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WHO WE ARE
The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is mandated through the 2005 Agreement establishing the Pacific Islands Forum to provide policy advice to the Forum and coordinate the implementation of Forum Leaders’ decisions.

The Secretariat is based in Suva, Fiji, and is led by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor of Papua New Guinea. The Secretary General is the permanent Chair of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and the Chair of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism.

The Secretary General also serves as the Pacific Ocean Commissioner and the Regional Authorising Officer for the European Development Fund.

The Forum Officials Committee (consisting of nominated representatives from all Forum Governments) is the governing body of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Forum Secretariat is funded by its member governments through assessed membership contributions, as well as voluntary and extra budget contributions from members and partners.

**Our Mission**

We support Forum Members to work together through deeper forms of regionalism in support of sustainable development, economic growth, good governance and security.

We co-ordinate action by states and other stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

Our focus is innovative, game changing initiatives for regional action. We promote an inclusive regional public policy approach to arrive at proposals for Leaders to consider and endorse.

Our role is primarily policy advice, coordination and ensuring the effective implementation of Forum Leaders decisions leading to tangible improvements in the lives of the people of the Pacific. We report annually on our performance against results.

These Pacific regional values will guide all our policymaking and implementation.

**Our Vision**

The vision of the Forum is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives. The Forum seeks to realise this vision through its mission to:

*strengthen regional cooperation and integration … in order to further Members’ shared goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security”*

The Forum is also united by shared values, which guide all its policy making and implementation. These have evolved over the history of the Forum, with their most recent expression articulated in The Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

**Our Members**

The Pacific Islands Forum encompasses a diverse range of countries, united by their stewardship of the “Blue Pacific” Ocean Continent, a sea of islands spanning 40 million square kilometers of ocean space.

Starting as an ad hoc meeting of 7 countries in the early 1970s, the Forum has evolved into an established inter-governmental organisation whose 18 members include: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Associate membership of the Forum is held by Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna (approved by the 49th PIF Leaders meeting held in Nauru, in September 2018).
18 Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries and Territories with their Exclusive Economic Zones
Blue Pacific Continent

18 Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries and Territories with their Exclusive Economic Zones

New Zealand
Australia
French Polynesia
Cook Islands
Fiji
New Caledonia
Vanuatu
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Papua New Guinea
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Tuvalu
Tokelau
Nauru
Federated States of Micronesia
Palau
Tonga
Niue
Observers & Special Observers

Observer membership of the Forum is held by American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, as well as Wallis and Futuna. Observer membership status is also held by the following groupings or organisations: The African Caribbean Pacific Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Organization for Migration, the United Nations, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, World Bank Group. Timor Leste is a Special Observer of the Forum.

Dialogue Partners

The Pacific Islands Forum has eighteen dialogue partners: Canada, People’s Republic of China, Cuba, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.
Our founders had an ambitious vision of Pacific Regionalism that would build a strong Pacific on our terms. The overarching goal? Bring the Pacific closer together – closer through trade, through shipping and civil aviation, and through telecommunication. Central to this project would be our ocean, with tourism and the export of marine resources driving our economies forward and opening up new possibilities for our sustainable development.
Our Leaders are tasked with navigating our Blue Pacific’s future, facing the challenges of remaining united and leaving no one behind. We thank the outgoing Chair, His Excellency Hon Baron Waqa, President of Nauru, who handed over in August 2019 to Prime Minister of Tuvalu Enele Sopo’aga. The following month, Tuvalu’s role as chair continued under the leadership of Prime Minister Hon Kausea Natano. Tuvalu has progressed our Forum priorities with resolve and commitment. The involvement of all its people during the hosting of the 50th Forum was visible across the world, an iconic and powerful message from the Pacific that in this Blue Continent we put our people first.

Our Blue Pacific high-level meetings across the year provided momentum to Pacific Leaders and ministers on an issue the Pacific leads on - climate change. In May, Forum Leaders hosted a high-level political dialogue with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Suva, Fiji, and delivered the Blue Pacific’s Call for Urgent Global Climate Change Action Now, reinforcing the Forum’s longstanding call for the world to act urgently on climate change. In August, Forum Leaders stepped up the call, with the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now.

Forum Economic Ministers met on four key issues including the Pacific Resilience Facility, infrastructure development, climate change and disaster risk financing, and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility— all under the 2019 FEMM theme ‘Towards a resilient and sustainable Pacific’. A special FEMM in July endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility, to develop a way to provide critical financing for resilience building in Pacific countries.

The annual Leaders meeting was hosted in Funafuti, Tuvalu in August. Building on the strategic vision for a strong Blue Pacific Continent, the theme of the 50th Forum was ‘Securing our Future in the Pacific’. Frank, open discussions during the Leaders Retreat at the Kainaki Lua Falekaupule venue touched on climate change and disaster resilience, regional security, oceans and maritime boundaries, nuclear contaminants and West Papua. Notably, at the 50th Pacific Islands Forum, leaders delved further into securing the future of the Blue Pacific continent through strategic, collective action to achieve a long-term vision.

Forum Officials Subcommittees continue to ensure our Member governments inform the Secretariat’s work. A FOC subcommittee on the 2050 Strategy was set up in 2019 to drive these initiatives forward. Regional security milestones in 2019 involved development and endorsement of an action plan for the 2018 Boe Declaration. A FOC subcommittee on regional security (FSRS) with its own Pacific Security Dialogue (PSD), is creating an inclusive space for regional security discussions.

In 2019, the Secretariat continued support for Labour mobility coordination in the region, with reports and briefs to Small Islands States Leaders, economic ministers and other partners, and the launch of a Labour Mobility portal. Ongoing support to Pacer-Plus negotiations and the emergence of a Labour Mobility Secretariat for the Pacific will continue to progress the regional priorities set by Forum members in these areas.

The five key social areas of regional policy priorities for Forum Leaders were progressed in 2019. The gender equality focus was preparing an effective Forum member Pacific presence and building momentum for the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York for 2020, as well as the 25 year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, the BPfA. PIFS supported regional convening of preparatory meetings in the Pacific and Asia-Pacific in 2019. We continue to work with Forum Members and partners to progress the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration and support women’s leadership and representation in the Pacific. Health and education, disability inclusion, youth and mainstreming and early childhood development all reached important milestones in the reporting period, with cross cutting impacts for these areas beyond 2020.
Governance and Engagement managed high-level consultations with all Forum members, including 13 in-country discussions with PIFS executive and national delegations on Forum priorities and initiatives that have enhanced how the Forum will identify and deliver on regional priorities. At the regional level, SIS and CROP support, engagement with Forum civil society, private sector, and media representatives progressed through a range of activities.

Work has progressed on the Post Cotonou negotiations, nuclear legacy issues, maritime boundaries and sea level rise, and West Papua. These will have increased focus in the next 12 months given multi-year Secretariat reporting and workplans, and overlap between global momentum on these areas and leadership by Forum members in 2020 and beyond.

Forum Election Observer mission reports in 2019 were provided to governments of the Solomon Islands, Nauru, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Two referendum observation missions to Bougainville and New Caledonia were also conducted.

From the 2030 SDGs, SAMOA Pathway, Paris Agreement and others, regional approaches to global sustainable development commitments became more cohesive in 2019 with the establishment of a Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee (PSDSC). At its first meeting the PSDSC confirmed key messages to support leaders preparing for the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda. Importantly it is tracking the impact of regional implementation and identifying where Pacific development partners and UN agencies can do better.

A special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting made its debut in 2019, to become an annual event from 2020. This meeting, supported by the CROP agencies, focussed on linkages between fisheries issues and trade, economy and the environment. Fisheries are a key priority for Leaders, and this will be reflected in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner, OPOC, also convened the first Forum negotiators meeting on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process. OPOC leads the coordination of the annual World Oceans Day at the Secretariat and will continue to ensure visibility for the multi-sectoral initiatives which support SDG 14 and the natural resource at the core of our regional identity.

Corporate reforms, monitoring and evaluation and fiscal discipline form the basis of Forum operations and governance and we continue to exercise these approaches to ensure the Secretariat is able to work effectively.

We continue to serve the region and progress Forum Leaders’ priorities for our one Blue Pacific Continent.
INTRODUCTION

For almost five decades, the countries of the Pacific have addressed common interests through a variety of regional approaches. The motivation for this is simple: we know that we can achieve more together, than alone.

A political community of 18 independent states and self-governing territories, the Pacific Islands Forum seeks to address the challenges and opportunities that face the Pacific through political dialogue and decision-making. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat supports the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum through the Secretary General, to utilise regional action to realise the Leaders vision for the Pacific region.

The Forum is also united by shared values, which guide all its policy making and implementation. These have evolved over the history of the Forum, with their most recent expression articulated in The Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Framework commits Leaders to:

“working together to address our common challenges, harness shared strengths and ensure that our individual and collective advancements bring practical benefits to all Pacific peoples.”

The Framework for Pacific Regionalism recognises the need for a new, inclusive and game-changing approach to Pacific regionalism, that enables Leaders to lead and navigate the Pacific through the global and regional geopolitical forces that impact our region’s ability to realise the unmet development needs of Pacific Islands peoples.

Through the Framework, Leaders recognise that Pacific Regionalism now and into the future must be adaptive, innovative, inclusive and most
importantly, it must positively impact the lives of Pacific people.

In support of the realisation of the Leaders’ vision, *The Framework for Pacific Regionalism* identifies four principal and enduring objectives:

- 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;
- Security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all; and
- Strengthened governance, legal, financial, and administrative systems.

**The Context for Pacific Regionalism**

The global and regional geopolitical and development context is shifting and the region is faced with a range of external and internal factors that are acting to reshape it. Such factors impact the Forum’s ability to advance the Leaders vision for the region and achieve the objectives of *The Framework for Pacific Regionalism*.

**The region faces enduring challenges:**

- Ongoing vulnerabilities to environmental and economic shocks;
- Continued dependencies on aid and external financing;
- Low levels of economic growth;
- Stubborn levels of poverty and rising inequalities;
- Structural constraints, generally recognised in issues such as distance from markets, small productive base, and high transport costs.

**Interacting with these vulnerabilities and constraints is a changing global and regional context, including:**

- Emerging tendencies towards populism and nationalism;
- Challenges to multilateralism, including willingness to withdraw from regional political groupings, from multilateral trade and other agreements, and increased preferences for bilateral actions;
- Rising inequalities causing social and political instability and undermining development;
- Increased number of political actors and donors in the Pacific;
- Challenges to the stability of the global rules-based order and competition between Pacific Rim major powers;
- Continued degradation of, and contestation for, natural resources.

**However, global and regional developments are also raising new opportunities for the Pacific region to explore, such as:**

- Increased political attention on the role of oceans in development;
- Advances in technology that can enable the region to overcome limitations of distance;
- A set of agreed values that underpin Pacific regionalism, including the cultural values that help guide the region;
- New global frameworks and methodologies for valuing the immense ecosystems and biodiversity of the Pacific;
- Shifts in global power;
- Significant increased investment by multilateral development institutions in the Pacific.
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Strategic Framework (2017-2021)

The PIFS Strategic Framework 2017-2021 responds to this context by adopting outcomes that target the focus of the organizations support to Forum Leaders’. These interlinked outcomes provide the strategic lens through which the Forum Secretariat identifies opportunities and challenges and frames policy advice for, and implementation of, Pacific regionalism.

The PIFS Strategic Framework identifies three Enabling Outcomes:

1. A Prioritized Pacific Regionalism Agenda
PIFS will provide timely and high quality policy advice to the Forum to enable high-level political dialogue aimed at identifying and progressing game-changing priorities for regionalism that will advance the Leaders’ Vision and objectives.

2. A Pacific Region that Delivers
PIFS will use its influence and convening power to mobilise and coordinate appropriate and relevant partnerships and financing to deliver the Leaders’ priorities for regionalism.

3. A Pacific Region that Influences
PIFS will use its expertise and influence to inform and support political advocacy strategies for building, changing or maintaining political and strategic relationships and processes to enable the realization of Forum Leaders priorities.

The Forum Secretariat work plan focusses on delivering these Enabling Outcomes, which support four broad development outcomes for the Blue Pacific:

A. Promoting People-Centred Development
B. Maximising the Potential of Our Shared Pacific Ocean
C. Increasing Economic Prosperity
D. Strong Pacific Governance for a Peaceful and Stable Region

Farewell traditional performances in Tuvalu
2019 PERFORMANCE ACHIEVEMENTS

Enabling Outcome 1: A Prioritized Pacific Regionalism Agenda
Enabling informed political dialogue for Pacific regionalism

50th Pacific Islands Forum

The Fiftieth (50th) Pacific Islands Forum was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 13 – 16 August 2019 with the theme Securing Our Future in the Pacific. This builds on the themes of the 2017 and 2018 Pacific Islands Forum meetings held in Samoa and Nauru, respectively. The theme underscores the need for strategic and visionary action to build a strong Blue Pacific Continent for our peoples, which is consistent with the intent of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The Forum was well attended by Member Countries, Associate Members, the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, Forum Observers and Dialogue Partners, and regional Civil Society, Private Sector, Youth, Women, and Faith Based Organisation representatives.

The Forum Leaders’ Retreat was held at the Kainaki II Falekaupule in Funafuti, Tuvalu, providing Leaders with the opportunity to have frank and open discussions on key policy issues - including Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, Regional Security, Oceans and Maritime Boundaries, Nuclear Contaminants and West Papua (Papua). In addition, Leaders agreed that securing the Blue Pacific would require strong political leadership and Members’ commitment to champion priorities and initiatives to drive and deepen regional cooperation, collaboration and integration, under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. All decisions emerging from the Forum Leaders
Retreat are in the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Communique.

Leaders expressed their deep appreciation to the Right Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Government and the people of Tuvalu for the warm hospitality extended to their delegations. Leaders commended the preparations and facilitation of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum, which enabled Leaders and participants to hold constructive discussions and contributed to its overall success.

2019 Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting

The 3rd Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Suva, Fiji on 26 July 2019. The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Nauru, His Excellency Mr David Adeang, and was well attended by all Forum Members and agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific.

As this is the third consecutive standing meeting of Forum Foreign Ministers, the Minister’s agenda is stabilising around a core set of issues, consistent with the Foreign Minister’s externally focused mandate, as well as their role within the Forum architecture more broadly. Accordingly, Ministers discussed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; Forum Climate Change Advocacy and wider international engagement and advocacy as the Blue Pacific; Regional security under the Boe Declaration; nuclear contaminants; maritime boundaries; West Papua (Papua); and the Review of Forum Meeting Processes.

22st Forum Economic Ministers Meeting

The 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Suva, Fiji on 8 May 2019. Ministers gathered at a time of much global economic uncertainty, with global economic growth for 2019 lower than anticipated, reflecting a deceleration of the global economy at the end of 2018; ongoing US – China trade tensions; and the continued uncertainty surrounding BREXIT. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable David Adeang, Minister for Finance of Nauru. All Forum Members were represented and participated at the 2019 FEMM.

Forum Economic Ministers had constructive discussions under the theme ‘Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Pacific’ in recognition of policy
actions needed to strengthen the resilient development of the Pacific region to ensure sustained growth and development prospects of the region. The key issues which the Economic Ministers deliberated on were:

- The Pacific Resilience Facility Investment;
- Co-Investment on Infrastructure Development in the Pacific;
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Finance; and
- The Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility.

Forum Economic Ministers also had a dialogue with regional representatives of the private sector and civil society organisations. The 2nd Development Partners Roundtable with Forum Economic Ministers was also convened in the margins of 2019 FEMM. The outcomes of the dialogue and roundtable are included in the 2019 FEMM Action Plan.

Forum Economic Ministers endorsed the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) at the Special FEMM held on 25 July 2019. In support of the decision of Forum Economic Ministers, Forum Leaders endorsed the concept – on the objectives and niche, governance arrangements, financial products and capitalisation- and transitional arrangements for the establishment of the regionally-owned and led PRF.

Implementation of the decision of the FEMM and Forum Leaders on the PRF is underway. It is crucially important for the region to work together to advocate for the PRF, including reaching out to traditional and non-traditional development partners to the Pacific region, to solicit their support and partnership, leading up to a global pledging event(s) to raise funds to capitalise the PRF.

2019 Special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting

A special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) was held at PIF Headquarters, Suva, Fiji on 25 July 2019 and attended by Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The meeting was chaired by the Honourable David Adeang, Minister for Finance of Nauru.

Pursuant to the 2019 FEMM (held from 7 to 9 May) decision on the PRF, the main agenda item for the Special FEMM was a revised PRF proposal. All Members represented agreed to the recommendations, except for Fiji who abstained from the decision making. The recommendations are available in the outcomes document.

- UN Oceans Conference
- Pacific SDG Roadmap
- PACER Plus

Smaller Islands States Strategy

The Smaller Island States (SIS) Strategy remains a demonstration of political cohesion amongst the eight SIS member states (Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu) against their stated areas of priority. The SIS has become a model for deeper regionalism by focusing on achieving mutual, nationally-derived benefits through collective effort.

Successful implementation of the Strategy is therefore dependent on the ownership and combined efforts of SIS governments and all other Pacific stakeholders at large, working in partnership. Through the Mid-Term Review of the SIS Strategy, the Secretariat has streamlined the implementation of the SIS Strategy by scaling back from seventeen (17) to six (6) activities under the following five (5) priorities:

- Climate Change – Joint SIS Proposal to the GCF
- Health – Regional Legislative Framework for NCDs
- Marine – Regional Approach to Nuclear Contaminants / Maritime Boundaries
- Air/Sea Transportation – Upper Airspace Management options
- Labour Mobility – Pacific Labour Mobility Skills Portal
The Secretariat has since progressed the above activities through the SIS Roadmap for Accelerated Development 2019-2020 through individual ‘Action 18’ timelines in order to realise tangible benefits are delivered by the end of the Strategy, in 2020. SIS Officials and Leaders will be called upon at their meetings in July and August 2020, respectively - to discuss and decide on the way forward, post-2020.

SIS Officers are active in six (6) of the eight (8) SIS member states. The Secretariat expects to undergo recruitment for SIS Officers in FSM and Niue in 2020. The SIS Attachment Programme remains ongoing with a growing interest by SIS member states. The Secretariat is currently exploring options to expand this capacity building opportunity to include internships by university graduates. The call for nominations for the first cohort of the 2020 intake will be done in October 2019.

Civil Society Engagement

Civil society engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum is central to ensuring the principle of inclusivity enshrined in the FPR is delivered upon. With the Secretariat’s NSA Programme funding under the EDF 10 concluding in November 2018, funding via the 11th EDF Technical Capacity Building Facility (TECCBUF) supported an extension of the NSA Programme in 2019. It facilitates the ongoing engagement of civil society organisations and their communities, including the private sector, in the Forum’s regional public policy processes and discussions.

The annual CSO Forum convened in the first quarter of 2019 brought a wide range of CSO representatives from 14 Forum member countries to discuss regional policy issues and provide assessment of current Forum priorities. This event also acted as a preparatory workshop to build collective positions and perspectives on Forum policy priorities, as presented at the dialogues with Forum Economic Ministers in May 2019, and Forum Leaders at their meeting in August, in Tuvalu. The Secretariat also supported civil society and private sector engagement in other Forum activities and/or processes, such as the:

• Post-Cotonou Agreement negotiations
• Inaugural Pacific Resilience Partnership Meeting
• Pacific Resilience Facility consultations
• Forum Election Observer Missions
• BBNJ training support
• Pacific Sustainable Development Steering

Economic and Finance Ministers at the Special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Suva, Fiji
Committee support

• SDGs Voluntary National Review support

NSAs also engaged with the Secretariat through a series of informal networking sessions, assisting to strengthen relations and extend networks based on key regional priority areas.

In addition, the NSA Programme has worked with UN Women and SPC as implementing partners on the Pacific Partnership on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (PPEVAWG), which has a focus on implementing the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED). A Gender/EVAWG Forum was convened by the Secretariat from 18-19 March to build civil society capacity to influence policy decisions supporting the implementation of the PLGED.

Private Sector Engagement

Climate finance and disaster risk finance presentations were provided to private sector stakeholders attending the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in May 2019, leading to significant interest from national chambers of commerce across FICs to undertake national private sector mapping on climate change and disaster risk finance. These were confirmed for Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga for late 2019. Additional mapping, on needs-based requests to the Secretariat, is planned for 2020 and 2021.

In addition, a Polynesia Sub-regional Private Sector Workshop was convened by the Secretariat in Cook Islands early October. This brought together private sector participants and Green Climate Fund National Designated Authorities from Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. The workshop built on the discussions held at the first sub-regional private sector workshop for the Melanesia sub-region, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, April 2018. A sub-regional private sector mapping on climate finance for Micronesia is planned for the 1st Quarter in 2020, to be followed by a second sub-regional meeting for Melanesia in the 3rd Quarter of 2020.

An Options Paper for private sector engagement in climate change and disaster risk finance is being developed, with a view to it being published in January 2020. The work has been led by the Secretariat, with support from the DFAT/GIZ Climate Finance Readiness of the Pacific project and the ADB Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience.

*Economic and Finance Ministers at the Special Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in Suva, Fiji*
Election Monitoring

Forum Election Observer Missions are premised on: respect for national laws and context; and, reflection of the Forum’s commitment to the Biketawa Declaration and the Forum’s Principles of Good Leadership, which articulate the Forum’s commitment to the upholding of democratic processes and institutions.

The 2018 FOC meeting agreed that the Forum would have a standing invitation to observe all national elections of member countries, subject to a formal invitation and the option for a member to opt-out. Election observation is an opportunity to build rapport and build capacity amongst the Forum’s election management bodies, government ministries and institutions.

In 2019, the Secretariat supported three election and two referendum observation missions – led by Forum Members – in New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Nauru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Bougainville (active). The Forum Secretariat also took part in the Australian Election Visitor Program. The nature of each observation mission differed, given the size and electoral context for each of the mentioned countries. Reports were conveyed to the relevant authorities at the completion of each mission, as appropriate - outlining recommendations for further strengthening the processes and procedures.

It is anticipated that five Forum members will hold general elections in 2020, namely Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau and Vanuatu. New Caledonia will hold a referendum.

Pacific Resilience Facility

The Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) is a ‘game changing’ regional initiative for the Blue Pacific and its peoples. Its establishment was endorsed by the Forum Economic Ministers and Leaders in 2019. The PRF is expected to be a multi-donor funded facility with operational elements spread across multiple legal and tax jurisdictions in Pacific island countries. Noting the urgency of progressing the establishment of the PRF against increasing costs of resilience investments to FICs, the Forum Economic Ministers directed that the PRF be housed within the PIF, as an interim measure, until a new international organisation has been setup. It is estimated that it would take approximately 2 years to complete the setup of the international organisation for the PRF. (Work is underway to establish the transitional governance arrangements of the PRF).

The PRF will offer two financial products: (1) grants to governments for community-level disaster risk preparedness projects; and (2) a private sector risk sharing facility. These community grants via governments will provide predictable, sustainable, accessible and accountable funding for disaster risk preparedness at the community level. The private sector risk sharing facility will provide a capped risk guarantee to the commercial banks.

To ensure sustainability of the PRF, it will be guided by the following two principles: (1) the capital base of the PRF is to be preserved and grown overtime; and (2) the total value of disbursements of financial products is to be no greater than the net income generated on the capital base. It is crucial that the region work collectively to advocate for the PRF including soliciting the support and partnership of traditional and non-traditional development partners to the region, leading up to global pledging event(s) to raise funds to capitalise the PRF.

Security

Pursuant to Leaders’ endorsement in 2018 of the Boe Declaration and further tasking to develop an Action Plan, the Secretariat undertook rigorous and extensive consultations with Members, CROP agencies, regional law enforcement and legal secretariats to develop the action plan. It was considered and endorsed by Leaders in 2019. Leaders also agreed on the establishment of a FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS), and for the design and development of a Pacific Security Dialogue (PSD), through the FSRS - to provide an inclusive space for regional security
discussions.

Substantive progress has been made on the establishment of the FSRS and its first meeting was held on 15-18 October 2019. This first meeting was critical as it provided an opportunity for Members, regional law enforcement and legal secretariats, and relevant CROP agencies to identify implementation priorities for the Boe Declaration, for 2020. The FSRS Chair’s letter, including the Boe Declaration priority action matrix for 2020 will be presented to FOC for consideration at its Budget session. Further, the Secretariat has also undertaken extensive consultation on the design and development of a PSD. A concept paper was presented to the FSRS and further consultation was conducted inter-sessionally to finalise the proposed design and date. A final draft of the PSD concept paper will be presented to FOC for consideration and approval.

In addition, Tonga requested Secretariat assistance with the development of a National Illicit Drugs Policy to address the growing illicit drug use within the Kingdom. With the support of the Ministry of Police and the Office of the Prime Minister, two extensive whole-of-Government and whole-of-society consultations were conducted in Tonga in March and again in June 2019. The Secretariat also undertook extensive consultations with regional law enforcement and legal secretariats and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with a final draft of Tonga’s National Illicit Drug Policy formally conveyed to Tonga in August 2019.

Sustainable Development

The Secretariat’s sustainable development focus continues to be refined in response to the Leaders’ endorsed Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD) and the establishment of the Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee (PSDSC).

Accordingly, the Committee held its first meeting on 6 September 2019 to further progress the region’s priority to implement the PRSD. The PSDSC is responsible for the strategic oversight, guidance and effective regional coordination of implementation and monitoring. Their first meeting confirmed key messages to support Leaders’ and the region’s preparations and participation at the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review (MTR) and remaining MTR preparatory processes.

The key messages state that the Pacific has made a good start in embedding the SDGs and in some instances the SAMOA Pathway and the Paris Agreement into national and regional development agendas. The key messages also call on the UN system and development partners to assist the Pacific in accelerating implementation by:

- Mobilisation and better utilisation of existing financing; strengthening our Pacific capacities, systems, institutions and partnerships; and increasing investment in our statistical systems;
- Rapidly accelerating transformational and innovative interventions, including access to green and carbon neutral technology, trade and ICT; and,
- Accelerating collaborations and partnerships including with our Pacific private sector and civil societies, and to replicate SIDS-relevant solutions through peer-to-peer learning.

On member countries Voluntary National Reporting (VNR), the region continues to make progress; nine Pacific Countries have now completed VNR reviews. This includes Vanuatu’s VNR which is the first VNR Peer Review to have been carried out in the region. For 2020, four more Pacific countries are expected to report, and the Secretariat is committed to continue its support to Pacific countries, through its coordination role to implement the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development - in close collaboration with SPC, UNDP and UNESCAP, and other key partners.

Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific

As directed by Forum Leaders, CROP agencies have collaborated to deliver on decisions arising from the 49th PIFLM, as guided by a 2019 CROP Strategic Work Agenda, including: climate change and resilience; regional security; sustainable oceans management and fisheries; non-communicable diseases; and sustainable development. CROP agencies have also begun to implement
the new CROP Charter, with new mechanisms and processes established including: an annual meeting of CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs; CROP Deputies Group; annual dialogue with the UN and non-state actors; and reform of the CROP Working Group mechanism. An outstanding area of CROP Charter implementation, which requires Member discussion, is the alignment of the nine CROP agencies to the membership criteria stipulated in the new Charter.

More broadly, while CROP agencies have been working to strengthen collaboration, there are ongoing challenges with the effectiveness of the CROP mechanism. There will be an opportunity to consider these challenges in the context of the review of the regional (CROP) architecture, directed by Leaders in 2019.

Trade

In 2019, with respect to trade integration, the Secretariat:

Commenced the PICTA modernisation plan with a desktop review of PICTA Rules of Origin and provided advisory services to Members on Trade Facilitation initiatives, including during the global trade facilitation meeting held in India; and, provided on-going support for implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Provided policy advice to PACER-Plus signatories on the effective implementation of the agreement through stronger National Trade Committees, and held the first ever regional Quality Infrastructure Workshop, which culminated in Members’ endorsement of the Regional Quality Infrastructure (QI) statement and significant levels of development partner support to assist Members to upscale their QI systems.

Supported PACPS to negotiate Trade and Investment components of the PACP-EU Regional Protocol (to replace the Cotonou Partnership Agreement) and also supported FIC-WTO Members in fisheries subsidies’ negotiations; and preparations for WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in June 2020. The Secretariat also provided support to the Papua New Guinea Trade Policy review exercise and launched the Pacific Regional Tender Portal - this Portal is now operational.

In 2019, the Secretariat also facilitated knowledge exchange missions between New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) and Vanuatu. NZTE exchanges with Kiribati are also planned for November 2019.

Small Islands States Leaders at the PIF 2019, Tuvalu
Enabling Outcome 3. A Pacific Region that Influences
Enabling coherent political strategy and advocacy for the realization of Leaders’ priorities for regionalism

Dialogue with the United Nations Secretary General

The Forum Leaders’ High-Level Political Dialogue with the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres was held in Suva, Fiji on 15 May 2019. The Dialogue was chaired by His Excellency Baron Divavesi Waqa, the President of Nauru, and attended at Leaders level by Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, French Polynesia; and at Deputy Leaders’ level by New Zealand, as well as at senior levels by other Forum Members.

Leaders welcomed the UN Secretary-General to the region as part of his mission to see first-hand the stark realities of climate change, and to drive momentum in the lead up to the UN SG’s Climate Action Summit that took place in September 2019. In the dialogue, Leaders’ delivered the Blue Pacific’s Call for Urgent Global Climate Change Action Now, outlining and reinforcing the Forum’s longstanding calls for the World to deal with the threat and causes of climate change, with urgency. The dialogue left a lasting impression on the UN SG, who vowed to act in his capacity on the issue of climate change, and who has since markedly ramped up his own global advocacy on the issue.

UNFCCC 25th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 25)

In 2019, the Secretariat provided policy advice to FICs on climate finance issues during the inter-sessional climate change negotiations conference in Bonn in June 2019. In the lead-up to COP 25, the Secretariat also supported FICs in the Pacific pre-COP25 Preparatory Meeting held in Apia, Samoa in early November. The Secretariat acknowledges COP25 is to be regarded as the Blue (Ocean) COP. The Secretariat team will be led by the Secretary General.
The Blue Pacific Voice: Strengthening Media Participation in Key Events

A key focus for the Secretariat’s Communications team in 2019 has been to support media from member countries to attend key regional and international events important to our Blue Pacific priorities.

Media are a vital conduit in terms of reporting to stakeholders, encouraging transparency and accountability, and evidence suggests that countries with well-functioning and independent media achieve better, and faster development outcomes. However, working journalists in the Pacific face challenges - including contracting newsrooms and budgets, the rise of “citizen” journalism, distance and isolation, access to information, and restrictions on media freedoms in some countries.

The Secretariat has provided a range of assistance in 2019 in order to: support the working journalists of the Pacific; encourage emerging journalistic talent; and, increase public engagement and awareness of regional issues. Much of this assistance focused on peer-to-peer mentoring to support journalists to cover and report the news, rather than the “workshop” style media-training, which has proliferated around the region. The following activities were undertaken under this programme:

- Forum Economic Ministers Meeting Media Training and Mentored Reporting (May)
- Attendance at the UN High Level Political Forum for Pacific VNR Reporting (July)
- Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting Mentored Reporting (August)
- UNGA and the Climate Summit (September)
- Bougainville Referendum (Underway)

In total, 35 journalists from 14 member countries were supported to attend these events over 2019, resulting in over 400 news stories in national, regional and international media. Evaluation was undertaken against mentored reporting activities, with all participants registering a significant increase in understanding of regional issues, and increase confidence to report on them successfully. Work is underway to build on the 2019 activities,

Performers at the 49th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in Nauru
and establish a programme of media mentoring and support activities for 2020 and beyond.

**Post Cotonou Negotiations**

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement is a comprehensive, legally binding framework outlining relations between the ACP countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) and the European Union (EU). The aim of the Agreement is to reduce and eradicate poverty and promote integration of ACP States in the global economy and will expire in February 2020. As a consequence, negotiations for a successor agreement were launched in October 2018 between the 79 ACP countries and the 28 EU Member States. The Post-Cotonou Agreement, once it is signed, will set the direction of the partnership between the Pacific and the EU for the next twenty years.

Last February, Pacific ACP Leaders held a high-level roundtable meeting with the EU Commissioner for Cooperation and International Development, and they articulated the following Pacific priorities that have framed the negotiating positions for the Pacific ACP region: Genuine Partnership; Ocean Governance through the Blue Pacific Identity; safeguarding the region’s resources and security; the economic potential and sustainability of the region’s fisheries resources; commitment to addressing climate change and disaster resilience; sustainable development; and, education and health.

In June, a Pacific ACP Regional Workshop was held, which assisted the formulation of a collective and well-informed position for the Pacific’s zero draft text of the EU-Pacific Regional Protocol (PRP). The zero draft text provided the basis for PACP lead negotiators during formal negotiating sessions with the EU, as part of the regional Post-Cotonou negotiations in Brussels from July. In August, lead negotiators of the PACP Group met with European Union (EU) negotiators at PIF Headquarters in Suva, to discuss progress on the EU-PRP.

The Secretariat will continue to support the PACPS engagement in advancing their collective agenda in the post-Cotonou negotiations through the negotiating structure and support mechanisms currently in place. The Secretariat will further consult, coordinate and articulate the PACP region’s negotiating priorities with the PACP focal points, CROP agencies, private sector and civil society.

Children welcoming Leaders at PIF 2019 by demonstrating the impact of sea level rice for their island nation, Tuvalu
WIDER PERFORMANCE FUNCTIONS

Office of the Regional Authorising Officer

- The 11th EDF Pacific Regional Indicative Programme (PRIP) with an overall allocation of 197 million euros identified the following three priority areas, which resonate and align to regional priorities:
  - Priority Area 1: Regional economic integration (REI);
  - Priority Area 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, and the management of waste; and,
  - Priority Area 3: Inclusive and accountable governance, as well as the Investment Facility for the Pacific (IFP).

A rider to the 11th EDF PRIP was actioned to formalize the rebalancing of the REI component from 50 million Euro down to 37 million Euro, and to accommodate an increase in the Investment Facility for the Pacific (IFP) by: (i) regional component; and (ii) adding two national allocations (from the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands NIPs). The 11th EDF PRIP implementation has progressed to the extent where 42% is now committed under six (6) financing agreements. Of these commitments, 63% has been contracted through more than 10 underlying Agreements with various implementing agencies. The implementation of priority areas 2 and 3 is now effectively underway, with remaining programming and agreements for priority area 1 (for REI) and the IFP (actively underway). Each of the implementing agencies are being encouraged to ensure they are effective and efficient in the implementation of the programmed financial resources that have been committed and contracted to them.

Concerns remain on the need to commit remaining uncommitted funds under 11th EDF – in particular the mentioned REI and the IFP, before 2020. The EU through the Office of the PACP Chair, was urged to expedite the approval of these, to ensure that they could be signed no later than December 2019. As well, the PACP Chair had requested reconsideration of the request for waiver on ineligibles under 9th and 10th EDF based on the PACP Leaders decision reached on this matter at their meeting held in Tuvalu, in August 2019.

The office of the RAO was able to provide wider support towards the EU-PACP political dialogue held in Samoa in February 2019, the post-Cotonou negotiations regional workshop held at PIF Headquarters in June 2019, representation of some PACP countries in IMO meetings based on their request for funding assistance, and PIFS representation at the OCT – EU Political dialogue held in French Polynesia, in February 2019. In addition, two sessions of EDF training, to assist PACP NAOs and regional implementing agencies effectively implement their 11th EDF programmes, were organised in June and July 2019 with over 60 participants from PACPS. Key ORAO meetings to be held later in 2019 include the Pacific Regional Steering Committee (PRSC) taking place on 26 November, and co-Chaired by Secretary General Meg Taylor in her capacity as the PACPs RAO and the EU representative; and, the TECCBUF Steering Committee meeting on 25 November. The ORAO is also expected to send representation to attend other Steering Committee meetings of 11th EDF PRIP projects and programmes now under implementation.

Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner

The Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) was provided funding by Australia and New Zealand to support three full-time staff - including an Ocean Analyst and Manager, Ocean Communication Officer and an Ocean Management Officer. Additional funding was provided by French Polynesia to field an OPOC Adviser, to be based in New York and to work with Permanent Missions of PIF members at the UN. New Zealand further provided funding to support legal and diplomatic work on maritime boundaries and sea level rise. The Government of Spain and Conservation International also provided small grants to support elements of the OPOC work programme.

Since taking up office, OPOC staff have carried out substantive consultations with stakeholders
including Governments, Regional and International Organizations, Civil Society and Non-Government Organizations on how best to progress the work responsibilities and remit of the OPOC. In addition, the team has completed a forward work plan for the Office, and reviewed existing M&E and reporting processes related to the PIROP (2004), the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (2010), Declarations Palau (2014) and Pohnpei (2016), Voluntary Commitments made at the 1st UN Ocean Conference (2017) and the progress of SDG14 implementation – more broadly.

In August 2018, OPOC led regional preparations through the coordination and mobilisation of the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) of partners and the CROP, to provide technical advice and support for Member delegations during the 1st session of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) held at UN Headquarters in New York from 4 – 17th September 2018, in support of preparations for IGC 2 held in March 2019. OPOC also convened a BBNJ Pacific workshop from 30 January to 1 February 2019 aimed at providing opportunity for Members to collectively consolidate and scale-up their preparations for the second Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC2) negotiations.

OPOC in conjunction with the Forum Chair convened the first Negotiators’ (members) meeting of BBNJ from 26-28 June 2019 at PIF Headquarters. This allowed a space for negotiators to discuss common positions as well as issues of divergence, and to discuss the zero-treaty text - before the third Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC3) negotiation session.

OPOC coordinated a regional celebration of World Ocean Day on 7 June 2019, which was officiated by Honourable Osea Naiqamui - Acting Minister of Fisheries and attended by more than 200 participants from schools, NGOs, CROP agencies, the Navy, and the private sector. The Pacific Ocean Commissioner made some remarks to commemorate the Day.

Ocean talk with Pacific Ocean Commissioner Dame Meg Taylor and UNSG’s Special Envoy on Oceans Ambassador Peter Thomson
OPOC in close collaboration with the FFA-led World Bank-funded PROP initiative, under Component 3 (Pacific Ocean Finance Program) recruited and mobilized consultants who have undertaken regional work on novel ocean finance mechanisms including: Ocean Insurance; Taxes and Subsidies; Ocean Bonds; Community Finance; and Large scale MPA Finance. OPOC was also involved in the selection and formulation of curricula for the Ocean Fellowship programme, as well as organising the Ocean Finance Conference to be held from 11-15 November 2019 in Sigatoka, Fiji.

OPOC convened the Pacific Ocean Alliance which consisted of a 2-day workshop and 2 days of plenary sessions, which sought to discuss key thematic ocean issues and use the opportunity to conduct preliminary consultations with POA members on the recent decision of Leaders to develop a 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific continent. A Reference Group was established comprising of CROP, CSOs and Private Sector representatives to prepare for the event.

The OPOC has recently had a soft launch of its website (still in beta stage) which contains information the Ocean Commissioner, OPOC, POA, key regional ocean policies as well as the Regional Ocean Initiatives Register mapping on who is doing what on oceans in the Pacific. The website link is: https://opocbluepacific.net/.

The POC delegated the PIF DSG to attend the Our Ocean Conference held in Norway (late October 2019), which involved participation in three panel sessions [(i & ii) SIDS/LOIS-related sessions and (iii) on Blue Food].

Finally, the office will facilitate regional consultations and provide support to Pacific countries in the lead-up to the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Portugal (June) and Our Ocean Conference in Palau (August), in 2020.
ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The number of operational FOC Sub-Committees has grown in 2019, in recognition of the utility of this ‘type’ of mechanism by Members and the Secretariat. From the Secretariat’s perspective, FOC Sub-Committees are a practical approach, allowing operational discussions with Members on issues that require their ongoing commitment and guidance. From a logistical point of view, and noting the increase in the number of Sub-Committees, the Secretariat will ensure a level of coordination across the Sub-Committees in terms of timing and other arrangements - to minimise the time and resource impacts on Members. A listing of the status of FOC Sub-Committees is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOC Sub-Committee</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC Sub-Committee on Forum Engagement and Advocacy</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC Sub-Committee on Resources and Prioritisation</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit and Risk Sub-Committee</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROP Remuneration Sub-Committee</td>
<td>Superseded by FOC Sub-Committee on Resources and Prioritisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritisation and Funding Sub-Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism</td>
<td>TORs under Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOC Sub-Committee on the Review of the FPR</td>
<td>Term Complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOVERNANCE

The Forum’s structure and governance instruments remain the same with the 2000 Establishment Agreement that establishes the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, the Forum Officials Committee and the office of Secretary General were established.

The Forum Officials Committee (FOC) has established a few sub-committees (see table below) to support it in its oversight of the Secretariat, including the Audit and Risk Subcommittee, the FOC sub-committee on Priorisation and Resourcing (FSPR). FOC among its other responsibilities is responsible for approving regulations and the Secretary General for the approval of policies and procedures.

The Secretariat’s Governance Instruments – Hierarchy and Approval Authority

Hierachy of the Secretariat Governance Instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Approval Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applies to ALL Employees of the Secretariat</td>
<td>Approved by the Leaders Meeting or FOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>Approved by the Secretary General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Approved by Director Corporate Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Secretariat continues with its program of internal review of policies and processes.
The Audit and Risk Subcommittee

The ARSC role is to provide assistance to the FOC in fulfilling its responsibility to member states, relating to accounting, risk management process, financial reporting practices, the quality and integrity of externally published financial reports of the Secretariat, the quality and integrity of the draft Budget, and assessment of non-regular revenue.

The members of the Committee include representatives of Australia (Rod Mitchell), Samoa (Violet Fasavalu-Roebuck), Tonga (Sefita Tangi) and RMI (Yolanda Elanzo).

The FOC also in 2019 set up a subcommittee on Priorisation and Resourcing (FSPR) to support and assist the FOC to discharge its responsibilities related to resourcing and prioritisation with interaction with the PIFS Senior Management Team (SMT) related to the strategic direction of the Secretariat’s work in supporting implementation of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

The FSPR role is to provide strategic guidance and advise the Secretariat’s SMT on strategic level issues related to the resourcing (including human and financial) and prioritisation of the Secretariat’s work programme in-line with the objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Consistent with its scope, and as required, the Sub-Committee will also provide advice on the Secretariat’s remuneration framework.

Internal Audits

The Secretariat uses a risk-based internal audit function to meet its risk and control obligations to Forum Officials Committee (FOC) and the Audit and Risk Sub Committee (ARSC) and to provide insight and value that assist the Secretariat to deliver its strategic objectives.

The objective of the internal audit function – which is outsourced to Ernst and Young (Fiji) for the period 2018-2020 – is to provide an independent and objective approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of processes and systems across the Secretariat whilst ensuring that key strategic, operational and compliance risks are appropriately managed.

During the calendar year, Ernst and Young (Fiji) conducted four audit modules for which the findings and recommendations were presented to ARSC. The scope and status of these modules were as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1  | Information Technology              | - Review of information technology policies and procedures  
- Review of OT risk management and oversight procedures  
- Review of implementation of action plan from previous audit findings                                                                                                           | Completed                     |
| 2  | Capital Project (Fale Rebuild)      | - Assess the level of compliance with the Secretariat’s capital project management policies and procedures  
Determine that the controls surrounding project management are designed effectively to ensure these processes are appropriately authorised, monitored, managed and evaluated. | Completed                     |
| 3  | Operational Planning                | - Determine that the controls surrounding operational planning and delivery of key results are designed effectively to ensure these processes are appropriately authorised, monitored, managed and evaluated. | Draft report presented to ARSC and completed in following year |
| 4  | Stakeholders Engagement             | - Determine that the controls surrounding stakeholders and delivery of key results are designed effectively to ensure these processes are appropriately authorised, monitored, managed and evaluated. | Draft report presented to ARSC and completed in following year |

**FOC Sub-Committees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lead Adviser</th>
<th>Lead Director</th>
<th>Membership/Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum International Engagement and Advocacy</td>
<td>Bethany Sargent</td>
<td>Director – Governance and Engagement</td>
<td>All Forum members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Security Cooperation</td>
<td>Terio Koronawa</td>
<td>Director - Policy</td>
<td>Senior Officials level of all Forum Members and Technical Expert Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent</td>
<td>Joel Nilon</td>
<td>Directorv-Policy</td>
<td>All Forum Members with one (1) representative each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prioritisation &amp; Resourcing</td>
<td>Viliame Wilikilagi</td>
<td>Director -Operations</td>
<td>The FSPR will be open to all PIF Members and comprise at least five members, while recognising that participation in FSPR sessions is open to all PIF Members. Participating Member States will be required to nominate at least one representative to the FSPR who would be expected to participate in all FSPR meetings for any given year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit and Risk Sub-Committee</td>
<td>Nehla Baswaiya</td>
<td>Director -Operations</td>
<td>Three (3) members nominated by different member states. FOC shall appoint the members from nominations received from Member states and designate a Chair of Sub-Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea-Level Rise in relation to International Law</td>
<td>Nola Faasau</td>
<td>Director – Governance and Engagement</td>
<td>All Forum Members represented by senior legal, policy and Foreign Affairs Officials (from capital and/or Members’ UN Permanent Missions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PHP-C Ministerial Action Group (MAG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terio Koronawa</td>
<td>Director - Policy</td>
<td>As agreed by Foreign Ministers, membership of the MAG comprises of Australia, Fiji, Nauru, NZ, RMI, Tuvalu &amp; Vanuatu. The representative of the Forum Chair will serve as the Chair of the MAG.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PHP-C Regional Taskforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terio Koronawa</td>
<td>Director - Policy</td>
<td>Senior Officials from Member countries represented on the MAG (details above) and PIFS, SPC Pacific Community, OCO Oceania Customs Organisation, PICP Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, PILON Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, WHO World Health Organisation as Lead of JIMT; UNOCHA UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as lead of the PHT.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denton Rarawa</td>
<td>Director – Programmes and Initiatives</td>
<td>Senior Officials Forum Members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Nuclear Legacy Taskforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasha Siaosi</td>
<td>Director – Governance and Engagement</td>
<td>Nominated representatives from relevant CROP agencies namely the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP), and from Fiji, Kiribati, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joel Nilon</td>
<td>Director - Policy</td>
<td>The SSCR will comprise eight individual members who are citizens of Forum member or associate member countries. Each member will hold one of the following allocated positions:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  - An individual from a Melanesian country; |
  - An individual from a Micronesian country; |
  - An individual from a Polynesian country; |
  - An individual from Australia or New Zealand; |
  - An individual from a Smaller Island State; |
  - An individual from a civil society organisation in the Pacific; |
  - An individual from a private sector organisation in the Pacific; and |
  - The Secretary General (the permanent Chair of CROP), as the SSCR’s Chair. |
The Taskforce will consist of nominated representatives from the relevant CROP agencies, and Forum Members who have expressed their interest in serving on the Taskforce. The Taskforce may co-opt other technical expert agencies and relevant stakeholders to support its work.

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Taskforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td>Meg Taylor</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Secretary General</td>
<td>Cristelle Pratt</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Policy</td>
<td>Irvine Ormsby</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Governance &amp; Engagement</td>
<td>Sione Tekiteki</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Programmes &amp; Initiatives</td>
<td>Zarak Khan</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Operations</td>
<td>Simon Clegg</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management Team
Audited Financial Statements 2019
Secretary General’s Statement

I am pleased to present the Secretariat’s financial statements and independent auditors’ report for the year ended 31 December 2019.

During the year, we expended FJD20.4m from General Fund and FJD20m from Trust Fund, while our total cash and investment holdings at year end amounted to FJD29.8m.

I remain conscious of the responsibility entrusted to the Secretariat by Members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and by our development partners, to manage such a substantial level of funding. I therefore reaffirm our commitment to ensure that these financial statements provide an accountable and transparent summary of the Secretariat’s financial activities for the 2019 financial year.

In my opinion:

(a) the accompanying General fund statement of comprehensive income is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2019;

(b) the accompanying statement of financial position is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Secretariat’s affairs as at 31 December 2019;

(c) the accompanying statement of changes in funds is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the movement in funds of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2019; and

(d) the accompanying statement of cash flows is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash flows of the Secretariat for the year ended 31 December 2019.

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak which has impacted the public health and economic systems globally, since the beginning of the year 2020, the Secretariat has responded to the rapidly changing environment and associated risks with implementation of strict measures including staff movement restrictions to duty travel and access to the headquarters by essential staff only, to mitigate the risks as well as including adhering to the local Government’s protocols and lockdowns. The Secretariat believes it has sufficient financial resources at this time to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future but it will continue to review further the impact of the outbreak on the organisation’s revenues and expenditures for the future years.

Dated at Suva this 21 day of May 2020

Meg Taylor, DBE
Secretary General
Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Members of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (the ‘Secretariat’), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, and the general fund statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Secretariat as at 31 December 2019, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Secretariat in accordance with the ethical requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountant’s Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Fiji, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

Other information

Members and management are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Secretariat’s Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 (but does not include the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon).

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Level 8 Civic Tower, 272 Victoria Parade, Suva, Fiji.
GPO Box 200, Suva, Fiji.
T: (679) 3313955 / 3315199, F: (679) 3300947
PricewaterhouseCoopers is a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited, each member firm of which is a separate legal entity.
If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard, except that not all other information was available to us at that date of our signing.

Responsibilities of Members and Management for the Financial Statements

Members and management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and for such internal control as the members and management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the members and management are responsible for assessing the Secretariat’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members and management either intend to liquidate the Secretariat or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members and management are responsible for overseeing the Secretariat’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Secretariat’s internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members and management.
• Conclude on the appropriateness of the members and managements use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Secretariat’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Secretariat to cease to continue as a going concern.

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with members and management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Restriction on Use

This report is made solely to the Secretariat’s Members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Secretariat and the Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants

Kaushick Chandra
22 May 2020
Suva, Fiji
# GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FJD</td>
<td>FJD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Members</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5,881,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td></td>
<td>267,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recoveries income</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,706,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration fees received</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,045,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10,780,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19,680,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Governance</td>
<td>5(a)</td>
<td>4,153,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Governance and Security</td>
<td>5(b)</td>
<td>2,995,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Partnerships and Coordination</td>
<td>5(c)</td>
<td>2,642,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Services</td>
<td>5(d)</td>
<td>6,936,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of the Secretariat</td>
<td>5(e)</td>
<td>3,716,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,444,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net foreign exchange (loss)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(356,708)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) of income over expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td>(1,121,505)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming part of the financial statements can be found on the PIFS website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)
Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2019 FJD</th>
<th>2018 FJD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27,372,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other financial assets at amortised cost</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2,477,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables - Members</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>131,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables and prepayments</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>494,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30,485,896</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5,308,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-of-use asset</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>461,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5,770,217</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36,256,113</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current payables and accruals</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2,300,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease liabilities</td>
<td>13(b)</td>
<td>102,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>301,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions received in advance - Trust Fund</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16,752,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Income - General Fund</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4,804,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24,260,966</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease liabilities</td>
<td>13(b)</td>
<td>368,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>368,098</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24,629,064</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11,627,049</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated and reserve funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,355,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange translation reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>(985,316)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,500,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special fund reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>756,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total accumulated and reserve funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11,627,049</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secretary General
Meg Taylor DBE

Acting Director Corporate Services
Irvine Paki Ormsby

This statement and the accompanying notes to and forming part of the financial statements can be found on the PIFS website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)
Statement of Changes in Funds For the Year Ended 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FJD</td>
<td>FJD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>10,877,043</td>
<td>10,960,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) of income over expenditure</td>
<td>(1,121,505)</td>
<td>(476,561)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Exchange Translation Reserve</td>
<td>356,708</td>
<td>393,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer (to) Special Fund Reserve</td>
<td>(756,713)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the end of the year</td>
<td>9,355,533</td>
<td>10,877,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exchange Translation Reserve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>(628,608)</td>
<td>(235,134)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer (from) General Fund</td>
<td>(356,708)</td>
<td>(393,474)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the end of the year</td>
<td>(985,316)</td>
<td>(628,608)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Reserve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>4,145,562</td>
<td>4,311,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Trust Fund assets</td>
<td>26,002</td>
<td>95,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversal of leasehold land revaluation (refer note 11)</td>
<td>(1,393,472)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation on revalued assets and PPE used for Projects</td>
<td>(277,973)</td>
<td>(262,354)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the end of the year</td>
<td>2,500,119</td>
<td>4,145,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Fund Reserve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from General Fund</td>
<td>756,713</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at the end of the year</td>
<td>756,713</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to and forming part of the financial statements posted on the PIFS website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)
Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 31 December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FJD</td>
<td>FJD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from members and donors</td>
<td>21,897,774</td>
<td>17,263,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund income</td>
<td>17,016,436</td>
<td>14,908,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme and project costs</td>
<td>(19,611,277)</td>
<td>(20,661,846)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operational costs</td>
<td>(18,153,644)</td>
<td>(16,519,928)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>287,128</td>
<td>247,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on leases</td>
<td>(28,821)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and other income</td>
<td>89,438</td>
<td>193,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flow generated from/(used in) operating activities</strong></td>
<td>1,497,034</td>
<td>(4,569,074)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|      |      |
| **Cash flow from investing activities** |      |      |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 2,278 | 74,329 |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment | (1,315,042) | (340,840) |
| Movement in other financial asset at amortised cost | 1,391,980 | (1,572,676) |
| **Net cash flow generated from/(used in) investing activities** | 79,216 | (1,839,187) |

|      |      |
| **Cash flows from financing activities** |      |      |
| Repayment of principal lease liability | (97,816) | - |
| Net cash flow (used in) financing activities | (97,816) | - |
| **Effect on exchange rate changes** | (422,500) | (217,042) |

|      |      |
| **Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held** | 1,055,935 | (6,625,303) |

|      |      |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | 26,316,269 | 32,941,572 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | 27,372,204 | 26,316,269 |

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to and forming part of the financial statements posted on the PIFS website: [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)
2019 - Forum Leaders Communiqué

FIFTIETH PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

FUNAFUTI, TUVALU
13 – 16 August 2019
The Fiftieth (50th) Pacific Islands Forum was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 13 – 16 August 2019 and was attended by the Heads of State, Government, and Territories of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Niue, Palau and French Polynesia were represented by Ministers. The Forum Leaders’ Retreat was held at the Kainaki II Falekaupule in Funafuti, Tuvalu.

2. Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna attended the Formal session as Associate Members. The Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) were represented by the Heads of Organisation of the: Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO); Pacific Power Association (PPA); South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) were represented at senior officials’ level. The Asian Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations (UN), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the International Organization for Migration, and the World Bank attended as Observers. Forum Leaders also welcomed the opportunity to engage with the broader Forum family, including civil society and the private sector, and looked forward to its engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners.

3. Leaders expressed their deep appreciation to the Right Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Government and the people of Tuvalu for the warm hospitality extended to their delegations. Leaders commended the preparations and facilitation of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum, which enabled Leaders and participants to hold constructive discussions and contributed to the overall success of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum.

SECURING OUR FUTURE IN THE PACIFIC

4. Leaders congratulated the Government of Tuvalu for the 50th Pacific Islands Forum theme – Securing our future in the Pacific – which builds on the themes of the 2018 and 2017 Pacific Islands Forum meetings held in Samoa and Nauru, respectively, and underscores the need for strategic and visionary action to Building a Strong Blue Pacific Continent for our People within the spirit of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

A 2050 STRATEGY FOR SECURING OUR FUTURE IN THE PACIFIC

5. Leaders noted that escalating climate change related impacts, coupled with the intensification of geostrategic competition, is exacerbating the region’s vulnerabilities. In
reflecting on this, Leaders noted that securing the future of the Blue Pacific cannot simply be left to chance, but rather requires a long-term vision, a carefully considered regionalism strategy, and most importantly a collective commitment to achieve it. The strategic value that the Pacific region currently holds provides unprecedented opportunities and leverage to realise the Blue Pacific Continent.

6. In this context, and in promoting the fundamental principle of inclusivity and equality, particularly the role of women, ensuring increased representation at all levels, and of youth, for advancing regionalism, Leaders endorsed the development of a 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, while acknowledging the need for urgent, immediate actions on the threats and challenges of climate change facing the Blue Pacific and realising the health and wellbeing of Pacific people to secure a bright and prosperous future for the Pacific.

7. In framing the development of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, Leaders agreed the Strategy must ensure social, cultural, environmental and economic integrity, sovereignty and security in order to protect people, place and prospects of the Blue Pacific.

8. Leaders welcomed the offer by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu to commence dialogue with Leaders on a new 2050 vision for Pacific Island countries that recognised the Blue Pacific Continent that make up the territories and economic exclusive zones of the region and how Pacific Island countries can form an effective union, building on the SAMOA Pathway and the Boe Declaration, to ensure a safe and secure future for the Pacific in the face of climate change.

9. Leaders agreed that strong political leadership to advance climate change action, protecting our Ocean’s health and integrity, sustainably managing our island and ocean resources, connecting our oceanic continent (air, sea and ICT) and ensuring healthy people, as cornerstone priorities informed by science.

10. Leaders tasked the Secretariat to work closely with Members to prepare a draft strategy for Leaders’ consideration in Vanuatu in 2020.

11. Leaders tasked the review of the regional CROP architecture to re-examine and ensure the requisite governance and resourcing arrangements that promote, govern and deepen collective responsibility and accountability to deliver the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

12. Leaders further agreed that in order to secure the Blue Pacific, this would require strong political leadership and Members’ commitment to champion priority initiatives to drive and deepen regional cooperation, collaboration and integration, under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

PRIORITIES FOR SECURING OUR FUTURE IN THE PACIFIC

13. Leaders acknowledged that the Forum’s efforts to advance regionalism under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism depends on the solidarity of all the members of the Pacific Islands Forum and its efforts to address the regional priorities to secure its Blue Pacific Continent.
Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

14. Leaders **reaffirmed** climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

15. In acknowledging with appreciation the visit of the UN Secretary General to the Pacific Islands Forum in May 2019, Leaders **agreed** to build on their *Blue Pacific’s Call for Urgent Global Climate Change Action* through the *Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now* (Annex 1) as the basis of the Forum’s leadership and moral authority to engage at the UN Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit and the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*.

16. In recognising the need to formally secure the future of our people in the face of climate change and its impacts, Leaders noted the proposal for a UN General Assembly Resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change.

17. Leaders **recognised** the value of the ongoing collective efforts as one region and ocean, and the need to address financing for building resilience in the Blue Pacific. In support of the decision of Forum Economic Ministers, Leaders **endorsed** the concept and transitional arrangements for the establishment of the regionally owned and led Pacific Resilience Facility on the objectives, governance arrangements, financial products and capitalisation.

18. Leaders **encouraged** the Pacific Resilience Facility Technical Working Group to mobilise the requisite resources from new and existing partners to establish the Pacific Resilience Facility.

19. Leaders **noted** the expression of interest by Samoa to host the Pacific Resilience Facility once it is established as an international organisation.

20. Leaders also **recalled** the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP) and reaffirmed the importance of a member-driven, inclusive and coordinated action on climate and disaster resilience. In this respect, Leaders **noted** the work carried out to date to implement the FRDP and **agreed** to extend the trial period on the Pacific Resilient Partnership (PRP) governance arrangements until 2020 to be informed by a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance arrangements.

21. Leaders further **directed** the PRP taskforce to further elaborate the FRDP in line with the Paris Agreement, and to finalise the Monitoring & Evaluation framework by the end of 2021, with a progress update in 2020.

22. Leaders also **noted** the need for the Pacific Resilience Partnership to consider other risks such as from solid waste, including technological, medical and chemical waste.

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1 Noting Fiji’s reservations
Regional Security

23. Leaders **commended** the progress made on implementing the *Boe Declaration* and **endorsed** the *Boe Declaration Action Plan*, including the establishment of the Sub-Committee of the Forum Officials’ Committee on Regional Security. Leaders **requested** that traditional and cultural norms be acknowledged and considered as an underpinning imperative of all security initiatives under the *Boe Action Plan*.

Oceans and Maritime Boundaries

24. Leaders **noted** with concern the threat posed by sea level rise to securing the Blue Pacific, and **reaffirmed** their commitment to conclude negotiations on all outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones.

25. Leaders **discussed** progress made by Members to conclude negotiations on maritime boundary claims since the Leaders meeting in Nauru 2018, and **encouraged** Members to conclude all outstanding maritime boundaries claims and zones. Additionally, Leaders **reaffirmed** the importance of preserving Members’ existing rights stemming from maritime zones, in the face of sea level rise, noting the existing and ongoing regional mechanisms to support maritime boundaries delimitation.

26. Leaders **committed** to a collective effort, including to develop international law, with the aim of ensuring that once a Forum Member’s maritime zones are delineated in accordance with the 1982 *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea*, that the Members maritime zones could not be challenged or reduced as a result of sea-level rise and climate change.

27. Leaders **agreed** that pursuing their claims for extended continental shelf, under Article 76 of the *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea*, is important and requested ongoing support and assistance by relevant regional agencies on Members’ submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Nuclear Contaminants

28. Leaders **expressed concern** for the significance of the potential threat of nuclear contamination, World War II wrecks and unexploded ordnances to the health and security of the Blue Pacific her people and prospects, **acknowledged** the importance of addressing the long-standing issues of nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific and **called for** the operationalisation of the provisions of the *South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty* (Rarotonga Treaty), as necessary.

29. Leaders **recalled** that the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres raised concerns about the nuclear waste storage facility on Runit Island, Enewetak Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands as ‘a kind of coffin’ and warned of health consequences to the local communities resulting from the nuclear tests. Leaders **reiterated** their ongoing concern on nuclear contamination issues in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and particularly in respect of the nuclear test site at Runit. Leaders **called** on the United States Government to increase its monitoring and to address health consequences related to the nuclear testing programme.
30. Leaders agreed to continue support towards bilateral, regional and multilateral action to assist the Republic of the Marshall Islands in its efforts to engage the United States Government in a meaningful way, in order to achieve for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, full, fair and a just resolution of all outstanding nuclear testing legacy issues, and agreed to submit letters to the United States Government urging the United States Government to take further action to meaningfully address the ongoing impacts of its Nuclear Testing Programme; and to the UN Secretary-General requesting the assistance of the relevant and competent UN agencies and any other partners in addressing the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

31. Leaders further recalled their decision from 2016 and reaffirmed in 2017 that the Secretariat coordinate assistance by CROP Agencies to the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in addressing ongoing impacts of nuclear testing, including inter alia, human rights, environmental contamination, and health impacts, and acknowledged the ongoing dialogue between the CROP Agencies, particularly SPREP and SPC, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands National Nuclear Commission. Leaders further tasked the Secretariat to report to Leaders at their next meeting in Vanuatu.

32. Leaders endorsed the need for the commissioning of an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific, including in the nuclear test site at Runit.

33. Leaders agreed to request a meeting with the United States President to discuss the current and emerging issues of the nuclear testing legacy in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and in the Blue Pacific.

34. Leaders urged members to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

West Papua (Papua)

35. Leaders reaffirmed recognition of Indonesia’s sovereignty over West Papua (Papua). Leaders acknowledged the reported escalation in violence and continued allegations of human rights abuses in West Papua (Papua) and agreed to re-emphasise and reinforce the Forum’s position of raising its concerns over the violence.

36. Leaders called on all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of all residents and to work to address the root causes of the conflict by peaceful means. Further, Leaders agreed to maintain open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue of alleged human rights abuses and violations in West Papua (Papua).

37. Leaders welcomed the invitation by Indonesia for a mission to West Papua (Papua) by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and strongly encouraged both sides to finalise the timing of the visit and for an evidence-based, informed report on the situation be provided before the next Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in 2020.
COLLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR SECURING OUR BLUE PACIFIC

38. Leaders acknowledged the increasing strategic competition and cooperation in the Pacific and the opportunities presented for securing our Blue Pacific Continent. Leaders remained cognisant that the challenge for the Forum would be maintaining regional solidarity in the face of more intense political engagement, which may serve to divide the Forum collective.

39. Leaders emphasised the importance of genuine partnerships that reflect the collective priorities of the region and engages all Forum Members, reaffirming our Blue Pacific approach. Accordingly, Leaders endorsed the following Blue Pacific Principles for collective Pacific Islands Forum Dialogue and Engagement:

(i) One Blue Pacific – recognising and engaging with the full Forum Membership;
(ii) Regional priorities – embedding and progressing the Forum’s regional priorities;
(iii) Partnership approach – joint planning, programming and delivery by both the Pacific Islands Forum and the Forum Dialogue Partner(s);
(iv) Utilising existing mechanisms – aligning with, and seeking to build-off existing regional and international mechanisms, processes and meetings; and
(v) Collective outcomes and impact – developing joint outcomes statements and outlining a clear process for follow-up and implementation.

Forum Dialogue Partners Review and Engagement

40. In consideration of the Blue Pacific Principles and in recognising the importance of effective partnerships and engagements, Leaders noted with concern that not all Forum Dialogue partners are effectively engaging with the Pacific Islands Forum to a level that justifies their status as Forum Dialogue Partners.

41. Leaders directed a review of the criteria set to become a Forum Observer or a Forum Dialogue Partner for their consideration at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum.

42. In reflecting on the effectiveness of partnerships, Leaders discussed the recent developments on the UN General Assembly Resolution on UN – Pacific Islands Forum Cooperation. Leaders agreed to engage and seek to secure the support and solidarity of Forum Dialogue Partners in international fora.

43. Leaders considered recent applications for Forum Dialogue Partner status by the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Chile and agreed to defer its decision on these to their next Forum. Leaders also considered an application for Forum Observer status from the International Committee of the Red Cross and agreed to respectfully decline the application on the basis that the organisation did not meet the criteria set out for Forum Observers.
STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SECURE OUR BLUE PACIFIC

44. In the context of securing the Blue Pacific, Leaders considered a range of regional institutional arrangements.

   Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

45. In considering a long term 2050 strategy for securing the future of the Blue Pacific, Leaders reaffirmed the importance of inclusivity and agreed to maintain the public consultation process as a fundamental principle for advancing the strategy and for driving collective action under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

46. Leaders agreed to the review of the Terms of Reference and mandate of the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), including for greater oversight by Members as a means to better ensure that the SSCR is able to provide advice on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent for deepening regionalism, to be considered together with the Strategy at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in Vanuatu.


47. Leaders welcomed the Independent Report on the Forum Troika Review of Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Processes and supported the proposal from Forum Foreign Ministers to refer the Report to the FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy for further discussion, and to report to the 2019 FOC Budget Session.

   Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting

48. Leaders recalled their 2015 decision endorsing Fisheries as a regional priority and the 2017 decision that Fisheries be a standing item on the Leaders agenda. Leaders further recalled their 2018 decision endorsing the establishment of a Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting to ensure effective oversight across the multidimensional issues that impact our region’s fisheries.

49. Leaders welcomed and endorsed the Terms of Reference for a Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting and agreed with the advent of the Special Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting to disband the officials level Fisheries Taskforce.

50. Leaders also welcomed the adoption of the Regional Longline Strategy by Forum Fisheries Ministers.

51. Leaders considered and accepted the report card of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries by the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) Chair (Federated States of Micronesia) and the outcomes of the FFC Ministers Meeting in June 2019.
52. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work collectively to harness, secure, protect and sustainably manage, use and conserve, the living resources of the Blue Pacific such as coastal and oceanic fisheries – as part of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

A Regional Mechanism to Address Oil Spills

53. Leaders recognised the significant environmental risk posed by oil leaks and spills from the corroding hulls of World War II Wrecks. This risk is exacerbated by climate change events such as severe tropical cyclones and typhoons.

54. Leaders agreed that the Forum Officials’ Committee and the Secretariat, in collaboration with other CROP agencies, work on a Regional Mechanism and Action Plan, and that the Action Plan be presented to Leaders for consideration in 2020, taking into account the review of the Pacific Island Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) being undertaken by SPREP.

Ad Hoc Ministerial Meetings

55. Leaders agreed to convene a Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, to be hosted in Fiji in 2019, to consider and discuss a range of sustainable development challenges faced by the Pacific region to enable formulation of coherent economic, social and environmental regional strategies and policies that are inclusive, promotes regional economic integration, strengthens connectivity and leads to export-led growth, increased investment in priority areas and decent work opportunities in the region.

56. Leaders agreed to convene a Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting in 2020 to consider and discuss aviation-specific matters of importance to the region, in particular aviation safety and security, compliance with International Civil Aviation Organisation standards and opportunities for increased connectivity, and for the subsequent consideration of Leaders at their meeting in 2020, as appropriate.

Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)

57. Leaders welcomed the progress on the implementation of the CROP Charter since Leaders’ endorsement in 2018.

58. Leaders agreed to maintain the status of the Pacific Islands Development Programme as a member of CROP, for a further 6 to 12 months, subject to further verification of their standing against agreed CROP Member Criteria.

29th Smaller Island States Leaders Meeting

59. Leaders endorsed, with qualification, the Summary of Decisions of the 29th Smaller Island States Leaders Meeting and directed the Secretariat to institute a process for tabling the SIS Leaders’ decisions at Pacific Islands Forum Leaders’ Meetings.
DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

60. Leaders welcomed and confirmed the future hosts of the Forum as follows: the Republic of Vanuatu in 2020, the Republic of Fiji in 2021 and the Republic of Kiribati in 2022.

OTHER MATTERS

APEC 2021

61. Leaders noted New Zealand’s hosting of the APEC in 2021 and welcomed the invitation to Pacific Leaders to attend APEC Leaders’ week.

One Planet Summit – Oceania

62. Leaders welcomed the invitation to visit French Polynesia in April 2020, on the occasion of the official visit of the President of the French Republic, HE Emmanuel Macron, who will host the One Planet Summit – Oceania.

Candidacies

63. Leaders endorsed the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ candidature for the Human Rights Commission from 2020 to 2022, noting that voting will take place in October 2019.

Hosting of regional meetings and workshops

64. Leaders encouraged CROP agencies to consider holding regional meetings and workshops in Smaller Island States such as Nauru and Tuvalu, given the improved facilities and infrastructure available to host there.

Pacific Skills Portal


Anti-Corruption Meeting

66. Leaders welcomed an update from Kiribati on preparations for the Regional Anti-Corruption Meeting, which was postponed to the first quarter of 2020, with confirmed dates to be advised.

Regional Health Issues

67. Leaders noted a comprehensive update from the Cook Islands on this matter. Leaders acknowledged with appreciation the efforts of Pacific National Health Authorities and regional organisations, including the SPC, in supporting the delivery of better health outcomes for Pacific Peoples.
68. Leaders noted the issues raised by the recent Pacific Health Ministers Meeting held in Pape’ete and expressed their concern at the slow progress made on health issues in the region. Non-Communicable Diseases are the leading causes of death, disease and disability in the Pacific.

69. The critical impact of the climate crisis amplifies the challenges the region is already confronted with in the health sector. Leaders called for more consolidated and concerted efforts at national, regional and global levels to raise our ambition and to better support those working to improve the health of our people.

70. Recognising the centrality of the health of Pacific Peoples in the Leaders’ Vision for the Blue Pacific, the current state of crisis confronting the health of Pacific peoples, and the importance of ensuring adequate resources and a whole-of-government approach in the health sector, Leaders agreed that health remain on the agenda of future Pacific Islands Forums.

71. Leaders welcomed the invitation from the Cook Islands to participate in the 4th Climate Action Partnership Programme in Rarotonga in the second quarter of 2020 on the theme “Climate Drawdown: Banking on viable Pacific futures”.

4th Climate Action Partnership Programme

72. Leaders noted the outcomes of the Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting held in Apia, Samoa in July 2019 and the opportunity and contributions that sports provide to improving peoples’ health and wellbeing. Leaders thanked and congratulated Samoa for the excellent arrangements and hosting of the 2019 Pacific Games.
Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now

Securing the Future of our Blue Pacific

1. We, the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, meeting in Tuvalu see first-hand the impacts and implications of the climate change crisis facing our Pacific Island Nations.

2. Right now, climate change and disasters are impacting all our countries. Our seas are rising, oceans are warming, and extreme events such as cyclones and typhoons, flooding, drought and king tides are frequently more intense, inflicting damage and destruction to our communities and ecosystems and putting the health of our peoples at risk. All around the world, people affected by disaster and climate change-induced displacement are losing their homes and livelihoods, particularly the most vulnerable atoll nations.

3. As Leaders, we reflect and acknowledge the substantial work and investment over two and half decades of climate change negotiations, commitments, and scientific advancements, all intended to avert the crisis we now face. However, we are concerned that progress within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) must keep pace with the challenges we face today and in the future, in line with the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.

4. We hear the voices of our youth and the most vulnerable within our societies, having a loud and resounding impact. In amplifying the alarm we have been sounding for decades, including the youth of Tuvalu who called for the preservation of their homeland and culture. We welcome the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ role as co-lead on the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Climate Action Summit’s Youth and Public Mobilisation track, including through promoting the “Kwon Gesh” Youth Climate Pledge.

5. We welcome the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which remains the authoritative scientific body on climate change and is regarded as providing governments the best available science on climate change. The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C indicates that in model pathways with no or limited overshoots of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, global net anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050.

6. We note with grave concern and fear for our collective future that global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, reaching record levels; and based on current trends, without urgent action, we will exceed 1.5°C by as early as 2030 and reach 3°C or more by the end of this century.

7. We are of the conviction that the shared prosperity and security of our Blue Pacific can only safely exist if the international community pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement. The science is non-negotiable. Urgent action by the international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is critical to keep us on the 1.5°C pathway.
8. Urgent action is needed to ensure our shared needs and interests, potential and survival of our Blue Pacific and this great Blue Planet.

9. It is clear that to overcome the climate change crisis facing our Pacific Island Nations, we must increase our global solidarity and align our actions with our common concerns. Any failure to act will impact not just us, but our children and all generations to come. The time to act is now.

10. The Pacific Ocean is at the heart of our Blue Pacific narrative and critical for our future. As Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, custodians of the world’s largest ocean and carbon sink, and representatives of our Pacific peoples, we call for immediate action and not just discussion of ambition. Action must be taken in our region, and internationally, to support clean, healthy, and productive oceans, the sustainable management, use and conservation of marine resources, growth in the blue economy and address the impacts of climate change on ocean health.

**Our Commitment to Bold Regional Climate Change Action**

11. As Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, we recognise that to lead is to act and acknowledge the action being taken by all our Members, but we know more needs to be done. To secure the future of our Blue Pacific, we have pursued and must continue to pursue, bold and innovative regional solutions recognising that each of our nation’s futures, as well as the actions we choose to take, are interconnected.

12. Our actions and voices must be consistent with a collective vision and we have committed to developing a regional 2050 Strategy to secure the future of the Blue Pacific. Further, the Boe Declaration on Regional Security recognises climate change as the region’s single greatest security threat and through its expanded concept of security, we are increasing our ability to respond and manage threats to our security.

13. We have established the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and its inclusive Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) as an integrated approach to address climate change adaptation and disaster risk management and will continue to collaborate to build regional resilience. In this spirit, we direct the PRP Taskforce to further elaborate the FRDP in line with the Paris Agreement and finalise the Monitoring & Evaluation framework by the end of 2021, with a progress update in 2020.

14. We are committed to a collective effort, including to develop international law, with the aim to ensure that once a Forum Member’s maritime zones are delineated in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), that the Member’s maritime zones could not be challenged or reduced as a result of sea level rise and climate change.

15. We are taking action to protect our fisheries resources, and to conserve and restore our marine ecosystems and biodiversity. We are working to protect our ocean from harmful plastics through our Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025 and call on Pacific Rim countries to join and commit to action on addressing marine pollution and marine debris.
16. As a region, we are also creating innovative regional platforms, financial instruments, and services to build our resilience and secure our future. We welcome the substantial investment and technical support provided to date, and request further financial and technical support to elaborate our emerging initiatives.

*The Blue Pacific’s Calls for Urgent, Transformational Global Climate Change Action*

17. This December marks the twenty fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and is a key opportunity for countries to highlight and increase their pre-2020 ambition and action before the Paris Agreement is fully operational in 2020.

18. We firmly believe that the UNSG Climate Action Summit, the SAMOA Pathway Review, and COP 25 are global turning points to ensure meaningful, measurable and effective climate change action. As Leaders, we commit to act as one family, with mutual respect and responsibilities, to empower our people and secure a shared, bright future for our Blue Pacific. We reinforce the need for transformational change at scale, and for courageous and committed leaders prepared to urgently deliver on real, tangible outcomes.

19. We, the Leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, call for:

   (i) As we approach the 2020 milestone, all parties to the Paris Agreement to meet or exceed their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in order to pursue global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this is critical to the security of our Blue Pacific. For those that are not a Party to the Paris Agreement, we believe they should take similar steps to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

   (ii) All Parties to the Paris Agreement to formulate and communicate mid-century long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies by 2020. This may include commitments and strategies to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, taking into account the urgency highlighted by the [IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/08/ippc_special_report_on_global_warming_of_1.5_c.pdf), and establish the necessary policy, financing and governance mechanisms required to achieve this;

   (iii) All countries to recall the United Nations Secretary General’s opening remarks at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders-UNSG High-level Dialogue[^2] in May 2019 regarding carbon pricing, fossil fuel subsidies, and just transition from fossil fuels, and invite all Parties to the Paris Agreement to reflect on these views when updating their NDCs and formulating Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS);

   (iv) The members of G7 and G20 to rapidly implement their commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, acknowledging the priorities of the United Nations Secretary General for the upcoming Climate Action Summit;

(vi) The international community to continue efforts towards meeting their global climate finance commitment of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 from a variety of sources in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, through bilateral, regional or global mechanisms, including the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund; and to complete work required to enable the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement;

(vii) The international community to immediately increase support and assistance for Pacific-led science-based initiatives intended to improve our understanding of risk and vulnerability, including through support for modelling and risk mapping capabilities, the development of methodologies for understanding, projecting and responding to climate change-related economic and infrastructure impacts, and capacity building support for evidence-based decision-making and project development;

(viii) The international community to welcome the work of the IPCC and consider in relevant decision-making the findings of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the upcoming Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate;

(ix) All parties attending COP 25 to welcome the focus on oceans, and consider developing a work programme on oceans within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process and convene a workshop on the climate-ocean nexus in 2020;

(x) All countries to accelerate support for the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and ensure that efforts to avert, minimise and address loss and damage are key elements of the financial support needed to meet climate change and development challenges in the Pacific region; and,

The United Nations Secretary General to urgently appoint a Special Adviser on climate change and security and the United Nations Security Council to appoint a special rapporteur to produce a regular review of global, regional and national security threats caused by climate change, in recognition that climate change is the single greatest threat to the Blue Pacific region as reaffirmed in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security and is a growing global security threat.

20. We call on all countries and non-state actors to join with the Blue Pacific in taking bold, decisive and transformative action to address the ever-present challenges of climate change.
2019 FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

Suva, Fiji
8-9 May, 2019
2019 FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Conference Centre, Suva, Fiji

8-9 May 2019

2019 FEMM ACTION PLAN

The 22nd Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) was held at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji on 8-9 May 2019, and was chaired by the Honourable David Adeang, Minister for Finance of the Republic of Nauru. The theme of the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting was “Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Pacific”.

2. The following Forum Member Countries were represented: Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

3. FEMM Observer representatives included: the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the European Commission's Delegation for the Pacific (EU), the International Monetary Fund Resident Representative Office (IMF), the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI), the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the University of the South Pacific (USP), and the World Bank Group (WBG).

4. Representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations from the region also held a dialogue with Forum Economic Ministers on Thursday, 9 May 2019.

5. The 2nd Development Partners Roundtable with Forum Economic Ministers was convened on 9 May 2019.

EMERGING ECONOMIC ISSUES – IMPLICATIONS FOR PACIFIC ECONOMIES

6. The Forum Secretariat presented a paper on the Emerging Economic issues of Forum Island Countries, for information and discussion. The paper noted that global economic growth for 2019 and 2020 is positive, but is expected to weaken in the first half of 2019. It noted that the evolving global economic dynamics and challenges posed by the identified downside risks can derail the projected global economic growth and Forum Island Countries (FIC)s’ trading partners outlook. Further, that the domestic structural vulnerabilities coupled with high debt
levels and limited fiscal space, would magnify the impact of global economic shocks and impacts from natural hazards risks.

7. The FEMM reaffirmed the importance of: building resilience to climate change and disaster shocks; finding a balance between the financing national infrastructure and sustainable national debt; managing the volatility on financial markets as a result of US-China trade dispute and its impact on the FICs’ offshore investment (through national trust and sovereign funds); improving inflows of remittance and seek support of development partners in addressing correspondence banking relationships and operation of Pacific Money Transfer Operators operating in major remitting economies; and, building policy foresight to deal with any probable future upswings in global food and fuel prices.

8. The FEMM further noted that remittance costs remain under pressure in the Pacific, due particularly to de-risking which continues to be a driver of remittance market challenges in the region. Economic Ministers urged relevant development partners, as well as PIF members to continue seeking domestic, regional and international solutions to address issues related to de-risking and cost of remittances to the Pacific.

9. Forum Economic Ministers recognised the need to:
   a. **Undertake** regional analyses on the comparison of the governance, portfolio management and returns of national trust funds;
   b. **Consider** FICs’ vulnerabilities in the IMF-WBG Debt Sustainability Analyses; and
   c. **Encourage** country and regional initiatives that broadens economic base and activities, including improved food security through agriculture, strengthened human capital through investment in education and health, improved connectivity to propel trade, tourism and digital economy, and enhance capacity for meeting the growing energy needs.

**THE PACIFIC RESILIENCE FACILITY**

10. The FEMM noted the significant progress made on the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) following its endorsement by Forum Economic Ministers and Forum Leaders, in 2018. Forum Economic Ministers commended the Forum Secretariat and the FEMM endorsed PRF Technical Working Group on guiding and providing technical support since the 2018 FEMM.

11. Forum Economic Ministers:
   a. **Acknowledged** the funding support from Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) to progress the FEMM decision related to the PRF;
   b. **Discussed** and **noted** progress-to-date on the following: (1) Purpose and Objectives; (2) Point of Difference and niche focus; (3) Typology and/or character; (4) Governance and domicile arrangements; (5) Capitalisation; (6) Contribution Policy; (7) Allocation Policy; and (8) Financial Products; and
   c. **Welcomed** the opportunity for further consultation with Forum member countries and development partners, and further development of the proposal before the Special
Forum Economic Ministers Meeting to be held in July 2019 at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, to decide on the immediate and medium-term steps for the proposed owned and led PRF initiative of PIF Members.

CO-INVESTMENT: ATTRACTING INVESTMENT IN LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

12. The FEMM discussed the work done by the Pacific Islands Investment Forum (PIIF) on co-investment of infrastructure development in the Pacific region, since the 2018 FEMM. They acknowledged the interest expressed by the PIIF to co-invest through pooling part of their investible funds in the region. As well, to further advance and explore opportunities for collaboration and co-investment, the PIIF emphasised the support of Forum Economic Ministers as essential.

13. The FEMM noted the PIIF co-investment proposal as an opportunity to bridge the financing gap on infrastructure and private sector development in the region, noting that their combined assets and portfolios are currently estimated at USD50 billion.

14. Forum Economic Ministers:
   a. **Noted** progress on co-investment initiative led by the Pacific Islands Investment Forum (PIIF), and particularly in the following areas:
      i. Identification of regulatory investment barriers to PIIF member funds investing in Pacific jurisdictions;
      ii. Clarification of infrastructure investment pipeline, noting further work is required on those infrastructure projects; and
      iii. The establishment of a regional co-investment vehicle for PIIF member funds, and the potential for exploring investment infrastructure opportunities with governments, private sector, and donors/agencies.
   b. **Welcomed** the initiative by PIIF member funds to invest in Pacific infrastructure opportunities;
   c. **Endorsed** the following (short-term) next steps to be led by PIIF, and supported by the Forum Secretariat:
      i. Establishment of a PIIF Secretariat function, including the responsibility for progressing research and liaison with governments (and donors/agencies);
      ii. Engagement with Pacific islands governments around the potential for tax and other regulatory exemption(s) for PIIF member funds, and/or a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) comprising PIIF member funds;
      iii. Liaising more closely with governments (and donors/agencies) to identify infrastructure projects that are yet to be announced and/or had finance/funding confirmed, in order to explore co-investment opportunities for PIIF members (or an SPV), and alternative engagement models such as Public Investment
model, to help create a clear and viable role for PIIF member funds in infrastructure investment;

iv. Engagement with donors/agencies to progress and realise the co-investment SPV concept; and

d. Directed PIIF and the Forum Secretariat to report back on the progress on Co-investment initiative at the 2020 FEMM.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK FINANCE: ‘LEVERAGING THE TRIPLE DIVIDEND OF RESILIENCE’

15. The FEMM noted that over the last decade FICs have accessed USD1.1 billion in climate finance, of which 48% was from bilateral sources and 52% from multilateral sources. While the FEMM has historically focused on increasing access to international climate and disaster risk finance, Forum Economic Ministers underscored the importance of increasing the focus on the ‘effectiveness’ of climate finance. The influx of additional finance has had significant implications on Ministries of Finance, including their expanded role in development decisions and related, increased administrative burden. A large proportion of these additional funds are not channelled through the central agency systems, and in some cases, negatively impact implementation effectiveness and policy coherence.

16. In light of growing economic, social, and environmental risks, FEMM noted that it is crucial to evaluate the effectiveness of climate finance modalities, systems, and implementation results to date to ensure a clear understanding of the progress that has been made. This is also important because global climate finance flows are expected to increase from the current estimated US$60 billion per year to the agreed global commitment of US$100 billion per year by 2020. Forum Economic Ministers highlighted that efforts to fully track the effectiveness of climate finance remain in their infancy in the region. Revised and robust national financial management and planning systems are required to increase tracking capability. Revised FICs national systems will help them invest more strategically in initiatives that build resilience. The FEMM also noted the concept of the ‘triple-dividend’ of resilience as a conceptual tool for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of resilient investments.

17. Forum Economic Ministers:

a. Requested the Forum Secretariat to work with partners to assist with strengthening FICs national capacity for resilient investments through an approach guided by criteria of the ‘triple dividend of resilience’ concept and based on the findings of the PCCFAF reports;

b. Agreed to establish a revised approach for assessing PFM systems through expanding the current PEFA diagnostic outputs to include indicators that assess expenditure effectiveness of climate change finance;

c. Tasked the Forum Secretariat to work with PFTAC, Member countries, and partners to progress the work outlined in paragraph 17(b) and provide an update to the 2020 FEMM;
d. **Agreed** to scale up regional and national efforts to track the effectiveness of climate finance flows in order to increase the responsiveness, agility, and transparency of government service delivery and **tasked** the Forum Secretariat to support this regional effort through the development, provision, and deployment of relevant tools (such as *Climate Budget Tracking*) as well as targeted assistance for national PFM system reform; and

e. **Agreed** that the Forum Secretariat will continue to work with partners such as PIPSO and national Chambers of Commerce to expand the opportunities, capacity, and resources required to accelerate the delivery of resilient development priorities in keeping with the 2018 FEMM decision.

**PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE CHANGE INSURANCE FACILITY (PICCIF)**

18. In 2018, the FEMM directed the PICCIF Taskforce (including CROP and other partners) to further advance the work on PICCIF. Efforts by SPREP in 2019 have identified partners and a funding agreement is expected to be signed in 2019. The funds will allow the PICCIF Expert Group to meet and implement key actions required to progress development of the concept.

19. Forum Economic Ministers **noted** the progress report and the intent of the PICCIF Taskforce to develop the PICCIF concept for consideration in 2020.

**SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISING RELATED TO FEMM STANDING AGENDA ITEMS & OTHER FEMM RELATED ISSUES**

20. Updates on the Governance and Financing of Regional Statistics, and the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development were considered by the FEMM. In relation to *Governance and Financing of Regional Statistics*, Forum Economic Ministers:

   a. **Noted** the update on regional statistics development activities conducted in the region over the last 12 months;

   b. **Reaffirmed** their support for additional and sufficient funding commitments to meet the target of US$224 million by both national governments and development partners for the conduct of the core statistical collections in the 5-year programme from 2019 to 2023, in order to provide the necessary data required for reporting under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

   c. **Endorsed** that a mid-term review of TYPSS Phase 3 takes place at the end of 2019 with the objective to inform the development of a regional strategic framework TYPSS 2021-2030 for consideration as the overarching governance framework for regional statistics development at the next HOPS Meeting in 2020; and

   d. **Recognised** the implementation of the Pacific Statistics Governance Framework and its five main components [(i) Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM); (ii) Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS); (iii) Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC); (iv) Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB); and (v) Donor and Development...
Partners Group (DDPG)] as the framework that will guide regional statistics development and how member countries, donors and development partners should collaborate with each other.


a. Noted the progress in implementing the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development including support to 6 Pacific countries prepare their Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs, the endorsement by Pacific Leaders in 2018 of the 1st Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report (PSDR) and the establishment of the Pacific Steering Committee for Sustainable Development;

b. Tasked the Pacific Steering Committee for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with FEMM Officials, to consider and prioritise actions for Economic Ministers emerging from the recommendations in the first quadrennial PSDR, and report back to the FEMM in 2020; and

c. Supported a coordinated Forum approach to the range of high-level meetings in 2019, including the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; UN High Level Forum on Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; UN Climate Change Summit; and S.A.M.O.A Pathway High Level Midterm Review, 27 September 2019; and tasked the FOC Sub-Committee on International Engagement and Advocacy to coordinate regional efforts in this regard.

22. The FEMM considered issues in relation to EU Non-Cooperative Tax Jurisdiction.

23. Forum Economic Ministers:

a. Agreed that Forum Island countries work collectively in seeking further clarifications, information and expressing their concerns to the EU directly and at appropriate fora;

b. Directed PIFS, through its relationship with the ACP, to seek further information from the EU on behalf of relevant PIF members on details of the requirements and processes to be followed to be delisted; and

c. Tasked PIFS to work with members to prepare a strong statement to be issued through the PIF Chair expressing strong concerns with the unilateral approach adopted by EU in applying the listing criterion.

24. The FEMM also discussed Access to IDA and ADF Resources by Forum Island Countries.

a. Forum Economic Ministers noted Fiji’s experience on accessing the IDA resources from the World Bank Group (WBG) under the Small Islands Exception and agreed to pursue, as a collective, more concessional finance (including grant resources) from IDA and ADF for all FICs.
RELEASE OF 2019 FEMM PAPERS

25. Forum Economic Ministers supported the recommended document release classifications.

NEXT FEMM

26. Forum Economic Ministers:
   a. Recalled the Charter for FEMM and noted that the 2020 FEMM will be convened at the Forum Secretariat, Suva; and,
   b. Re-affirmed their decision at the 2018 FEMM in relation to Vanuatu’s offer to host the 2021 FEMM.

FEMM STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

27. The Forum Economic Ministers noted the updates on the FEMM Standing Items.

FEMM MINISTERIAL RETREAT

28. Forum Economic Ministers discussed the opportunities and the collective benefits to further strengthen the resilience of the Blue Pacific, including a commitment to pursue a “regional tourism initiative.” To support this proposal, Forum Economic Ministers agreed to conduct a feasibility assessment, including the benefits as well as costs accruing to peoples and place across the region. The issues and opportunities for strengthened intra-regional labour mobility, noting the SIS Leaders priority on labour mobility, and the opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation were also discussed, Ministers also shared their national-level actions to address NCDs through various health and wellbeing initiatives, including developing programmes in youth and sport.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN ECONOMIC MINISTERS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

29. Forum Economic Ministers, Private Sector representatives and CSOs held joint dialogue on Thursday, 9 May 2019. The outcomes of the dialogue is attached as ANNEX 1.

2nd DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ROUNDTABLE WITH FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS

30. The 2nd Development Partners Roundtable with Forum Economic Ministers was convened in the margins of FEMM on Thursday, 9 May 2019.

31. Forum Economic Ministers outlined the sustainable and resilient development priorities for the region, within the context of the 1st Quarennial Pacific Sustainable
Development Report endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2018, as well as an update on the progress of the proposal for the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). Development Partners indicated their alignment to and support of the Pacific’s resilience agenda under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific through Pacific Resilience Partnership, as well as support and a willingness to remain engaged with PRF as it progresses.
ANNEX 1:
OUTCOMES OF THE DIALOGUE OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Thursday, 9 May 2019

I. PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE WITH ECONOMIC MINISTERS

1. The Pacific Private Sector Dialogue with the Forum Economic Ministers was held on 9 May 2019. The Dialogue considered critical issues of the regional private sector, which focussed on:
   - Accessing climate financing including resilient infrastructure finance, building standards, and insurance products; and
   - The Pacific Australia Card.

2. The meeting reiterated the importance of business continuity in the event of disasters, to enable quick economic recovery and stability. The meeting underscored the need for:
   - easy to access affordable and appropriate insurance products, including micro-insurance for the MSMEs noting their importance to the national economies;
   - modern and customised building codes to ensure physical assets withstand expected intensity of extreme climate change and natural hazard risk events; and,
   - easy and quick intra-Forum travel could generate for both national and regional trade and investment flows.

3. The Economic Ministers and regional Private Sector Representatives:
   a. **Committed** to enhanced engagement with the Private Sector in the climate and related infrastructure financing discussions and decision making at the national and regional levels;
   b. **Committed** to strengthen households and MSMEs’ resilience across the region, in relation to, access to finance, capacity development, and affordable and appropriate insurance products (including, micro-insurance);
   c. **Tasked** the Secretariat to continue engaging the Private Sector in the further development of Pacific Resilience Facility;
   d. **Requested** the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to report to 2020 FEMM and Private Sector Dialogue, with an update on its work on improving building codes and standards in the region;
   e. **Welcomed** Australia’s commitment to a Pacific-Australia Card, which is expected to be launched this year;
f. **Endorsed** and **launched** the Pacific Regional Tender Portal and **requested** the CROP agencies and Member governments to use the portal, and the Forum Secretariat to socialise the portal across the region; and,

g. **Noted** the importance of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and the ongoing PIPSO review, and **called** for additional financing to enable full and effective private sector representation.

**II. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS DIALOGUE WITH ECONOMIC MINISTERS**

1. Civil Society thanked the FEMM Chair and Ministers for the opportunity to engage in the FEMM, in the spirit of inclusivity, equity, equality and partnership embodied in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

2. Forum Economic Ministers noted with concern the CSOs call for a moratorium on Deep- Seas Mining (DSM). Ministers asserted that DSM is a sovereign issue to be decided by countries. However, Ministers and CSOs agreed that an independent regional study on DSM and its implication for Pacific economies, the environment and ocean biodiversity, and livelihoods of people, would provide evidence-based information to inform policy decisions of countries on DSM.

3. Economic Ministers and the Civil Society Organisations:

   a. **endorsed** the CSO dialogue with Forum Economic Ministers as a permanent feature of the FEMM;

   b. **noted** the progress on the establishment of the Pacific Sports Physical Activity Physical Education (PSPAPE) Action Plan 2019-2030 through the Pacific Regional Sports Taskforce; and **endorsed** the final report of the research conducted on ‘Maximising the Contribution of Sports to Economic and social development of Pacific Island countries: The Case of Fiji and Samoa’;

   c. **noted** the progress on the regional youth employment initiative, and **welcomed** the proposed work plan going forward;

   d. **supported** the intention of CSOs to undertake a study in collaboration with relevant partners, on the cost of violence against women and girls on the Pacific economy focusing in particular on resilience building for ending all forms of violence against women and girls, and the practical solutions of reducing the costs of violence, and report back to FEMM in 2020;

   e. **acknowledged** the intention of CSOs to undertake an independent feasibility study in collaboration with relevant partners, on the impacts of seabed mineral harvesting and exploration in their respective jurisdictions;

   f. **welcomed** and **noted** the inclusion of civil society representation within the design of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF):
i. CSO representation in the governance, disbursement and monitoring of funds under the community grants;

ii. a social accountability mechanism ensuring all funds accessed benefit communities; and

iii. gender responsive design to include prevention of, and protection from all forms of violence against women and girls and provision of essential services including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health rights and support services.
2019 PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
Suva, Fiji
26 July, 2019
2019 PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
Suva, Fiji
26 July 2019

OUTCOMES

The 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting was held in Suva, Fiji on 26 July 2019. The Meeting was chaired by the Minister of Finance of Nauru and attended by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Vice President of Kiribati, the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Ministers from Australia, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Samoa were represented by Officials and a Special Envoy. Wallis and Futuna attended as an Associate Member.

2. The meeting was also attended by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation (PASO), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), and the University of the South Pacific (USP).

A 2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC

3. Ministers acknowledged that climate change, the geopolitical context and the development challenges facing the Blue Pacific region called for deep and critical thinking about the future of Pacific regionalism and the role that the Pacific Islands Forum can play in securing the future of the Pacific.

4. In this context, Ministers considered the findings of the Interim Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR), including subsequent discussions by the Forum Officials Committee (FOC).

5. Ministers:

   (i) **considered** and **welcomed** the report from the FOC Sub-Committee on the Interim Review of the FPR, and the report from the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), as it related to recommendations 1, 4, and 9 of the Interim Review of the FPR;

   (ii) **reaffirmed** the importance of inclusivity and **agreed** to maintain the public consultation process as a fundamental principle of inclusivity for advancing Pacific regionalism;

   (iii) **supported** the development of a 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy for deepening Pacific Regionalism under the FPR, recognising the need to have practical short and midterm strategies and initiatives such as the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development 2030; and
(iv) **agreed** for a FOC Sub-Committee to:

(a) take forward the review of the Terms of Reference and mandate of the SSCR, including for greater oversight by Members over SSCR; and

(b) develop the 2050 *Blue Pacific* Strategy for consideration at the 51st Pacific Islands Forum in Vanuatu.

**STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONAL PRIORITIES TOWARDS A SECURE FUTURE**

**FISHERIES**

6. Ministers recalled that in 2017, Leaders endorsed fisheries as a standing agenda item for their meeting in recognition of the vital importance of the fisheries sector, and that the multidimensional nature of fisheries issues necessitates a whole of government approach and Leaders’ oversight.

7. Furthermore, in 2018 Leaders endorsed the proposal for an annual Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, in the margins of the Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting, to report to Leaders on all fisheries related matters.

8. Ministers discussed how the fisheries sector can best be supported to ensure that Forum Members are proactive in securing the region’s fish for the future and that the region’s development aspirations are not undermined.

9. Ministers emphasised the importance of regional coordination, to increase the economic returns and ensure the sustainable management of fisheries and welcomed the increasing efforts of CROP agencies in this regard.

10. Ministers:

(i) **noted** the outcomes of the Sixteenth Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting;

(ii) **welcomed** the establishment and outcomes of the Special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting (RFMM) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia;

(iii) **noted** the endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the RFMM;

(iv) **noted** the Fisheries Ministers’ recommendation to disband the Fisheries Taskforce comprising FFA, PNAO, PIFS and SPC;

(v) **agreed** on the need for stronger coordination at national and regional levels, particularly through the RFMM, given the links and synergies between fisheries and trade, economic, security and environmental issues so as to ensure a
comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to the advice provided to Forum Leaders on issues and benefits relating to the Blue Pacific fisheries; and

(vi) noted their concern that harmful fisheries subsidies can contribute to economic losses in the fisheries sector.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE: FORUM CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY**

11. Ministers reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the Pacific region, as articulated by Forum Leaders in the *Boe Declaration*, and that effectively combatting climate change was central to securing our future in the Pacific.

12. Ministers noted that 2019 marked an important milestone for the region, with the meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) and the last year before the Paris Agreement becomes fully operational in 2020. This year also marked the inaugural visit of the UN Secretary-General to the region to meet with Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, in the lead up to his Climate Action Summit in New York in September. Further, this year will see the release of the IPCC Special Reports on Oceans and Cryosphere and on Climate Change and Land.

13. Ministers discussed the current state of the regional and global debate on how to respond to climate change, building on the outcomes of Pacific Leaders’ dialogue with the UN Secretary-General in May, the 2018 IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, and the outcomes from the UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn in June.

14. Ministers:

   (i) **recommended** that Leaders issue a high-level statement or declaration on climate change for the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit and the UNFCCC COP25 to ‘securing our future in the Pacific’;

   (ii) **noted** the high-level priorities that were set out in the paper, and additional priorities, adaptation, mitigation, and other issues that may be further raised, as proposed core elements of the Pacific Region’s climate change advocacy for the UNSG Climate Action Summit and COP25; and

   (iii) **tasked** the Secretariat to consult further with Members and work with the One CROP Plus and the FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to identify climate change priorities.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE: PACIFIC RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP**

15. Ministers recognised the 2017 Leaders decision that supported an initial two-year trial period for the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) governance arrangements to ensure effective implementation of the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific* (FRDP).
16. Ministers noted an update on the progress made over the past two years on the PRP governance arrangements, including the inaugural biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting convened in Suva in May 2019 under the theme of ‘Youth Futures in a Resilient Pacific’.

17. Ministers acknowledged that whilst the PRP was innovative, progress on implementation has been slower than expected.

18. Ministers:

(i) noted the work carried out to date to implement the FRDP, including through the establishment and operationalisation of the PRP governance arrangement, and convening the inaugural, biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting held in May 2019;

(ii) recalled the 2017 Leaders’ decision to trial the PRP governance arrangements for two years and, based on utility and progress, recommended that Leaders extend the trial period on the PRP governance arrangements until 2020 to be informed by a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance arrangements;

(iii) tasked the PRP to further strengthen efforts to improve the regional commitment and contribution of stakeholders and consolidate the partnership under the FRDP noting the linkages with existing and emerging regional instruments; and

(iv) requested the PRP Taskforce to provide an annual update to FOC on the progress of implementation of the FRDP.

REGIONAL SECURITY (BOE DECLARATION)

19. Ministers recalled Leaders’ endorsement of the Boe Declaration in 2018 and their call for an action plan to be developed for implementation and for the Secretariat to provide a progress report to the Forum Troika by June 2019.

20. Ministers considered and discussed the recommendations made by the FOC on the draft Boe Declaration Action Plan and the establishment of a FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security to coordinate and prioritise the implementation of the Boe Declaration and existing Forum security declarations.

21. Ministers:

(i) endorsed the draft Boe Declaration Action Plan;

(ii) endorsed the establishment of a FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security, and its role in further prioritising actions and activities under the Boe Declaration Action Plan, noting existing capabilities and regional security mechanisms; and
(iii) tasked the Secretariat to design and develop a Pacific Security Dialogue through the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security in order to provide a more inclusive space for regional security discussions.

**NUCLEAR CONTAMINANTS**

22. Ministers acknowledged that the issue of the nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific has been a standing agenda item on the Leaders annual meeting, but in the context of the Marshall Islands’ request for support in its efforts to resolve nuclear testing legacy issues with the Government of the United States.

23. While considering additional or alternative modalities for strengthening support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ministers also considered the potential threat of nuclear contamination to the health and security of the entire Blue Pacific, posed by the post-World War II nuclear testing programmes in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia, as well as the 2011 Fukushima nuclear reactor accident.

24. In the context of discussions, Vanuatu encouraged Members to sign up to the 2017 UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

25. Ministers:

   (i) acknowledged the importance of addressing the long-standing issue of nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific; and

   (ii) endorsed the proposal that the Forum Secretariat work together with Members, CROP agencies, and other partners to accelerate collective action to address the issue, and in particular:

   (a) to task the Secretariat to coordinate the compilation and analysis of all available scientific assessments of the impact of nuclear testing activities on the health and security of the Blue Pacific and its peoples, including the request for inclusion of Kiritimati;

   (b) to task the Secretariat to develop options on a stocktake of unexploded ordnances and World War II remnants;

   (c) to consider, if necessary, the commissioning of an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the issue;

   (d) to consider whether additional or alternative modalities for Forum support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and other Members similarly situated, is warranted; and
(e) to promote the status of the entire Blue Pacific as a nuclear free zone, adopting modalities to foster meaningful international cooperation under the framework of the Rarotonga Treaty to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons globally, and to this end, to consider modernisation of certain operational provisions of the Rarotonga Treaty provisions where necessary.

OCEANS AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES

26. Ministers acknowledged the ongoing support by SPC, FFA, the Secretariat and other agencies and considered the ongoing regional work on the demarcation of maritime boundaries and delimitation of maritime zones, including to highlight for discussion the threat posed by sea level rise to Members’ baselines and maritime claims established pursuant to the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention (1982 LOSC).

27. Ministers discussed the threat posed by sea level rise to Members’ rights stemming from maritime zones under the 1982 LOSC and considered the options on a way forward to ensure that sea level rise and the potential permanent inundation of baselines and basepoints, in no way, shape or form, derogates upon the maritime interests and sovereign rights stemming from maritime zones, pursuant to the 1982 LOSC.

28. Ministers:

(i) encouraged Members to conclude negotiations on maritime boundary claims and delineation of their maritime zones, noting Leaders’ commitment to progressing the resolution of outstanding maritime boundary claims and the report back on progress to the 2019 Leaders’ meeting in Tuvalu;

(ii) endorsed the importance of preserving Members’ existing rights stemming from maritime zones, in the face of sea level rise, noting the existing and ongoing regional mechanisms to support maritime boundaries delimitation;

(iii) committed to a collective effort, including to develop international law with the aim of ensuring that once a Forum Member’s maritime zones are delineated in accordance with the 1982 LOSC, that the Members maritime zones could not be challenged or reduced as a result of sea-level rise and climate change; and

(iv) noting the cross-cutting nature of these maritime issues, the sovereignty issues associated therewith, and the multi-faceted components of the work, which will involve, legal, technical, policy, and high-level diplomacy and advocacy input, tasked the OPOC to work together with relevant CROP agencies to develop an overview paper that outlines existing regional mechanisms and suggests opportunities for closer collaboration between regional agencies to ensure effective coordination.
WEST PAPUA (PAPUA)

29. In view of the 2016 Forum Leaders’ decision that the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda, Ministers discussed the Forum’s position on West Papua (Papua).

30. Ministers:
   (i) **acknowledged** the reported escalation in violence and continued allegations of human rights abuses in West Papua (Papua);
   (ii) **agreed** to re-emphasise and reinforce the Forum’s position of raising its concerns over the violence and:
       (a) call on all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of all residents;
       (b) call on all parties to work to address the root causes of the conflict by peaceful means;
       (c) maintain open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue of alleged human rights abuses and violations in West Papua (Papua); and
   (iii) **welcomed** the invitation by Indonesia for a mission to West Papua (Papua) by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and **strongly encouraged** both sides to finalise the timing of the visit and make every endeavour to provide a report on the situation before the next Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in 2020.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY AS THE BLUE PACIFIC

FORUM INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2020

31. Ministers affirmed that strong and effective international advocacy, as one Blue Pacific, is critical given that many of the priorities and challenges facing the Pacific region are transboundary and crosscutting in nature and can only be effectively dealt with through international action.

32. Ministers considered the thematic priorities for the Forum’s international engagement and advocacy in 2020.

33. Ministers:
   (i) **welcomed** progress on implementation of the *Strategy for PIF International Engagement and Advocacy*, while **calling** for further, sustained participation and support by all Forum Members, at Capital and in overseas missions, and through the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy;
   (ii) **noted** the financial constraints faced by Members to sustain participation in international engagement and the additional challenges for those Members facing graduation from Official Development Assistance (ODA);
(iii) **encouraged** the Secretariat to secure funding for Members to attend ongoing BBNJ negotiations, noting the difficulty encountered by Members in accessing the BBNJ Trust Fund;

(iv) **endorsed** maintaining the current international advocacy and engagement priorities for 2020 (climate change and resilience; regional security; sustainable oceans management, use and conservation; and 2030 Agenda including the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway), while elevating a focus on sustainable ocean management, use and conservation, and climate change and resilience, and in particular the links between ocean and climate; and

(v) **tasked** the Secretariat to develop an Action Plan for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy for the consideration of the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy, based on agreed international advocacy priorities for 2020 and the decisions of the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting, for out-of-session endorsement of FOC, by December 2019.

**STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH FORUM DIALOGUE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

34. Ministers noted that shifting geopolitics and rising development challenges has led to an increasing focus on, and engagement with, the *Blue Pacific* region from international partners.

35. In this context, Ministers noted the findings of the Secretariat’s 2019 review of the Forum’s 18 Dialogue Partners, including that the majority of Forum Dialogue Partners are increasing their regional engagement, through new or reinvigorated foreign policy strategies, interest in establishing dialogue mechanisms, and increasing involvement in Pacific regional organisations.

36. While welcoming Dialogue Partners’ increasing engagement, Ministers emphasised the need for genuine partnership that reflects the collective priorities of the region and engages all Forum Members and not a sub-set of Forum members, reaffirming a *Blue Pacific* approach.

37. Drawing on the findings of the review, Ministers considered initiatives to strengthen engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners, as one *Blue Pacific*, and in support of the Leaders’ vision and priorities for the region.

38. Ministers:

   (i) **endorsed** the findings of the 2019 Review of Forum Dialogue Partners;

   (ii) **endorsed** the proposed *Blue Pacific* Principles for Dialogue and Engagement, as follows:

   - *One Blue Pacific* – recognising and engaging with the full Forum Membership;
• **Regional priorities** – embedding and progressing the Forum’s regional priorities;
• **Partnership approach** – joint planning, programming and delivery by both the PIF and the Forum Dialogue Partner;
• **Utilising existing mechanisms** – aligning with, and seeking to build-off existing regional and international mechanisms, processes and meetings;
• **Collective outcomes and impact** – developing joint outcomes statements and outlining a clear process for follow-up and implementation;

(iii) **discussed** and **agreed** on those Forum Dialogue Partners that are critical to the achievement of the Forum’s priorities, and for which the Forum should prioritise regular dialogue and engagement, and ensure a strategic approach, as one *Blue Pacific*;

(iv) **noted** the recommendations of the Forum Troika Review of PIF Meetings Processes to strengthen the annual PIF Leaders session with Forum Dialogue Partners and **agreed** to consider these recommendations in the context of this paper;

(v) **tasked** the Secretariat to work together with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy to lead on further strengthening and targeting PIF’s engagement with Forum Dialogue Partners; and

(vi) **agreed** for the Secretariat to undertake a review of the criteria and guidelines for Forum Dialogue Partner membership, in consultation with the FOC Sub-Committee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy, for consideration of FOC and Forum Leaders in 2020.

**NORWAY AND CHILE – FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER**


40. Ministers:

(i) **welcomed** the Republic of Chile and Norway’s interest in strengthening their engagement with the *Blue Pacific* region and the Pacific Islands Forum, through their application for Forum Dialogue Partner membership; and

(ii) **agreed** for applications from the Republic of Chile and Norway to be considered by Forum Leaders in 2020, to enable further demonstration of both countries’ commitment to enhanced and sustained engagement with the region, including through the development of a 3 – 5 year strategy for proposed engagement with the Forum.
**ICRC – FORUM OBSERVER**

41. Ministers considered an application by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for observer status in the Forum.

42. Ministers:
   
   (i) **expressed** strong gratitude for the important work of the ICRC in the region, its alignment with the vision and objectives of the Pacific Islands Forum, and the ICRC’s valuable humanitarian work;

   (ii) **noted** the ICRC’s application to become an Observer to the Forum and that it does not meet a key criterion under the 2005 Policy Criteria for Observer status to the Forum; and

   (iii) **acknowledged** Forum Leaders’ discretion to be guided by the 2005 Policy Criteria for Observer status to the Forum, and **recommended** Leaders respectfully decline the application of the ICRC to become a Forum Observer.

**FORUM TROIKA REVIEW OF FORUM MEETING PROCESSES**

43. Ministers recalled the direction of Forum Leaders in 2018 for the Secretariat to work with the Forum Troika (Samoa, Nauru and Tuvalu) to review the guidelines and format of PIF Meetings, and to subsequently report back to Leaders. The review was considered necessary to help standardise and codify the arrangements and processes surrounding the engagement of Forum Leaders in an increasingly more complex set of regional consultations that coincide with their annual meeting.

44. Ministers considered the findings of the final draft Report on the Review of Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Processes.

45. Ministers:
   
   (i) **welcomed** the Report on the Review of Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Processes;

   (ii) **noted** the findings of the Review Report and **agreed** to refer the Review Report to the FOC Sub-Committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy for further discussion, and to report to the 2019 FOC Budget Session; and

   (iii) **agreed** to provide, for the information of Leaders at their 50th Annual Meeting in Tuvalu, the Review Report and proposed ways forward to progress the recommendations of the Review Report.

**CROP ISSUES**

46. Ministers:
(i) welcomed the ongoing work on the harmonisation of CROP remuneration and in other corporate areas, including joint purchasing and common procedures;

(ii) agreed to maintain the position of flexible harmonisation of CROP remuneration, while continuing to monitor the relative settings of the four participating CROP agencies and pursuing harmonisation in other CROP corporate areas; and

(iii) considered the retirement of the Pacific Islands Development Program as initial assessments suggests it no longer meets the criteria of the CROP Membership as outlined in the CROP Charter.

OTHER MATTERS

47. Ministers:

(i) 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting:

(a) welcomed the update from Tuvalu on preparations for the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting.

(ii) 51st Pacific Islands Forum Meeting:

(a) welcomed an update from Vanuatu on preparations for the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Meeting proposed to coincide with Vanuatu’s 40th Anniversary of Independence celebrations on 30 July 2020.

(iii) Pacific Fusion Centre:

(a) welcomed an update from Australia on governance arrangements for the Pacific Fusion Centre, which were discussed and considered by the Pacific Fusion Centre Reference Group;

(b) noted the need for Members to fully appreciate this initiative at the national level, with appropriate regard to national legal and policy frameworks;

(c) agreed that the Pacific Fusion Centre report to the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security once established;

(d) agreed that the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security provide guidance to the Centre on focus areas, in line with Boe Declaration priorities;

(e) tasked the Secretariat to incorporate the Pacific Fusion Centre in the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security meeting’s standing agenda;
(f) **agreed** that a Pacific Fusion Centre Charter be developed with Forum members, considered by the FOC Sub-Committee on Regional Security during its first meeting in October 2019, and put before the FOC for endorsement at its November 2019 meeting;

(g) **agreed** that the governance model be reviewed by the FOC Sub-Committee, noting plans for routine program performance reviews in 2021 and 2023; and

(h) **noted** the key location attributes conducive to the Pacific Fusion Centre’s operational success, as identified through regional consultations.

(iv) **UNGA Resolution relating to Climate Change:**

(a) **noted** Vanuatu’s proposal for a draft UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution seeking an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change; and

(b) **supported** the referral of the proposal for Leaders’ consideration of the resolution, and to be reviewed as required based on negotiations in capitals and New York.

(v) **Regional mechanisms to address oil spills and marine pollution events:**

(a) **considered** a proposal by the Solomon Islands for the development of a robust and reliable regional mechanism to assist Pacific Island countries deal with oil spills and marine pollution events in the region should these occur in future and where the required interventions exceed the capacity and resources of individual island countries to deal with adequately;

(b) **acknowledged** the fact that most Pacific Island countries may not have the capacity to deal with oil spills and marine pollution events on their own, thus highlighting the importance of having a robust and efficient region-wide mechanism that can be activated to assist Pacific Island countries in the event of any oil spill or marine pollution event;

(c) **welcomed** the support rendered by Australia and New Zealand to assist Solomon Islands in its effort to contain the oil spill in Kangava Bay, in Rennell and Bellona Province and undertake recovery operations to minimise environmental damage to surrounding reef and lagoon;

(d) **acknowledged** the assistance provided by professional salvaging company engaged by the ship owners and ship insurers to stop the oil leakage,
undertake recovery work, re-float and remove the vessel from Solomon Islands waters;

(e) **acknowledged** the challenges and difficulty in securing genuine and real-time commitment from the ship’s insurers;

(f) **further acknowledged** the effort made by the Government of Solomon Islands to respond to the oil spill disaster; and

(g) **supported** the referral of this item, *Regional Mechanism to address Oil Spills*, for Leaders’ direction on the next steps to address future potential oil spills and other marine pollution events in our *Blue Pacific* Continent, taking into account the review of the Pacific Island Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) being undertaken by SPREP.

(vi) **52nd Pacific Islands Forum and Related Meetings:**

(a) **noted** Fiji’s offer to host the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in 2021.

(vii) **Candidacies:**

(a) **noted** New Zealand’s candidate, Dr Penny Ridings, for the International Law Commission for the 2022 – 2026 term; and

(b) **endorsed** the candidacy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Human Rights Council 2020, noting the need for some Members to complete national approval processes, and **welcomed** the update regarding the candidacy.

(viii) **Gender-based violence:**

(a) **noted** Australia’s plans to convene a regional event to discuss how Forum Members can intensify efforts to reduce violence against women and children, and expand services for survivors, and proposed Leaders continue discussion of these important issues on future occasions, including in Tuvalu.

(ix) **Pacific Games:**

(a) **congratulated** the Government and people of Samoa for the excellent arrangements and successful hosting of the 2019 Pacific Games, and noted the next host in 2023 is Solomon Islands under the theme *Challenge, Celebrate, Unite*.
Our Secretariat Values:
As an organisation and as individuals we work and serve with:

Respect | Integrity | Inclusiveness | Accountability