

# 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and Labour Mobility

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PACIFIC REGIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY  
(PRIF) Meeting

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
Suva, Fiji  
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PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

# Overview of the Forum



## What is Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat?

- The Forum is the region's premier political and economic policy organization and its current overall leadership and commitment to regionalism and governance of the regional architecture in place to support the decisions of Leaders ;
- The formation of the Forum in 1971, highlighted the need to acknowledge the Pacific Island voice and perspectives on achieving independence and approach to nation-building including economic and trade cooperation among the Island Nations. It also underlined the true value of working together, exchanging ideas, and learning from each other as newly independent nations.
- There are 18 current members of the Forum are: 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.
- Forum Leaders meet annually to discuss important and critical issues affecting the region such as political governance, economic and trade cooperation, Climate Change, Social issues including labour mobility among others



# Background



## What is the 2050 Strategy?

- Our overarching & long-term strategic policy framework for the Pacific.
- Our strategic approach to work together to achieve our vision.
- 7 key thematic areas including climate change, economic development and trade, connectivity, regional security, and others.
- Our collective approach to advance our shared objectives and address our common challenges.

## What is the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan (2050 IP)?

- The 2050 IP is the first phase of the implementation of the 2050 Strategy. It sets out specific goals, outcomes and regional collective actions to achieve the long-term vision of the 2050 Strategy.
- The timeframe for the 2050 IP is to **2030**.



# Development of The 2050 Strategy and Implementation Plan



# Features of The 2050 Strategy

## Climate Change and Disasters

All Pacific Peoples remain resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters and are able to lead safe, secure and prosperous lives. The region continues to play a leadership role in global climate action.

## People Centered Development

All Pacific Peoples continue to draw deep cultural and spiritual attachment to their land and the ocean, and all are assured safety, security, gender equality and access to education, health, sport and other services so that no one is left behind.

## Ocean and Environment

All Pacific people live in a sustainably managed Blue Pacific Continent, while steadfastly maintaining resilience to threats to its environment.

## Peace and Security

A peaceful, safe, and secure Blue Pacific region which respects national sovereignty, and where people can realise their full potentials as individuals, communities and nations, and where the region delivers Pacific-coordinated responses to security challenges and contributes to building global peace and security.

## Technology and Connectivity

All Pacific Peoples benefit from access to affordable, safe and reliable land, air and sea transport and ICT infrastructure, systems and operations, while ensuring culturally sensitive user-protection and cyber security.

*As Pacific Leaders, our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives*

## Resource and Economic Development

All Pacific peoples benefit from a sustainable and resilient model of economic development, including enabling public policy and a vibrant private sector and others, that brings improved socio-economic wellbeing by ensuring access to employment, entrepreneurship, trade and investment in the region.

## Political Leadership and Regionalism

All Pacific Peoples will benefit from our Forum Leaders working together to safeguard, secure and progress the Blue Pacific Continent, achieving regional priorities through a united and cohesive political leadership supported by the Pacific Islands Forum and a responsive regional architecture that aligns to the region's priorities and values. Partners recognise and respect our collective approach as the Blue Pacific Continent.



# RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Level of Ambition

All Pacific peoples benefit from a sustainable and resilient model of economic development, including enabling public policy and a vibrant private sector and others, that brings improved socio-economic wellbeing by ensuring access to employment, entrepreneurship, trade and investment in the region.

## Goal 1

Improved socioeconomic wellbeing and prosperity of all Pacific peoples through inclusive, resilient and sustainable economic development

## People Outcomes

Improved socioeconomic wellbeing of all Pacific Peoples

## System Outcomes

### Outcome 1.1

Improved policies to support macroeconomic resilience and stability.

### Outcome 1.2

Strengthened financial system resilience and adapt to emerging financial mechanisms, including diversify financing options.

### Outcome 1.3

Increased opportunities for sustainable diversification of Pacific economies

### Outcome 1.4

Strengthened policies, legislations and mechanisms that support the development and sustainable growth of private sector.

### Outcome 1.5

Improved [collaboration and policies for the planning, development and] management of sustainable tourism

### Outcome 1.6

Improved policies and legislations to promote and attract quality investment.

### Outcome 1.7

Improved intra-regional and international trade, Including sustainable labour mobility.

# RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Regional Collective Actions (RCAs)

### Policy and Frameworks

1. Development of regional fisheries Hubs and Spokes Initiative; (System and Institutional Strengthening)
2. Development of a Regional Digital Economy Policy and Strategy with a focus to leverage opportunities in the digital revolution including digital currency, digital transformation, e-governance.
3. Develop a regional Private Sector Strategy that is GESI responsive and creates an enabling environment for investors and businesses by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship and encourage transparency and good governance.
4. **Develop a Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Strategy that includes workers, employer organisations, governments and non-state actors and considers the socio-economic costs and benefits for both the receiving and sending countries.**
5. Consider greater regional economic integration initiatives and for this to be a priority in the development of the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED) and to ensure that other key stakeholders, including resource sectors, state-owned enterprises, private sector and civil society are involved in this process.
6. Explore opportunities to strengthen regional collaboration and approaches to SOEs reform and transformation.
7. [Strengthen inter- sectoral linkages through related policies that support sustainable tourism]

### Capacities and Capabilities

8. Initiate a regional programme to support businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, to establish resilient practices, including building transparent and sustainable supply chains that foster community wellbeing.
9. Support the ratification and effective Implementation of trade agreements

### Financing

10. Establishment of a regional fisheries development fund.
11. Develop a regional approach to address Members debt burdens.
12. Raise the efficiency of financial intermediation Financial intermediation through regional approaches for pooling of risk, correspondent banking and innovative financing that takes into account Multi Vulnerability Index principles.
13. Mobilise partnership and funding opportunities for the implementation of the Pacific Tourism Statistics (2021-2030) Strategy and the Pacific Tourism Research Cooperation Framework (PTRCF).

# Means of Implementation

“The successful implementation of the 2050 Strategy will require robust mechanisms for resource mobilisation that will be driven by financing, strategic partnerships and the requisite levels of engagement and advocacy, capacity building, and ensuring systems and capabilities are in place at regional and country level to deliver”.

2050 Strategy Implementation Plan p. 27





# Labour Mobility

- In February of 2020, The Forum Trade Ministers Meeting (FTMM) discussed the need for a broad and inclusive regional platform for decision making and endorsed Labour Mobility as a standing agenda item of FTOM and FTMM.
- Forum leaders in February 2023 Special Leaders meeting tasked the Secretariat to work with all participating countries in holding further dialogue on labour mobility. Update on countries who have had consultations are referred to in the paper.
- Forum Economic Ministers in August 2023 acknowledged the positive impact of Labour Mobility in supporting the growth and development aspirations of FICs. However, they also emphasised the need to focus on a “win-win” situation noting that there have been challenges in addressing issues related to workers’ welfare, loss of skilled workers and the overall socio-economic impacts on families.
- Forum Trade Ministers in October 2023 underscored the socio-economic significance of labour mobility to the region, as an important source of revenue, knowledge transfer and employment opportunities especially for Pacific youth. While Forum Trade Ministers acknowledged the importance of the economic benefits that emanated from labour mobility, they also recognised the unintended consequences, including the breakdown of family structures, adjustment issues, risks to physical wellbeing and access to superannuation.
- Labour mobility will support the achievement of our goals and outcomes articulated under the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan.
- The Secretariat will provide a progress update to Leaders in their meeting in Cook Islands from 6-10 November 2023.



# Comprehensive Assessment of the Labour Mobility Arrangements

Forum Trade Officials endorsed the Comprehensive Assessment on Labour Mobility covering key issues:

- The report includes analysis of existing regional trade agreements such as PICTA, PACER +, MSGTA, and other Trade Frameworks.
- Social underpinnings of labour mobility and concerns around social welfare and protection, exploitation, accommodation standards, social support and training and skills development strategies.
- Regional mechanisms to strengthen coordination of labour mobility efforts in the region

The Assessment was endorsed out of session by Trade Officials with the following recommendations.

- i. Establish a regional platform for decision-making on labour mobility and policy support;
- ii. Develop a Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Strategy;
- iii. Develop a Regional information-sharing network



# Approach to Develop a Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Strategy



Collaborations with Pacer Plus Implementation Unit (PPIU), MSG Secretariat, IOM, ILO and other relevant stakeholders

Consider a regional labour mobility consultation to gather additional information from members

Alignment of the work to the development of Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development

Progress update to Forum Leaders in November

The Strategy might be ready in Q2 of 2024



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**BLUE PACIFIC 2050**