

Briefing note for Day 2 of the Pacific Ocean Alliance Meeting

Day 2 Theme: *“Working as a collective on solutions/strategies: Road to Lisbon ”*

Objective:

Building on from the momentous World Ocean Day celebrations which is marked on 8 June each year, the objective of today’s session is to collectively consider respective POA stakeholders plans for collective advocacy and engagement and discuss areas of collaboration for the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon Portugal from 27 June to 2 July 2022.

POA Criteria:

It is important to assert that, together with the Pacific Ocean Commissioner’s guidance, the following criteria were used to help shape the agenda and determine issues for this meeting.

Criteria	
Topics/issues in the agenda should related to one or more of the strategic priorities of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, or to a decision by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders	√
Topics/issues are cross-cutting, cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral in nature	√
Topics/issues have identifiable benefit and value for Pacific Island people	√
Topic/issues require broad stakeholder engagement	√
Topics/issues require strong Leadership	√
Topics/issues require regional cooperation	√

Special event – World Ocean Day Celebration

“Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean” will be the theme for this year’s world ocean day.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness on the importance of our Ocean and the need to safeguard and protect it for our future generations. The main target audience includes, general public, donors, community representatives, and media.

Approach/Modality

This celebration is one of the many activities organized throughout the region and the world to celebrate World Ocean Day. This special event will be held at the Suva Foreshore area.

There are various ocean stakeholders under the Pacific Ocean Alliance banner have dedicated this week as Ocean week. This year’s WOD celebration programme is outlined below:

- i. Public Procession from the Suva Flea Market to the Suva Civic Centre Foreshore led by the Fiji Navy Band

- ii. Procession to converge at Suva Civic Centre Foreshore where they are received by a senior official
- iii. Official programme commences with Prayer
- iv. Remarks by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner & PIF SG Mr Henry Puna
- v. High-Level Guest Speaker H.E President of Fiji Ratu Wiliame Katonivere
- vi. Youth representative
- vii. Youth item
- viii. Launch of Rising to the Challenge Campaign
- ix. Photo Opportunity
- x. Tour information booths

Other activities:

Traditional navigation vessels and modern vessels will be berthed at the Suva Harbour. Activities will include programmes for children and youth & will also see the Launch of Rising to the Challenge Campaign

Anticipated Outcome:

- Inspire accelerated Blue Pacific ocean action for 2030 and beyond
- Raise awareness on the importance of the ocean here in Fiji and the Blue Pacific region
- Celebrate the ocean and its importance for the people of the Pacific
- Encourage behavioral change in relation to safeguarding and protecting the ocean

*All POA participants attending in-person will make their way back to the PIFS Conference Room from the World Ocean Day Celebration, for the resumption of POA Day 2 proper.

Session 3: Presentation on UN Ocean Conference and Regional Preparations

Background

The 2nd UN Oceans Conference (UNOC2) is taking place from 27 June – 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal following deferment due to COVID-19 since 2020. The theme of the 2nd UNOC is *“Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.”*

The convening of the POA on the foothills of the Conference provides a perfect opportunity for its stakeholders to prepare and coordinate amongst themselves. The UN Ocean Conference is an important gathering for the Pacific region. It is the Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14). SDG14 is the stand-alone goal on the ocean that the Pacific fought hard for inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Pacific has succeeded in imposing its will on the global community through its adoption and this Conference which is held on a triennial basis provides the opportunity for the Pacific to lead and remind the global community on the importance of taking accelerated action on the ocean with the view to achieving the targets of SDG14.

In 2017, the inaugural UN Ocean Conference was co-chaired over by Fiji and Sweden and there were major preparations leading up to that with the Pacific committing to a total of (105 Voluntary Commitments). This 2nd UN Ocean Conference will be co-chaired over by Kenya and Portugal as representing the developed and developing countries of the world.

The UNOC2 presents a major opportunity to promote Forum Leaders’ priorities for ocean action, based on regional political commitments. The UNOC2 is also an opportunity to build on the outcomes of the Our Oceans Conference recently hosted by Palau.

Approach/Modality: For this session, the meeting is expected to consider a presentation from the UN Division for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) as Secretariat of the Conference on the breakdown of the programme of the second UN Ocean Conference. This presentation is also expected to include information on the Conference plenary, interactive dialogues and the outcomes of the Conference which will inform the discussions for the current session as the meeting will be more aware of the different areas of engagement at the Conference.

The meeting will also during the current session discuss some of the ongoing preparations and go through the whole eight interactive dialogues themes which the POA may wish to discuss and add further to the work carried out so far.

Anticipated Outcomes:

The POA to discuss and come up with any additions to the work that has been carried out so far (Forum FIEA, CROP Ocean Taskforce, SPREP, etc) on each of the interactive dialogues.

Session 4: Regional collaboration and attendance to Lisbon UN Ocean Conference

Background:

This session will enable discussions two key issues in terms of our preparations for the Conference.

First is on the Voluntary Commitments, which is one of the three major outcomes of the Conference. In the 2017 UN Ocean Conference, a total of 1,372 commitments had been registered by various stakeholders. For the Pacific, governments alone made significant commitments at the Conference with a total of 98 Voluntary Commitments altogether. This is by far a significant commitment from Governments by any region for the Conference which serves as a testament to the importance we as the Pacific place on the ocean and this certainly provides inspiration for commitments for the upcoming Lisbon Conference. The Pacific Ocean Commissioner is encouraging Members of the Alliance to step forward and step up for the Pacific to present Voluntary Commitment at the upcoming Conference.

“Accelerating Blue Pacific Ocean action for 2030 and beyond: Pathway to Lisbon UN Ocean Conference”

The second consideration under this current session is directly aligned to the objective of this POA meeting and that is to enable all stakeholders to share plans, collaborate and coordinate themselves in terms of supporting each other as one Blue Pacific Continent at the Lisbon Conference. POA Members are encouraged to share information on participation, engagements and events and also areas of collaboration and pulling resources to facilitate and impact such a global gathering as this.

Approach/Modality: After discussion on the modalities of the Conference and in-depth consideration of the interactive dialogues, provides a good basis for discussions on Voluntary Commitments which is crucial for the Conference. The meeting will also discuss and share the various roles at the Conference, collaboration spaces for the Pacific and support at various regional events.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- Updates on current or new Voluntary Commitments.
- A POA list of participants and events for the Conference that will be disseminated broadly for all stakeholders to be aware and can assist one another at the Conference.

References

UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, Portugal

<https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022>

List of Pacific Voluntary Commitments to 1st UNOC

<https://opocbluepacific.org/publications/#blue-pacific-ocean-report>