

REGIONAL INITIATIVE: PAILS GROUP

1. Contact Details

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP SUBMITTING INITIATIVE	GEORGE BOGIRI – CHAIR 2015 PACIFIC ISLAND LABOUR SENDING (PAILS) FORUM
NAME AND POSITION OF PRIMARY CONTACT	GEORGE BOGIRI: CHAIR – PAILS FORUM III 2015 DIRECTOR GENERAL MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU
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2. Name of Initiative

PACIFIC ISLANDS LABOUR SENDING (PAILS) GROUP SECRETARIAT

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.

PACIFIC ISLANDS LABOUR SENDING (PAILS) COUNTRIES PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT WITH MANDATE, CAPACITY AND RESOURCES TO CONVENE THE BIENNIAL PAILS FORUM, FOLLOW UP AND MONITOR OUTCOMES ARISING FROM THE BIENNIAL FORUM AND PROVIDE LABOUR MIGRATION GUIDANCE, ADVICE AND SERVICES TO, AND WERE APPROPRIATE, ON BEHALF OF, PAILS COUNTRIES.

THE PAILS GROUP CURRENTLY COMPRISES THE GROUP OF LABOUR SENDING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN AUSTRALIA'S SEASONAL WORKER PROGRAM (SWP) AND NEW ZEALAND'S RECOGNISED SEASONAL EMPLOYER (RSE) SCHEMES WHICH UP TO 2013 COMPRISED (FIJI HAS RECENTLY BEEN ADDED TO THE GROUPING OF RSE AND SWP COUNTRIES):

1. KIRIBATI
2. PAPUA NEW GUINEA
3. SAMOA
4. SOLOMON ISLANDS
5. TONGA
6. TUVALU
7. TIMOR LESTE
8. VANUATU.

THE PROPOSED PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT SHOULD IDEALLY BE LOCATED WITHIN THE AUSPICES OF AN EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANISATION.

FEW THINGS CAN TRANSFORM THE LIVES AND ECONOMIES OF PACIFIC ISLAND PEOPLE AND COUNTRIES MORE THAN PAID EMPLOYMENT. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION BENEFITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS, SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND MITIGATES THE RISK OF SOCIAL UNREST THAT CAN ACCOMPANY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. THE ABILITY TO SECURE SAFE, PRODUCTIVE WORK OUTSIDE NATIONAL BORDERS IS THEREFORE A PROMINENT FOCUS OF THE AGENDA OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL TRADE FOCUSED GROUPINGS RELATED TO PACER PLUS NEGOTIATIONS, PICTA TMNP AGREEMENTS AND ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS, THE MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP; POLYNESIAN LEADERS GROUP AND SMALL ISLAND STATES LEADERS. WITHIN THIS REGION THE MOST PRACTICAL MANIFESTATION OF LABOUR MOBILIT ARE THE NON-TRADE CONTEXTED RSE AND SWP TEMPORARY MIGRATION SCHEMES. ADDITIONALLY, SOME PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES HAVE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE REGION.

WITHIN THE ABOVE CONTEXT A PLETHORA OF REGULAR MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS HAVE TENDED TO BE SEPARATELY CONVENED BY INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL TRADE GROUPINGS WITH A VIEW TO SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO, CONFERENCES ARE CONVENED BY THE NZ AND AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENTS RESPECTIVELY TO SUPPORT INFORMATION SHARING AND STRENGTHENING OF THE RSE AND SWP SCHEMES. NZ'S RSE INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYERS ALSO CONVENE AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOCUSING ON PRIORITY CONCERNS OF INDUSTRY/EMPLOYERS IN RELATION TO THE RSE SCHEME.

PAILS COUNTRIES ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN GATHERINGS OF DIFFERENT TRADE GROUPINGS AND ALSO IN THE NZ RSE AND AUSTRALIA SWP CONFERENCES. MEETINGS ON LABOUR MIGRATION TEND TO ASSUME A VERY SIMILAR FORMAT REGARDLESS OF WHO IS CONVENING IT. THIS FORMAT INCLUDES SHARING INFORMATION ON POLICY AND OPERATIONAL SETTINGS FOR RSE AND SWP INCLUDING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THOSE; UPDATES ON THE NUMBER OF WORKERS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN EXISTING SCHEMES AND PRESENTATIONS FROM PAILS COUNTRIES DETAILING ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING LABOUR SENDING.

EXISTING TRADE AND DESTINATION COUNTRY SCHEME GATHERINGS HAVE NOT PROVIDED ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TO ADDRESS THEIR PRIORITY CONCERNS IN A STRUCTURED AND SYSTEMATIC WAY AND AMIDST THE MULTIPLICITY OF LABOUR MIGRATION FOCUSED GATHERINGS, THE WORLD BANK TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TONGA CONVENED THE INAUGURAL PACIFIC ISLANDS LABOUR SENDING (PAILS) FORUM IN 2011. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PAILS FORUM IS *TO PROVIDE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE INFORMATION, DIALOGUE ON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AND IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AND/OR COLLECTIVE ACTION*. THE SECOND PAILS FORUM WAS HELD IN SAMOA IN 2013 AND THE THIRD IS PLANNED FOR THE END OF THE 2015 CALENDAR YEAR.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE PAILS FORUM FROM THE MULTIPLE OTHER GATHERINGS IS THAT THE AGENDA IS DRIVEN BY THE PRIORITY CONCERNS OF PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDE:

HOW COORDINATING AND COOPERATING TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS COULD FURTHER OPEN UP AUSTRALIA AND NZ MARKETS AND ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE AUSTRALIA AND NZ SCHEMES

HOW COOPERATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION AMONGST PAILS COUNTRIES COULD BETTER ACHIEVE ACCESS TO FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT IN MARKETS OUTSIDE THIS REGION AND ENHANCE THE REGION'S COMPETITIVENESS AS A SOURCE OF LABOUR TO LARGE DESTINATION COUNTRIES FURTHER AFIELD. THE PAILS GROUP EMPHASISES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BUT ITS FOCUS IS NOT CONFINED TO THOSE TWO MARKETS AND A FAIR DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE IS ALSO PLACED ON CAREFULLY INVESTIGATING OPPORTUNITIES FURTHER AFIELD.

TO DATE, THE PAILS FORUM HAS FOCUSED ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, COMMON CONCERNS AND CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS AND STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING THESE. IN DOING SO THE NEED FOR A VEHICLE AND CAPACITY TO FOLLOW UP AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES ARISING FROM BIENNIAL PAILS FORUM HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. PAILS COUNTRIES CONSIDER THAT A CENTRALISED REGIONAL CAPACITY IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WHERE:

- KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO DEVELOP AND/OR EXECUTE STRATEGIES ARE INADEQUATE OR ABSENT AND/OR
- THE COST OF EXECUTING STRATEGIES OR FUNCTIONS IS PROHIBITIVE FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND/OR
- ECONOMIES OF SCALE BENEFITS CAN BE DERIVED FROM REGIONALLY DELIVERED SOLUTIONS OR STRATEGIES AND/OR,
- LARGER FOREIGN MARKETS ARE LIKELY TO ENTERTAIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR ACCESS TO THEIR LABOUR MARKET IF THE LABOUR SUPPLY CAPACITY OF PACIFIC COUNTRIES IS POOLED BEHIND A SINGLE DOORWAY WITH STREAMLINED AND STANDARDISED SYSTEMS.

PAILS COUNTRIES ALSO IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL BENEFITS FROM ADOPTING UNIFORM STANDARDS THAT WOULD SERVE TO PROJECT AND PROTECT PAILS COUNTRIES AND THE PAILS REGION, AS A COMPETENT SUPPLIER OF LABOUR AND SKILLS. AS SUCH, IT IS RECOGNISED THAT

INSTEAD OF REPLICATING SCARCE CAPACITY TO PERFORM SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS, IT IS MORE COST EFFECTIVE TO DESIGN AND DEVELOP PRODUCTS, SERVICES OR FUNCTIONS CENTRALLY AND THEN TO ROLL OUT AND SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES E.G. STANDARDS AND SYSTEMS FOR WORKER SELECTION AND PREPARATION. FURTHERMORE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE DELIVERY OF QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS DEMANDED BY FOREIGN MARKETS WILL CALL FOR SOME INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS AND THIS MAY BE BEYOND THE REACH OF MANY INDIVIDUAL PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES BUT MAY BE MORE FEASIBLE IF AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE REGIONALLY.

WITHOUT CENTRALISED REGIONAL CAPACITY TO DRIVE AND MONITOR PAILS FORUM OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES, PAILS COUNTRY OBJECTIVES FOR GREATER SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE THWARTED BY FRAGMENTED AND THIN COUNTRY LEVEL CAPACITIES AND INADEQUATE WORKFORCE SIZE TO OFFER TO LARGER FOREIGN DESTINATION MARKETS. THE WORLD BANK HAS COMMITTED TO FUNDING ONE FINAL PAILS FORUM WHICH IS SCHEDULED TOWARDS THE END OF 2015 DURING WHICH AND SUBJECT TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS REGIONAL INITIATIVE SUBMISSION WILL BE DISCUSSED ALONG WITH THE FUTURE OF THE PAILS FORUM.

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.

PAILS Group Objectives are to:

INCREASE ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES

- ENSURE THE ONGOING COMPETITIVENESS OF PAILS GROUP WORKERS IN THE GLOBAL MARKET FOR EMPLOYMENT
- DELIVER DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS IN WAYS THAT ARE COST EFFECTIVE AND VALUE ENHANCING
- ENSURE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE FOR THE SAFE, EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE RECRUITMENT, PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENSURE NATIONAL LEVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ALIGN WITH ESTABLISHED REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT
- SUPPORT PAILS COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH SUPPLY SIDE INTELLIGENCE INCLUDING DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR LABOUR FORCE STUDIES, LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND MANAGING RISKS
- SUPPORT MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE TYPE AND STANDARD OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS DEMANDED BY FOREIGN MARKETS.

IMPORTANCE TO PACIFIC REGION

PACIFIC ISLANDS HAVE LIMITED AVENUES FOR EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND PEOPLE ARE ITS GREATEST RESOURCE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PAILS GROUP AS A CENTRAL REGIONAL CAPACITY TO DRIVE AND FACILITATE COOPERATION AMONGST PAILS COUNTRIES SHOULD RESULT IN INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND THEREBY INCREASED FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS. GAINING ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS WILL HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR LIFTING QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS IN THE REGION AND THE CAPACITY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TO DELIVER QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND STANDARDS RECOGNIZED BY FOREIGN MARKETS INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND NZ. THE MOVEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONALS WILL ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF CLOSING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN REMOTE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND LARGER FOREIGN MARKETS FOR EMPLOYMENT THROUGH ENHANCED NETWORKS, CONNECTIONS AND EXPERIENCE ABROAD OF PACIFIC FOREIGN WORKERS WHO MOVE REGULARLY ACROSS COUNTRY BORDERS.

AS A CONSORTIUM OF PACIFIC ISLAND LABOUR SENDING COUNTRIES, THE PAILS GROUP WILL ENABLE CLEARER FOCUS AND TARGETING OF CURRENTLY FRAGMENTED EFFORTS, DIALOGUE AND STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE LABOUR MIGRATION. IT WILL ENABLE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TO TAKE DECISIONS ON AREAS CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT FOR INCREASING AND SUSTAINING ACCESS TO FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR NATIONALS AND WHETHER NECESSARY FUNCTIONS (OR COMPONENTS THEREOF) SHOULD BE DELIVERED NATIONALLY OR CENTRALLY/REGIONALLY. IN REPRESENTING THE PRIORITY CONCERNS OF THE PAILS GROUP, ITS SECRETARIAT WILL BE CAPABLE AND

MANDATED TO DIALOGUE WITH OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTES IN RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION.

WHO WOULD IMPLEMENT

THIS SUBMISSION PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT AS THE IMPLEMENTING BODY. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SECRETARIAT BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE AUSPICES OF AN EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANISATION. ESTABLISHING THE PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT WITHIN AN EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANISATION WILL ALLOW THE SECRETARIAT TO FOCUS QUICKLY ON ITS OBJECTIVES INSTEAD OF ON DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND AFFORDS THE SECRETARIAT ACCESS TO RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, NETWORKS AND RESOURCES OF AN ESTABLISHED REGIONAL ORGANISATION. SEVERAL REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOCUS ON AREAS THAT RESONATE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PAILS GROUP INCLUDING:

THE FOCUS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY'S (SPC) REGIONAL MARITIME PROGRAM AND REGIONAL SYSTEM FOR HARMONISING QUALIFICATIONS VIA SPBEA;

PACIFIC ISLAND TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONS (PITIC) FOCUS ON NEW MARKETS FOR TRADE WITHIN AND BEYOND THIS REGION

THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRADE ADVISOR'S FOCUS ON NEGOTIATING ACCESS TO AUSTRALIA AND NZ MARKETS FOR LABOUR MIGRATION SHOULD THAT OFFICE HAVE AN ONGOING ROLE.

MAIN BENEFICIARIES

SUCCESS OF THE PAILS GROUP WILL DIRECTLY INCREASE INCOMES AND SKILLS OF PACIFIC MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FOR THEIR ECONOMIES. QUALIFICATIONS, STANDARDS AND SKILLS IN THE REGION WILL ALSO BE LIFTED AS WILL THE CAPACITY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS WITH POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS AVAILABLE TO DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES. PACIFIC MIGRANT WORKERS WILL ALSO POTENTIALLY FORGE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PACIFIC ISLAND TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY WORK.

THE ABILITY TO BETTER SUPPLY QUALITY WORKERS FROM PACIFIC ISLANDS TO FOREIGN MARKETS INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WILL INVARIABLY YIELD BENEFITS FOR INDUSTRIES AND ECONOMIES OF DESTINATION COUNTRIES TOO.

REGULATORY OR LEGISLATIVE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

IF THE PAILS FORUM SECRETARIAT IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE AUSPICES OF AN EXISTING REGIONAL ORGANISATION THERE SHOULD BE NO REGULATORY OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND NO NEED TO ESTABLISH THE PAILS GROUP AS A LEGAL ENTITY.

THE DEGREE TO WHICH PACIFIC COUNTRIES WILL SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS WILL DEPEND IN PART ON HOW THEY

PRESENT AND ARE REPRESENTED ON THE GLOBAL STAGE. PAILS COUNTRIES ACCEPT THAT THEIR PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS AT NEGOTIATING TABLES OF LARGER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THIS REGION, ARE HEIGHTENED IF THEY UNIFY/COMBINE THEIR SUPPLY CAPACITY AS A VIRTUAL SINGLE PAILS GROUP. THE WORK OF THE PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT MAY THEREFORE HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDISED REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ACROSS PAILS MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENSURE PAILS COUNTRIES CAN DELIVER UNIFORMLY ON ANY AGREEMENTS GAINED FOR ACCESS TO NEW FOREIGN MARKETS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

THE PAILS GROUP ENTITY WILL NEED THE ABILITY TO OFFER FOREIGN MARKETS WITH ASSURANCES OF SUPPLY SIDE CAPACITY. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT THE PAILS GROUP ESTABLISH MECHANISMS AND FIRM AGREEMENTS WITH ITS MEMBERS TO COOPERATE IN ENSURING QUALITY, CONSISTENCY AND RELIABILITY OF LABOUR SUPPLY.

FUNDING

TO DATE THE WORLD BANK HAS FUNDED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONVENING THE BIENNIAL PAILS FORUM HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CAPACITY TO FOLLOW UP ON FORUM OUTCOMES, THE VERY STRATEGIC AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE FORUM HAVE NOT BEEN PROGRESSED AND PAILS COUNTRIES WILL BE ASKED TO USE THE PAILS 2015 FORUM SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF THE PAILS FORUM.

IN THE ESTABLISHMENT PHASE OF THE PAILS GROUP, DONOR FUNDING WILL BE CRITICAL TO DESIGN, ESTABLISH, INCUBATE AND CAPACITY BUILD THE PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT AND TO ENABLE EARLY WINS TO BE ACHIEVED IN LINE WITH ITS PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES IS EXPECTED. SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE THROUGH FUNDING OR IN KIND (E.G. THROUGH CONTRIBUTING PREMISES, FUNDING SECONDED PERSONNEL OR BOTH).

ONGOING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALSO PROPOSED BUT FIRM UNDERTAKINGS HAVE NOT AS YET BEEN SOUGHT FROM INDIVIDUAL PAILS COUNTRIES.

SOME DEGREE OF 'USER PAYS' FOR CENTRALLY DELIVERED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES MAY BE APPROPRIATE AND REQUIRES FURTHER EXPLORATION. AS HAS BEEN EVIDENCED IN THE RSE AND SWP, THE BENEFITS OF ACCESS TO SPECIFIC FOREIGN MARKETS OR SECTORS DO NOT ACCRUE EVENLY ACROSS PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND AS SUCH, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT INDIVIDUAL PACIFIC COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE THE PREROGATIVE OF FINANCIALLY SUBSCRIBING, OR NOT, TO WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SPECIFIC MARKETS OR SECTORS, BASED ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY BELIEVE THEY WILL BENEFIT FROM SUCH FOREIGN MARKETS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME COUNTRIES FARE BETTER IN SEAFARING THAN THEY DO IN HORTICULTURE AND MAY WISH THE SECRETARIAT TO PLACE GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SEAFARING.

HAS THE INITIATIVE BEEN CARRIED OUT PREVIOUSLY

THE PAILS GROUP IS AN INITIATIVE THAT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN CARRIED OUT BEFORE. OF THE EXISTING GROUPINGS, JUST ONE INITIATIVE PROPOSED IN THE CONTEXT OF PACER PLUS NEGOTIATIONS BY NEW ZEALAND (PACIFIC LABOUR MIGRATION ANNUAL MEETING OR PLMAM) COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE SOME COMPONENTS OF THE PAILS GROUP INITIATIVE. THERE ARE HOWEVER SEVERAL POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLMAM AND THE PAILS GROUP INITIATIVE AND THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE INCLUDE OWNERSHIP OF PLMAM NOT RESTING WITH PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND THE SINGLE MARKET FOCUS (I.E. NZ) OF THE PLMAM. IT IS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE SEPARATE CAPACITY ESTABLISHED TO IMPLEMENT THE OUTCOMES OF THE PROPOSED PLMAM OR WHETHER THIS WILL BE PICKED UP BY THE NZ GOVERNMENT AS THE CONVENOR.

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 PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT AND ITS PROPOSED OBJECTIVES MANIFESTS IN A VERY PRACTICAL WAY, THE VISION VALUES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM. THE FINAL COLUMN OF THE TABLE BELOW DETAILS THE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PAILS GROUP INITIATIVE AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM.

REGIONAL COLLECTIVE ACTION	TO ACHIEVE	PAILS GROUP SECRETARIAT INITIATIVE
COORDINATION	OPEN CONSULTATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION; AND COORDINATED APPLICATION OF SHARED, BEST-PRACTICE NORMS AND STANDARDS	REGULAR BIENNIAL PAILS FORUM TO SHARE BEST PRACTICE INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE AND AGREE PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS. TRAINING TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONALLY AGREED STANDARDS AND PROCESSES.
COOPERATION	AN EFFECTIVE AND STRENGTHENED VOICE IN PROTECTING AND SUSTAINABLY HARNESSING THE REGION’S PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL	AGREEING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES OR LEGISLATION NECESSARY FOR ENSURING THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS. AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT AT A NATIONAL LEVEL, REGIONALLY AGREED MINIMUM STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS E.G. FOR THE RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION AND REPATRIATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS.
COLLABORATION	ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND EQUITABLE BENEFITS THAT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED NATIONALLY.	AGREEMENT TO REGIONALLY DELIVERED PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES E.G. FOREIGN LABOUR MARKET STUDIES, MARKETING AND GROWING MARKET SHARE IN DESTINATION COUNTRIES OR REGIONALLY STANDARDIZED LABOUR MARKET

		INFORMATION SYSTEMS DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.
HARMONISATION	ACHIEVEMENT OF SHARED INSTITUTIONAL AND/OR LEGAL OBJECTIVES	ESTABLISHING REGIONAL APPROACHES AND/OR INSTITUTIONS FOR DELIVERING QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND STANDARDS DEMANDED BY FOREIGN MARKETS AND SECTORS.
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION	GREATER ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOUNDED ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS AND COSTS.	<p>POOLING RESOURCES FOR THE DELIVERY OF SHARED SERVICES IN FOREIGN MARKETS E.G. MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TO CAPTURE GREATER MARKET SHARE; WORKER WELFARE SERVICES AND LEVERAGING CENTRALISED EXPERTISE FOR THE DELIVERY OF SPECIALIZED ANALYSIS, PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.</p> <p>NEGOTIATING AND/OR ESTABLISHING COST EFFECTIVE MIGRANT WORKER SERVICES E.G. HEALTH INSURANCE AND MONEY SENDING.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE / INSTITUTIONAL / LEGAL INTEGRATION	A SECURE AND WELL GOVERNED PACIFIC REGION PLEDGED TO UPHOLDING REGIONAL VALUES	ESTABLISHING AND ENSURING REGIONAL CONFORMITY WITH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT E.G. EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREDIBILITY AND COMPETENCY OF THE PAILS GROUP OF COUNTRIES AS A LABOUR SUPPLY REGION.