



**FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 28–30 June 2016)

---

**AGENDA ITEM 5: CROP ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM**

(Paper jointly presented by the secretariat and PIFS)

**Summary**

1. Pacific Leaders identified the following five regional priorities in the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism – ICT, fisheries, climate change, cervical cancer and West Papua. Implementation of initiatives relating to these priorities is progressing with support from various regional and international organisations.
2. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), on behalf of the Specialist Subcommittee for Regionalism (SSCR), again called for regional priorities and received a total of 47 submissions in various fields, including gender, languages, climate change, fisheries, environment, governance, health, trade, oceans and disability.
3. CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) is well positioned to provide a holistic and forward-looking analysis of the region's challenges and needs. It is anticipated that senior CROP officials will provide such an analysis in direct consultation with SSCR in 2016. This is a welcome development.
4. The identification and mobilisation of funding for regional priorities will be facilitated by PIFS in conjunction with implementing agencies. It is not expected that funding for regional priorities will be sourced from the existing budgets of implementing agencies.

**Recommendations**

5. CRGA is invited to:
  - i. discuss the role of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), particularly in respect of the role of the Pacific Community in supporting the implementation of the regional priorities identified through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015;
  - ii. welcome the role of CROP, particularly in respect of the role of the Pacific Community in the regional public policy process under the Framework;

- iii. encourage the secretariat to fully participate in regional priority setting, based on its scientific and technical expertise;
- iv. request the secretariat to include the Framework for Pacific Regionalism as a standing agenda item for CRGA.

---

## **CROP ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC REGIONALISM**

### **Purpose**

6. This paper, prepared by PIFS, provides an update on CROP's engagement with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR).
7. Specifically, it provides an update on CROP agencies' roles in implementing the five regional priorities arising from the Forum Leaders Meeting in 2015, and proposed CROP support for the regional public policy process outlined in the FPR in 2016.

### **Background**

8. The FPR was endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2014, following the 2013 review of the Pacific Plan led by Sir Mekere Morauta, former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. The FPR sets out the Forum Leaders' vision, values, objectives and approaches for deeper regionalism. It articulates an inclusive regional public policy process, through which a handful of strategic, regional priorities are intended to be identified. Effective implementation of this process requires engagement and coordination among all stakeholders, including at the level of CROP. Coordination at all levels, including strategic, governance and resourcing, and at the operational level amongst CROP agencies, is essential if the processes and priorities mandated through the FPR are to be implemented effectively.
9. This paper describes the current understanding of how CROP engages in the FPR, noting that this engagement will evolve as our collective understanding of how to best implement the FPR matures.

### **Current regional priorities**

10. CROP agencies have played a central role in taking forward the regional priorities identified through the FPR in 2015. A brief update of progress against these priorities is outlined below.

#### *Fisheries*

11. The multi-agency Fisheries Taskforce (Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), SPC, Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement and PIFS) held its first meeting of officials at the Forum Secretariat on 22 January. The key agencies agreed on the need to work closely using a collaborative approach to achieve the Leaders' vision for fisheries. A meeting of the CEOs of the taskforce agencies on 24 February considered the programme elements proposed by the officials and provided further direction on implementation. The Fisheries Taskforce will provide updates to the relevant ministerial meetings, including the Forum Foreign, Fisheries and Economic Ministers meetings, to allow Ministers to provide guidance and advice on this priority.

#### *Climate change*

12. Pacific Leaders called for the 'adoption of an ambitious and legally binding agreement' at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris (30 November – 12 December, 2015). COP21 was successful in adopting the ambitious and legally binding Paris Agreement, which will come into effect by 2020. The Paris Agreement includes several important elements that Forum Leaders called for in their *Declaration on Climate Change Action*.

13. In light of the Forum Leaders' decision to extend the two regional frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management<sup>1</sup> for one year, the draft Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) is being revised using a country-driven process that will address concerns about aspects of the framework. It is intended to be presented to Leaders for their consideration this year.

#### *ICT*

14. In relation to information and communication technology (ICT), the merits of establishing a regional ICT Advisory Council are being assessed. This assessment is being led by the University of the South Pacific with support from PIFS. Other stakeholders, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, are contributing to the analysis of ICT priority issues, and the CROP ICT Working Group will provide high-level guidance to the assessment.

#### *Cervical cancer*

15. SPC is coordinating implementation of an initiative on cervical cancer through the CROP Health and Population Working Group. At its meeting on 10 December 2015, the working group established a taskforce to move the initiative forward in line with Leaders' decisions. The first full meeting of the taskforce (SPC (Chair), WHO, UNFPA<sup>2</sup> and PIFS) was held on 9 February 2016 to discuss the format and content of a report that will be presented to Leaders this year.

#### *West Papua*

16. As agreed by Forum Leaders, the Forum Chair has written to the President of the Republic of Indonesia conveying the views of PIF Leaders on human rights allegations and expressing the desire of the Forum to consult on a fact-finding mission to discuss the situation in Papua with the parties involved. The message was sent in early 2016 and a response from the Government of Indonesia is still awaited.

#### **Regional public policy process**

17. As discussed by CROP Executives at their meetings in November 2015 and April 2016, CROP has a central role to play in the regional public policy process as outlined in the FPR. This role includes both identifying priorities and implementing initiatives.

#### *Submission of regional initiatives*

18. A public call for submissions is part of the regional public policy process. In 2016, the call for submissions opened on 18 February and closed on 10 April with 47 submissions being received. CROP agencies and working groups are entitled to submit regional initiatives. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) submitted two initiatives, while SPC contributed to a consortium submission on coastal fisheries. The list of submissions is attached (Annex A).

---

<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, and Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization; United Nations Population Fund.

*Assessment of regional initiatives*

19. CROP agency officials are consulted during the assessment of regional initiatives. The criteria for regional action outlined in the FPR are the basis for assessing initiatives. As part of the process, PIFS consults relevant CROP agencies for expert advice, which forms part of the documentation supporting the assessment of each submission. CROP working groups may also be asked to provide advice where relevant.

*Regional and contextual analysis*

20. Collectively, CROP is well positioned to provide a holistic and forward-looking analysis of the region's challenges and needs. It is anticipated that senior CROP officials will provide such analysis in direct consultation with the SSCR in 2016. In future years, CROP may consider producing a regular 'state of the region report', compiling all agencies' considered analysis of the region and its needs for SSCR and other regional decision-making bodies.

*Implementation of regional priorities*

21. As a CROP agency, SPC will play a key role in implementing new and existing regional priorities within its mandate and areas of expertise. Specific implementation and resourcing requirements need to be developed once Leaders have agreed on their priorities. Given the timing of the Forum Leaders meeting in relation to CRGA, some flexibility on the part of SPC and CRGA is required to allow for the allocation of human resources, as implementation plans for priorities are developed after the Forum meeting. The identification and mobilisation of funding for regional priorities will be facilitated by the Forum Secretariat in conjunction with implementing agencies. It is not expected that funding for these priorities will be sourced from the existing budgets of implementing agencies.
22. The regional analysis of governance and financing will be crucial to ensuring that CROP agencies' human resources and funding are aligned to Leaders' priorities.

*2016 Public policy timetable*

23. Below is a timetable of the public policy timetable:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date (2016)</b>
SSCR monitoring and oversight meeting	15–17 February
Call for regional policy initiatives opens	18 February
Call for regional policy initiatives closes	10 April
Consolidation and assessment of initiatives – starts	11 April
Consolidation and assessment of initiatives – ends	19 May
Submission of assessment reports to SSCR	20 May
SSCR selection committee meeting	13–16 June
SSCR report circulated to Forum Officials Committee (FOC) members	1 July
Consideration of SSCR recommendations by FOC Pre-Forum meeting	8–9 August

Consideration of SSCR report by Forum Foreign Affairs Ministers	11 August
Consideration of SSCR recommendations by Forum Leaders at 2016 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, Pohnpei, FSM	7–11 September
Ad hoc working groups comprising relevant actors (CROP, development partners, CSOs) to convene to discuss implementation of 2016 Leaders' priorities	Early October

## Recommendations

24. CRGA is invited to:

- i. discuss the role of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), particularly in respect of the role of the Pacific Community in supporting the implementation of the regional priorities identified through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015;
  - ii. welcome the role of CROP, particularly in respect of the role of the Pacific Community in the regional public policy process under the Framework;
  - iii. encourage the secretariat to fully participate in regional priority setting, based on its scientific and technical expertise;
  - iv. request the secretariat to include the Framework for Pacific Regionalism as a standing agenda item for CRGA.
-

**Annex A****Submissions received under the public policy process of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

<b>No</b>	<b><i>Title of submission</i></b>	<b><i>Proponent</i></b>
1	Connect the Blue Continent	Professor Chris Sampson
2	Reducing Energy Costs through Regionalism	Abdul Shameer
3	Pacific Labour Mobility	Peter Goldsmith
4	Pacific Islands Forum Free Movement Area	Jonathan M
5	Pacific Islands Forum Free Trade Area	Jonathan M
6	Pacific Islands Forum Defence Cooperation Organisation	Jonathan M
7	Sustainable Fisheries policy for the Pacific Islands	Te Ipukarea Society Incorporated
8	Human Rights Abuses in West Papua	Dale Hess
9	Adopting standardised procedures for business administration in the Pacific.	Tradestaff Global
10	Ensuring that climate finance adaptation funds reach the most vulnerable Pacific communities.	Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand
11	Supporting regional ombudsmen and allied institutions through the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance	Pacific Ombudsman Alliance
12	Interdisciplinary Pacific Research Observatory of Climate Change for the development of Pacific capacities in research and innovation for sustainable development	PACE-Net Plus
13	West Papua on the United Nations Agenda	Peta Jane Humphreys
14	Preventing illicit trade of tobacco in the Pacific	World Health Organization
15	Admit West Papua into the Pacific Island Forum	Sisters of St Joseph Justice Network
16	The need to promote both strong primary health care and conventional medical care in Pacific Island countries.	Dr Santus WARI
17	Melanesian peoples of West Papua – support at the Pacific Island Forum and at the United Nations	David Johnson

<b>No</b>	<b>Title of submission</b>	<b>Proponent</b>
18	West Papua: the need for the PIF to take the issue to the United Nations	Pasifika
19	The PIF to Take Action on Human Rights in West Papua at the UNGA and the UNHRC	Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane
20	Regional Disability Inclusive Development – Leave No One Behind, for a better, inclusive and free Pacific for All	Pacific Disability Forum on behalf of its 58 members in 20 Pacific Island countries and territories
21	Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Gender Inclusive Conflict Prevention & Peace building	FemLINKPACIFIC in collaboration with GPPAC – the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
22	Appointment of UN Special Representative to investigate human rights violations in West Papua	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)
23	Preparing the Pacific for the Governance of Climate Induced Displacement, Resettlement and Migration	Pacific Network on Climate Change Migration, Displacement and Resettlement
24	Truth and Reconciliation Tribunal for West Papua	West Papua Project, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of Sydney
25	Status and Human Rights Support for West Papua	Catherine Delahunty Green MP
26	Regionally ICT-tagged Logistics Services	Atsumic Ocean
27	Pacific Disaster Response and Coordination Unit (PDRCU)	Dr Anna Powles, Dr Tess Newton Cain, Mr Jose Sousa-Santos
28	Proposing the 'Pacific Climate Treaty': A Regional Agreement to Enhance Implementation of the Global Climate Regime	Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN)
29	Pacific Infrastructure Strategy	Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
30	Coastal Fisheries – Averting the food, health, and employment crisis in the Pacific region	Secretariat of the Pacific Community; IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance; Locally Managed Marine Areas Network; WorldFish; and ANCORS, University of Wollongong.
31	Higher Hopes for High Seas – addressing the challenges of our common ocean neighbourhood	Conservation International (CI)– Pacific Islands and Ocean Programme, member of the Pacific Ocean Alliance
32	Encourage greater tourism into the region – regional coordination	New Zealand Samoa Trade & Investment Commission
33	Oceania is our source, Not just another resource	Pacific Network on Globalisation
34	Pacific Islands Women Caucus	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD) and the Fiji Women's Forum (FWF).

<b>No</b>	<b><i>Title of submission</i></b>	<b><i>Proponent</i></b>
35	Human rights issues in West Papua to be prioritised	West Papua Action Auckland and Oceania Interrupted
36	Pacific Diaspora Engagement Initiative – promotes and supports Pacific diaspora-centred initiatives in investment, entrepreneurship, social and economic development	The New Zealand Tonga Business Council
37	‘REO’ Pacific Regional Roadmap for Pacific Languages	Pefi Kingi QSM PacificWIN & Vagahau Niue Trust pp of Pacific Regional Languages Leaders, Stakeholders & Networks
38	Pacific Islands Labour Sharing Collaboration - Job Creation and Youth Employment opportunities within Pacific Island Nations.	Christopher Odorry, Cerullo Waranaka, Julie-Anne Waranaka, and Margaret Vaka-Vivili
39	Why Should PICs Join the Internet-Based Economy?	Ms Sala Karuru
40	West Papua: the need for the PIF to take the issue to the United Nations	Further Arts
41	Does sovereignty matters in regional integration in the Pacific?	Werner Cohill
42	Supporting Pacific Island Countries to Benefit from the Implementation of the Paris Agreement	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
43	Integrated Oceans Management – getting better outcomes for our oceans and coasts	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
44	Pacific Education aimed at Restoring the Next Generation	Papua New Guinea Education Advocacy Network (PEAN)
45	West Papua-Cause for concern	Australia West Papua Association (Sydney)
46	Human Right Violation and Self Determination for Indigenous People from Papua	Yoseph Novaris Wogan Apay
47	Pacific Regional Arrangement for Disaster Response (PRADR)	IFRC Pacific, Oxfam Pacific, Pacific Disability Forum, World Vision Pacific.