Contents

PREFACE ........................................................................................................................................... 2
INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................................. 3
OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP ......................................................................................................... 4
  PIDF Foundational Membership Principles ..................................................................................... 4
  PIDF Institutional Structure ............................................................................................................. 4
  PIDF Budget Principles ................................................................................................................ 4
  PIDF Financial Organisation ........................................................................................................... 5
  Institutional Character .................................................................................................................... 6
NEXT STEPS ....................................................................................................................................... 7
PHOTO GALLERY ................................................................................................................................ 8
PREFACE

This is the Outcome Document of the First Regional Workshop on the Pacific Islands Development Forum Establishment Agreement that was held at Novotel, Lami, Fiji from 6th to 7th May, 2015.

The Secretariat acknowledges the participation of all delegates at the Workshop.

The next Workshop is planned for early July.

Vinaka.

PIDF Secretariat
www.pacificidf.org

Chief Guest Prime Minister Bainimarama with Heads of Delegations
INTRODUCTION

The First Regional Workshop on the PIDF Establishment Agreement was held at Novotel, Lami, Fiji from 6th to 7th May, 2015 and was opened by the Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji, Rear Admiral (Ret’d) Ratu Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. More than 50 delegates from Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Solomon Is, Tonga and Tuvalu representing government, civil society, and the private sector attended the two-day meeting.

The overarching tone of the workshop was that Pacific Island’s representation, participation and inclusivity were central to the development of a distinctive agreement that captures the interests of Pacific Islanders today.

“We must do things the Pacific Way. There are inherent Pacific principles that are based on our culture and the way we understand each other”

The workshop discussed the institutional structure, character, principles and budget model of the PIDF. Delegates also looked at membership fees, equity and equality of membership, the need to define the role of development partners and the importance of sustainability for the countries and the PIDF.

Participants agreed that the PIDF Agreement should be a living document that ensures that the Pacific set the priorities instead of following an agenda set by donors that may not fully reflect Pacific ideals and issues. The PIDF priorities on the Green/Blue economy, climate change, sustainable development; low carbon development and disaster risk management were also looked at by delegates.

Chief Guest Prime Minister Bainimarama
OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop discussed organisational and budgetary first principles and their operationalisation. Agreement was reached on the principles and several options were discussed in relation to their implementation, especially in relation to budgeting and the institutional character of the PIDF.

The Delegates agreed that they would form a Regional Reference Group to review and discuss the evolution of the Agreement.

PIDF Foundational Membership Principles

Delegates agreed that PIDF members should share a commitment the following principles. Furthermore, these principles would guide the development of the PIDF’s institutional arrangements.

- A Pacific for Pacific Islanders
- A Shared and Enduring Commitment to Green Growth and Sustainable Development
- Inclusivity and Ownership
- Representation, Participation and Engagement
- Multi-stakeholder Governance at all levels
- Budget independence and Sustainability
- Durable Partnerships with Development Partners Driven by Pacific Interests

PIDF Institutional Structure

Delegates agreed that an institutional structure that focussed decision-making in national committees, which were then represented at the regional level, was the preferred method of operationalising the PIDF’s Foundational Membership Principles. It was agreed that the structure proposed in the discussion documents was an effective approach to institutionalising the PIDF. The workshop strongly agreed that the triumvirate structure (government, civil society and private sector) must be included at all levels in the structure.

- The Preferred Institutional Structure will be written into the Foundation Agreement for consideration at the next Regional Consultation Workshop.

PIDF Budget Principles

The following principles were tentatively agreed as the preferred way of operationalising the membership principles.

---

1. www.pacificidf.org
• **Equity** versus Equality (contributions from members according to means).
• **Budget Sustainability** (operational costs funded by members and program costs by external partners).
• **Inclusivity** (regional representation arising from shared budget responsibilities *for operations*).
• **Independence** (external contributions separated from governance representation).
• **Accountability** to members and future generations

There were two clear responses to the budgetary principles amongst delegates. They were valid if the PIDF had to be a completely self-funding organisation. However, if an alternative funding model could be developed that sourced funds from beyond the Pacific, but removed the institutional influence of external development partners, then many delegates felt that equality amongst Pacific Islands should become an organising principle. A Trust fund mechanism may fit this requirement.

• **The Budget Principles will be written into the Foundation Agreement with the proviso that they may be altered from equity to equality if a Trust Mechanism is found to be practical.**

**PIDF Financial Organisation**

There was general agreement that if the PIDF would have to be completely self-funded then the following Budget Mechanism could be adopted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All members contribute a proportion of operational costs (the Secretariat’s budget). Contributions assessed through a graduated scale based on the capacities of members:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• States would pay the most, and wealthier states (GDP per capita) will pay more than those less well endowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional Civil Society and the Private Sector will pay a smaller proportion, relative to their revenues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contributions by Development Partners toward programs are welcome and encouraged, but separated from the operational budget into a programs budget.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The general consensus amongst delegates was that if an alternative funding model could be developed that operationalised the PIDF Budget Principles then it should be adopted. The most popular suggestion was a Trust Mechanism.

• **The capacity of a Trust Mechanism to achieve these aims will be investigated and the two preferred approaches will be modelled and returned to the Regional Reference Group for further discussion. There was a consensus that a subscription mechanism may be needed at the outset and that this can grow into a trust model when greater resources become available.**
Institutional Character

There was much discussion over the difference between a formal international agreement and a charter. There was consensus that whatever the institutional structure was it needed to operationalise the principles mentioned above.

- A charter model will be developed and returned to the next workshop for further discussion. There was a consensus that the PIDF could begin with a Charter and then move to a fully-fledged agreement if need be.
The outcomes of the First Regional Workshop will now be translated into an establishment agreement for review by the Regional Reference Group at a subsequent workshop. It will also be taken to the region for further consultation with the aim of finalising an agreement at the PIDF Summit in September.

*Chief Guest at the Closing Hon Ratu Inoke Kubuabola with Delegates*
PHOTO GALLERY

Scenes from the workshop