Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Pacific





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SUSTAINABLE GALS DEVELOPMENT





































Foreword



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks a paradigm shift in global development thinking and international cooperation, due to its emphasis on universality and focus on the most disadvantaged populations to ensure that 'no-one is left behind.' However, this is much more than rhetoric; for the Pacific island region – home to some of the smallest and most vulnerable states in the world – this signals a deeper shift in the way sustainable development is to be achieved, and opens the door to more meaningful tailoring of global frameworks to national and regional contexts. Achieving the 2030 Agenda must necessarily go beyond cookie-cutter development policy and practice. In the Pacific, this will require greater policy innovation and courage to pursue different ways to tackle the persistent development challenges that previous development practice was unable to address, as evidenced by the 'unfinished business' of the Millennium Development Goals.

Fortunately, the Pacific is not starting from scratch; the development clock has not been re-set. Rather, Agenda 2030 offers the opportunity for regions to better target areas of cooperation and measure progress. The Pacific island region has long been ahead of the curve in terms of recognizing the integral value of a comprehensive approach to development that links economic, social, environmental, political and cultural dimensions; most recently captured in the 2014 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Framework for Pacific Regionalism. While the interdisciplinary foundations of Agenda 2030 may not be new for the Pacific, the renewed global commitment should usher in greater coherence transparency and accountability in the cooperation and support being provided to Pacific-led sustainable development.

Guiding this is the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2017. This will be the Pacific's principal gateway for integrating global and regional sustainable development frameworks: linking to the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the SAMOA Pathway, Agenda 2030 and the Regional roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. In so doing, its ambition is to bring about greater policy coherence for the sub-region and reduce the reporting burden on Pacific small island developing states. It also embeds the links to the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and the monitoring and reporting of SDGs enhancing policy coherence at wider regional and global levels.

This publication outlines the Pacific's regional sustainable development priorities, which target attention on development issues that are: (i) transboundary in nature; (ii) address the 'unfinished business' of the MDGs; and (iii) require collective action as identified by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. It outlines the efforts of ESCAP in the Pacific to deliver on its mandates, including monitoring and reporting on progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in its follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. For the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway currently under way, a number of 'SIDS' regional priorities – renewable energy and transport; food security, water and sanitation; culture and tourism; and peace and development – have been added to the PRSD priorities for a more complete assessment of progress.

Earlier drafts were circulated for comments and inform member States and stakeholders of progress, including as part of the process of developing the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development that was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2017. Building on ESCAP analysis undertaken to support the Pacific's preparation for the 3rd UN International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) hosted by Samoa, this publication captures recent key policy developments and discussions in the region. As the United Nations Regional Commission for the Asia-Pacific region, ESCAP is a key supporter of the Pacific's interests in relation to the global sustainable development agenda, and through this publication invites readers to reflect on the Pacific's own pathway to development and how global and regional frameworks can support this.

In placing the spotlight on the contemporary and common development issues that Pacific island states are facing, this publication highlights the importance of regional leadership in achieving Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and encourages all development actors – at local, national, regional and global levels – to support context-driven development in the Pacific, if it is to be lasting.

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Acronyms

GNI

APFSD Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

BoPA Barbados Programme of Action

CROP Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific ECOSOC United Nations Economic and Social Council

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

FICS Forum Island Countries

FFA Forum Fisheries Agency

FfD Financing for Development

FPR Framework for Pacific Regionalism

FSM Federated States of Micronesia

GDP Gross Domestic Product

HLPF UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Gross National Income

ICT Information communication technologies
IUU Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MSI Mauritius Strategy of Implementation

NCDs Non-communicable diseases

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OWG Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

PACER Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations

PASO Pacific Aviation Safety Office
PICS Pacific Island Countries

PIDF Pacific Islands Development Forum
PIDP Pacific Islands Development Programme

PIFS Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

PICTA Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement

PNA Parties to the Nauru Agreement

PNG Papua New Guinea
PPA Pacific Power Association

PRIF Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility
PSIDS Pacific Small Island Developing States
RMI Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS Small Island Developing States
SPC Secretariat for the Pacific Community

SPREP Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

SPTO South Pacific Tourism Organisation

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