

Development of a Pacific Humanitarian and Disaster Response Coordination Mechanism

Background

- The global humanitarian sector is challenged by **multiple humanitarian crises, including from climate change and disaster risks**, creating instability, reversing development gains, and entrenching social inequality
- Recognising the challenges, **Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers supported the need to strengthen humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness and response**, including the **development of a regional coordination mechanism**, through the following mandates:
 - a) Paragraph 7 of the Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018);
 - b) Actions 2(iv) and 2(viii) of the Boe Declaration Action Plan;
 - c) Regional Collective Actions 3 and 4 of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan;
 - d) Goal 3 of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific; and
 - e) **Paragraph 5 of the 2022 Declaration by the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

Key Issue

- Development of Regional HADR mechanism was tasked for Forum Subcommittee on Regional Security and agreed as a **2024 priority**.
- In Aug 2023, the FSRS directed the Forum Secretariat to **establish a member driven FSRS Technical Working Group** (TWG) to progress work on the development of a Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism (PResCoM).
- In Sept 2023, the Forum Secretariat developed a draft **Terms of Reference for the PResCoM** and invited nominations from Members and partners to be part of the TWG.
- In Dec 2023, FSRS agreed to consider a **draft workplan** on the Regional Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism at the next FSRS meeting in June 2024, in consultation with SPC.
 - Unfortunately, due to lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities and little ownership by NDMO Directors, the Forum Secretariat only received very limited response from Members and partners.

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Purpose/Objective:

- To design the Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism (PResCoM)

Scope of work: Deliverables and Milestones

- Consultation with Member States, development partners, CSOs and the private sector,
- Development of a design document for the Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism, and
- Cover paper, for consideration by the FSRS and other relevant ministerial meetings.

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Technical Working Group Arrangements

- Initially, Membership shall be comprised of Pacific Islands Forum Member States and the following organisations, with individual participants expected to have technical expertise in disaster risk management, disaster response, humanitarian assistance and related legislation and policy in the Pacific.
 - Pacific Islands Forum
 - Pacific Community (SPC)
 - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
 - United Nations World Food Programme
 - United Nations Children Fund
 - International Federation of the Red Cross
 - Pacific Disability Forum
- The TWG Chair/s may invite other persons or organisations to participate in the Technical Working Group as deemed necessary and as endorsed by a majority of Members present at a given meeting of the TWG.
- The TWG will be co-Chaired by Forum Member representatives of two countries.
- TWG members shall meet monthly online except when necessary. Quorum will be considered to have been reached when at least one of the Co- Chairs is present, along with a representative from PIF and SPC.

Proposal

- FSRS to invite the Pacific Regional Disaster Managers to drive the TWG work and provide advice to the FSRS, leveraging on national disaster managers' experience in coordinating and managing various humanitarian and disaster response partnerships, including with UN agencies and civil society organisations through the Pacific Humanitarian Team.
 - SPC and PIFS will jointly provide secretariat support to the TWG.
 - Leverage on resources from existing projects within SPC (PIEMA II, BSRP II, PHWP and core capacity).
 - SPC to recruit a short-term consultant to assist TWG develop a draft workplan/roadmap.
 - Take up draft PResCoM roadmap to Pacific DRR Ministers inter-sessional in Oct and draft PResCom mechanism to Second Pacific DRR Ministerial in 2025.
 - Forum Leaders consideration for approval in 2025.

Update from FSRS meeting on 10 April

- **Endorsed** the use of the **Pacific Disaster Managers network** to develop a workplan for a Regional Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism.