

REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE

Please complete each section below.

1. Contact Details

Please provide the following contact details:

Name of individual or group submitting initiative	TEAR Fund New Zealand and Nasi Tuan Vanuatu
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2. Name of Initiative

Addressing human rights abuses and the violation of dignity in West Papua.

3. 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.

TEAR Fund appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on issues affecting our region as they relate to the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR). We would like to raise and discuss West Papua as an issue that is integral to the respect, honour and dignity for the peoples of our region.

West Papua has cultural, ethnic and social affinity with Melanesia; accordingly, it is part of our shared Pacific region. We are concerned about the ongoing denial and abuses of human rights in West Papua, namely by the Indonesian authorities; and the lack of dignity that pervades when rights are violated.

4. 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.

Governments of our region have demonstrated a reluctance to challenge the legitimacy of Indonesia's governance and rights violations in West Papua. This is in spite of strong support for West Papuan self-determination among their constituencies. Vested economic interests and power-politics have ensured that this issue remains one of little discussion, and less action at Government level.

In particular, we are concerned about the restrictions on freedom of speech, expression, assembly, association, self-determination and restrictions on access to West Papua imposed by the Indonesian government.

We advocate that the FPR:

- Establish a policy position which condemns the violations perpetrated in West Papua, and advocates for an international investigation into allegations.
- Support indigenous West Papuan representation at the Melanesian Spearhead Group.
- Impose transactional and reputational costs upon companies operating in member states who are complicit in rights violations in West Papua.
- Condemn excessive Indonesian restrictions on travel to West Papua, and the operations of civil society organisations therein.
- Withdraw all political and economic support for Indonesian state institutions operating in West Papua, challenging the integrity of their international legitimacy.
- Advocate for West Papuan membership of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation, as a non-self-governing territory.

5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives

Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.

Please limit your response to no more than 500 words

The abuses of human rights in West Papua and the oppression of legitimate concerns and aspirations of the Papuan people are a cause of great concern and a threat to the FPRs vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, inclusion and prosperity.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism embodies values that are held true throughout communities and peoples in all nations, territories and islands which comprise our great region. The oppression and human rights violations facing our West Papuan neighbours run counter to the vision, values and objectives of the PRF. Whilst the status quo remains a

comfortable position at the international political level; for our nations' citizenry, the 'Free West Papua' movement is gaining ever increasing momentum. We advocate that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat take heed of the voices of our regions' peoples, calling for change, and engage practical steps towards a more just and fair West Papua with full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people.

6. Additional Information

Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.

Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.

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