

---

# OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

---

**Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue**

**21 – 24 August**

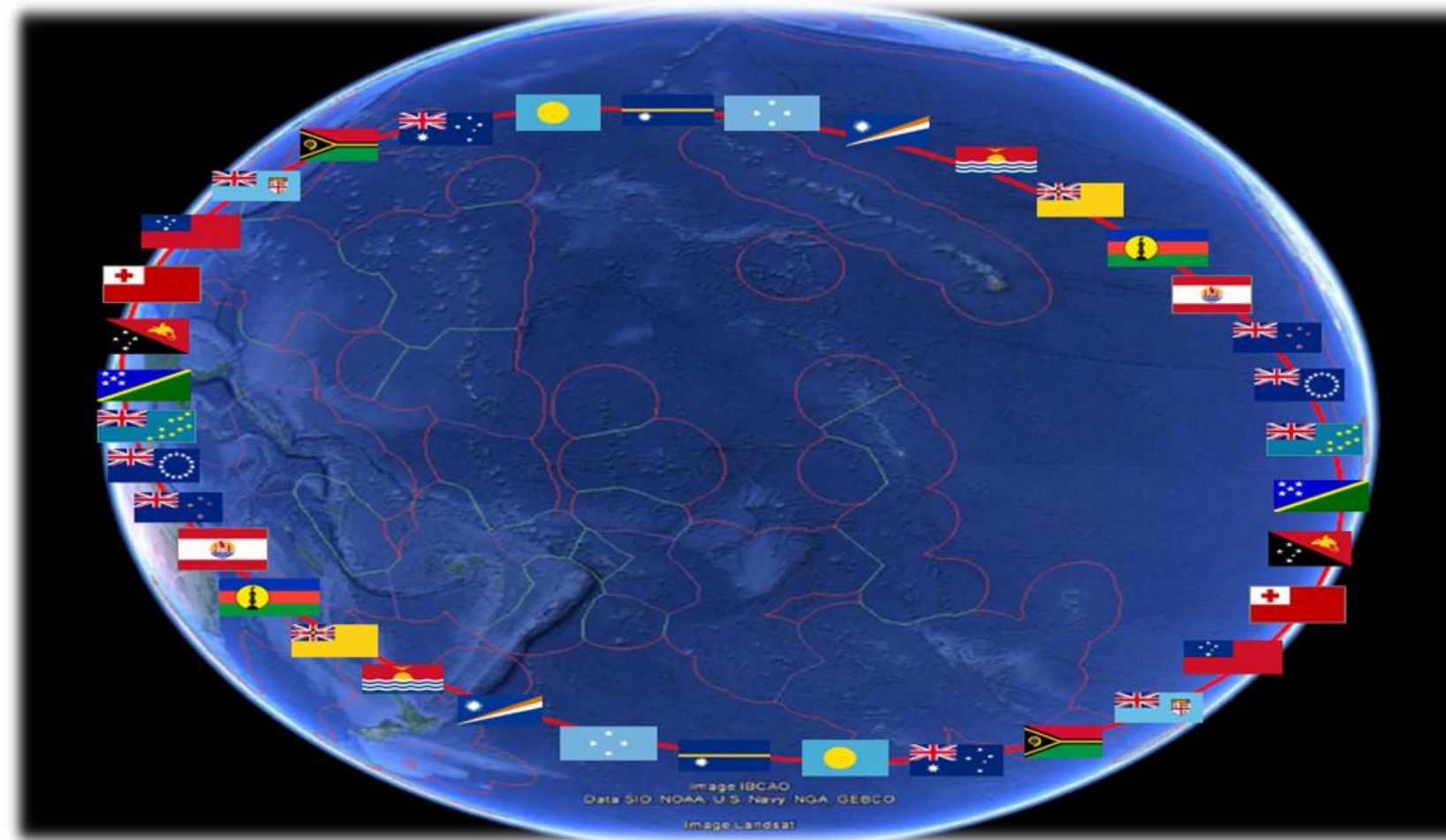
**Nadi, Fiji**

# Presentation Outline

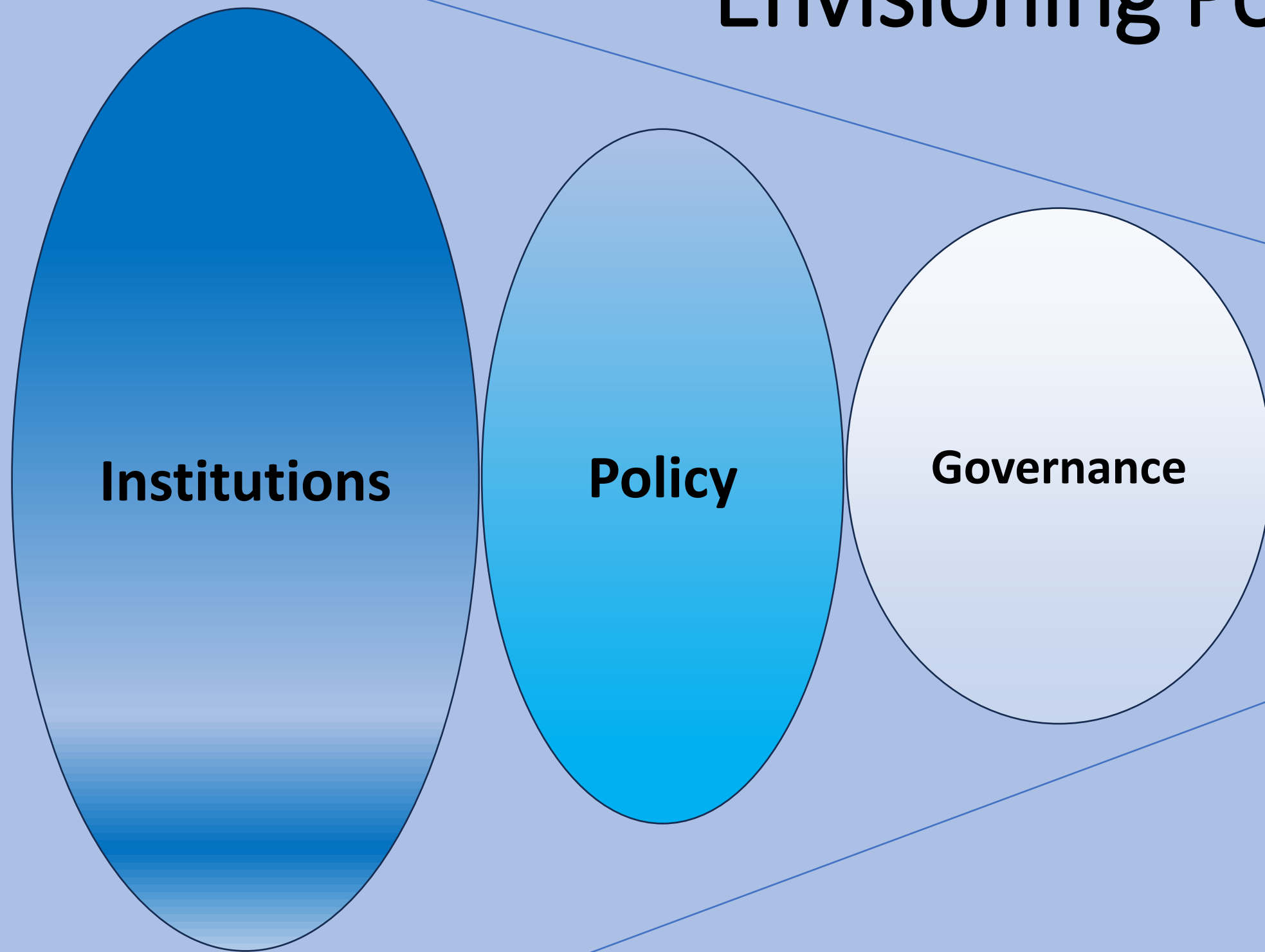
- Approach & Focus
- Historical Developments
- Governance Mechanisms
- Regional Ocean Policy
- 2050 Strategy Placement
- Maximising existing policy and governance to bolster implementation

# Approach & Focus

- To understand where we are now: we must also understand how we got here.
- Regional Ocean Policy and Governance: Broad and comprehensive



# Envisioning Policy & Governance





# Historical Developments – What gave rise to Ocean Policy and Governance

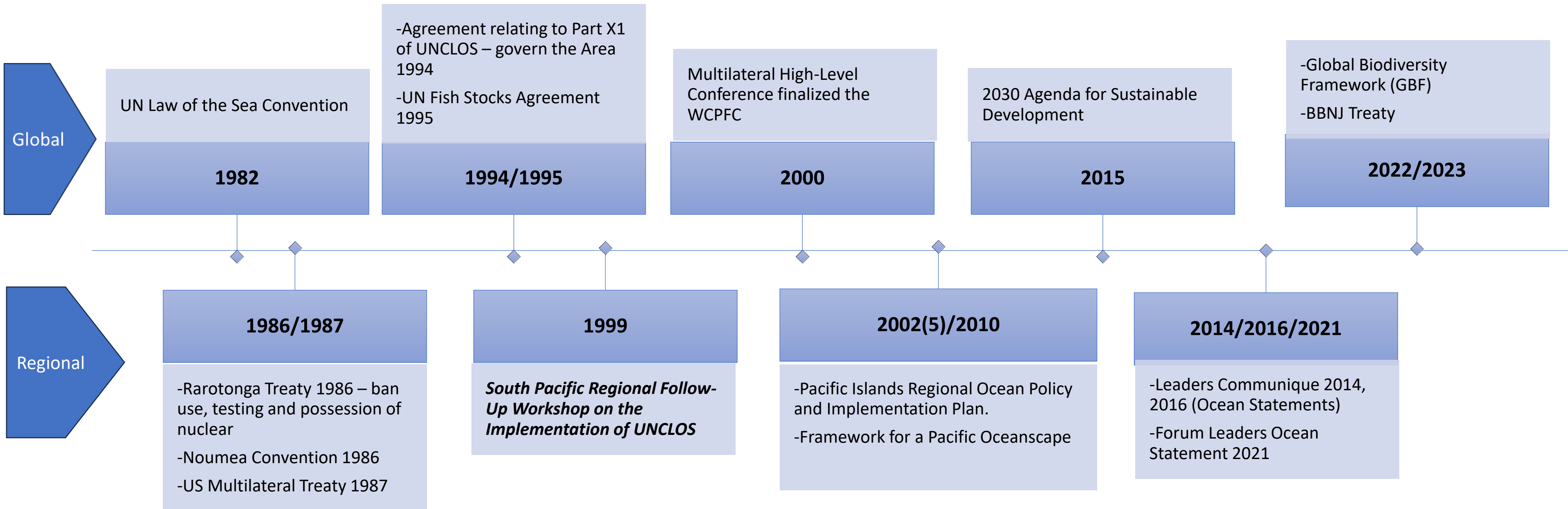
## Global

- ❑ 1493 Pope Alexander VI earliest attempt to regulate ocean: jurisdiction was a narrow band of territorial seas around and with freedom of the High seas
- ❑ 19<sup>th</sup> Century, debate on territorial sea: “cannon-short rule of 3 nautical miles” from 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries.
- ❑ Numerous attempts to resolve the issue of territorial sea entitlements (1930 – Hague Conference), (1<sup>st</sup> Session of ILC 1949), (1958 & 1960 Conferences)
- ❑ Lack of uniformity in preference of states caused uncertainty on peaceful uses of the ocean.

## Regional

- ❑ Extension of national governance and customary management practices near shore prevailed across the region.
- ❑ Open ocean, commons to care for (collective)
- ❑ Leaders gathering based on addressing their collective needs e.g., decolonization and addressing pre-colonial issues e.g. nuclear, fisheries
- ❑ Increase in interests on the ocean saw the emergence of Policy and Governance to address these issues.

# Ocean Journey



# Genesis of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy

30<sup>th</sup> South Pacific Forum Meeting, 3 – 5 October 1999 in Koror, Palau

- Endorsed the conclusions and outcomes of the *South Pacific Regional Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of UNCLOS* (Nava'u, Tonga, 23-27 August 1999) with six priority areas identified by the workshop which are:
  - i. national and regional Ocean Policy and legislation
  - ii. marine scientific research and cooperation
  - iii. delimitation of maritime zones including continental shelves
  - iv. human resource development and special technical assistance and support and cooperation of regional institutions
  - v. ratification of UNCLOS and linkages to relevant treaties
  - vi. surveillance cooperation and exchange





# Regional Policy Vision and Goals

## FRAMEWORK FOR A PACIFIC OCEANSCAPE

### Vision

*A secure future for Pacific Island Countries and Territories based on sustainable development, management and conservation of our ocean*

### Objectives

Integrated Ocean Management

Adaptation to Environmental and Climate Change

Liaising, Listening, Learning and Leading

### Strategic Priorities

1. Jurisdictional rights and responsibilities
2. Good Ocean Governance
3. Sustainable development, management and conservation
4. Listening, learning, liaising and leading
5. Sustaining action
6. Adapting to a rapidly changing environment

Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions	Actions
<p><b>1A:</b> PICTs formalise maritime boundaries and secure rights over their resources.</p> <p><b>1B:</b> Regional effort to fix baselines and maritime boundaries to ensure the impact of Climate Change and sea level rise does not result in reduced jurisdiction of PICTs</p>	<p><b>2A:</b> Leaders mandate a strengthening of the regional institutional framework for ocean governance and policy coordination</p> <p><b>2B:</b> Foster partnerships to integrate and implement ocean priorities in the Pacific plan and other relevant regional and international instruments</p> <p><b>2C:</b> PICTs incorporate sustainable use and development of coastal and ocean policies in national development policy and planning</p> <p><b>2D:</b> PICTs design and/or consolidate clear coordinated institutional mechanisms for</p>	<p><b>3A:</b> PICTs implement integrated coastal resource management arrangements drawing on the strengths and traditions of community, district, provincial and national levels of government to achieve sustainable island life</p> <p><b>3B:</b> PICTs explore and build on marine spatial planning mechanisms for improved EEZ management to achieve economic development and environmental objectives</p> <p><b>3C:</b> Regional intergovernmental bodies explore and build on approaches to conserve and manage high seas resources and deep sea ecosystems for</p>	<p><b>4A:</b> Facilitate processes that utilize existing knowledge and results in needs driven information acquisition and targeted capacity building for achieving policy and management objectives</p> <p><b>4B:</b> Influence international and regional ocean priorities, decisions and processes through reclaiming the Pacific way and establishing a high level representation on oceans</p> <p><b>4C:</b> Connecting people and places for sharing, learning and action</p>	<p><b>5A:</b> PICTs to ensure cost-effectiveness of management approaches as a priority step towards sustainability of financing</p> <p><b>5B:</b> PICTs incorporate consideration of the economic development benefits of sustainable management of coastal and marine resources in decisions affecting national development</p> <p><b>5C:</b> Explore and test financing mechanisms to support implementation of ocean priorities at regional and national level</p> <p><b>5D:</b> Enhance donor harmonization and aid effectiveness to support</p>	<p><b>6A:</b> Identify a centralized mechanism to assess emerging issues, manage risks and explore opportunities</p> <p><b>6B:</b> Identify a centralized mechanism to assess emerging issues, manage risks and explore opportunities</p>

## PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OCEAN FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATED STRATEGIC ACTION

### OUR VISION

A Healthy Ocean that Sustains the Livelihoods and Aspirations of Pacific Island Communities

### OUR GOAL

To Ensure the Future Sustainable Use of our Ocean and its Resources by Pacific Island Communities and Partners

### Ocean Governance

Improving our understanding of the ocean

Sustainably developing and managing the use of ocean resources

Maintaining the health of the ocean

Promoting the peaceful use of the ocean

Creating partnerships and promoting cooperation



# Policy Hierarchy - Situating the 2050 Strategy

## The hierarchy and linkages of key regional ocean policies, political declarations and global commitments

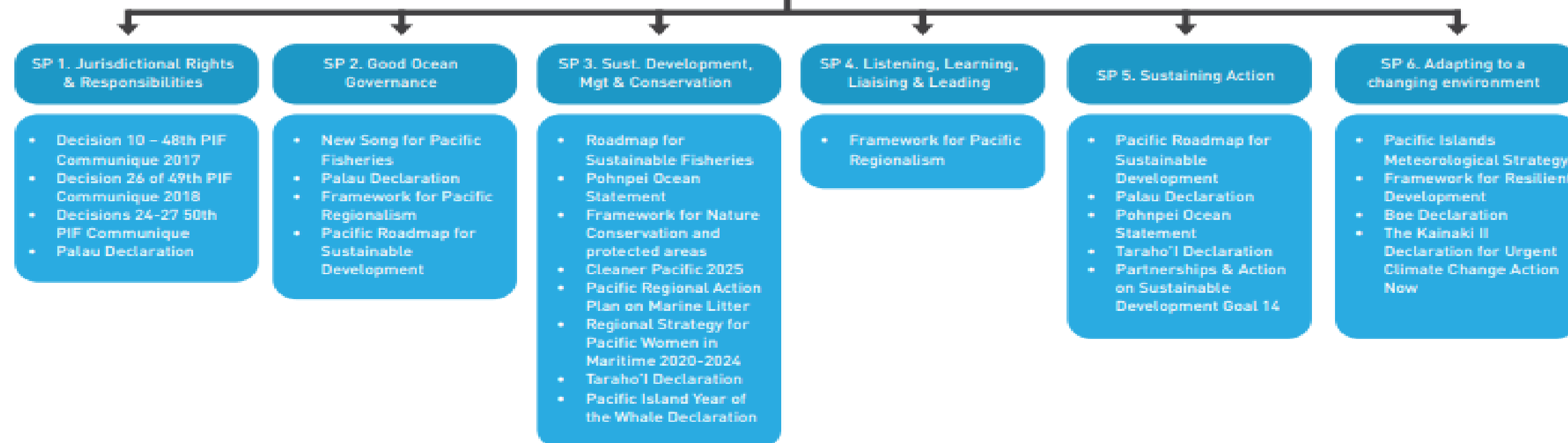
### Leaders Declarations & Statements

- Palau Declaration on the Ocean, Life & Future (2014)
- Pohnpei Ocean Statement (2016)
- Pacific Regional Platform for Partnerships & Action on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (2017)
- Pacific Island Year of the Whale Declaration (2017)
- Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018)
- Taraho'i Declaration (2019)
- The Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now



- ### Global Ocean Commitments
- Agenda 2030 (SDGs & SDG14 targets)
  - Aichi Targets
  - Samoa Pathway

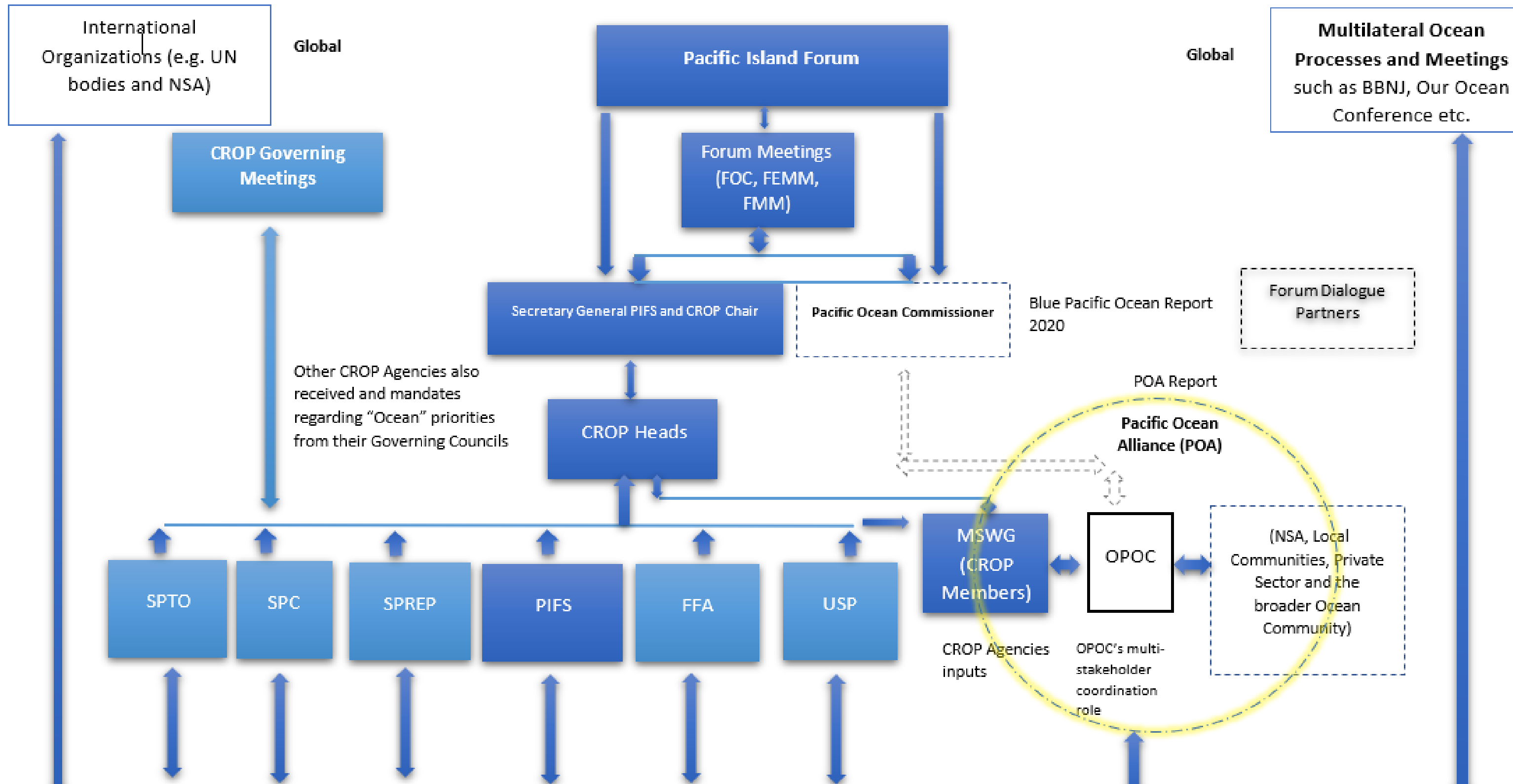
### The plethora of regional ocean policies, statements and mandates supporting the FPO Strategic Priorities



# Regional Governance Mechanisms

- Forum : States
- CROP Heads : Only CROP
- Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG) : CROP, some States, some other NGO
- One CROP Plus : CROP and some NGOs
- Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) : All stakeholders with interest in the ocean

# Blue Pacific Ocean Report 2021 – Broader Regional Ocean Governance







# MAXIMISING ON EXISTING MECHANISMS

## Working with What We Have



### Effective Coordination

The challenges in inter-regime coordination can be improved. A system with a strong coordination backbone.

### 2050 Strategy

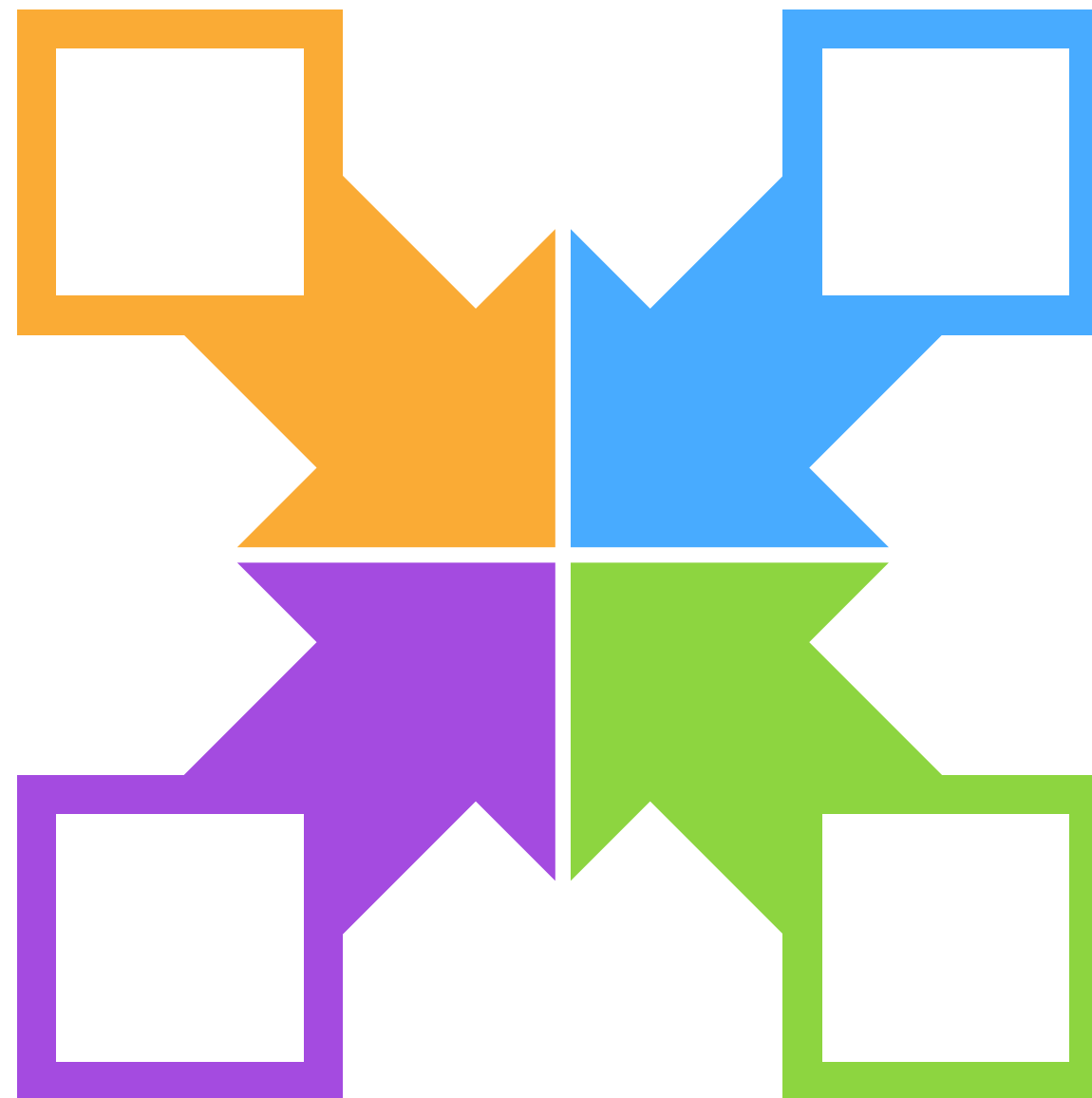
Alignment and connectivity of Policies and Frameworks

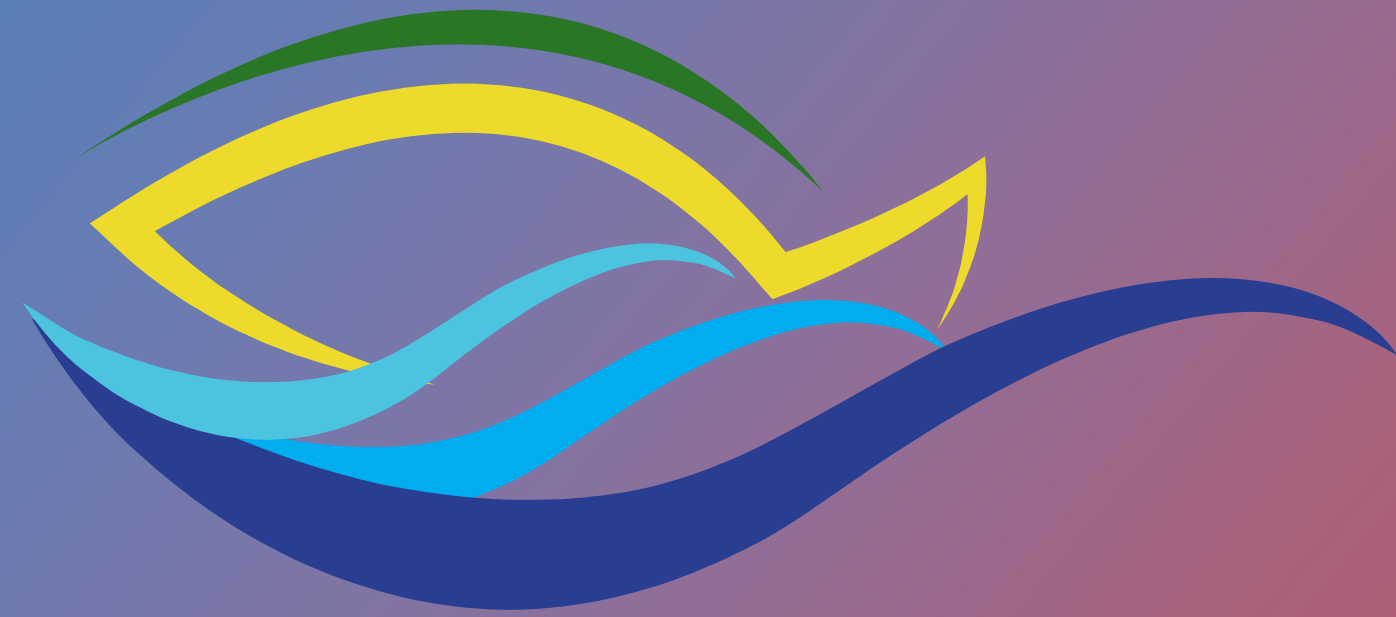
### Drawing from positive Lessons

Important lessons can be learnt from existing mechanisms regionally and also internationally e.g., Covid - 19

### Robust Monitoring and Review

Harmonized reporting to decrease burden on Members





# OPOC

OFFICE OF THE PACIFIC  
OCEAN COMMISSIONER

## THANK YOU

- Follow us on:
- Website: <https://opocbluepacific.net/>
- Twitter: @PacOceanComm
- Facebook: Pacific Ocean Commissioner