

**Annex C to the Communiqué of the Fortieth Pacific Islands Forum, Cairns 2009**

***Recommendations for Progressing the Pacific Plan***

Noting the new challenges for the region presented by the global economic crisis and ongoing vulnerability to external shocks, PPAC recommends to Forum Leaders that they prioritise the areas presented below to progress the implementation of the Pacific Plan over the next three years by:

***A. Fostering economic development and promoting opportunities for broad-based growth***

A i. developing effective policy and practical responses to the global economic crisis with the objective of building sustained economic resilience, including through: safeguarding macro-economic stability; protecting core services; targeted support for the vulnerable; boosting national competitiveness and strengthened development coordination.

A ii. continuing to support action in the fisheries sector which would see commitment to implementing the direction offered by the Forum Leaders through the Vava'u Declaration and Forum Fisheries Committee, and in particular: progressing the development and implementation of fisheries management and development regimes including Regional Strategies on Sustainable Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission conservation and management measures; Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategies; addressing ongoing barriers to international market access; the re-negotiation of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries between Pacific Island States and the United States; the fostering of coastal fisheries; and strengthening the sector's governance.

A iii. building on existing marine protected areas and initiatives.

A iv. expediting the implementation of the 2009 Pacific Energy Ministers' decisions and, in particular, the five key areas highlighted by these Ministers to achieve greater energy security across the Pacific.

A v. providing greater support to tourism, the region's largest economic driver, and, in particular: accelerating development of emerging geographic and niche markets; improving access to Pacific destinations by air and sea; and continuing to build the capacity of small and medium service providers to cater to current and emerging international markets and generate employment opportunities.

A vi. developing regional and national frameworks to enable the development of the economic potential of marine mineral resources; and strengthening regional and national capacity in the mining, environment, labour and financial sectors to comply with relevant standards for the deep-sea mining industry within the region, while supporting environmental monitoring that preserves ecosystems and terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

A vii. fostering greater international and intra-regional trade opportunities by proceeding with the implementation of key regional trade agreements and, in particular, working to allow for the freer movement of goods and services.

A viii. strengthening the ability of the private sector to participate competitively in an integrated economy through the necessary enabling environments and support mechanisms.

A ix. addressing issues that hinder the movement of goods and services through expediting fit-for-purpose solutions in the transport sector and, in particular: improving and developing necessary infrastructure; supporting the implementation of the region's 2009 Shipping Ministers' directions; and the ongoing implementation of PIASA in the aviation sector, to ensure greater security, safety, reliability and competition of services across the region.

A x. implementing the directions provided by the region's Ministers for ICT and, in particular, revising and updating the Regional Digital Strategy.

A xi. continuing the implementation of the economic integration agenda promoted and regularly reviewed by the Forum Economic Ministers and, in particular, establishing components of the Regional Regulatory Stepladder as directed by these Ministers.

A xii. increasing support for infrastructure development and maintenance across the region.

***B. Improving livelihoods and the well-being of Pacific Peoples***

B i. continuing efforts to better ensure food security for people across the region and, in particular, expediting efforts to improve food standards and food quality and support agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries, through initiatives such as the Pacific Food Summit proposed for 2010.

B ii. Ensuring healthy populations through: the ongoing implementation of the Vanuatu Commitment and the recent Madang Declaration for Action from the 2009 Ministers of Health Meeting, including enhanced efforts to better understand health determinants and build the sector's governance and ability to respond pro-actively to current and emerging health needs.

B iii. improving access to opportunities afforded through stronger education systems at all levels by implementing the directions given by Forum Education Ministers and, in particular, progressing the implementation of the Pacific Education Development Framework to better provide Pacific peoples access to economic opportunities through skills and prospects for mobility.

B iv. Urging efforts to pursue the opportunities offered by the appropriate utilisation and development of land resources to minimise the risk of conflict, improve security and assist in economic development, while recognising that land is a national responsibility.

B v. supporting the implementation of measures, existing commitments and programmes aimed at increasing awareness of and addressing the causes and consequences of sexual and gender-based violence and developing legislation to criminalise gender-based violence in all forms.

B vi. prioritising national actions to mainstream youth issues into the national development agenda.

B vii. acknowledging the importance of ensuring access to greater and more equitable opportunities for those with disabilities, to enhance their quality of life and promote and protect their rights and dignity.

***C. Addressing the impacts of climate change***

C i. continuing the implementation of the Niue Declaration on Climate Change

C ii. developing Pacific-tailored responses to support adaptation and mitigation measures and better coordination of Disaster Risk Management–Climate Change Adaptation (DRM-CCA), and furthering regional and international efforts and research to support national action in combating climate change.

C iii. coordinating regional efforts in the completion and early implementation of the outcomes of the December 2009 Copenhagen meetings.

C iv. enhancing the resilience of ecological systems and associated biodiversity and providing ecosystem services with a focus on the impacts of climate change in line with the Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

C v. assisting with the assessment called for by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/63/281 Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications.

C vi. strengthening data collection and analysis for improved climatic monitoring and preparedness through integrated whole-system approaches.

C vii. building scientific capacity across the region through strategic partnerships with bodies such as the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, and an expansion in scientific education and training programmes.

C viii. building support, with the assistance of regional and international partners, for the new Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food security, and capitalising on the offer made by Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to share relevant lessons learned.

***D. Achieving stronger national development through better governance***

D i. demonstrating strong national leadership and enhanced regional attention to accelerate improvements to development coordination in the region, to maximise the effectiveness and impact of the resources of Pacific island governments and development partners to make faster progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

D ii. committing to sustainable and appropriate: collection and compilation of statistics; information management; and records-keeping, to ensure the development and implementation of better-informed national policy.

D iii. implementing efforts to allow for improved access to official information.

D iv. supporting efforts to allow an enhanced role for women in national decision making processes.

D v. continuing to strengthen accountability and integrity institutions, through approaches such as the Pacific Ombudsman Alliance and Pacific Regional Audit Initiative.

D vi. encouraging greater involvement of parliamentarians in the development agenda, through the Forum Presiding Officers and Clerks/Pacific Parliamentary Assembly for Population and Development (FPOC-PPAPD) and other leadership groups.

D vii. addressing corruption through the use and implementation of relevant and existing national, regional and international mechanisms and commitments.

***E. Ensuring improved social, political and legal conditions for stability, safety and security***

E i. improving human security outcomes for members, through advancing effective conflict prevention, conflict resolution mechanisms and peace building.

E ii. strengthening cooperation in the law enforcement and border security sectors to address terrorism and transnational crime.

E iii. promoting and consolidating regional stability through adherence to Forum values and the principles of the Biketawa Declaration.