



File: ORG 1/2, ORG 1/33

19 April 2022

Mr. Henry Puna
Secretary General
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Dear Secretary General,

The 2050 Strategy for Blue Pacific Continent and Associated Review of the Regional Architecture

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and participate in the various consultation groups that have been set up for these two associated processes. Unfortunately, we are not able to participate in all of the consultation groups because of competing commitments but remain fully committed to the CROP mechanisms for our targeted engagement.

Our general comments apply to both the draft Strategy and Review of the Regional Architecture. In addition, we also submit herewith, the following separate documents for due consideration:

- An outline of the SPREP Strategic priorities and architecture support for the environment dimension of the 2050 Strategy
- Comments on the draft 2050 Strategy
- Comments on the draft Review of the Regional Architecture

General Comments

1) Approval by Governing Bodies

It is key for our engagement that the SPREP Meeting considers and approves the 2050 Strategy and Review of the Regional Architecture. It is desirable if this could be done prior to its consideration and approval by the Leaders so any views from the SPREP Meeting can be conveyed and be part of the Leader's consideration. We are pleased to report that Fiji has reached out for our advice on how this can be facilitated.

In addition to the SPREP Meeting there are other governing bodies under our purview that we will need to consult for their support of the 2050 Strategy:

- Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention
- Meeting of the Parties to the Waigani Convention
- The Pacific Meteorological Council
- The Cleaner Pacific Roundtable
- Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT)

We will do that consultation once the SPREP Meeting has considered and approved. We are raising it here, so it may be considered within the consultative framework and timeline for these two processes.

2) Leader's Vision

The *SPREP vision "A resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures"* aligns with the stated Leaders vision for the 2050 Strategy. This in principle means that our strategic programmes already align with the 2050 Strategy.

3) Values of Pacific Regionalism

The second value is the one that relates closest with our work. ***Suggest additional text*** "We value and depend on the integrity of our vast ocean and island resources **and are committed to their conservation and sustainable development.**"

4) Scope of Strategy

The geographical scope is clear. Need to clarify that the 2050 Strategy covers work in all thematic areas not only by PIFS but all CROP and partners. This helps us to bring to the attention and seek the approval of our governing bodies so we can align the strategic plans of our organisation and the partnerships and networks under our purview.

5) Roles and Responsibilities

The document would benefit from definition of our envisaged roles and responsibilities under the 2050 Strategy. For example – the Pacific Islands Forum is custodian on behalf of leaders, responsible for overall facilitation, coordinating implementation and M&E; Member governments – implementation within their respective states and territories; CROP Agencies – implementation within their mandated areas of responsibility and through their strategic programmes; UN agencies – there is an extensive UN presence in the region that needs to be recognised and engaged, the UN reform has set up the UNRC system. SPREP hosts United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) sub-regional Offices within our campus and we are the Pacific node for the UN Regional Seas, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions and International Maritime Organization technical Cooperation programme. NGOs and Private Sector – NGOs and private sector that work within the environment sector are already engaged through our networks so we can accurately convey to them their role.

6) Thematic Pillars

There are currently 6 thematic pillars. We propose that there is an additional pillar "***Culture and Faith***" – there are suggestions to integrate this within existing pillars but we believe that these two associated elements of our region need to be a thematic pillar of its own as they are foundational to our way of life and the Pacific ethos.

We also ***suggest some changes to the titles*** of the thematic pillars to more accurately reflect the themes they address:

1. Change from "Political" to "***Regional Governance, Cooperation and Security***" – political is too broad, when you read through the policy brief the intent of this theme is focused on these three issues.
2. "***Resources and Economic Development***"

3. **“Climate Change”** there are references in this theme to waste, pollution and nuclear. Suggest that these fit better in Theme 4 and should be moved there. There is also reference to health which fits better in Theme 5.
4. Change to **“Ocean and Environment”** the issues and activities under this theme cover both natural and built environment. There is a large element of waste and pollution which are issues of the built environment.
5. **People Centered Development**
6. **Technology and Connectivity**
7. Propose new pillar **“Culture and Faith”**

7) Implementation Approach

The Implementation plan should include implementation arrangements. A key element of this is coordination mechanisms.

8) Coordination Mechanisms

One of the key requirements for successful and efficient implementation of an integrated strategy with the ambition of the 2050 Strategy is to have functional coordination mechanisms. CROP has the CROP working groups (WGs) but this has weakened over the past 6 years and needs to be revitalised and revised to suit the needs of implementing the 2050 Strategy. The membership of these WGs should not be limited to CROP but also include our key partners such as the UN, NGOs, faith-based organisations and private sector. To promote ownership and engagement by other CROP agencies, the leadership of the WGs should not be with PIFS, but rather leadership defined by our respective mandates and roles for thematic areas.

I again thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process and comment on the draft. I thank you in advance for your consideration of our comments not only here but during the consultation processes. Finally, please accept my assurances of our cooperation and support as we finalise these processes and strategic documents and particularly our intention to be fully engaged in its implementation.

Kind regards



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Director General

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