

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

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PIFS 2050 STRATEGY & THE REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE (Paper presented by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat)

Purpose

1. This information paper provides an update on:
 - i. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) and its Implementation Plan (2050IP), specifically, its Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL), and the development of a Baseline report; and
 - ii. The Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) to ensure a fit for purpose regional architecture to effectively deliver the 2050 Strategy.

Background

2. In 2022 Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the overarching blueprint to advance Pacific regionalism for the next three decades and articulates the region's long-term vision, and values. The 2050 Strategy has seven (7) key thematic areas and five (5) strategic pathways that the requires a whole of region approach:

- i. Political Leadership and Regionalism
- ii. People Centered Development
- iii. Peace and Security
- iv. Resources and Economic Development
- v. Oceans and Environment
- vi. Climate Change and Disaster
- vii. Technology and Connectivity

3. To progress the 2050 Strategy, and the 2050IP ([Annex A](#)) Forum Leaders at their 52nd Meeting (2023), clearly articulated key priorities and actions, delivery arrangements and resourcing requirements under the 2050IP.

4. In their endorsement of the 2050IP, Leaders emphasised the need for robust monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting mechanisms which builds on existing processes. In response, work is underway to develop a 2050 Strategy MEL including a Baseline report which provides a stock-take of where the region is across the seven thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy. The MEL and Baseline report will be presented to Leaders at their upcoming 53rd Meeting in Tonga in August 2024.

Policy update

5. Following the endorsement of the 2050 IP in 2023, three key updates are summarized below:

a) **Finalisation of the 2050 MEL**

6. The 2050 MEL will build on existing SDGs reporting processes to track the delivery of the 2050 IP. Data will be collated from existing sources such as the MANA Dashboard and aggregated at the regional level to provide evidence to inform policy discussions and decisions including at the sectoral level.

7. Furthermore, decisions from existing regional health governing bodies such as the Pacific Ministers for Health and Pacific Heads of Health will inform the MEL to ensure that progress on actions under the oversight of these bodies are also reported to Leaders under the 2050IP. The Secretariat will be guided by the Ministers for Health and Pacific Heads of Health in partnership with SPC, WHO and other relevant health sector partners on health sector priorities and delivery on actions.

8. The MEL process articulates the need to use existing national mechanisms and how national level actors such as Ministries of Health can contribute. These include:

- i. Provision of national level sectoral data.
- ii. Identification of key issues and challenges that impact health service delivery.
- iii. Identification of data gaps and support required to strengthen national systems.
- iv. Utilisation of existing regional processes for information and data sharing.
- v. Provision of advice on health-related matters that require support to successfully deliver on the 2050 Strategy particularly the health outcomes.

b) **Development of the 2050 Baseline Report**

9. As previously mentioned, a Baseline report will be developed providing a status stock-take across the seven thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy including how existing regional initiatives contribute to the 2050 Strategy thematic outcomes.

10. Data from national and regional health reports will inform health and other relevant goals and outcomes of the 2050IP. The health specific outcomes in the 2050IP are outlined below for ease:

People outcome 1.0	Improved health outcomes for all Pacific Peoples particularly vulnerable communities and marginalized groups
System outcomes: Strengthened institutional capacity and capability to address national and regional health priorities	
System outcome 1.2	Strengthened coverage, quality, accessibility, affordable and resilience of health and well-being services.
System outcome 1.3	Improved healthy lifestyles across all communities including increased participation in sports and physical activity.

11. The reporting against these health outcomes will demonstrate how the region is tracking towards achieving the health goal of improving health and well-being of all Pacific peoples. It will also inform the resourcing needs to ensure the region does achieve this goal and that of the 2050 Strategy. **Figure 1** below articulates the 2050 Strategy reporting process.



Figure 1- Reporting processes across all sectoral areas to Leaders.

c) Review of the Regional Architecture:

12. In 2019 Leaders endorsed the RRA noting the need to “re-examine and ensure the requisite governance and resourcing arrangements that promote, govern and deepen collective responsibility and accountability to deliver the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*”¹.

13. In 2022 and noting the geo-political competition playing out in the region, Leaders reaffirmed their 2019 decision and re-emphasized the need for a fit for purpose “regional architecture” to effectively deliver on the 2050 Strategy² focused on the following:

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

14. It is envisaged that with better coordination across sectors, stronger and more informed policy decisions will be reached by political leaders on collective priorities. This will also support more effective and efficient use of resources.

Interlinked considerations

15. The RRA is an opportunity for the region to identify areas and processes to effectively deliver on the 2050IP. This includes consideration on how sectoral regional decision-making platforms such as the Pacific Ministers of Health and Pacific Heads of Health Meetings inform policy advice and priorities to Forum Leaders and can contribute to strengthened coordination and coherence towards achieving the Leaders’ 2050 vision.

16. This aligns with the request from Leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, to also consider sectoral updates on regional decisions. Moving forward, sectoral meeting updates will be provided to Leaders through the Annual 2050 Strategy Reports for Leaders consideration.

¹ [PIF 50th Pacific Islands Forum-Communique-August-2019.pdf \(dkiapcss.edu\)](#)

² [REPORT: Communique of the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat](#)

17. Existing mechanisms such as the CROP working groups will be utilized to prioritize and strengthen opportunities for closer collaboration and efficiencies amongst and between partners for sustainable outcomes for Pacific island countries and the region.

18. In addition, the Kingdom of Tonga, as the incoming Chair for the next Forum Leaders Meeting in August 2024, has requested the inclusion of health on the Leaders agenda. This presents an opportunity to highlight key issues from the health sector requiring Leaders' attention. The Secretariat will be guided by the advice of the PHOH, and work with SPC and WHO as technical health agencies, on what these key issues are.

Recommendations to be considered by the Heads of Health

19. Pacific Heads of Health are invited to:

- i. Note the work underway to implement the 2050 Implementation Plan to achieve health related outcomes.
 - ii. Note the work underway to develop a comprehensive MEL Plan for the 2050 Implementation Plan.
 - iii. Note the work underway and provide any initial reflections on the Review of the Regional Architecture.
 - iv. Provide guidance and advice on key health issues that require Leaders attention at their next meeting in Tonga in August 2024. PIFS will work closely with SPC and WHO to identify these key issues, and those to be included in the 2050 Baseline report.
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