



REPORT OF THE

Sixth Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Reflections on SDGs in the Pacific amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and pathways towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels and achieving the 2050 Strategy



SUBREGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC



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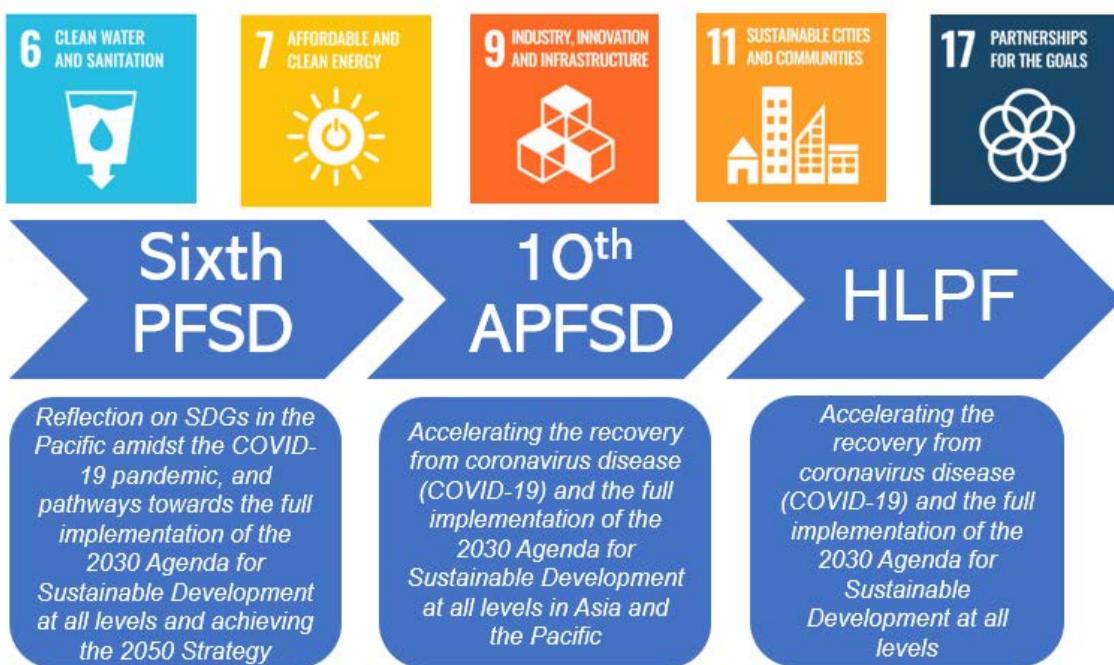
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PART A

Concept note

1. The ongoing challenges of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change and conflict have contributed to the slow progress of the small island developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The Second Quadrennial Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Report 2022 presented at the 2022 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) highlighted that none of the 21 targets of the SDGs, to be achieved by 2020, had been realized. These findings are consistent with the 2022 ESCAP SDG Progress report which recognized the need for course correction.
3. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (hereinafter “2050 Strategy”), endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders in July 2022, provides a pathway to enhance regional coordination, and accelerate the SDGs’ progress in the Pacific. The thematic areas of political leadership and regionalism, people-centered development, resource and economic development, climate change and disasters, ocean and natural environment, and technology and connectivity remain at the heart of boosting socio-economic recovery and protecting the planet through advancing collective actions at all levels.
4. In this regard, the Sixth annual multi-stakeholder Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (PFSD) was as an important opportunity to exchange views and ideas, share experiences, identify policy actions to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and strengthen governance structures for SDG implementation in the Pacific, within the context of the 2050 Strategy. Policy solutions need to be SIDS-specific to meet the unique regional, country and community needs to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway within the broader framework of Our Common Agenda. The Concept Note and Agenda for the Sixth PFSD is at [Annex 1](#).



The Sixth PFSD focused on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitization), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The outcomes of the Sixth PFSD will contribute to the discussions of the upcoming tenth Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2023, the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory forum for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as recognized by PIF Leaders in their Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. Both the Tenth APFSD and the 2023 HLPF will review these five SDGs under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.

5. In addition, the Sixth PFSD showcased success stories and lessons learnt as the 2030 Agenda approaches the mid-term and shapes the direction for a post-SAMOA Pathway framework. As in previous years, the Sixth PFSD included opportunities for policymakers and stakeholders to interact and exchange solution-oriented approaches on the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on follow-up actions highlighted through Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).
6. The Sixth PFSD also considered key messages from the COP27 and 77th UNGA in steering Pacific-wide regional sustainable development efforts, unpacking the ongoing global debates on climate change and ocean and building resilience. Discussions also considered the impact of climate change and oceans on achieving the 2030 Agenda and the 2050 Strategy, in particular, accelerating SDG implementation.
7. The Sixth PFSD was co-hosted by ESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), with the support of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and UN system agencies, including the Resident Coordinators’ Offices in the Pacific.
8. By invitation, 158 participants, including representatives from ESCAP member states in the Pacific, CROP and UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector and academia attended the Sixth PFSD, with 73% of them in-person. The list of participants appears as [Annex 2](#).
9. In an effort to socialize the sustainable development work in the Pacific to a wider audience, the outcome documents and related resources will be published on the ESCAP website [here](#).



PART B

Summary of Proceedings



Prof. Upolu Luma Vaai

Opening Session

10. The M.C. duties were carried out by Ms. Melisha Siapu and Ms. Caitlin Harm Nam, both students at the University of the South Pacific (USP). Rev. Prof. Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal of the Pacific Theological College (PTC) led the prayer at the opening of the Sixth PFSD.
11. In the welcome remarks, the **Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Fiji**, noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had pronounced impacts on Pacific SIDS. The scarce resources that had to be re-directed to address the multiple crises had put the achievement of SDGs at high risk, across the Pacific. The road to recovery would be long, especially given the vulnerability of the region. In this regard, Pacific SIDS welcomed the progress of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) to better reflect the needs of the region and help overcome the disadvantages faced in assessing credit, concessional financing and securing debt relief. As custodians of the largest world ecosystem, the 2050 Strategy was the Pacific's collective vision, hope, ambition and unified message of resilience to natural disasters and technology, as well as resource and economic development. In welcoming the recent progress for a Loss and Damage Fund, Pacific SIDS recognized that this needed to go together with climate action to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, a global effort the region has been leading. Acknowledging the impacts of climate change on people, Fiji and Tuvalu have led the development of a regional framework to respond to climate change-related mobility, to better prepare for a worst-case scenario, while safeguarding the dignity and lives of all communities should induced relocation migration occur. The "Nadi Declaration" adopted by the Pacific Disaster Ministers this year showed the region's collective resolve to strengthen resilience to climate change and disaster.
12. The VNR was a very useful process to showcase changes in the institutional arrangements for SDG implementation and evaluation. It has also strengthened national ownership of the SDGs, promotion of transparency, inclusiveness, and participation in reporting on development priorities, and support for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda among the Pacific SIDS. In this regard, with the support of ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the preparation for Fiji's Second VNR to be presented at the HLPF 2023 is underway. Global partnerships remain key to global recovery, and the importance of regional platforms such as the PFSD could not be overstated, as was the assistance rendered by CROP and UN agencies in supporting Pacific SIDS' collective ambition towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The welcome remarks of the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, Fiji, appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).



H.E. Dr. Filimon Manoni (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

13. The **UN Resident Coordinator** of the Multi-Country Office in Fiji commended the collaboration between the UN Resident Coordinators' Offices (UNRCO), ESCAP, UNDP, and other UN agencies in supporting SDG implementation, as well as the progress in VNR for Fiji and Tonga in the coming years. Current global conditions had hit Pacific SIDS the hardest, and 75% of SDGs in the Pacific would not be met by 2030. The war in Ukraine had led to rising food prices, with a significant impact on the Pacific SIDS as the region's imported food increasing by 300% in recent decades. The energy crisis from the war had widened socio-economic gaps in the Pacific SIDS, with those on the borders of poverty worst affected. Pacific SIDs had little fiscal space to counter these changing global conditions, especially in weather patterns that have altered the crop cycles, causing drastic changes to livelihoods and survivability. Globally, inequality was widening, and the Secretary General of the UN had called for a *new social contract*, with equality and equity at the centre.

14. The 2050 Strategy provided an opportunity to build back better, and together. Pacific SIDS would have to navigate towards the safest, most equitable and resilient path to the future. Going forward, unity, solidarity and multilateral solutions could leave lasting impacts, leveraging on the opportunities the 2050 Strategy and other engagement documents presented:

- (i) Transforming investments to revive and reinforce food sources with adequate workforce training to meet the demands of modern agriculture;
- (ii) Addressing energy independence and resilience in the Pacific with support from the international community towards sustainable energy production;
- (iii) Increasing investment to strengthen governance and public capacity to mitigate and deal with crises and future shocks, including pandemics; and
- (iv) Taking tourism recovery as an opportunity to enhance sustainability and greening the tourism sector.

The welcome remarks of the UN Resident Coordinator appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).



H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah (ESCAP)

15. In her special remarks, the **Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP** extended appreciation to member States and partners for their support towards the PFSD, uniting the aspirations of the people and communities in the Pacific with strategic policy directions necessary for socio-economic development. The pandemic, geopolitical, food and energy crises had worsened development efforts in the Pacific. Based on the progress to date, the Pacific was at risk of not achieving the SDG targets by 2030. Progress at national and regional level had been limited, if not reversed. Accelerating recovery efforts was crucial, and discussions on VNRs had highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement towards recovery, as reflected in the theme of the 2023 HLPF and APFSD on “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. To ensure the sustainability of communities, there was a need to raise ambitions, accelerate the implementation of climate action, and harness regional cooperation to address the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis resulting from geopolitical tensions. It was also important to strengthen global solidarity and partnerships for the SDGs, especially for the Pacific SIDS. The *Pacific Perspectives 2022: Accelerating Climate Action Report*, to be launched during the meeting, highlighted solutions from the Pacific to accelerate climate action.

The special remarks of the Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

16. Through a pre-recorded video, the **Acting Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat** stated that achieving the 2050 Strategy required commitments from all partners and friends of the Pacific to tackle issues specific to the Pacific and Pacific peoples and leaving no one behind. There was a need for more accurate data and information to strengthen local capacity in disaster preparedness and to enhance sustainable renewable energy standards, with greater attention on the disadvantaged and the most vulnerable groups who normally bear the greatest brunt of psychological and social impacts. With the pandemic, unsustainable debt levels, global inflation and conflict on top of climate related vulnerabilities, required the Pacific to rise to these challenges and plan the way forward. Actions taken today would contribute to the 2050 Strategy.



H.E. Mr. Mark Brown, Prime Minister (Cook Islands)

17. The PFSD was officially opened by the **Prime Minister of Cook Islands**, the Honorable Mark Brown. In his remarks, the Prime Minister underlined that SDGs continued to provide significant prospects to unite voices in the Pacific to take concrete actions, and prioritize the development agenda for everyone, everywhere. The Pacific needed to foster regional harmony and cooperation to address the adverse socio-economic impacts due to the pandemic, and safeguard countries from the ongoing climate emergencies and geopolitical crises. At the national level, the Cook Islands' National Sustainable Development Plan *Te Kaveinga Nui* underscored five objectives:

- (i) Improving equity and access for all;
- (ii) Transforming the economy;
- (iii) Building human capital;
- (iv) Investing in, both public and private, for improved access to goods and services; and
- (v) Greening the economy.

Since 2012, Cook Islands had made extraordinary progress towards increasing renewable energy penetration with smart energy technology developments such as electric vehicle charging stations. Many resorts had invested in electric vehicles and scooters, and a programme had been rolled out to replace end-of-life Government cars with electric vehicles. Long-term economic development through strategic investments in productive sectors across the Pacific was necessary to manage rising fuel, food and financing costs. Development financing options and instruments were essential to address the setback in implementing the SDGs in communities, especially due to limited fiscal space and debt distress. Cook Islands had been formulating national policies to mitigate the financial exposure to external shocks such as COVID-19, natural disasters and climate change risks. To increase productivity and sustainable economic growth and recovery, debt needed to be restructured to minimize debt servicing needs and to propel economic and financing opportunities in the Pacific. The MVI framework not only tracked Pacific SIDS' structural vulnerabilities but also provided a unique set of policy measures and structures to address vulnerabilities which impede the ability to achieve sustainable development. Strengthening governance structures and enhancing international solidarity in steering the accessibility of grants and concessional financing from multilateral development banks and other development partners, should be a key focus going forward.



Mr. Sanaka Kumara (UNRC)

The opening remarks of the Prime Minister of Cook Islands appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

Key Messages from the Opening Session

- Scarce resources have been further stretched to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
- International architecture and financing systems needed to better reflect the needs of Pacific SIDS.
- While the recent Loss and Damage Fund was welcomed, it needed to go together with climate action to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Current global conditions have hit Pacific SIDS the hardest, and 75% of SDGs in the Pacific would not be met by 2030.
- The war in Ukraine had led to food prices reaching their highest across the globe and created an energy crisis which would only widen socio-economic gaps in Pacific SIDS.
- Accelerating recovery efforts would prove crucial and discussions on VNRs highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement towards recovery.
- The Pacific needed to harness regional cooperation to address the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis resulting from geopolitical tensions.
- The need for more accurate data and information to strengthen local capacity in disaster preparedness and to enhance sustainable renewable energy standards.
- Long-term economic development through strategic investments in productive sectors across the Pacific had become more important.



Ms. Viranria Brown (Chargés d'affaires, High Commission of the Republic of Vanuatu to Fiji)

Session 1: Pacific Progress towards SDGs

The Session was moderated by Vanuatu

18. **ESCAP** highlighted areas where more climate action was needed and that the Pacific SIDS were at an inflection point in history. Humanity faced a stark and urgent choice – breakdown or breakthrough – and Our Common Agenda contained recommendations across four broad areas: (i) strengthening global governance; (ii) focusing on the future; (iii) renewing the social contract; and (iv) ensuring a UN fit for a new era. ESCAP had been working closely with CROP agencies, within the UN body, as well as with other partners and development agencies to address the global crises. Moving forward, more focus would be placed on uniting Pacific voices with a long-term strategic vision, exploring how Pacific SIDS could complement each other.

ESCAP's presentation on "Reflections on SDGs in the Pacific" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

19. **PIFS** discussed the 2050 Strategy, highlighting its importance given the current state-of-play with none of the 21 targets expected to be achieved by 2020, despite all countries having incorporated the SDGs into national policies and strategies. There was small likelihood of the Pacific achieving even 20% of the SDG targets by 2030. An Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy was being developed that would detail key collective actions for each thematic area with timeframes, implementation partners, and resourcing requirements.

PIFS's presentation on the 2050 Strategy appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

20. **Cook Islands** presented its National Sustainable Development Agenda (NSDA), the *Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui*, which was developed with a long-term view and consideration of three generations of Cook Islanders – the current generation of the next five years, later generations of the next 25 years and much further ahead, generations of the next 100 years. At the center of NSDA was happiness, spirituality, clean environment, community vitality and fundamental freedoms, and the concept of sustainability defined and understood within the context of local culture and practices. Indicators for the NSDA had been developed in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. It was important that the NSDA also be aligned with the 2050 Strategy.



Mr Howard Politini (PIPSO)

Cook Islands' presentation on "Te Ara Akapapa'anga Nui 2020+ - Rethinking Development Practice" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

21. The **Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)** highlighted that the ongoing challenges of climate change and geopolitical conflict had further hindered progress made by Pacific SIDS on the 2030 Agenda. While acknowledging the opportunities created for employment in the larger economies for Pacific citizens, the escalation in labour mobility has brought challenges of skill supply. Forging ahead, the 2050 Strategy had provided a pathway to enhance regional coordination and accelerate implementation of SDGs in the Pacific, and the private sector stood ready to support. In recognizing the value of a *talanoa* table the PFSD served as a platform to discuss issues and explore solutions. Beyond achieving the SDGs, it was important that the people benefit from the outcomes. As implementation on the ground progressed, the private sector, civil society and governments would need to ensure accountability, productivity and progress.

PIPSO's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

22. The **Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations (PIANGO)** highlighted the need to reflect on the fact that none of the 21 targets that were to be achieved by 2020 were on track, and how the 2050 Strategy could drive the implementation of the SDGs. The SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, the focus of the PFSD were the most tested during the pandemic on how governments, development partners and other stakeholders responded to safeguarding people, leaving no one behind. Practices from community-based groups and CSOs across the Pacific, integrating traditional knowledge with science had produced lasting solutions. There had been efforts to influence behaviour changes as a tool to address climate change. CSOs are recognized and mandated in the Busan Partnership as development actors and development delivery partners, holding governments to account, providing a united voice and empowering communities, in particular those most marginalized. PIANGO's mandate includes strengthening and building the capacity of Pacific NGOs and the civil society sector by giving the sector a voice in policy formulation, especially in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy. Investing in long-term, respectful, and genuine partnerships would take time for trust to develop and could evolve in unpredictable ways, and more effort had to be invested in consultation and dialogue.

PIANGO's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

23. To achieve the 2030 Agenda, **Solomon Islands** underscored the need to incorporate SDGs into national development strategies, and mapping efforts in areas facing resource constraints. The gaps identified needed to be addressed by governments with partners and development agencies. The 2050 Strategy had reinforced the importance of achieving national goals and the need to embrace regional challenges. The PFSD was an opportunity to enhance collaboration and synergize efforts to support each other.
24. **Samoa** suggested that the 2050 Strategy be included in the education curriculum in Pacific SIDS and emphasized the benefits of the VNR process for peer-learning to do better to achieve sustainable development.
25. **Fiji** believed many Pacific SIDS could indeed learn from each other, especially through the VNR process, and advised that Fiji would be submitting its second VNR in 2023. Fiji added that the road to recovery would not be easy, and there was a need to consider and integrate mental and physical wellbeing into development plans. At the regional level, Fiji was actively involved in the development of the implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy.
26. **Tuvalu** expressed concerns over the outlook for the 2030 Agenda in the Pacific. National governments would need to act on their pledges and be prepared to challenge themselves to higher ambition.
27. **Vanuatu** informed that its statistics office had conducted a baseline survey in 2019 and was analyzing data collected on food security, poverty and employment to track progress of related SDGs. Results so far have indicated that Vanuatu was behind the targets.

Key Messages from Session 1

- **Governments have aligned national** development plans with the 2030 Agenda, however implementation progress had been limited and uneven.
- Implementation of national development plans and SDGs remained a priority, including through strengthening planning, budgeting and national systems.
- Private sector and civil society remained committed partners to support national and regional efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- The 2050 Strategy would be the Pacific Leaders' vision to shape the region to secure long-term wellbeing and prosperity.



H.E. Dr. Eselealofa Apinelu, High Commissioner of Tuvalu to Fiji



Session 2: Climate, Ocean, and Resilience

The Session was moderated by Tuvalu

28. The **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)** noted the evolving dynamism towards sustainable ocean management from COP26 to COP27. COP26 offered a sense of cautious optimism as countries moved from planning to implementation. However, there was continual insistence from governments to provide flexibility in implementation, implying that meaningful reductions in emissions would not be met. Pacific SIDS remained supportive of the "1.5 to stay alive". Although concerns related to the Pacific SIDSs' interpretation of "best available science" in the IPCC Report remained, the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 was a major achievement. Nevertheless, more opportunities should be created for the Pacific to discuss ocean-based actions.
29. The **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** noted that the Pacific region needed to take stock of what works, and what needed to be improved, as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (hereinafter "Sendai Framework") approached its mid-term. The inaugural Pacific Disaster Ministers Meeting held recently in September 2022 demonstrated the solidarity and readiness of the Pacific to tackle disaster risk-related challenges going forward. To ensure effective implementation, there was a need to take an integrated and coherent approach to disaster risk management and adaptation. As financing continued to be an issue, with 86% of the funding delivered in the form of projects, it was important that these projects were carried out systematically. In addition, there was a need for the Pacific to scale up efforts to ensure a gender-inclusive whole-of-early warning system approach to address disaster risk-related issues.
30. **ESCAP** noted that increasing disaster risks had obliged the Pacific to relook and incorporate risk management plans into national development plans and strategies. Pacific SIDS had led climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience efforts in shaping policies. Contributing to this effort, the ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal launched in 2022, included country specific decision support

tools, estimated adaptation costs and provided risk informed policy/investment responses. Beyond capacity building, ESCAP fostered greater regional co-operation with diverse partners to support disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation initiatives in the Pacific.

ESCAP's presentation on "Managing climate risks innovatively: Opportunities for regional actions in Pacific SIDS" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

31. The **Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)** shared first-hand experience of the challenges communities, who are often at the end of the climate disaster chain, faced from the impact of disasters and climate change in a community in Ba, Fiji. This had created a situation of involuntary displacement. In light of the developments at COP27, more work was needed to scale up the operationalization of conventions such as the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (hereinafter "Santiago Network") and find ways to secure more sustainable funding and financing for adaptation and loss and damage. It was important that the Pacific SIDS continue to advocate for bolder actions to achieve the 1.5 degrees goal. Solutions had to be developed through a human-rights based whole-of-society approach, that was inclusive, and grounded on local culture and traditions.

The PDD's statement on "Promoting a Regional Approach to the Challenges of Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters and the Adverse Effects of Climate Change in the Pacific" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

32. **Cook Islands** expressed its support for the discussions at COP 26 on ocean and the decision on a loss and damage fund at COP27. True climate ownership involved taking positive action, and Cook Islands would continue to champion climate-related initiatives globally.
33. **Fiji** noted the challenges of data collection on climate- or disaster-related displacement, and the need for more collaboration among relevant platforms and partners to take action to address this issue.
34. **Solomon Islands** emphasized the need to focus more on building resilience than recovery, in light of the damage caused by the recent earthquake. Solomon Islands welcomed the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, although this should not diminish efforts to keep the temperature at 1.5 degrees.
35. The **UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) for Samoa** echoed the view of PDD on more efforts needed to implement the Santiago Network. Following COP27, a transitional committee would be established to discuss and develop the Loss and Damage Fund arrangement. The UNRC for Samoa advised that Samoa would be the new Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) 2023-2024, and Palau for 2025-2026.

Key Messages from Session 2

- Damage from climate impacts have reached precarious levels, and the most effective way of keeping people safe was to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.
- While the Pacific had developed policies in DRR and climate adaptation, further effort was needed to accelerate implementation within communities, especially marginalized groups.
- The Loss and Damage Fund needed to be fit for purpose, by contextualizing the needs of national stakeholders. Policies to ensure ocean health needed to be developed



Ms. Rina Keju (Charge d'affaires of Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji)

Session 3: Impact of COVID-19, climate change and disaster risk on the SDGs Progress



Session 3a on SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) was moderated by the Marshall Islands

36. The **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** presented on access to water, sanitation and hygiene across the Pacific, reporting that only six out of 17 countries in the region were on track to achieve universal basic water services by 2030. There remained insufficient data available to provide regional estimates across all five subsectors- water, sanitation, hygiene, waste management and cleaning. Significant data gaps, particularly insufficient data across the five subsectors had not allowed for a more comprehensive SDG 6 analysis. A key challenge in the Pacific was providing safely managed sanitation services, which was expected to cost four times as much as basic services. The priority for the region would be to strengthen partnerships and resources to address the significant data gaps, make data more accessible, improve tracking of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) expenditure and develop spending plans targeted to safely managed water and sanitation services.

UNICEF's presentation "Pathways towards achieving SDG 6 in the Pacific by 2030" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

37. From a resilience perspective, **SPC** reported that close to 35% people in the Pacific had access to basic sanitation facilities, in other words about 8 million people lack access to basic sanitation facilities, and less than a quarter of them had access to reticulated water. The Pacific was the least urbanized region in the world and had the world's greatest access disparity to drinking water between urban and rural areas. The region was also the world's most exposed to natural hazards, putting critical infrastructure for water supply at risk. Notwithstanding, safe WASH systems and practices was key to building a climate resilient Pacific, and the challenges facing the region need integrated water resources management (IWRM) solutions. Cost of action might be high but far less than cost of inaction.

SPC's presentation on "Water Security and Resilience" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

38. Micronesia (Federated States of) (FSM) is one of the six countries in the Pacific with negative Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2021 and lagged in establishing a comprehensive and coordinated ground water monitoring system vital for regional cooperation and water resources management. This situation worsened in 2022 as the war in Ukraine escalated the price of goods and services in the country. The combination of these issues had impacted the availability of financial resources for FSM to meet its SDG 6 targets and increased reliance on external donor support. As of 2019, 88% of the population in FSM had access to an improved drinking water source and basic sanitation services. These challenges were particularly serious in the outer island. To address these issues, FSM had prioritized five targets for SDG 6: (i) universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water; (ii) access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene and end open defecation; (iii) improve water quality; (iv) increase water-use efficiency; and (v) strengthen participation of local communities. FSM also recognized the importance of regional cooperation to implement WASH-related initiatives.

FSM's presentation "FSM SDG 6 update" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

39. Solomon Islands reported that the cascading impact of prolonged drought and heavier rainfall, damaging water sources and sanitation facilities, had negatively affected the population's accessibility to safe water and sanitation. To address these challenges, Solomon Islands had identified key actions, including: (i) strengthening institutional frameworks; (ii) developing guidelines, policies, and strategies for WASH services; (iii) engaging communities and schools; and (iv) increasing capacity of national and provincial governments adaptation to climate change and preparedness to respond to disasters. Solomon Islands called for regional cooperation to strength monitoring and planning for SDG 6 implementation, targeting the poorest, most marginalized, and unserved.

Solomon Islands' presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

40. Samoa noted the progress of SDG 6 in the region and that aspirations could be drawn from this session to take actions and explore solutions to water and sanitation issues facing the Pacific. This was an issue that could be addressed as part of the 2050 Strategy, seeking solutions within the Pacific, while learning from outside the region.

41. Fiji emphasized the need to prioritize SDG 6 for disaster recovery as the region had become increasingly vulnerable to extreme climate events. However, it was important to contextualize to local experience and conditions in exploring solutions and reporting on SDG 6.

42. Tuvalu Given the reliance on rainwater, shared that the country was experiencing a drought which had led to the shortage of water supply, and that the government was currently looking into other sources of water.

43. Marshall Islands, as moderator, reiterated that data on SDG 6 would be crucial to address the WASH challenges the Pacific was facing, and that data gaps needed to be addressed through partnerships. More efforts, including increased financing, were needed to ensure the progress of WASH kept up with the water consumption as the population grew.

Key Messages from Session 3a

- Access to clean and affordable water needed to be improved, particularly to those most disadvantaged in rural communities, through targeted investments.
- There was a need to strengthen institutional frameworks and the enabling environment for water and sanitation.
- There was also a need for experience sharing on good practices and means of implementation, including making data more accessible.



Mr. Azam Khan (Suva City Council)



Session 3b on SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) was moderated by the Suva City Council, Fiji

44. PIFS underscored the need for Pacific SIDS to ensure that programmes supporting public financial management systems within the region were aligned and responded to the thematic areas under the 2050 Strategy. Key challenges hampering progress on SDG 11 included:

- (i) On-going recovery from impacts of COVID-19;
- (ii) Inequalities and vulnerabilities of marginalized groups;
- (iii) Health threats and risks;
- (iv) Youth development and unemployment;
- (v) Economic insecurities and social unrest;
- (vi) Technology and social media;
- (vii) Educational and skills development;
- (viii) Teacher-student ratios;
- (ix) Climate threats and natural disasters;
- (x) Migration trends and human security;
- (xi) Rural-urban drift, and urban-rural drift; and
- (xii) Land and housing challenges.

PIFS's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

45. ESCAP highlighted the need to address urban issues, from disaster resilience to unemployment. 70% of urban employment in Pacific SIDS was in the informal economy, and vulnerable to poverty, giving rise to informal settlements which often lacked access to essential services, resulting in deteriorating well-being. Governments of Pacific SIDS required more technical assistance as towns and cities in the region were becoming more vulnerable to multiple interlinked crisis related to health, climate, economic and environment. COVID-19 recovery was an opportunity to accelerate SDG 11 through integrated, inclusive planning.

ESCAP's presentation on "Making Pacific Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Sage, Resilient, and Sustainable" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

46. The **UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)** emphasized the importance of coordinated partnerships to achieve sustainable urbanization. The Pacific Urban Partnership and UN-Habitat aimed to strengthen coordination and create synergies towards SDG 11. The Pacific New Urban Agenda (PNUA), adopted at the Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF 5), called for all actors to accelerate action across four pillars: (i) social equity and urbanization; (ii) environment, resilience and urbanization; (iii) urban economy; and (iv) urban governance. The focus of the next PUF would be on: (i) SDG localization and local resilience; and (ii) urban development in the face of climate change, COVID-19 recovery and other crises. It was important that Pacific SIDS actively participated in the forum, to learn, share and discuss possible solutions.

UN-Habitat's presentation on "The Pacific Urban Partnership – Implementing the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs in the Pacific" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

47. The **Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)** shared experiences from subnational and national level consultations in Vanuatu, highlighting the importance of engaging communities and stakeholders at local and provincial levels to ensure effective implementation of SDGs. Pacific SIDs' unique vulnerabilities should be localized to reflect the unique cultures and contexts of the Pacific countries, and the enabling role of local governments in this was paramount. Local problems were often addressed more effectively through local solutions supported by local institutions whose work had more direct relevance to people's daily lives and were the "first help" level of government with local knowledge and experience. To this end, it was important that there was an enabling environment for local governments to strengthen their capacities to lead development efforts, through a more bottom-up participatory system.

CLGF's presentation on "Localizing of SDGs in the Pacific" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

48. **Melbourne Centre for Cities (MCC)**, highlighted the experience of Melbourne city, reiterated the importance of local government's ownership of SDGs, and adjusting targets to fit into the local context. To ensure effective implementation, mapping targets for SDGs needed to be interlinked and not sitting in silos. Benchmarking formed a basis for learning from other cities.

MCC's presentation on "Accelerating SDG 11 in the Pacific" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

49. **Samoa** agreed that Pacific SIDS could learn from the methods and processes of cities in and beyond the Pacific. So, for localizing SDGs, there would be an opportunity to highlight their priorities through subnational consultations.

50. **Marshall Islands** underscored the need to focus on the vulnerable groups living on the margins of society that needed most help, and localizing SDGs to reflect the need for equity. On social policy implementation, the Marshall Islands' Government had focused on quality education, gender equality and ending violence against women.

51. **Fiji** reflected on the fact that living in the Pacific meant that one was always linked to his or her community and village. Development could not be left to the local government alone, and relevant ministries needed to support them to implement SDGs from a whole-of-government approach.

Key Messages from Session 3b

- Local governance and urban management remained critical priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- Enabling mechanisms for local government systems needed to be strengthened, particularly administration and financial management, as well as engagement with communities and stakeholders.
- Support was needed for local governments to mobilize internal resources to implement SDGs, and provide targeted capacity building on urban management and for local governments.



H.E. Dr. Filimon Manoni (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

Side Event – Launch of *Pacific Perspectives 2022*

ESCAP launched the publication *Pacific Perspectives 2022* with the theme “Accelerating Climate Action”. The publication’s findings, analyses, regional experiences, and policy recommendations aimed to support and facilitate Pacific member States and other stakeholders to formulate effective climate action policies to tackle the disaster-climate-health nexus, strengthen ocean and climate synergies; enhance climate-smart and digital trade, and enable sustainable energy transition.

Dr Filimon Manoni, Acting Secretary General, PIFS, emphasised that it was important that the recommendations of the *Pacific Perspectives 2022* were translated into actions, and the outcomes measured by the positive impact made to people’s lives.

Pacific Perspectives 2022 has four key takeaways: (i) building resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other global challenges, (ii) ocean management to address the impact of human activities on the oceanic ecosystems, (iii) increasing income from trade that was climate friendly, smart and fair; and (iv) the need for energy transition for the Pacific to adopt cleaner forms of energy to lower both their emissions and their dependence on expensive fossil fuels.

ESCAP’s *Pacific Perspectives* publication underlined issues of importance to the Pacific region, focusing on both challenges and potential solutions, as well as the role of ESCAP in delivering these solutions to Pacific SIDS.

The publication appears in the Link



Mr. Mikaele Belena (Department of Energy)

Session 4: Accelerating recovery from COVID-19, climate change and disaster and full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels



Session 4a on SDG 7 (Affordable Clean Energy) was moderated by Fiji

52. The **SPC** reported that 64% of the population in the Pacific had some form of access to electricity. Although the rate was increasing, more needed to be done, particularly in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (PNG). Rates of access to clean cooking in the Pacific were amongst the world's lowest and still relied heavily on imported fossil fuel, with approximately 80% of the region's total energy supply from petroleum, 70% of electricity from petroleum fuel, and transport was nearly 100% petroleum fueled. To this end, the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030 was developed with the aim to strengthen partnerships and coordinate actions aligned to SDG 7 to tap the immense potential of renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency. It was important that partnerships take into account other regional cooperation opportunities, such as the Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP) 2020-2030, the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulator Alliance (OPERA), and the Regional E-Mobility and Mini-grids Programme (PCREEE). Emerging sources of renewable energy and solutions presented opportunities that required partnerships to develop appropriate regional frameworks, national roadmaps, policies and legislation.

SPC's presentation appears in the PFS website ([Link](#)).

53. **ESCAP** advised that only 17% of energy needs across the Pacific is met with renewables. To realize SDG 7, Pacific SIDS would need to focus on the structures of local economies, subregional energy trade, impact and lessons learned from the recent COVID-19 and global economic shocks, as well as other vulnerabilities related to energy security. Pacific SIDS could learn from one another and with the support of partners, particularly in areas of: (i) improving data collection and accessibility; (ii) creating enabling policy and regulatory environments; (iii) increasing renewable energy uptake; (iv) enhancing energy efficiency; (v) expanding access to energy; and (vi) adequate financing for the energy transition.



Ms. Katerian Syngellakis (GGGI)



Mr. Lepani Uluinaviti (Reserve Bank of Fiji)

ESCAP's presentation on "Pacific Perspectives: Accelerating Energy Transition" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

54. **Fiji** emphasized the importance of aligning national policies with the Paris Agreement and commitments made as part of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). With respect to achieving SDG7, Fiji had developed a five and 20-year National Development Plan (NDP), incorporating targets related to renewable energy uptake and energy efficiency, in addition to the SDG 7 Roadmap 2021-2030, the National Climate Change Policy 2018-2030, and the Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) 2018-2050. Challenges arising from remoteness of sites and accessibility, sustainability of off-grid systems, bankability of renewable energy projects and frequent natural disasters remained. Pacific SIDS needed to work together to develop new or improve existing standards for renewable technologies, harness economies of scale, pursue benchmarking, and share information and lessons learnt.

Fiji's presentation on SDG 7 Roadmap appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

55. **Tonga** elaborated on its four energy transition plans in place: (i) Tonga Energy Roadmap (TERM) 2010-2020; (ii) Tonga Energy Efficiency Masterplan (TEEMP) 2020; (iii) SDG 7 Roadmap 2021; and (iv) TERMPLUS (2021-2035). It was important to consider the interlinkages of SDG 7 with other SDGs, such as SDG 11 on sustainable towns and cities, and vice versa. Challenges related to capacity, climate, health and financing abounded. To overcome these barriers, SDG 7 needed to remain a government priority to enhance climate resilience in the power sector, promote a low carbon transport sector, mainstream gender across programmes and corporate budgets, put a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism in place, increase private sector involvement, and foster international cooperation in research and technology.

Tonga's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

56. The **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)** noted that geopolitical tensions had negatively impacted on progress towards SDG 7. Many renewable energy infrastructure plans had been put on hold due to COVID-19 and would come through in the next few years. There was a general uptake of a wider range of renewable energy technologies, such as wind, wave and smart grid. Despite the strides made, more efforts were needed in decarbonizing the transport sector, for example with the

Avoid-Shift-Improve (A-S-I) concept and electric vehicle (EV), an emerging sector that required new skills set, as well as cross-sectoral energy-transport UTILITIES coordination. Engaging and elevating the role of women in energy and transport had also become more important as they brought new perspectives and strengthened collaboration to improve sustainability and achieve better socio-economic outcomes, including greater energy access.

GGGI's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

57. To support the sustainable energy industry, the **Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAPI)** provided technical expertise focusing on product and installation standards and guidelines, technician certification schemes, and quality training programmes. Currently, SEIAPI was working with Pacific SIDS to: (i) recognize their technician accreditation programmes or develop national solar technicians' licenses; and (ii) where relevant, with donors, endorsed guidelines and enforced standards of international components such as modules, inverters and batteries. In addition, more partnerships were needed to build skills in the sustainable energy sector.

SEIAPI's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

58. **Samoa** had a 75% renewable energy target and an abundance of natural resources, such as wind, sun and ocean. However, the government lacked the technology capabilities to harvest these natural resources. In this regard, there was a need for the private sector to absorb some of the high investment to deploy these renewable energy technologies, an area Samoa could learn from the other countries in the Pacific.
59. **Fiji** placed importance on a whole-of-society approach in building SDG 7-related capacities. Disaster-related information could help countries to be adequately prepared and prepare risk assessments. It was imperative for risk assessments to understand energy needs. Following the review of the national energy policy, Fiji was considering biomass as a source of renewable energy, given its large agricultural sector.
60. **Tuvalu** highlighted its similar challenges like Samoa in the implementation phase related to high costs and skills. Tuvalu had been investing in renewable energy in its national budget, as well as assistance from donors and multilateral agencies.
61. **PIANGO** expressed the view that very often renewable energy consumption was seen as an offset, and queried to what extent recycling was considered part of the energy transition. Policies should be inclusive, taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities (PWD).
62. **Malaysia** expressed appreciation to be given the opportunity to share lessons learnt from the implementation of sustainable energy and its keen interest to foster global energy cooperation and partnerships to shape the future for sustainable renewable energy, such as wind, wave and solar.

Key Messages from Session 4a

- The Pacific continued to rely heavily on fossil fuel, and needed more investment to improve access to clean cooking energy and electricity.
- Sustainable energy transition opportunities, financing and technology needed to be explored and create scale for investment in the Pacific, including geothermal, green hydrogen and ocean energy.
- Good practices and support enabling policy and regulatory mechanisms, and decarbonization strategies for the transport sector needed to be developed.
- Increased participation of women in SDG 7 related policymaking and skills development.



H.E. Mr. Michael Aroi, High Commissioner, Nauru High Commission – Suva



Session 4b on SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure) was moderated by Nauru

The Session was moderated by Nauru.

63. ESCAP found that the pandemic pushed countries around the world to recognize the importance of SDG 9, and the opportunities technology and innovation presented, particularly in unleashing economic growth through more efficient use of resources and trade facilitation. Although the adoption rate was rising, the quality and coverage of technology and connectivity varied across the Pacific. This gap posed an obstacle to climate change mitigation efforts. To overcome the challenges, there was a need to foster regional cooperation to invest in shared infrastructure and regional public goods to ensure the benefits of technology and innovations reached all segments of the population.

ESCAP's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

64. PIFS highlighted the challenges the Pacific faced in the implementation of SDG 9 arising from the region's geographic location. Solutions such as submarine cables had improved connectivity, but network coverage still lagged. Other key issues at the national level included affordability and reliability of technologies. To improve the technology and innovation sector, there was a need to build scientific knowledge and enhance research and development (R&D). At the same time, adequate legislation and regulation to prevent cyber-related transgressions and ensure security were required. Data remained critical for robust analysis to make evidence-based decisions.

PIFS's presentation on technology and connectivity appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

65. Tuvalu shared its "Future Now" project, which as the title suggested, prepared the nation now to secure its future. "Future Now" espouses Tuvaluan cultural values such as being a good neighbor and the notion of statehood, as well as climate advocacy and progressing the national digitalization agenda.

Tuvalu's presentation on "Future Now" appears in the PFS website ([Link](#)).

66. The **Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF)** highlighted its role in developing capital markets, and the related initiatives aligned closely with SDG 9, including the reform of the national payment system, the development of a central bank digital currency, the introduction of a Disaster Rehabilitation and Containment Facility, Inclusive Green Finance and an e-commerce subsidy scheme for MSMEs. RBF also supported financial technology development, such as the Fintech Regulatory Sandbox, among others, and has rolled out several initiatives to promote technology enabled financial products and delivery channels, and interoperability of payment ecosystem to foster financial inclusion. Challenges such as access of critical infrastructure to last-mile service delivery, digital and financial literacy and consumer protection, as well as absence of a digital ID and data privacy legislation, present themselves as opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement to tackle these issues towards a greener post-COVID recovery.

The RBF's presentation appears in the PFS website ([Link](#)).

67. Private sector representative, **SkyEye**, shared that many technologies were designed for mass adoption, and this was a perennial challenge for the Pacific. Despite having the critical infrastructure in place, there were restrictions to third party access to backbone infrastructure to provide services.
68. An **Economy and Technology Consultant** shared Bangladesh's experience graduating from a low-income to middle-income country in 2021 and its aspiration to become an upper-middle income country by 2041. A key success factor had been technological advancements through a decade-long planning and implementation of "Digital Bangladesh" Framework. All indicators suggested that growth had been widespread, reaching almost every segment of the population in Bangladesh. While foreign direct investment (FDI) played a considerable role in enabling the transition, there were lessons learnt for Pacific SIDS in similar transition.
69. **Samoa** stated that no country had a monopoly on technologies and that Pacific SIDS could adopt technologically driven solutions to the context of each country to solve problems.
70. **Fiji** noted that technology could bring the vast ocean region of the Pacific closer, while being mindful of the associated risks, such as cybersecurity.
71. **Malaysia** also shared that technology transformation had played a significant role in the country's economic growth and development success. Malaysia had launched "My digital" initiative to steer digital transformation and drive the growth of the digital economy. This offered a solid framework that would help to create 500,000 jobs opportunities in the digital economy.

Key Messages from Session 4b

- Improve access to, and affordability of, transport and communication.
- Improve digital and financial literacy, develop financial inclusion strategies for MSMEs.
- Support tailored technology, including start-ups and innovation for improving service delivery.



Mr. Shiri Krishna Gounder (Ministry of Economy)

Session 5: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This Session was moderated by Fiji

72. The **UN Resident Coordinator** of the UN Multi-Country Office Micronesia observed that the world was at a difficult place. COVID-19, and unnecessary conflict and injustices arising from geo-political tensions had impacted SDGs progress. Despite the challenges of recent years, 11 Pacific SIDS had submitted their VNRs since the adoption of the SDGs. VNR was a progress review that was voluntarily conducted and a follow up to the 2030 Agenda. VNRs were evidence based, and needed to be followed by concrete action to make it a meaningful endeavour. In assisting Pacific SIDS with their VNRs, the UN capitalized on the Pacific Cooperation Framework.
73. **PIFS** recalled that Fiji would be conducting its second VNR in 2023, and was expecting more Pacific SIDS to follow suit in the next couple of years. Findings from the VNRs Pacific SIDS had submitted thus far unveiled challenges faced in the process, and recommendations going forward included: (i) the need for disaggregated data; (ii) enhancing capacity in data collection and management; and (iii) ensuring adequate resources to monitor activities. VNRs have, nevertheless, been reported to have strengthened national ownership of the SDGs, promoted transparency, inclusiveness and participation in reporting on the development priorities, and supported more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
74. **Fiji** confirmed that its Second VNR would be presented at the next HLPF, and thanked the UN for the support rendered thus far. The Ministry of Finance was the central coordinating agency for the VNR, and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics was responsible for data collection on SDG indicators. A draft SDG Indicator Framework had been developed and would be refined and improved following stakeholder consultations in the coming months. Fiji's NDP indicators had been aligned to the SDG framework and presented to the 14 Ministries for input, to further enhance Fiji's reporting of progress against the SDGs.

PIFS's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

74. **Fiji** confirmed that its Second VNR would be presented at the next HLPF, and thanked the UN for the support rendered thus far. The Ministry of Finance was the central coordinating agency for the VNR, and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics was responsible for data collection on SDG indicators. A draft SDG Indicator Framework had been developed and would be refined and improved following stakeholder consultations in the coming months. Fiji's NDP indicators had been aligned to the SDG framework and presented to the 14 Ministries for input, to further enhance Fiji's reporting of progress against the SDGs.



Mr. Jaap van Hierden (UN-Multi-Country Office, Micronesia)

75. **Tuvalu** advised that its VNR process was hampered by COVID-19 related restrictions, poor internet connectivity and limited human resources. Capacity was also an issue as this was Tuvalu's first VNR. Limited resources had made effective engagement with stakeholders difficult. There were also difficulties in accessing reliable and up-to-date data to support the production of the report.

Tuvalu's presentation on "Key Challenges in Developing VNR Report" appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

76. **Palau** highlighted that its main challenge was limited time and capacity, as they had less than a year to prepare the VNR with limited dedicated staff for the process. Its national development masterplan had not been updated to reflect more recent progress on development priorities. Lessons learnt showed that buy-in from stakeholders was critical, and that while nationwide consultations were conducted, more involvement was needed from a broader cross section of society. Suggestions had been put forward to the government to establish special secretariats with dedicated staff to work on the VNR.

Palau's presentations on key challenges with the First VNR preparation, and VNR preparation lessons and progress appear in the PFSD website ([Link](#)) and ([Link](#)), respectively.

77. The **Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)** provided an update on the engagement of CSOs in the VNR process. A key role for CSOs has been in storytelling and showing how government's efforts impacts on people at the community level. The Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement mechanism had served as a platform to improve this consultative process. PDF stated that the CSO's contribution should be recognized and valued as co-workers with the governments and the private sector in development.

78. **PIANGO** expressed appreciation for the efforts of member States in conducting a VNR but underscored the need to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement, particularly following the completion of, or in the years between VNRs, to continue meaningful discussions on CSOs' support towards the 2030 Agenda.



Mr. Setareki Macanawai (Pacific Disability Forum)

79. **Samoa** proposed exploring regional solutions, especially around indicator priorities, to address issues and challenges commonly encountered by Pacific SIDS in conducting a VNR. **Palau** supported the idea of regional guidelines on indicator production, and offered to be involved in their development as part of their 2024 VNR preparations.
80. The **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) SIDS Unit** noted that discussions on data issues had been ongoing for decades, with one challenge being indicators that were relevant to SIDS did not exist or were not recognized. In this regard, there was a need for collective efforts to address such issues as a region.

Key Messages from Session 5

- More meaningful VNRs were prepared in an inclusive manner, with non-state actors, including persons with disabilities, involved from the beginning.
- VNRs needed to be evidence based, and there was a need for regional support and guidelines to improve data availability.
- A second VNR presented an opportunity to improve on the process used in the development of the first VNR.



Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahia (PIANGO)



Session 6: Regional Cooperation to address the immediate triple crisis

This Session was moderated by PIANGO

- 81.** ESCAP presented on the 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator and elaborated on the support by UN Resident Coordinators in fostering stronger collaboration between stakeholders and sectors, and enhancing capacities in forging new multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms to implement SDGs. The 2022 SDG Partnership Report highlighted key factors influencing the dynamics of recovery, specifically progress being made on SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land). Meanwhile, the 2023 SDG Partnership Report focused on today's global crises, the impacts, SDG solutions and policy actions.

ESCAP's presentation on "Regional Cooperation to Address the Crisis of Food, Energy and Finance" appears in the PFS website ([Link](#)).

- 82.** The **Pacific Power Association (PPA)** shared that subsidized retail fuel prices often did not reflect the true cost of fuel, and this had hampered efforts to transit to alternate sources of energy. To promote energy transition to greener sources, there was a need to better understand the energy market and industries to develop appropriate incentive schemes for investment in renewable energy technologies. With renewed interests in environment-friendly solutions globally, there were partnership opportunities to attract investments in renewable energy.

PPA's presentation appears in the PFS website ([Link](#)).

- 83.** **Samoa** noted that uptake of renewable energy technologies would increase once governments' end subsidies to fossil fuels.

Key Messages from Session 6

- The triple crisis in food, energy and finance sectors had further challenged Pacific SIDS's ability to achieve the SDGs.
- Regional cooperation was vital to foster innovation and build resilience of food-energy-finance sectors to future shocks.
- Political will and the right incentives were needed to manage short- to medium-term crisis.



H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, High Commissioner, Samoa High Commission - Suva

Session 7: Strengthening global solidarity to promote solutions

This Session was moderated by Samoa

84. The **UNDESA SIDS Unit** noted that 2022 was the second consecutive year that the entire world had not progressed sufficiently on the SDGs. SDG implementation progress was already lagging in Pacific SIDS and had been further hampered by COVID-19 and the recent geopolitical crises. The Fourth International Conference on SIDS would be the next best opportunity to take stock of Pacific SIDS' efforts and to make course redirections. The outcomes would be an inter-governmental agreement that was focused, forward looking and action oriented. Pacific priorities needed to include ocean, loss and damage, renewable energy, debt relief, data management, reporting and evaluation and realignment of NDPs where necessary.

The UNDESA SIDS Unit's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

85. **ESCAP** highlighted its collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNDESA and the UN Office of High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and SIDS (OHRLLS) towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. A sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic would occur within the context of climate emergencies and geopolitical tensions. Development partnerships and solidarity needed to be scaled up to meet the ambitions of the post-SAMOA Pathway – the new global plan of action for SIDS. National ownership should remain at the center of policy making, while ensuring a whole-of-government and society approach in tackling climate resilience, sustainable socio-economic modalities, leveraging regional frameworks and enhancing solutions to data and statistical systems.



Mr. Sai Navoti (DESA)



Ms. Simona Marinescu (UN Resident Coordinator)

86. **PIFS** highlighted that debt structuring and financing for SDGs had been pertinent issues for Pacific SIDS. Policies focusing on mitigating climate change, increasing uptake of sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, and protecting biodiversity and oceans had made some progress, while other areas lacked the resources to advance. In this regard, the MVI was a welcomed initiative to support Pacific SIDS assess the impact of structural vulnerabilities and their ability to achieve the SDGs, building a stronger case for debt restructuring and greater access to development cooperation and financing.

PIFS's presentation appears in the PFSD website ([Link](#)).

87. **USP** emphasised that governments could not solve issues or achieve SDG-related targets single-handedly. The private sector had a crucial role to play, especially in contributing towards social outcomes of policies that aimed to reduce poverty, improve human rights and create employment. While Pacific SIDS remained a special case for sustainable development given specific threats faced by slow onset climate events, opportunities existed to enhance inter-region and intra-region labor mobility and transfer of knowledge, technology and skills.

88. The **UN Resident Coordinator** of the Multi-Country Office in Samoa advised that over 500 partnerships had been forged through the SAMOA Pathway. The MVI, if adopted in 2023 as planned, would be a key outcome of the SAMOA Pathway. The MVI could also be used as a means to unlock and access climate finances. The UN stood ready to support preparations for the Fourth International Conference on SIDS.

89. The **Pacific Youth Council (PYC)** highlighted that population growth across the Pacific needed to be matched with increased investments in education, and toward bridging the gender divide. Youth across many Pacific SIDS were vocal on numerous issues, but had not been able to engage meaningfully with leaders due to cultural and traditional restrictions. Youth need to be involved in decision making on development issues, given their role in driving changes in the years to come.



Mr. Neelesh Gounder



Ms. Miliana Iga, Pacific Youth Council

90. The **Tonga Public Service Association (TPSA)** commented that the 2050 Strategy indicated all that was not achieved by the Pacific region since the SDGs were developed. There had been many meetings and forums, and outcome documents, but had yielded little progress.
91. In line with USP's support for cooperation, **Palau** encouraged Pacific SIDS preparing VNRs to pilot VNR twinning. In response to the keen interest expressed, **ESCAP** proposed to explore the possibility of convening a standalone session on the MVI.

Key Messages from Session 7

- Development partnerships and solidarity needed to be scaled up to meet the ambitions of the post SAMOA Pathway – the new global plan of action for SIDS.
- Improvement was needed in monitoring, reporting, evaluation, standardization of processes to promote learning and informed actions.
- Pacific SIDS's vulnerability considerations needed to be taken forward, including the MVI to improve access to resources to support implementation.



Ms. Dominique Coy (Monash)



Mr. Nacanieli Rika

Side Event – Crafting a message from the Pacific for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

A team from USP has been evaluating the VNR process for inclusiveness, and effectiveness feeding into the quadrennial GSDR prepared by a group of 15 scientists. The first report was issued in 2015, the second in 2019, and the third would be due in 2023. The report would analyze progress made with respect to the following aspects: (i) human well-being and capabilities; (ii) sustainable and just economies; (iii) sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition; and (iv) energy decarbonization with universal access. The GSDR would also feature discussions related to:

- Improving access to sustainable finance and social financing;
- Building narratives that people can relate to;
- The prevalence of top-down approaches, and why this should not be the norm;
- Polarization of societies in the Pacific;
- Creating opportunities for the most vulnerable; and
- Utilizing available technology to advance agenda and development plans.

The publication appears in the Link



Ms. Teuru Passfield

Session 8: The Way Forward and Closing Remarks

- 92.** To wrap up, the representative of Cook Islands provided a summary of the key messages and actions from each session of the Forum, reiterating key points highlighted by session moderators. The outcomes of the discussions at the Forum can be summed up in five takeaways going forward:
- (i) Need to urgently address the multiple challenges including health, energy, food, finance, climate change, pollution and the geo-political crisis. Positive development to establish a Loss and Damage Fund but must be accompanied by maintaining the 1.5 degrees target;
 - (ii) Urgent need to develop financing options and instruments as essential components to implement national development plan priorities and SDGs in Pacific communities, especially due to limited fiscal space and debt distress;
 - (iii) Tailored and coordinated development partner support at national level was critical, inter alia, to strengthen governance and national systems and capacity to better manage shocks and crises. In addition, new opportunities for growth, and strategies for mobilizing additional resources remained important;
 - (iv) Need to raise ambition in climate action, as an important step towards securing climate justice, building trust, and ensuring solidarity, which was essential for collective climate action; and
 - (v) The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was the blueprint for sustainable development, and required collective, implementable actions by all partners.
- 93.** The outcomes and recommendations of the Sixth PFSD would contribute to the discussions at the 10th APFSD that would take place in Bangkok, Thailand, March 2023, and to the HLPF in the UN Headquarters in New York in July 2023.
- 94.** In the closing remarks, PIFS and ESCAP's Subregional Office for the Pacific expressed appreciation to the participants for their active participation, as well as the presenters, speakers and the Secretariat for the organization of the Sixth PFSD. PIFS and ESCAP looked forward to more partnership opportunities to deliver SDGs and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Annex 1: Programme of the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2022

Day 1	Tuesday, 6 December 2022
08:30 - 09:00 (30 mins)	<p>Registration</p>
09:00 – 10:00 (60 mins)	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>M.C. - Ms. Melisha Siapu, University of South Pacific</p> <p>OPENING PRAYER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Prof. Upolu Luma Vaai, Principal, Pacific Theological College <p>WELCOME REMARKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pene Nonu Baleinabuli, Permanent Secretary Permanent Secretary for Fisheries and Forests, Fiji • Mr. Sanaka Kumara Samarasinha, UN Resident Coordinator, Fiji-MCO <p>SPECIAL REMARKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP • H.E. Dr. Filimon Manoni, Acting Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat <p>OFFICIAL OPENING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. E. Mr. Mark Brown, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands <p>M.C - Ms. Caitlin Harm Nam, University of South Pacific:</p> <p>HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS AND PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES</p>
10:00 – 10:30 (30 mins)	<p>TEA BREAK/ PHOTO SESSION</p>

Day 1	Tuesday, 6 December 2022
	Session 1: Pacific Progress towards SDGs
10:30 – 11:30 (60 mins)	<p><i>This session will set the scene for the PFSD, providing an overview of Our Common Agenda and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the synergies between them. It will also provide an overview of the progress of SDGs in the Pacific, particularly the SDGs to be reviewed at the 2023 APFSD and HLPF, as the impact of the triple crisis of climate, covid-19 and conflict continue to impede progress towards the 2030 Agenda. It will also highlight from a country perspective how the SDGs are contextualised and implemented at the national level.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Viranria Brown, Chargés d'affaires, High Commission of the Republic of Vanuatu to Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific • Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser – Sustainable Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Valentino Wichman, Director of the Central Policy and Planning Office at the Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands • Mr. Howard Politini, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization • Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the SDGs and Our Common Agenda contribute to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent? • Going forward, what must we do differently to ensure the 2050 Strategy implementation is effective in delivering on national development priorities and the SDGs <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our Common Agenda 2021 2. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent 3. Second Quadrennial Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Report 2022

Day 1	Tuesday, 6 December 2022
	Session 2: Climate, Ocean, and Resilience
11:30 – 13:00 (90 mins)	<p><i>This session aims to advance the discussions at the COP27 and the 2nd UN Ocean Conference to accelerate actions to mitigate the impact of climate change in the Pacific.</i></p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Dr. Eselealofa Apinelu, High Commissioner of Tuvalu to Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Espen Ronneberg, The Pacific Community (SPC) • Ms. Gabrielle Emery, Head of Pacific Subregional Office, UNDRR and Ms. Madhurima Sarkar-Swaisgood, Economic Affairs Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction, ESCAP <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Atle Solberg, Head of the Secretariat, Platform on Disaster Displacement <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your reflections on the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference 2022, APMC DRR and COP27 for the Pacific? • How have the collective voice of the Pacific member states (such as Nadi declaration) influenced the outcome of the APFMSDFF2022? • In what areas the countries in the Pacific region can collectively address the challenge of vulnerability to climate change and disasters and what are the experiences of the countries? <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declaration by the Pacific Ministers for Disaster Risk Reduction, September 2022 2. APMCDRR Co-Chairs Statement, 22 September 2022 3. COP27 Outcome, November 2022
13:00 – 14:00 (60 mins)	LUNCH BREAK

Day 1	Tuesday, 6 December 2022
	Session 3: Impact of COVID-19, climate change and disaster risk on the SDGs Progress <p><i>This session will identify and assess the emerging challenges, especially the impact of COVID-19, climate change and disaster risk on access to clean water and sanitation, and how they have exacerbated development disparities across the Pacific.</i></p>
14:00 – 15:15 (75 mins)	<p>Session 3a: SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Rina Keju, Charge d'affaires of Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chander Badloe, Chief - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office, UNICEF • Mr. Dave Hebblethwaite, Water Governance Coordinator, The Pacific Community (SPC) <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rophino Roby, First Secretary, Embassy of Federated States of Micronesia • Ms. Abigail Tevera, UNICEF WASH Specialist, UNICEF Filed Office in Solomon Islands <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the COVID-19 and climate change crises impacted efforts to ensure access to clean water and sanitation? • What are the emerging challenges the Pacific is expected to face and the strategy to counter them? <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highlights from Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: Five years into the SDGs https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/jmp-2021-wash-households-highlights.pdf 2. Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: Five years into the SDGs https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/jmp-2021-wash-households_3.pdf 3. Progress on WASH in Health Care Facilities 200-2021: special; focus on WASH and Infection Prevention and Control https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/jmp-2022-wash-hcf-launch.pdf 4. JMP Data on WASH in Schools – thematic Pullout on Pandemic Preparedness https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/jmp-2022-wins-data-update-pandemic-preparedness.pdf 5. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: 2000-2021 data update https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/jmp-2022-wins-data-update.pdf 6. Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: special focus on COVID-19 https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/JMP-2020-WASH-schools.pdf

Day 1	Tuesday, 6 December 2022
15:15 – 15:30 (15 mins)	TEA BREAK
15:30 – 17:00 (90 mins)	<p>Session 3b: SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Azam Khan, CEO, Suva City Council, Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS (10 MINS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Omar Siddique, Sustainable Urban Development Section, ESCAP • Mr. Bernhard Barth, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia-Pacific • Ms. Manaini Rokovunisei, Social Policy Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATIONS (30 MINS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Karibaiti Toaba, Pacific Regional Director, Commonwealth Local Government Forum • Dr. Alexei Trundle, Assistant Director, Melbourne Center for Cities, Australia <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION (50 MINS)</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the COVID-19, cost of living and climate change crises impacted development disparities across cities and urban communities in the Pacific? • In what specific ways can the Pacific New Urban Agenda and localization of the SDGs support achievement of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities in the Pacific? <p>D) WRAP UP AND CONCLUDING REMARKS BY MODERATOR (10 MINUTES)</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities report 2. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals to Address Interlinked Crises in the Post-Pandemic Era 3. Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews 4. Ocean Cities Regional Policy Guide: Delivering Resilient Solutions in Pacific Island Settlements
17.15 – 18.00	<p>Special event</p> <p>Launch of UN ESCAP Report: Pacific Perspectives 2022 – Accelerating Climate Action</p> <p>H.E. Dr. Filimon Manoni, Acting Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)</p> <p>Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional office for the Pacific, Fiji</p> <p>Reception</p>

Day 2	Wednesday, 7 December 2022
	Session 4: Accelerating recovery from COVID-19, climate change and disaster and full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels
	<p><i>This session explores solutions in accelerating actions in support of SDG 7 (i.e. energy transition and renewable energy) and SDG 9 (i.e. innovation and digital economy), noting the opportunities for the Pacific to work together and further strengthen regional cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda.</i></p>
09:00 –10:00 (60 mins)	<p>Session 4a: SDG 7 (Affordable Clean Energy)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Mikaele Belena, Director, Department of Energy, Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Florence Ventura, Team Leader - Energy Security, The Pacific Community (SPC) • Mr. Sergey Tulinov, Energy Division, ESCAP <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Taniela Tabuya, Principal Energy Analyst, Fiji Department of Energy • Mr. Eliate Laulaapea'alu, Department of Energy, Tonga • Mr. Geoff Stapleton, Executive Officer, Sustainable Energy Industry Association of Pacific Islands • Ms. Katerina Syngellakis, Pacific Regional Advisor, Global Green Growth institute (GGGI) <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key challenges to implement energy transition to renewable sources in the Pacific? • What are the opportunities to advance SDG7 in the Pacific? <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Towards sustainable energy connectivity in Asia and the Pacific: status, trends, and opportunities, 2022 2. Slow advancements in sustainable energy: taking stock of SDG7 progress in Asia and the Pacific 3. Regional Trends report 2021: Shaping a Sustainable Energy Future in Asia and the Pacific, 2021

Day 2	Wednesday, 7 December 2022
10:00 – 11:00 (60 mins)	<p>Session 4b: SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure)</p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Mr. Michael Aroi, High Commissioner of Nauru to Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Liz Larson, Programme Management Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP • Mr. Viliame Bovoro, Programme Adviser Strategy and Implementation, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tauisi M Taupo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu • Mr. Lepani Uluinaviti, Manager, Reserve Bank of Fiji • Mr. Faaso'otauloa Sam Saili, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, SkyEye • Ms. Tina Jabeen, Economy and Technology Consultant <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent and how have innovative technologies been adopted to improve connectivity and social inclusion in the Pacific? • What are the opportunities to adopt innovative technologies through regional cooperation? <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catalyzing financial innovation for women: evidence-based financial solutions for women entrepreneurs, 2022 2. Policy Guidebook: Harnessing Digital Technology for Financial Inclusion in Asia and the Pacific
11:00 – 11:15 (15 mins)	TEA BREAK

Day 2	Wednesday, 7 December 2022
11:15 – 12:45 (90 mins)	Session 5: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <p><i>This session focuses on SDG implementation progress through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and allows for sharing of experiences particularly on follow-up of national commitments made through the VNR.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Shiri Krishna Gounder, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jaap van Hierden, Resident Coordinator, UN-Multi-Country Office, Micronesia • Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser – Sustainable Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) <p>B) ISSUES DISCUSSION 1 – VNR PROCESSES – BEST PRACTICES</p> <p>Lead discussants (3-5 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andrew Coriakula, SDG Specialist, Fiji • Ms. Petelema Eti Tefoepua, Senior Economist, Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu <p>Plenary discussions to follow</p> <p>C) ISSUES DISCUSSION 2 – POST-VNR NEXT STEPS</p> <p>Lead discussants (3-5 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Charlene Mersai, Bureau of Budget & Planning, Ministry of Finance, Palau <p>Plenary discussion to follow</p> <p>D) ISSUES DISCUSSION 3 – CSO PERSPECTIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Setareki Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum <p>Plenary discussions to follow</p> <p>E) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 2. Voluntary National Reviews 2023, High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
12:45 – 13:30 (45 mins)	LUNCH BREAK
13:30 – 14:00 (30 mins)	<p>Special event</p> <p>Crafting a message from the Pacific for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Nacanieli Rika, Acting Head of School of Accounting, Finance and Economics, University of South Pacific</p> <p>A) INTERACTIVE PANEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cameron Allen, Monash Sustainable Development Institute, Monash University • Professor Eberhard Weber, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment, University of the South Pacific (USP) • Ms. Camari Waqanivalu Koto, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment, University of the South Pacific (USP) <p>B) OPEN DISCUSSION</p>

Day 2	Wednesday, 7 December 2022
14:00 –15:15 (75 mins)	Session 6: Regional Cooperation to address the immediate triple crisis
<p><i>This session will discuss the 2023 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report, focusing on the immediate priorities to overcome the triple crisis of food, energy and finance to bring Pacific back on track towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Promising solutions and innovations and areas for regional cooperation at the nexus of food, energy and financing systems will be discussed.</i></p>	
<p>Moderator: Ms. Emeline Siale Ilolahiia, Executive Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)</p>	
<p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow, ESCAP • Mr. Frank Thomas, Asian Development Bank (ADB) 	
<p>AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY: LIVE POLLING ON CONVERGING CRISES AND SDG SOLUTIONS (5 MINS)</p>	
<p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abraham Simpson, Pacific Power Association 	
<p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION</p> <p>Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the triple crisis of food, energy, and finance affected the achievement of 2030 Agenda (i.e. SDGs 1, 2, 7, and 17)? How have these issues been mainstreamed in delivering on the SDGs? • Can you discuss some current country-level approaches in addressing food, energy or finance challenges? How do these approaches tackle the interlinked aspects of these multiple crises? • How can we ensure that the most vulnerable are part of these approaches and solutions to food, energy and finance crises? • What are the recommendations to strengthen the regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the food, energy, and finance nexus? • Can you share some good practices and examples of strategic partnerships with private sector in the Pacific in addressing the food, energy, finance crises? 	
<p>D) WRAP UP SESSION</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 2022 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Thematic Report: Building Forward Together 2. The Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2022 	

Day 2	Wednesday, 7 December 2022
15:15 – 16:15 (60 mins)	Session 7: Strengthening global solidarity to promote solutions <p><i>This session will stock-take the efforts and outcomes of the Samoa Pathway, as well as look at the role of the SAMOA Pathway in catalyzing the implementation of the SDGs, as the framework concludes next year. It focuses on long-term priorities, identifying long-term challenges, and building on the lessons learnt to shape the direction of the post-Samoa Pathway.</i></p> <p>Moderator: H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, High Commissioner of Samoa to Fiji</p> <p>A) INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, DSDG, UN DESA • Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific <p>B) ISSUE PRESENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser – Sustainable Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) • Mr. Neelesh Gounder, Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of the South Pacific (USP) • Ms. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator, Resident Coordinator, UN-Multi-Country Office, Samoa • Ms. Miliana Iga Coordinator: Pacific Youth Council Economics and Social Policy TAG <p>C) PLENARY DISCUSSION Proposed guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities for post-Samoa Pathway? • How can the post-Samoa Pathway accelerate the implementation of the SDGs? • How can the international community beyond the SIDS play a greater role in the post-Samoa Pathway initiative? <p>D) WRAP UP SESSION References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SIDS ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF ACTION [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway 2. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (July 2022)
16:15 – 16:30 (15 mins)	TEA BREAK
16:30 – 17:00 (30 mins)	Session 8: The Way Forward and Closing Remarks <p><i>This session will identify the key messages from the PFSD sessions, identify priority actions and the way forward.</i></p> <p>Moderator/Presenter: Ms. Teuru Passfield, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cook Islands</p> <p>A) CLOSING REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional office for the Pacific <p>Conclusion of the PFSD</p>

Annex 2: Participants at the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2022

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