



SPC/CRGA 45 (15)

Paper 6 A
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**FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(Alofi, Niue, 31 October–2 November 2015)

AGENDA ITEM 6 A: FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM

(Paper presented by the secretariat)

Summary

1. This paper, jointly presented by SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), provides an update to CRGA on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR), the secretariat's submissions to the Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR) of the Forum Officials' Committee (FOC) in relation to the FPR, the recommendations of the SSCR on these submissions, and the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' decisions in relation to these recommendations, made at their meeting in Port Moresby (September 2015). The paper also updates members on the implementation of these decisions and SPC's role in their implementation.
2. The secretariat submitted proposals to the SSCR relating to shipping, coastal fisheries, deep sea minerals, water and sanitation, Tobacco-free Pacific 2025, and food and livelihood security. Of these proposals, the SSCR recommended that two be presented to CRGA, one to Pacific Ministers of Transport, one to Pacific Ministers of Fisheries, and one to Pacific Trade/Economic/Health Ministers. SSCR recommended that the submission on deep-sea mining be further worked on by PIFS and the secretariat for Leaders' consideration at a later date. A further two submissions were referred to CRGA for consideration. The SSCR also suggested SPC should take up three further submissions with other regional and international agencies.
3. The SSCR recommended that Pacific Islands Forum Leaders consider the following five priorities that were submitted through the inclusive public policy process: (a) increased economic returns from fisheries activity and maritime surveillance; (b) climate change and disaster risk; (c) information and communications technologies; (d) West Papua; and (e) cervical cancer screening and prevention.
4. The implementation of the Leaders' decisions and the role of the secretariat will be discussed by executives of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) at their next meeting. No definitive information is available in relation to resources for the implementation of the Leaders' decisions.

5. CRGA is invited to:
- i. acknowledge the secretariat's engagement in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the submissions made to the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism;
 - ii. agree that the submissions on the *Pacific Youth Development Framework*, and *Organic Islands: Growing our future through organic and ethical trade* should be further analysed and presented to CRGA 46 for consideration;
 - iii. urge continued efforts by the secretariat to make progress on the submissions to the Specialist Subcommittee, particularly those requiring the attention of Pacific ministers, and ask that their status be reported to CRGA 46;
 - iv. recognise that SPC would require additional resources to implement Leaders' decisions on regional priorities that are relevant to SPC, and urge that these resources should not be drawn from existing budgetary allocations.
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FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM

Purpose

6. This paper, jointly presented by SPC and PIFS, provides an update to CRGA on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism; SPC's submissions to the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism (SSCR) of the Forum Officials' Committee (FOC); the recommendations of the SSCR on these submissions; and Forum Leaders' decisions on the recommendations. The paper also updates members on the implementation of these decisions and SPC's role in this process.

Background

7. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism arose 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 to embrace regionalism more than ever before.
8. Pacific Islands Forum Leaders acted on this advice, and at a Special Leaders' Retreat (Cook Islands, May 2014) declared their commitment to progressing beyond regional cooperation towards deeper forms of regional integration in areas where there are clear and equitable benefits to be gained. Extensive consultations were undertaken to develop the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which was approved by Leaders at their 2014 summit in Palau.
9. Following the establishment of the SSCR, PIFS called for proposals for regional initiatives addressing key public policy issues and challenges that require the oversight of Pacific Island Forum Leaders, and that are most appropriately dealt with at regional or subregional levels. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism established an inclusive and transparent process for determining the priorities for the region.

Outcomes of the secretariat's submissions

10. Consistent with SPC's engagement in the regional framework process, and in line with its SAMOA Pathway¹ partnerships, the secretariat submitted six proposals for consideration by SSCR. SSCR did not recommend any of these proposals for the consideration of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders but did make recommendations on how the proposals could be advanced, such as through ministerial meetings and CRGA (see Table A). It is anticipated that SPC's relevant technical divisions will advance these recommendations in the coming year.

Table A: SSCR recommendations in relation to SPC's submissions

Title of SPC submission	SSCR recommendation
Central Pacific Commission – Regional Shipping Service Agreement	Decision for Transport Ministers; SSCR proposed a feasibility study to include environmental issues
A new song for coastal fisheries Pathways to change	Decision for Fisheries Ministers

¹ Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action – SAMOA Pathway.

Empowering Pacific Island countries and territories for sustainable management of deep sea minerals	PIFS and SPC to conduct further analysis, with the expectation that the submission will be considered by PIF Leaders in 2016; linked to Initiative 37 (Need To Establish a Regional Agreement for the Management and Monitoring Of Deep Sea Minerals Activities in the Forum Countries' Waters)
Regional initiative for water security and safe sanitation	Refer to SPC governing council
Tobacco-Free Pacific 2025 – Healthy Islands are tobacco-free islands	For World Health Organization (WHO)/SPC consideration For Pacific Trade/Economic/Health Ministers' consideration
Building resilient food production systems for food and livelihood security in Pacific communities	Refer to SPC governing council Link to climate change and other cross-cutting issues, e.g. transport, non-communicable diseases

11. The SSCR recommended that the submissions made by the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community and Pacific Youth Council be referred to CRGA (Table B), noting that SPC hosts the secretariats of these organisations. Further analysis of the two submissions is required, and it is suggested that they be presented to CRGA 46 for consideration.

Table B: SSCR recommendations on submissions from POETCom and the Pacific Youth Council

Submitting organisation	Title of submission	SSCR recommendation
Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)	Organic Islands: Growing our future through organic and ethical trade	For SPC oversight
Pacific Youth Council	Youth Advancing Pacific Development	Proponent to conduct work through SPC governing council

12. Table C outlines SSCR's recommendations in relation to proposals submitted by entities unrelated to SPC. The initiatives on biodiversity and invasive species are already part of the work programme of SPC's Land Resources Division, and greater engagement with the submitting entities is planned.

Table C: Recommendations of SSCR on submissions from other entities

Submitting organisation	Title of submission	SSCR recommendation
Pacific Islands Rainforest Foundation	Pacific Rainforests Status and Biodiversity Audit	Proponent to conduct work through governing councils (the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme [SPREP], the University of the South Pacific [USP] and SPC)
Business Media Fiji Ltd	Pacific Central (The Pacific Channel)	Not for further consideration; suggest cooperation with other agencies, such as USP and SPC
Pacific Invasives Partnership	A Pacific Plan for Regional Biosecurity and Management of Invasive Alien Species and Diseases	SPC and SPREP to coordinate a meeting to progress the plan

Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' decisions, 2015

13. Consistent with the emphasis of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism in presenting Pacific Islands Forum Leaders with a short but focused agenda, the SSCR recommended five key issues for Leaders to consider at their 46th Pacific Islands Forum (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, September 2015). These issues included: (a) increased economic returns from fisheries activity and maritime surveillance; (b) climate change and disaster risk; (c) information and communications technologies; (d) West Papua; and (e) cervical cancer screening and prevention in the Pacific. The Leaders' decisions on these issues were as follows:

1. Increased economic returns from fisheries activity and maritime surveillance

- a. Leaders endorsed the *Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries* and directed that increases in economic return be achieved within five years.
- b. Leaders agreed that a joint taskforce of FFA, PNA (Parties to the Nauru Agreement) and PIFS would lead the development of a programme to increase the sustainable economic returns of fisheries, including examining a quota management system, and report back to Leaders in 2016.
- c. Leaders tasked fisheries, economic and foreign ministers with undertaking a joint comprehensive evaluation of the regional monitoring, control and surveillance, and compliance regime.

2. Climate change and disaster risk

- a. Leaders called for the adoption of an ambitious and legally binding agreement at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). They strongly endorsed the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Declaration on Climate Change Action (Annex 1 to the communiqué).
- b. Leaders extended the current two regional frameworks – the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action – for one year.

3. Information and communications technology

- a. Leaders tasked PIFS and USP with considering the merits of a regional ICT Advisory Council, noting that it should not overlap with existing mechanisms and must deliver real deliverables.

4. West Papua (Papua)

- a. Leaders recognised Indonesia's sovereignty over the Papuan provinces but noted concerns about the human rights situation.
- b. Leaders requested the Forum Chair to convey the views of the Forum to the Indonesian Government, and to consult on a fact-finding mission to discuss the situation in Papua with the parties involved.

5. Cervical cancer screening and prevention

- a. Leaders agreed, given current regional prioritisation of non-communicable diseases, that developing a regional approach to address cervical cancer would require further consultation with relevant technical organisations and national authorities, and consideration of resource allocation for prevention and treatment.

Implementation of initiatives under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

14. Initial work towards implementing the decisions of Forum Leaders on each of the five key issues has started. While PIFS is tasked with overall coordination of this work, successful implementation will require cooperation and collaboration between all relevant CROP agencies and key stakeholders.
15. Implementation of the Leaders' decisions will require the establishment of working committees comprising relevant entities, including CROP agencies and/or existing working groups such as CROP Working Groups. These entities should be tasked with developing implementation strategies and monitoring and reporting procedures to implement the Leaders' decisions. Effective coordination between, and engagement of, donor and Post-Forum Dialogue partners will be needed to ensure funding is aligned, and to contribute to the efficient provision of technical assistance and support for the five issues.
16. In particular, CRGA's attention is drawn to the Forum Leaders' decision on cervical cancer screening and prevention, which calls for further consultation with relevant technical organisations and national authorities before proceeding with the roll-out of a regional programme of screening and prevention. PIFS will need to work closely with SPC and other relevant organisations to consider the feasibility of a regional programme on cervical cancer screening and prevention, especially in light of the prioritisation of non-communicable diseases in the region.

Recommendations

17. CRGA is invited to:
 - i. acknowledge the secretariat's engagement in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the submissions made to the Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism;
 - ii. agree that the submissions on the *Pacific Youth Development Framework*, and *Organic Islands: Growing our future through organic and ethical trade* should be further analysed and presented to CRGA 46 for consideration;
 - iii. urge continued efforts by the secretariat to make progress on the submissions to the Specialist Subcommittee, particularly those requiring the attention of Pacific ministers, and ask that their status be reported to CRGA 46;
 - iv. recognise that SPC would require additional resources to implement Leaders' decisions on regional priorities that are relevant to SPC, and urge that these resources should not be drawn from existing budgetary allocations.
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