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|  | PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT |

***LISTENING TO THE PACIFIC:***

**FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM – REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

**Introduction**

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

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

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

**A New Process for Regional Public Policy Development**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**To Submit a Regional Initiative:**

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

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

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

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

**REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

*Please complete each section below.*

1. **Contact Details**

*Please provide the following contact details:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Name of individual or group submitting initiative*  | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Name and position of primary contact* | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Email address* | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Alternate email address* | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Phone number* | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Fax number* | *<Enter text here>* |
| *Mailing address* | *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Name of Initiative**

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| *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Background and Rationale**

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

***Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.***

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| *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Description**

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

***Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.***

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| *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives**

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

***Please limit your response to no more than 500 words***

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| *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Additional Information**

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

***Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.***

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| *<Enter text here>* |

1. **Uploading initiatives to the Forum Secretariat website**

*In line with the process outlined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, please note that all initiatives will be uploaded to the Forum Secretariat website at the close of the call for initiatives, i.e. 12 June 2015.*

1. **Contact Details**

*For further information on completing this template, consult the submissions guideline or contact:*

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

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

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

**Email:** FPR@forumsec.org

**Phone:** +679 322 0322 or +679 322 0324

1. **About the Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

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

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

1. **Who coordinates the process for submitting a regional initiative?**

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

1. **How do I submit a regional initiative?**

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

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

1. **Who can submit an initiative?**

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

1. **What kind of information is required?**

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

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

The Forum Secretariat will provide general advice and suggestions to those making submissions. This advice will include clarifying the information set out in this guideline, such as how initiatives can be completed and submitted; the type and level of information sought; the basis on which initiatives are assessed; and clarification of the overall process. Forum Secretariat staff can also provide background information, such as that on the Pacific Plan Review and on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

1. **Selection and Assessment Process**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Further help and feedback**

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

**Frequently Asked Questions** will be placed at the Framework for Pacific Regionalism website:

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

**FIG. 1: TESTS FOR REGIONAL ACTION**

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| **TEST (*Indicative weighting\**)** | **CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION** |
| **Market test (5%)** | The initiative should not involve a service that markets can provide well. |
| **Sovereignty test (10%)** | The initiative should maintain the degree of effective sovereignty held by national governments (countries, not regional bodies, should decide priorities). |
| **Regionalism test (30%)** | The initiative should meet one of the following criteria at a sub-regional or regional level, in support of national priorities and objectives:* establish a shared norm or standard
* establish a common position on an issue
* deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope realise economies of scale
* overcome national capacity constraints
* complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public
* goods like security or the rule of law
* facilitate economic or political integration
* Where benefits accrue sub-regionally, the contribution to broader regionalism should be clear.
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| **Benefit test (20%)** | The initiative should bring substantial net benefits, as demonstrated by a cost-benefit analysis. The distribution of benefits across countries and across stakeholders within the region should also be considered—particularly with respect to:* The relative costs and benefits for smaller island states (an “SIS test”)
* How inclusive the proposal is of all stakeholders who might benefit from regionalism.
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| **Political oversighttest (20%)** | The initiative should require the Leaders’ attention and input (as opposed tobeing within the mandate of Ministers or other governing bodies). |
| **Risk andsustainabilitytest (10%)** | The initiative should demonstrate a robust risk and sustainability evaluation, be based on a sound implementation plan, be supported by some identified funding, and demonstrate available capacity and experience for successful implementation. |
| **Duplication test (5%)** | The initiative should not be currently under progress by another organisation orprocess, and there should be no duplication of effort. |

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

**FIG. 2: REGIONAL VALUES AND OBJECTIVES**

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| **Vision:** Our Pacific Vision is for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives  |
| **Values:*** We value and depend upon the integrity of our vast ocean and our island resources.
* We treasure the diversity and heritage of the Pacific and seek an inclusive future in which cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed.
* We embrace good governance, the full observance of democratic values, the rule of law, the defence and promotion of all human rights, gender equality, and commitment to just societies.
* We seek peaceful, safe, and stable communities and countries, ensuring full security and wellbeing for the peoples of the Pacific.
* We support full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific.
* We strive for effective, open and honest relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships—based on mutual accountability and respect—with each other, within our sub-regions, within our region, and beyond.

These Pacific regional values will guide all our policy-making and implementation. |
| **Principal 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;
* Strengthened governance, legal, financial, and administrative systems; and
* Security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all.
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