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REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE DIALOGUE

21 – 24 August 2023

Nadi, Fiji

INTRODUCTION TO MAIN TALANOA BRIEFS

Purpose

This document provides an introduction to the briefs prepared for three *Main Talanoa Sessions* to be held on the third day of the Pacific Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue to be convened by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner from 21 – 24 August 2023. These briefs are provided in separate documents for the

Background

The Regional Ocean Policy Dialogue is articulated around 4 themes:

Theme 1: *overview and Vision setting* which sets the global ocean policy context and relationship to the regional and national policy and governance frameworks.

Theme 2: *Learning from experiences*, which are presentations from Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa, RMI and Palau of their National Ocean Policy development and implementation and relationship to the regional policy framework.

Theme 3: *How to achieve our vision* which focused on emerging issues affecting the regional Ocean Policy and a review of current governance arrangements and policy challenges.

Theme 4: *Implementing our vision* which proposes key recommendations.

Approach to the Program

The talanoa sessions will follow the first two days of presentations designed to set the scene and to contextualize the dialogue. The first two days of the dialogue are intended to provide participants with an overview of the state of play in terms of oceans governance at the national, regional and global levels. To this end, the presentations will examine key global policy initiatives and legal frameworks, the state of play in the Pacific region, and the sharing of national experiences. In addition, participants will also hear from other regions on their experiences and to understand what these regions are doing with regards to ocean policy and governance.

It is expected that out of the sessions in Day 1 and 2 of the Dialogue, that participants would have identified common issues and challenges and based on their respective experiences identify some of the critical policy and governance needs of the region. The three main Talanoa sessions on Wednesday will provide an opportunity for participants to collectively examine the issues and challenges in a bit more detail and to consider opportunities and strategies to address these issues and challenges.

Modality

On Days 1 and 2, participants will be organized in four groups for the Small Talanoa Breakout Groups. A list of the breakout groups will be made available prior to the meeting. These breakout groups will be retained for the Main Talanoa Sessions. Set out below are the questions that will frame the discussions under the three Main Talanoa sessions. The Main Talanoa facilitators may also provide additional questions during the discussions:

Main Talanoa 1: Ocean Issues, Policies and Actors

- Unpacking the ocean issues, policies and regional actors who currently play a part at the national and regional levels?
- How can these actors work closely together and how can we address the chronic data inadequacy that will be useful for follow up and review?

- Specific focus on thematic ocean issues that are sensitive, unresolved and requiring specific attention?
- Identify other current and emerging ocean issues?

Main Talanoa 2: Current Ocean Governance and Policy Challenges and Limitations

- What are the gaps and challenges in the existing ocean governance and policy regime?
- Relationships among the national, regional and global ocean policy and governance systems.
- Understanding the different roles in ocean governance and policy implementation, coordination, and coherence.

Main Talanoa 3: Opportunities to Address the Limitations and Challenges of Ocean Policy and Governance

- How to achieve what we want (our vision)?
- Unpacking options and solutions to improve the state of play to address the gaps and challenges?
- Do we need a shared regional approach/principles/apply and enforce same standards? Discuss the practical implementation of ROPs and NOPs?
- What are the successful coordination & governance models?
- How quality and timely data and M&E frameworks inform ocean policy and governance?
 - What institutional and policy reforms are needed and how?

Anticipated Outcomes:

- i. Dialogue participants will share their understanding of the issues and challenges. Collectively they will identify ways and means to address them, as well as opportunities for the future;
- ii. Participants are able to convert these solutions and future opportunities into recommendations to be taken forward by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner to Country representatives/ Leaders at their upcoming meetings.