



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT



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## PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

Nadi, Fiji

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### *PACIFIC AND PARIS AID EFFECTIVENESS PRINCIPLES AND THE PACIFIC PLAN*

#### **Purpose:**

This paper has been prepared to provide a broad overview of how the *Pacific Aid Effectiveness Principles (the 'Principles')* have been used to support the implementation of the Pacific Plan.

#### **Background:**

1. The question of aid effectiveness is one that is central to the Pacific Plan and highlights the importance of drawing together national governments and development partners to maximize impacts in a sustainable and effective manner.
2. The importance of coordination and quality of implementation, both central tenets of the aid effectiveness argument, are highlighted throughout the Pacific Plan and have been reaffirmed repeatedly by Forum Leaders since the Pacific Plan's launch.
3. While the Pacific Plan proposes a regional response to the challenges that Pacific Island Countries face, it does not endeavour to promote a 'one-size-fits-all' model rather calls for new and innovative approaches to tackle a unique set of problems faced commonly across the Pacific as a region.
4. Bearing this in mind, the Pacific Plan represents the entry point for discussions on greater regional cooperation. It is not an end in itself. The Pacific Plan does not overly prescribe how its initiatives should be implemented. It does however envisage its implementation carried forward by a broad coalition of stakeholders all working to improve harmonization, governance, accountability and ownership of the interventions it embodies. It is at this level that the Pacific Plan and the Principles share their clearest synergy.

## **Defining Synergies**

5. In their most general sense, the Principles are the Pacific's interpretation of how the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* should be implemented in the region. Read against the broader canon of development thinking, the Principles (like those first articulated in the *Paris Declaration*) remain amongst the clearest statements of rights and obligations for those stakeholders engaged in donor-recipient relationships in this region.

6. Central to the Pacific Plan are a number of 'initiatives' that have been identified as a way to progress development across the region. While these initiatives overlap to varying degrees, they have been developed around four 'pillars.' Each pillar, economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security, represent in many respects the key areas (and challenges) that the Pacific as a region must work to address should it be able to raise living standards, increasing access to opportunity and stimulate pro-poor growth.

7. The Principles as currently presented span seven areas all of which support the broader aims of harmonization, good governance and the clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities between development partners and national governments.

8. While not specifically referred to in the Pacific Plan, the intent of the Principles has offered an important guide as to how policy makers and practitioners should work to successfully implement the Pacific Plan.

## **Harmonising Approach and Practice**

9. The Pacific Plan is an ambitious undertaking requiring the support of a broad range of stakeholders. Among these stakeholders are national governments, civil society, donor partners and regional technical agencies (CROPs).

10. As called for by the Principles, the harmonization of approach and action takes place at a number of levels.

11. At the level of policy, the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC), as mandated by the Kalibobo Roadmap, maintains a central role in the oversight and governance of the Pacific Plan. Made up of national delegates, it monitors the implementation of the Pacific Plan on behalf of Forum Leaders. In building national ownership, the PPAC recommends to Leaders, based on national needs and the assessment of the region's technical agencies, areas of priority implementation annually within the framework of the Pacific Plan. This focuses the efforts of stakeholders and creates a mechanism supporting greater transparency.

12. At the level of implementation, the PPAC maintains the ability to recommend to Forum Leaders, not only that a regional technical agency take a 'leading' role in the implementation of Pacific Plan initiatives, but these agencies rationalize their work programmes to minimize duplication. This is something that is once again reaffirmed by the respective governing councils of these technical agencies.

13. This brings together these stakeholders through a framework of policy, implementation and reporting. In doing so, it creates an incentive to not only improve the quality of implementation and the impact of interventions, but to utilise the Principles in the Pacific context.