders?

Those who have submitted initiatives that have been selected by Leaders for implementation will be alerted of the progress of their initiative within two weeks of the completion of the annual Forum Leaders meeting. Implementation arrangements, including funding, governance, and monitoring arrangements will be established immediately following the Leaders selections, in consultation with the submitting party, the proposed implementing agencies, funding partners, and any other relevant organisations or stakeholders.

9. Further help and feedback

For further information or guidance or to provide feedback on the process, contact the Forum Secretariat Pacific regionalism office: Email: FPR@forumsec.org or Phone: +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324.

Frequently Asked Questions will be placed at the Framework for Pacific Regionalism website: <http://forumsec.org/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/framework-for-pacific-regionalism/>

FIG. 1: TESTS FOR REGIONAL ACTION

TEST (<i>Indicative weighting</i>*)	CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION
Market test (5%)	The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well.
Sovereignty test (10%)	The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities).
Regionalism test (30%)	<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 (20%)	<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 (20%)	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 (10%)	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 (5%)	The initiative should not be currently under progress by another organisation or process, and there should be no duplication of effort.

** Weighting applied to each test is for the purpose of guiding submitters. Weights are an indication as to how the tests will be applied by the assessors.*

FIG. 2: REGIONAL VALUES AND OBJECTIVES

<p>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</p>
<p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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. <p>These Pacific regional values will guide all our policy-making and implementation.</p>
<p>Principal Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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.

Actions going forward

Mereia will redraft based on all feedback – going back and forth with Taru

Mereia will email new draft by COB Thursday

Comments back by 11am on Friday morning

Taru submits to PIFS