



<b>Agenda Item:</b>	8.a
<b>Paper No:</b>	RFMM5-WP9
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2050 Strategy and Review of Regional Architecture</b>

### **Purpose**

This paper reports on the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) and the Review of Regional Architecture – both mandated by Forum Leaders.

The 2050 Strategy was endorsed by Leaders in 2022, and its implementation plan was endorsed by Leaders in 2023. The accompanying review of regional architecture was also agreed to by Leaders and has progressed significantly in 2024. A progress report and key recommendations will be taken to Leaders when they meet in Tonga in August.

### **Summary**

#### *Implementing the 2050 Strategy*

With the 2050 Strategy and IP now in place, implementation has commenced and has been coordinated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and its Executive, with ongoing delivery, guidance and support being provided by Forum Members through the FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy; by the CROP and its 9 agencies; by Non-State Actors; as well as broader regional and development partners. Key areas of work undertaken to implement the 2050 Strategy include:

- **Implementation of Prioritised Regional Collective Actions (RCAs)** of which FFA has contributed to a number of RCAs through its own mandated areas of work;
- **Development of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Systems:** including through the finalisation of the 2050 MEL Plan & Guideline and a 2024 Baseline Report that captures the region's 'current state of play'; and
- **2050 Engagement and Advocacy:** through a series of in-country consultations led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Executive Team across 16 Forum Member countries in 2024.

#### *Review of Regional Architecture*

Alongside this, the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) has also commenced. The RRA is intended to support the delivery of the 2050 Strategy, and it encompasses strengthened CROP coordination, targeted partnerships, and coherent governance and reporting structures for the

various thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy.

The RRA, a member-led and driven process, builds on the findings of past regional reviews undertaken between 2004 and 2024.

- **Phase 1 of the RRA** focused on understanding the regional architecture as it currently stands, and identifying the key issues that need to be addressed to support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.
- **Phase 2 of the RRA** has been in progress since April and is focused on addressing strengthened coordination, coherence and collaboration across the regional system through a review of the existing regional governance platforms, the supporting coordination mechanisms and the Pacific Islands Forum processes that inform and guide the Leaders discussions. A draft consolidated Phase 2 report is available at **Annex A**.

A progress report and key recommendations for Phase 2 will be taken to Leaders when they meet in Tonga in August. It is anticipated Leaders will agree on the scope for Phase 3 of the review, which is intended to focus on more significant reforms to the architecture.

### **Recommendations**

Ministers are invited to:

- i. **Welcome** the efforts of Members and CROP to commence the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Review of Regional Architecture;
- ii. **Consider and Discuss** the RCA Report;
- iii. **Note** the update on the 2050 Baseline Report and MEL Plan; and
- iv. **Consider and Discuss** the draft Phase 2 Report and Recommendations of the Review of the Regional Architecture .

## A. Implementing the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

### *Background*

The 2050 Strategy is the region's long-term strategic policy document. It sets out the region's collective direction for the next three decades through its Vision, Values, Leaders' Commitments, Levels of Ambition, Thematic Areas, and Strategic Pathways.

2. To deliver on the 2050 Strategy, an Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy (2050 IP) was developed and endorsed by Leaders in 2023. The 2050 IP translates the long-term vision of the Strategy through tangible goals, outcomes and regional collective actions (RCAs) for each of the 7 thematic areas. The RCAs complement all existing work that is being carried out across the region, which will collectively contribute to achieving the outcomes of the 2050 IP. In addition, the 2050 IP also includes an 'implementation mechanism' that defines where Members, CROP Agencies, Non-State Actors, and Dialogue and Development Partners sit in the implementation of the 2050 IP, though this will continue to be shaped by the Review of Regional Architecture. The 2050 IP also describes the Means of Implementation, governance and reporting arrangements, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes, and a Risk Management approach.

3. Ministers will recall that the RFMM previously considered the 2050 Strategy and the 2050 IP prior to their endorsement by Forum Leaders, and it is worth highlighting that the current work of FFA contributes to a number of the 7 thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy. The document at Table 1. below just some of the key areas where FFA's work aligns to the 2050 IP.

### *Progress to Date*

4. Implementation of the 2050 Strategy through the 2050 IP has focused on three key areas in 2024:

- a. **Implementation of Regional Collective Actions (RCAs):** 28 RCAs in the 2050 IP were identified for implementation in 2024. Many of these RCAs have been progressed this year and a high-level summary report of progress is at **Annex A**. Two RCAs fall under the direct oversight of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) – including the Development of regional fisheries Hubs and Spokes Initiative and the Establishment of a regional fisheries development fund, both of which are covered in paper **FFCMin23-WP4 ENBi**.
- b. **Development of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Systems:** Monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems are critical to the successful delivery of the 2050 Strategy, and in this regard a 2050 Baseline Report and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan are being finalised.
  - The **2050 Baseline Report** (see **Annex B**) will document the region's status against the outcomes of the 2050 IP. It will enable the region to see where it is positioned at the starting point of delivery of the 2050 IP, and from which, future progress can be tracked. This report will also provide the evidence base on which Leaders can determine future priorities to achieve the outcomes of the 2050 IP. The 2050 Baseline Report utilises data from the Pacific Data Hub and Global Databases which has been aggregated and rated in a traffic light methodology.
  - The **2050 MEL Plan** (see **Annex C**) will support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy with clear reporting to Leaders on progress towards the goals and outcomes set out in the Implementation Plan. This MEL Plan includes evaluation and learning exercises, to understand of what is working well, and the gaps, challenges, and risks in each thematic area.

- c. **2050 Engagement and Advocacy:** through a series of in-country consultations led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Executive Team, significant efforts were taken to socialise the 2050 IP, and to assist members to link the 2050 IP to their own national development plans and strategies. The Forum Secretariat has visited 16 Forum Member countries in 2024.

*Next Steps*

5. Feedback on the draft 2050 Strategy Baseline and MEL plans will be incorporated and finalised for Members' consideration by the end of July. The documents have been co-developed between Members, CROP, and technical specialists. Leaders will consider the 2050 Report and the status of the regional collective actions at their Meeting to be held in Tonga on August 26-20, 2024.

**B. Progressing the Review of Regional Architecture**

*Background*

6. In 2019, Leaders agreed that for effective implementation of the 2050 Strategy a review of the regional architecture was required to ensure that it was “fit-for-purpose”. Consistent with the Leaders decision of 2022, the review of the regional architecture is required to consider:

- a. **Political Settings:** including political groupings, leadership, collective interests and decision-making and sustained political will;
- b. **Institutional Processes, Systems and Mechanisms:** including those supporting collective decision making, actions and advocacy;
- c. **Governance Mechanisms:** including those in place to support effective cooperation and coordination between the various regional entities, and their engagement with the Pacific Islands Forum; and
- d. **Engagements and Partnerships:** to consider how the region interacts with international partners and stakeholders to progress the region’s interests and priorities.

7. There are four phases of the review:

- a. Phase 1: Understanding the current status of the regional architecture
- b. Phase 2: Strengthening collaboration, coordination and coherence within the regional architecture
- c. Phase 3: Rationalisation of the regional architecture
- d. Phase 4: Transition Period

*Progress to Date*

8. The review has been member-led and driven and has been overseen by the FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy, co-chaired by Cook Islands and Tonga. Phase 1 of the RRA focused on understanding the regional architecture as it currently stands, and identifying the key issues that need to be addressed to support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy. Phase 2 of the RRA has been in progress since April and is focused on addressing strengthened coordination, coherence and collaboration across the regional system through a review of the existing regional governance platforms, the supporting coordination mechanisms and the Pacific Islands Forum processes that inform and guide the Leaders discussions. A draft consolidated Phase 2 report is available at **Annex D**.

9. Analysis of the Regional System, Processes, and Mechanisms highlight the need for clarity and a shared understanding of the role and oversight of the various regional decision-making platforms at the Ministerial level. Noting that the draft RRA report recommends the review of areas where gaps exist or perceived duplication of Ministerial level decision-making mechanisms in the Thematic Areas and proposes options for change, Ministers review and comments are requested.

*Next Steps*

10. The RRA Phase 2 report will be conveyed to the Forum Officials Committee and Forum Foreign Ministers before it is conveyed to Forum Leaders for their consideration and discussion on the way forward for Phase 3 of the review.

**C. Recommendations**

11. Ministers are invited to:
- i. **Welcome** the efforts of Members and CROP to commence implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Review of Regional Architecture;
  - ii. **Note** the *draft* RCA Report;
  - iii. **Note** the update on the *draft* 2050 Baseline Report and MEL Plan; and
  - iv. **Comment** on the draft Phase 2 Report and Recommendations of the Review of the Regional Architecture.