



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

CONTRIBUTION TO THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY -GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA TO RESOLUTION 76/72 OF 9 DECEMBER 2021

1.0. Introduction

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) hereby submits this contribution to the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, paragraph 37 of the General Assembly resolution 76/72 of 9 December 2021.

2.0. Activities including adoption of measures, development of programmes, that have been undertaken or are ongoing

This contribution focuses on activities, including adoption of measures, development of programmes

- Implementation of the Convention [UNCLOS] and related agreements and instruments
- II. Capacity building.
- VIII. Maritime safety and security and flag State implementation
- IX. Marine environment and marine resources
- X. Biodiversity
- XI. Marine science
- XIII. Regional cooperation

3.0.I. Implementing of the Convention [UNCLOS] and related agreements and instruments

3.1. 2021 PIF Declaration

On 6 August 2021, PIF Leaders unanimously adopted the groundbreaking Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change Related Sea Level Rise. The Declaration clarifies the PIF interpretation of the impacts of climate change related sea level rise on maritime zones, whilst at the same time contributes to the progressive development of state and regional practice on this issue.

The Declaration affirms that the PIF members impose no affirmative obligation to keep baselines and outer limits of maritime zones under review nor to update charts or lists of geographical coordinates once deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Declaration also declares the position that the PIF members intend to maintain these zones without reduction, notwithstanding climate change related sea level rise, and not to review and update the baselines and outer limits of maritime zones as a consequence of climate change related sea level rise

The Declaration also proclaims that once established in accordance with UNCLOS and notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, maritime zones will be maintained as such, along with rights and entitlements flowing from them, without reduction notwithstanding any physical changes connected to climate change related sea level rise.

PIF Members have also taken this action in accordance with section 80 of its recently enacted

Complementary to this is the work that is ongoing to finalize the FRDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (FRDP M&E Framework) with the first draft noted by Leaders in their 2021 meeting. The FRDP M&E Framework is focused on monitoring countries implementing the FRDP in terms of policies and processes in place to measure resilience and draws on the common thematic areas of resilience and indicators from across the region that align with the FRDP goals, the Sendai Framework, SDG SAMOA Pathway and Paris Agreement. Once these thematic areas of resilience and indicators are validated, the next step is to provide measures of impact and measures of how the FRDP is supporting, strengthening and/or enabling these thematic areas of resilience. Both tools are expected to contribute to enhanced M&E at the national and regional levels.

4.4. Additional Capacity Building to SIDS through implementing SAMOA Pathway

Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) depend on the ocean to sustain their lives and livelihoods. Indeed, there is need for targeted technology transfer and capacity building to accelerate the needs of the SIDS. This may be further leveraged by the important role of international partnerships, and the wider co-benefits that effective capacity building initiatives to SIDS. Additionally, to stress the challenges faced by SIDS in accessing finance, which severely limits national efforts to developing and enhancing local capacity, and the need to fill these gaps.

5.0.

Nuclear legacy and related issues have been a longstanding agenda for Pacific Leaders agenda. The 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty) which established the South Pacific nuclear free zone, was a product of various nuclear testing programmes undertaken in the Pacific region.

In the Rarotonga Treaty, State Parties were determined to keep the region free of environmental

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1. Workshop One ± Observations to UN DOALOS (26 August 2021)
2. Workshop Two ± Stability Clauses in domestic legislation (1 September 2021)
3. Workshop Three ± Stability clauses in the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Treaties (8 September 2021) and
4. Maritime Boundaries Virtual Working Session and High