What is the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting?

This is an annual gathering of the Foreign Ministers of the 18 member states of the Pacific Islands Forum. Prior to the meeting, senior regional officials meet to deliberate at the Forum Officials Committee and finalise the agenda for FFMM. The 2021 FFMM will be chaired by Tuvalu’s Minister of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs, Hon. Simon Kofe.

Why is FFMM important for the Pacific region?

Our Blue Pacific region is stronger when we work together, and Foreign Ministers have a key role to play. Many of the challenges facing our Blue Pacific region are transboundary in nature such as COVID-19, climate change and the health of our ocean. By coming together, Ministers can strengthen our position on regional political priorities and agree on advocacy approaches and initiatives to promote these at the regional and international level.

The Forum Foreign Ministers meeting discusses and directs action on:

- foreign policy issues affecting Forum priorities and the pursuit of deeper regionalism;
- regional security and governance issues, including the development and implementation of regional norms and standards;
- opportunities presented by regional and international meetings to engage on Forum political priorities and policy positions;
- partnership arrangements with non-Forum members, including Forum Dialogue Partners, relevant inter-governmental organisations and the development of relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- applications for membership of the Forum, including admission of Associate Members and accreditation as Observers;
- High level international candidacies by Forum members.
- Ensuring policy coherence and cohesion across regional Ministerial meetings on relevant political priorities and policy issues.

Who attends the Forum Foreign Ministers meeting?

The meeting is attended by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Forum Member countries, or their representative. The meeting is observed by Forum Observer countries, territories and organisations and CROP agencies.

What are the priority issues at FFMM 2021?


- Preserving Maritime Zones
  Progressing Forum Leaders’ commitment for collective efforts to preserve maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise through a proposed declaration for Forum Leaders.

- Climate Change – Preparations for COP 26
  Discussing common priorities and advocacy approaches for UNFCCC COP26, due to be held in Glasgow this November. This will build on Forum Leader’s Kainaki II Declaration on Urgent Climate Change Action and include establishing COP 26 Political Climate Champions and engaging Pacific youth.

- Japan Fukushima ALPS Treated Water
  Considering options for the Forum’s engagement and advocacy relating to Japan’s announcement of its intention to release ALPS treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Power Station into the Pacific Ocean.

- 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
  Updating Ministers on the progress to develop the 2050 Strategy, and considering and agreeing on next steps.

- Strengthening the Forum’s partnership engagement
  Considering revised criteria and guidelines for the Forum’s international Dialogue Partners and new partnership applications from Chile, Norway and Singapore.