

Attachment 1

53rd Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué, Annex A Review of the Regional Architecture: Phase 2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Retain the Forum Leaders as the apex of the regional architecture, with delegated authority on sectoral matters given to endorsed sectoral Ministerial convenings under the close guidance of their respective Chairs and Governing Councils and supported by the respective Secretariats of Ministerial Meetings within the Regional System.

Recommendation 2: Retain the role of the Secretary General, as the primary conduit to and from the Pacific Islands Forum and CROP, supported by the other CROP Heads to ensure that robust policy advice is provided to the Leaders' and Leaders' decisions are implemented and effectively monitored.

Recommendation 3: The Forum Leaders Agenda be informed by global and regional developments, including the annual monitoring and reporting on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and that the arrangements of Forum Leaders meetings be managed and strengthened to ensure a member-driven process in the areas of: Communiqué Drafting Protocols, Leaders Agenda Setting, Leaders Meeting Format.

Recommendation 4: Review the ongoing relevance of the Forum Associate Member and Forum Observer Categories within the Forum Architecture and its related criteria, and the application of this status across the full Forum Architecture.

Recommendation 5: Relevant civil society organisations and private sector (where relevant) be invited as Observers to relevant agenda items at the standing meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum at Ministerial and official levels and a set of principles for CSO engagement and Private Sector engagement be put in place to guide their engagement.

Recommendation 6: To support information sharing and greater complementarity between the work of sub-regional groupings and the Pacific Islands Forum, the Secretariats for each of the three sub-regional groups in the Pacific region be admitted as Observers to the standing meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum at the Officials, Ministerial and Plenary Level for Leaders.

Recommendation 7: Strengthen the integration of the Smaller Island States in the political considerations, governance processes, and the policy development dimensions of the Pacific Islands Forum and its architecture.

Recommendation 8: Ensure that the Forum Secretariat has appropriate resourcing to prioritise the coordination, reporting and communication on 2050 Strategy implementation, through an aligned PIFS Strategic Plan, organisational structure and capability framework; and that there is capacity in place across the other CROP agencies to effectively work with PIFS on the Strategy.

Coherent regional governance in support of the 2050 Strategy

Recommendation 9: Ministerial Meetings across Thematic Areas have oversight of the relevant sectoral progress towards Goals, System and People Outcomes as reflected in the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan: 11 a. Provisionally endorse the regional ministerial level decision-making mechanisms in place across the 7 Thematic Areas and undertake a deeper analysis on the ongoing value and contribution of these existing ministerial meetings, including identification of gaps and/or duplications, and under Phase 3 consider options for change. b. New Ministerial level decision-making mechanisms (not included in the existing ministerial meetings) must be endorsed at Leader level and

presented to Leaders with an appropriate business case and draft terms of reference for consideration. c. All sectoral ministerial meetings to include a standing agenda item on relevant 2050 priorities, regional collective actions and outcomes of Leaders meetings.

Recommendation 10: Consider and develop a process to approve any new Regional Commissioner roles, including an established set of criteria, to ensure that the role does not duplicate from existing regional mechanisms that may be in place.

Oversight of the Implementation the 2050 Strategy

Recommendation 11: The FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy to have operational oversight of the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and its Implementation Plan: a) Thematic Advisory Groups, chaired by the relevant CROP Agency and composed of regional implementing agencies within the specific thematic area, will be established with clear terms of reference to coordinate and collaborate with implementing agencies on the delivery of relevant goals and outcomes; to monitor progress at a thematic level towards the systems and people outcomes as identified in the 2050IP; to ensure that the Regional Collective Actions within the respective thematic areas undergo a systematic process of analysis; to develop an implementation plan, and work with the Forum Secretariat on requisite resource mobilisation; and to provide strategic advice and responses to Leaders' decision; and b) Have oversight of the Annual Report to Leaders on the 2050 Strategy which should include progress under each Thematic Area (both regional collective actions and existing regional initiatives) and an independent "deep dive" into 1-2 outcomes to examine progress and contribution to deepening regionalism. Every three years the report would assess progress against outcomes across the seven Thematic Areas.

Strengthened regional coordination to deliver on the 2050 Strategy

Recommendation 12: Under the guidance of the Forum Membership, update and implement the CROP Charter to reflect the governance arrangements for strengthened and coherent implementation of the 2050 Strategy, including the effective leadership and operations of the Thematic Advisory Groups and clarification of the mandates, roles and responsibilities of each CROP agency in support of the 2050 Strategy. Recommended updates include: a. The incorporation of agency reporting to their respective Governing Councils on the key initiatives progressed that contribute to the 2050 Strategy, including where appropriate collaboration with other CROP and/or non-CROP agencies on regional priorities; and b. The institutionalization of an Annual Regional Calendar, that is informed by the work of the CROP agencies, including the Thematic Advisory Groups, and is provided for the information of Members to support strengthened planning and coordination on regional issues, and further, to ensure that the number of Regional Ministerial Meetings 12 held each year are well known in advance and spaced to reduce the impact, as much as possible, on smaller administrations.

Recommendation 13: Continue work to progress CROP Harmonisation, with clear accountability and reporting to CROP Heads and Members on prioritisation and timelines for implementation (potentially supported by external consultants where needed for detailed examination of options including costs and benefits).

Partnership and Engagement Mechanism

Recommendation 14: Endorse the concept of tiering the Pacific Islands Forum Dialogue Partners as reflected in the Partnership and Engagement Mechanism outlined at Attachment 1 and direct the FOC to further refine the criteria and sub-criteria by December 2024 for provisional application and full implementation by the 54th Pacific Islands Forum. Phase 3 of the Review of the Regional Architecture

Recommendation 15: Commission a third phase of the Review of the Regional Architecture to consider and provide recommendations on a rationalised Regional Architecture inclusive of CROP and Non-CROP agencies and regional convening platforms.
