A United and Distinctive PSIDS Voice
Pacific Islands Development Forum

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PREFACE

1. In June 2012, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with broad participation of civil society, in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20). They agreed on an outcome document under the title “The Future We Want”. In that document governments renewed their commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and for present and future generations.¹

2. The leaders of the world reaffirmed that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. They expressed their concern that, while SIDS have progressed in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment, their overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven. Rio + 20 called for continued and enhanced efforts to assist SIDS in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

3. Rio + 20 considered green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and states that it could provide options for policy making. They also emphasized that it should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems. They acknowledged that green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will enhance the ability to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts, increase resource efficiency and reduce waste.

4. The importance of governments taking a leadership role in developing policies and strategies through an inclusive and transparent process was also underscored and they noted that sustainable development "can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations." 2

5. This Brief provides information on an initiative to establish a broad alliance of Pacific Small Island Developing States, Territories, governments, civil society and private sector, all working together to secure the future they want for present and future generations. The initiative is called the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

BACKGROUND

6. The call for a “Pacific Island Development Forum” (PIDF) was endorsed by Pacific Island Leaders at the 2012 “Engaging with the Pacific” meeting held at the Westin International Hotel, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji, 23 - 24 August 2012: 3

"Endorsed the convening of the Pacific Islands Development Forum for the purpose of engaging leaders from key sectors in implementing green economic policies in PSIDS…” (Source: Official Communiqué)

22 The Future We Want, Para 13.

3 The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama; the President of Nauru, H.E. Sprent Dabwido; the President of the Republic of Marshall Islands, H.E. Christopher Loeak; Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Hon Willy Telavi; Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon Ham Lini Vanuaroroa; Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Hon Manasseh Maelanga; Minister for Marine Resources, Tourism and Education of Cook Islands, Hon Teina Bishop; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Timor Leste, Hon Dr. Jose Luis Guterres; Minister for Economic and Foreign Trade of New Caledonia, Hon Anthony Lecren; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tonga, Mr. Mahe Tupouniuia.; Senator Richard Tuheiava of French Polynesia; Mrs. Makurita Baro, Special Envoy of Kiribati; H.E. Peter Eafeare, High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Fiji; and H.E. Gerson Jackson, Ambassador of Federated States of Micronesia to Fiji.
WHAT IS PIDF

7. PIDF is a space for catalysing, mobilizing and mainstreaming action in support of sustainable development through a green economy in Pacific Island Countries. It’s an action-oriented platform to identify innovative solutions that will ensure sustainable development through a green economy. PIDF works closely with international institutions to engage state and non-state actors to develop high-impact collaborations on sustainable development through the Green Economy.

8. PIDF is a unique platform bringing together leaders from the public and private sectors & civil society to address regional development challenges, through mutually beneficial innovative partnerships. No one sector in society can deliver the complexities of sustainable development alone. PIDF uses the expertise of the private sector, normative leadership of the public sector, and successful delivery mechanisms of civil society. It provides a framework for bringing together governmental, business and civil society leaders to secure concrete commitments and mobilize action in support of the Green Economy.

9. The hypothesis underpinning this partnership is that only with comprehensive cross-sector collaboration can we ensure that responses and initiatives are coherent, complementary and sufficiently integrated to tackle the complex sustainable development challenges that we face. Multi-stakeholder partnership like PIDF provides fresh opportunity for doing development better by recognizing the qualities and competencies of each sector whether government, civil society or private sector, and finding new ways of harnessing these contributions for the common good.
10. Public sector partners provide legitimacy, stability, access, information and the institutional foundation for the partnership. The business sector is inventive, productive; brings financial and technological resources and innovative approaches to problem solving, while civil society ensures that the partnership remains responsive and inclusive for all stakeholders; vocal and protective of the interests of the least influential partners.

11. PIDF will be the regional counterpoint to PSIDS UN Missions. This new PIDF Grouping has been spurred by a newly evolved scenario on Global Grouping when the PSIDS contribution was recognised at the UN with the re-designation of the Asian Group at the UN as the Asian and Pacific Small Island Developing States Group. This evolution directly aligns PSIDS with some of the biggest players of the Asia-Pacific region, the global powerhouse of the 21st century.

**PIDF VISION**

12. The PIDF Vision is: “*A United, Distinctive and Sustainable Pacific Society*”.

13. The theme speaks of the following:

- **United** – All Pacific People irrespective of political status. The PIDF is open to all Pacific Island Countries irrespective of their political status whether independent states or dependant territories and will involve all sectors of the economy whether public, private or civil society.

- **Distinctive** – Only Pacific People & Values. The PIDF will include only the People of the Pacific and will reflect their values of respect, compassion, service etc.

- **Sustainable Pacific Society** – A Pacific Society that has re-balanced the three pillars of development. Their economies characterised by:
  - Smart growth: Economy based on knowledge and innovation
  - Sustainable growth: Resource efficient, greener and competitive economy
  - Inclusive growth: High employment economy with social and terrestrial cohesion and equitable distribution of wealth.

**PIDF FOCUS**

14. PIDF focus will not only be on socially inclusive growth or environmentally sustainable growth but on green/blue economy that enhances sustainable and inclusive growth. Recent history – from the global recession to catastrophic natural disasters – has taught us that our current economic model is structurally flawed and that there are environmental consequences to our short-sighted actions. The green economy which PIDF has been mandated to address promises a way forward by offering a system of economic development that ensures both growth and the long-term viability of human culture and the planet. It recognizes that by reformulating how we approach
economic growth, we don’t have to sacrifice the natural world or human wellbeing in order to achieve true wealth.

DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE PARTNERS

15. There are a number of development dialogue spaces in the region which PIDF will network with in the implementation of sustainable development through the green/blue economy:

- PNG Development Forum
- Solomon Islands PM Roundtable
- Micronesia Chief Executive Summit
- Tonga/Ha’apai Roundtable
- Vanuatu Green Growth Dialogue
- Fiji Development Forum
- Pacific Green Growth Coalition
PIDF AREA OF OPERATIONS

16. PIDF will undertake its work at three levels:
   - Sphere of CONTROL: National Development Policies, PSIDS NY
   - Sphere of INFLUENCE- Pacific Rim Countries/ Potential Development Partners, Mauritius Strategy and the 2014 SIDS Global Conference, MDGs Acceleration Framework to 2015, Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, G77 & China Chairmanship in 2013, AOSIS
   - Sphere of CONCERN - UNFCCC, Rio+20

WHY PIDF

17. PIDF is being established because of the following:

   a) A changing global & regional environment requires new approaches to problem solving. Current development model has not worked and the “Green Economy” now provides the preferred pathway to sustainable development. The model of
growth and development pursued in the last decades has not delivered the inclusive growth and sustainable development aspired to by our people. Sustainable development through the Green Economy which not only balances but builds on the synergies between economic growth, social inclusion and preservation of the environment will be the major focus of PIDF.

b) Global & regional challenges are complex and interconnected and require expertise, abilities and resources across multiple sectors. Partnerships however will allow the Pacific to overcome challenges that are too difficult or complex for one country, organization or sector to address alone. The PIDF will provide the space where such partnerships may be forged and accelerated to bring about sustainable development through green economic policies.

c) Spurned by evolution of the PSIDS NY to Asia-Pacific Group. This new PIDF Grouping has been spurred by a newly evolved scenario on Global Grouping when the PSIDS contribution was recognised at the UN with the re-designation of the Asian Group at the UN as the Asian and Pacific Small Island Developing States Group. This evolution directly aligns PSIDS with some of the biggest players of the Asia-Pacific region, the global powerhouse of the 21st century.

d) Sharing of development experiences through South-South Cooperation, Triangular Development Cooperation. Fiji has signed six\(^4\) MOUs with PSIDS on Development Cooperation and deployed 30 Retired Teachers to two\(^5\) PSIDS over the last 6 months under Fiji Volunteer Scheme. PIDF will accelerate such South-South Cooperation.

**PIDF INNOVATION**

18. The following sets PIDF apart from existing spaces for dialogue in the region:

   a) Inclusivity & Participatory: All Pacific countries welcomed.

   b) High-level multi-stakeholder partnership: Public & Private sectors & CSOs participation.

   c) Link to PSIDS UN Missions NY: “Thinking Globally and Acting Locally”.

   d) Focus on Green Economy as pathway to sustainable development

   e) Promotion of South-South Cooperation amongst PSIDS

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\(^4\) Nauru, Kiribati, FSM, Tuvalu, Palau, Solomon Islands.

\(^5\) Nauru & RMI
**PIDF ADVANTAGES**

19. PIDF offers the following advantages:

a) A more transparent & inclusive political platform;

b) The ability to develop a more comprehensive & interactive analysis of the issues than any one stakeholder group can achieve;

c) The ability to help governments and civil society stakeholders to work with markets and business to deliver public goods;

d) The ability to leverage additional financial resources by bringing together public and private sources of finance;

e) The ability to bring coalitions of progressive actors together to support one another’s progress;

f) Enhance the PSIDS in their preparations for the SIDS Global Conference in 2014;

g) Reinforce PSIDS collective effort for the MDG Acceleration Framework towards 2015; and


**PIDF INAUGURAL SUMMIT**

20. The inaugural meeting of the PIDF will be held in Fiji in 2013.

**THEME**

21. The theme for the PIDF 2013 inaugural Summit is: “Leadership, Innovation & Partnership for Green/Blue Pacific Economies.”

22. The theme highlights the following:

a) *Leadership.* The importance of leveraging Collective Leadership for sustainability. In the run-up to Rio + 20, the UN supported more than seventy countries including those from the Pacific to engage stakeholders in nationally-led processes whose aims were to review progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of sustainable development approaches over the last two decades. After synthesizing the findings of the almost 60 national reports that were received the UN study concluded that whilst many countries have made substantial progress over the last twenty years in establishing and strengthening the institutional frameworks necessary to ensure sustainable development the greatest challenge today is chiefly implementation. The evidence from the reports is overwhelming that a gap
exists between stated commitments to sustainable development and the reality of implementing sustainable development policies and programmes in all countries and regions reviewed and that two ingredients critical to successful implementation that are missing from many national development recipes are political will and good governance. The PIDF Inaugural Summit will therefore examine the leadership necessary that will enable environmentally socially, culturally and economically sustainable development;

b) **Innovation.** Harnessing ecologically sound and inclusive innovation for sustainability. This Summit is about assisting participants innovating towards greener solutions. South-South flows of green technology will be explored. We will examine how to strengthen local capabilities to absorb technology from abroad and adapt it to local needs. Here we will look at “base of pyramid” innovations - bottom up, frugal Jugaad improvisation approaches where readily available technologies are merged in ways which produce new and low-cost solutions, doing more, with less, for more people;

c) **Partnership.** Multi-stakeholder high-impact collaborations is critical for sustainable development. No one sector in society can deliver the complexities of sustainable development alone. Multi-stakeholder partnership provides fresh opportunity for doing development better by recognizing the qualities and competencies of each sector whether government, civil society or private sector, and finding new ways of harnessing these contributions for the common good. Here we will use the expertise of the private sector, normative leadership of the public sector, and successful delivery mechanisms of civil society to bring about sustainable development through the green economy;

d) **Green/Blue Pacific Economies.** The green economy approach in the Pacific is not merely a way to reduce resource intensiveness or pollution but also a way to achieve resilient, inclusive and sustainable development through enhancing livelihoods and fostering new economic opportunities. The idea of green economy provides a new way to approach sustainable development in the Pacific. By integrating the three pillars of sustainable development into a green economy framework, decision-makers can make policy decisions based on a more complete picture.

Development strategies and policies are also typically approached from a national perspective; however, Pacific islands are surrounded by “a blue world” and the biotic boundaries do not correspond with national boundaries. Therefore the concept of green economy in the Pacific cannot only be considered from a purely national perspective. PIDF therefore will work with member countries to ensure that regional and global agreements complement national policies for the
preservation and sustainable utilization of the shared marine and coastal ecosystems in the Pacific.

**PIDF 2013 MEETING OUTLINE**

23. The inaugural PIDF Meeting will follow this program outline:

- Keynote presentations on development challenges in the Pacific region
- Leaders engagement on key sectors
- Parallel Issue based Plenary Sessions (2-3 Speakers or Panels)
- Organized pavilions for the sectoral themes
- Leaders (Government/Private Sector/Civil Society) implementation focused summit to identify strategies for delivering action on the ground

**PIDF PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

24. The inaugural PIDF Meeting will follow this program structure:

a) **DAY I: LEADERSHIP PILLAR.** Diagnosis of sustainable development in the Pacific and the leadership necessary for the green economy.

b) **DAY II: INNOVATION PILLAR.** Finding innovative solutions to sectoral development challenges

c) **DAY III: PARTNERSHIP PILLAR.** Forging new partnerships to address development challenges.

**PIDF SECTORAL FOCUS**

25. PIDF will focus on the following key sectors:

a) Primary sectors
   - Fisheries
   - Tourism
   - Agriculture
   - Forestry
   - Mining
b) Enabling sectors

- Transport
- Energy
- Communications
- Human Resources/Capacity building

**PARTICIPANTS**

26. Participants of the PIDF will comprise the following:

a) *Government*: Prime Ministers and Heads of Governments/States, Ministers and key public Servants from the selected sectors covered under thematic issues.

b) *Private Sector*: CEOs of big mining, banking/finance, tourism, retail, fishing, manufacturing and other large businesses in PSIDS and Heads of National Private Sector groups (Chambers of Commerce etc.)

c) *Civil Society*: Heads and key players from NGOs at National levels. FBOs: National Heads of Faith-based Organisations.

27. Non-Government participation will be aimed at Leaders who are “movers and shakers” and “active and influential players” with proven track record of successful partnering with PSIDS Governments Sectors/Organizations including. Identification of “movers and shakers” will be the mandate of PSIDS Governments in accordance with an agreed set of criteria.

28. Approximate number of participants to the 2013 PIDF will be limited to 220 – 250. The private sector and other invited organisations and regional organisations will meet their own expenses whilst the Heads of States and two officials (can be one private sector and one civil society) will be covered for accommodation only.

**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

29. The following countries will be invited:

- Cook Islands
- Solomon Island
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Tonga
- Kiribati
- Tuvalu
- Marshall Island
- Nauru
- Niue
- New Caledonia
- Palau
- PNG
- Samoa
- Tokelau
- Timor Leste
- Vanuatu
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas
- Guam
- French Polynesia
- Pitcairn Islands
- Wallis & Futuna

PIDF Invited Countries
OBSERVERS
30. The following will be invited as Observers:

- CROP : Heads of SPC, FFA, SPTO, PPA, SPREP
- PIPSO : Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
- PIANGO: Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organizations
- UN Bodies: Heads of UN Regional/Sub Regional agencies
- Academia: Heads of Pacific Universities/Tertiary Institutions
- Development Partners: All current and potential PSIDS Development Partners

PIDF OUTCOMES
31. Two types of outcome documents will be issued at the conclusion of the PIDF Meeting. Both outcomes mutually supportive and interdependent. The overriding goal of this process is to ensure that results of the Summit are practical and deliverable, and are aimed at the implementation of sustainable development at all levels. Statements long on flourish, short on substance will be avoided.

32. Type One Agreement.

   a) Documents to be negotiated by all Participants.

   b) This will assess overall progress achieved on sustainable development, identify major constrains and suggest measures to overcome these constraints.

   c) These documents will reinvigorate political commitment to sustainable development through the Green Economy and address new challenges and opportunities.

33. Type Two partnerships for sustainable development.

   a) Voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at implementing sustainable development through the green economy. This will include commitments, targets and partnerships made by participants.

   b) This will be announced during the partnership events of the Summit and would be released as part of the Summit's outcomes.
34. The inaugural PIDF Meeting will seek to accomplish the following outcomes:

a) An exchange of ideas on how to promote the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development to ensure that policies and initiatives are mutually reinforcing and benefit all members of society;

b) Provide examples from the regions on good practices and public policies that promoted integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

c) An enhanced understanding of the work of the PIDF and its role as a unique regional platform for the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development in national economies.

ORGANISATION OF PIDF

Secretariat
35. In order to strengthen the capacity of the PIDF a standing PIDF Secretariat has been established. The Secretariat will enhance the work of the PIDF through the establishment of administrative capacity and by providing continuity, institutional memory, operational efficiency, enhanced communication and outreach, exchange of information with other relevant international organizations and to support activities of the PIDF. The Secretariat for PIDF is located at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Staffing
36. Staffing for the Secretariat currently comprise one personnel (DS). Approved staffing by Cabinet is for four (04) posts – (01 x DS; 01 x Director; 01 x PAS; 01 x SAS).

Budget
37. PIDF is first and foremost a regional organization owned by Member States and stakeholders who will determine its financing strategy and arrangements.

Steering Committee
38. Comprise IUCN, UNESCAP, USP, PIPSO, Sector representatives, Pacific Diplomatic Missions etc.

39. Its role is to discuss scope, objectives, inputs, outputs, and tentative programme of the Conference, outlines of the conference papers, list of speakers as well as the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.
Coordinating Groups
40. Comprising Sectoral Reps to develop sectorial programs. This includes plans for sector development, identifying pilot projects within a sector and development issues with sector wide implications.

Champions
41. To be appointed by each participant. Roles are to promote PIDF nationally, facilitate communication and participation.

CONCLUSION
42. PIDF provides the platform for multistakeholder cooperation amongst Pacific Island Countries which will bring value added to regional governance and problem-solving in terms of sustainable development through the green economy. We encourage all countries to participate enthusiastically and capture for yourselves the benefits of this approach as a tool for both policy development and policy implementation in your own countries.

END.
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