



Pacific Ocean Alliance Meeting

Concept Note

Date: 7 - 8 June 2022

Venue: PIF Secretariat - Main Conference Room

1.0 Theme:

“Accelerating Blue Pacific Ocean action for 2030 and beyond: Pathway to Lisbon UN Ocean Conference” Modality: Hybrid mode: virtual and in-person attendance to the meeting.

2.0 Introduction

In the words of Epeli Hau'ofa: *“No people on earth are more suitable to be guardians of the worlds largest ocean than those for whom it has been home for generations”*. We all share a common responsibility, as guardians of the Blue Pacific, to ensure the protection, management and sustainable use of the ocean resources for current and future generations.

In 2010, Pacific Leaders endorsed their regional ocean policy called, Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape 2010, which establishes the role of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC) and of the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA). In essence, the ‘Pacific Oceanscape’ is a catalyst for cross-sector stewardship. Overall, the intent is to foster stewardship at scale – local, national, regional and international - to ensure in perpetuity the health and wellbeing of our ocean and ourselves.

The convening of the POA in June 2022 comes at a critical juncture where much implementation progress has been delayed due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27th June to 1st July 2022, provides the critical opportunity for the Pacific to generate and inspire accelerated ocean action globally. The POA serves as an opportunity for the region to prepare accordingly for this global event, identifying collective priorities for ocean action and approaches to drive global support. The POA has been scheduled to align with World Oceans Day on 8th June, to drive regional and global awareness of Pacific priorities for global ocean action.

3.0 Background

The [Pacific Ocean Alliance Charter](#) endorsed at the SIDS Samoa Conference in 2014, provides for the POC to convene triennial meetings of the POA. The last POA meeting was convened in October 2019.

Since its establishment and launch in 2014 (along the margin of the SAMOA SIDS meeting), the Pacific Ocean Commissioner as the mandated facilitator for the POA has convened **three POA** meetings. The first meeting was convened in 2015 under the title and theme '[High Hopes for High Seas](#)', while the second meeting was convened in 2016 jointly with the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative, under the theme: [Achieving economic benefit from sustainable use of marine Resources](#). The last meeting of the POA was held in 2019 under the theme: [Securing our future as the Blue Pacific Continent – Our People, Our Place Our Prospects](#).

As per its charter, the POA should constitute of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories, Private sector organisations, Civil society organisations, Academic and research institutions, Development partners, Regional and International organisations.

4.0 Meeting Purpose and Objectives

In line with the mandate of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to convene the Pacific Ocean Alliance, the overall intention is to create the enabling space bring together all stakeholders having a stake on the Pacific Ocean. The meeting also provides the opportunity for the region to prepare for events rescheduled due to COVID-19. As such, a meeting of the POA will enable ocean stakeholders to take stock of progress made in advancing the implementation of regional priorities and discuss recurrent, new and emerging issues. These will be important, particularly as we look at strategies that support effective advocacy at upcoming international ocean events, primarily the UN Ocean Conference. Therefore, the specific objectives of the POA are provided below:

- i) To strengthen the POA as a robust regional ocean-work coordination mechanism, mandated by Forum Leaders in 2010. The POC will be responsible for driving these reflections moving forward;
- ii) Take stock of the progress made in advancing the implementation of regional ocean priorities, in the past few years, and identifying further action required at the regional and international level, to overcome some of the challenges; inform and support by POA Members at upcoming ocean events; and
- iii) Collectively consider respective POA Stakeholders plans for collective advocacy and engagement at the UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon Portugal from 27 June to 2 July 2022.

5.0 Upcoming Key Ocean Events

Below are key ocean events confirmed to be convened in 2022:

- i) One Ocean Summit, 7-8 February 2022
- ii) 4th session of the Inter-governmental conference for the BBNJ in New York, 7-18 March 2022
- iii) Seventh session of Our Ocean Conference in Koror, Palau, 13-14 April 2022

- iv) Blue Climate Initiative Summit, 16-20 May 2022
- v) UNFCCC SBSTA Ocean-Climate Dialogue, 6-16 June
- vi) UN Biodiversity Conference, to be held from 25 April to 8 May 2022, in Kunming, China
- vii) 2nd UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, 27 June to 1 July 2022
- viii) 27th Session of the UNFCCC, to be held from 7 – 18 November 2022, in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt

6.0 Meeting Format

The 2-days meeting will be a combination of both plenary presentations, break-out group sessions, and exchanges among high-level decision-makers and POA members and stakeholders.

It is proposed that the meeting will include presentations of regional priorities and stocktake on implementation and facilitated discussion between POC and target stakeholders (listed below) on ocean priorities and needed ocean action. The second day will be held on 8 June and will feature a special event in the morning at the Suva foreshore ground to celebrate World Ocean Day. A detailed programme will be developed and shared with participants in advance.

7.0 Target Stakeholders

The open-ended membership of the POA recognizes the cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach needed to effectively deliver regional and national ocean policies. For the 2022 POA meeting, the following are target participants:

- Pacific Island Country and Territory Governments
- CROP
- Multilateral organisations
- International finance institutions
- Non-government organisations
- Civil society organisations
- Academic and research institutions
- Private sector
- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)
- Media

8.0 Outcomes

The meeting is expected to produce the following outcomes at the end of the 2-day deliberations:

- i. POA 2022 Meeting Summary
- ii. POA additions to Technical Briefs and Blue Pacific Messages Guide for 2nd UN Ocean Conference
- iii. Updated list of Voluntary Commitments from POA Stakeholders
- iv. Summary of Pacific Side Events and list of attendees from the Region

9.0 Provisional Overview Agenda

Time	Day 1, Tuesday, 7 June 2022	Day 2, Wednesday, 8 June 2022
0800 - 0830	Registration	“POA: World Ocean Day Celebrations”
0830-0915	Opening session / Prayer [8mins each] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcoming Statement by Pacific Ocean Commissioner & PIF SG, Mr Henry Puna ▪ Keynote Statement by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson ▪ Statement by the Representative of the Co-hosts of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference, Portugal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Francisco André 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Public March from the Suva Flea Market to the Suva Civic Centre Foreshore ii. Commence with Prayer iii. Remarks by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner & PIF SG Mr Henry Puna iv. High-Level Guest Speaker H.E President of Fiji Ratu Wiliame Katonivere v. Youth representative
0930-1030	Plenary Session 1: Presentation of priorities and stocktake on implementation. [3 – 5 mins each] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Revisit 2019 POA Outcomes: Stocktake on implementation of regional priorities and commitments: (Presentation by OPOC/PIF)</i> ii. <i>POA Stakeholders Perspectives, Experiences and Challenges on Implementation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Member Countries</i> Fiji (TBC) Niue: Dr. Josie Tamate, Director-General Ministry of Natural Resources Palau: (tbc) - <i>SIDS UN DESA (SIDS Unit) Mr. Saniavalati Navoti (Tbc)</i> - <i>CROP: SPREP (DG Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra), SPC, FFA, PIF Dr Filimon Manoni</i> - <i>Non- State Actor (TBC)</i> 	<p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>(Traditional navigation vessels will be available together with public display booths)</p> <p>(Activities for Children and Youth) & (Launch of Rising to the Challenge Campaign)</p> <p>*This special event will be held at the Suva Foreshore area.</p> <p>*All POA participants attending in-person will make their way back to the PIFS Conference Room for resumption of POA Day 2 by 1100hrs.</p>
1030-1100	Morning tea break / Photo session	

1100-1200	<p>Break out group discussions for Plenary Session 1 [40mins for discussion and 20mins for presentation]</p> <p><i>Small break-out groups to discuss their issues and report back to plenary</i></p> <p>- <i>Groups are encouraged to identify some of the national, regional and global positive experiences and challenges on implementation. Discuss possible solutions to overcome those challenges, some possible areas that needs to be strengthened collaboration and also outline possible roles of POA and how we can better organize ourselves moving forward.</i></p>	<p>Plenary Session 3: Presentation on UN Ocean Conference:</p> <p>(Recap of Day 1: OPOC)</p> <p>i. UNOC Modality, Outcomes & Engagements: (Presentation by UN DESA)</p> <p>ii. Discussion on 8 Interactive Dialogues (ID) Following the presentation on the modalities of the Conference, the POA will consider the High-Level Messages and Technical Briefs prepared for the 8 Interactive Dialogues at the 2nd UN Ocean Conference and any provide any additions by POA (Presentation by SPREP, PIFS, OPOC)</p> <p>a) ID - 1_Addressing Marine Pollution (Lead: SPREP)</p> <p>b) ID-2_Circular Blue Economy - Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for SIDS and LDCs (Lead: SPREP, PIFS)</p> <p>c) ID-3_Managing, protecting, conserving, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems (Lead: SPREP)</p> <p>d) ID-4_Oceans Acidification - Minimising and addressing ocean acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming. (Lead: SPC)</p>
1200-1300	<p>Plenary Session 2: Interactive Session on future commitments and collaborative action</p> <p>i. Update presentation on 2050 Strategy: PIF Adviser, Mr. Joel Nilon</p> <p>ii. Interactive discussion with the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, Mr. Henry Puna</p> <p>Facilitated interactive session with the POA on a vision for improved coordination and accelerated action for implementation of ocean policies and commitments.</p>	<p>Continue discussions on Plenary Session 3</p> <p>e) ID-5_Fisheries - Making fisheries sustainable and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. (Lead: SPC, FFA)</p> <p>f) ID-6_Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology. (Lead: SPC)</p> <p>g) ID-7_Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. (Lead: PIFS, OPOC)</p> <p>h) ID-8_Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (Lead: SPC)</p>
1300-1400	Lunch break	

1400-1515	<p>Break Out group discussions for Session 2 [40mins for discussion and 20mins for presentation]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideas for accelerated actions – including effective coordination and means of implementation? - Improving coordination for POA Members, (Capital/New York), NSA and CROP - Future Commitments (2050 Strategy) – Future role of POA noting ongoing discussions on regional architecture, etc 	<p><u>Plenary Session 4: Sharing Plans: Regional collaboration and attendance to Lisbon Ocean Conference</u></p> <p>Discuss Way Forward</p> <p>After detailed discussion on the interactive dialogues and the support provided through the technical briefs and messaging, this provides a good basis for discussions on Voluntary Commitments and also on the various roles at the Conference, collaboration spaces for the Pacific and support at various regional events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange on Voluntary Commitments: new VCs and support (30mins) • Update list of Pacific side events • Update list of POA Delegations and potential roles at the Conference (30mins)
1515-1530		Afternoon tea break
1530-1600	Session: 3: Way Forward & Wrap up Session	<p>Prayers /Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POA Representative • Pacific Ocean Commissioner & PIF SG Mr Henry Puna
	End of Day 1	End of the POA Meeting

(*Note: Registered participants will be allocated a group after registration and the list will be made available before the Conference)

