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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 June 2021

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/75/L.98](#) and [A/75/L.98/Add.1](#))]

75/288. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions [49/1](#) of 17 October 1994, [59/20](#) of 8 November 2004, [61/48](#) of 4 December 2006, [63/200](#) of 19 December 2008, [65/316](#) of 12 September 2011, [67/303](#) of 16 September 2013, [69/318](#) of 10 September 2015, [71/316](#) of 19 July 2017 and [73/332](#) of 1 August 2019,

Recognizing the key role the Pacific Islands Forum continues to play in promoting sustainable development, environmental protection, good governance and peace and security, as well as supporting integrated ocean policy, in the Pacific through regional cooperation,

Taking note, in this regard, of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism adopted by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in July 2014, the “Blue Pacific” narrative of September 2017 and ongoing work in 2020 to develop the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent on the Pacific region’s collective action on shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean interlinking Pacific people with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods, the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development of September 2017, the Communiqué of the Forty-ninth Pacific Islands Forum of September 2018 and the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now adopted by the members of the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2019,



Recalling the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹ the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,³ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵

Recognizing the important role and contribution of the United Nations system in the region of the Pacific Islands Forum members,

Recalling the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and the global commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address those vulnerabilities, including through the sustained and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁶ the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States⁷ and the Samoa Pathway,

Reaffirming the importance of enhanced high-level dialogue between the members of the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations, including regular meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Forum leaders, and recalling with appreciation the first-ever participation by a Secretary-General at a Forum, at the forty-second Forum, held on 7 and 8 September 2011 in Auckland, New Zealand, the summit meetings between the Secretary-General and Forum leaders held in New York on 26 September 2012, 26 September 2014, 1 October 2015, 23 September 2016, 22 September 2017, 28 September 2018 and 21 September 2019 and the special leaders' summit held in Suva on 15 May 2019,

Mindful of recent developments at the United Nations of particular interest to Pacific Islands Forum members, including the proclamation by the General Assembly of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development⁸ and the adoption of the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,⁹

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations,¹⁰

Welcoming the continued mutually beneficial dialogue between the Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General,

1. *Encourages* the scheduling of the next meeting between the Secretary-General and Pacific Islands Forum leaders for September 2021, on the margins of the general debate;

¹ Resolution [69/15](#), annex.

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

⁴ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁵ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁶ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁷ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ Resolution [72/73](#), para. 292.

⁹ Resolution [75/1](#).

¹⁰ [A/75/345-S/2020/898](#).

2. *Recalls with appreciation* the visit of the Secretary-General to the region of the Pacific Islands Forum members from 12 to 18 May 2019, and the high-level political dialogue held between the Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General on 15 May 2019 at the headquarters of the Forum;

3. *Recalls* the joint statements issued by Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General on 7 September 2011, 26 September 2012 and 29 September 2014, and urges further progress towards their practical implementation in a timely manner;

4. *Urges* the United Nations system to align its work programmes and operations in the region of the Forum members in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system¹¹ and in support of internationally agreed outcomes, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, taking into account the priorities of the Pacific Islands Forum members, including as reflected in relevant regional agreements;

5. *Welcomes* the convening of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway on 27 September 2019 and the adoption on 10 October 2019 of its political declaration,¹² in which Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation with and support to small island developing States in the context of sustainable development, in line with their national development strategies and priorities, and looks forward to the implementation of the calls made in the political declaration;

6. *Recalls* its resolution [75/215](#) of 21 December 2020 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in which it noted with great concern the threat to human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Also recalls* its decision to convene the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, and further recalls the decision to postpone the 2020 conference;¹³

8. *Encourages* continued support from the United Nations system for the efforts of Pacific States and relevant regional organizations to achieve sustainable development, and calls for greater accountability and regular reporting with regard to the support provided by the United Nations system, including through its regional and country programmes, to Pacific island States;

9. *Acknowledges* the severe consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the sustainable development of small island developing States envisioned in the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including the far-reaching and enduring consequences

¹¹ See resolution [75/233](#).

¹² Resolution [74/3](#).

¹³ See decision [74/548](#).

for poverty eradication, employment, growth and social welfare as a result of the unprecedented contraction of their economies, notes with concern that the external debt stocks of small island developing States have increased by 70 percentage points since 2009, resulting in the average rate of external debt to gross domestic product in those States rising by 11 percentage points to 61.7 per cent in 2019, while the ability of those States to self-insure against exogenous shocks continues to deteriorate further, highlighting that achieving the Goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be more difficult and that integrating the concept of resilience is critical to enable a sustainable future and avoid creating new risks, and notes the United Nations support for the Pacific Islands Forum Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 as a coordinated unified response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

10. *Also acknowledges* the need for urgent action to address the adverse impacts of climate change, including those related to sea level rise and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability, food security and nutrition;

11. *Welcomes* the progress towards enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum and its associated institutions, and urges them to continue to strengthen their partnership and regional collaboration for the implementation of internationally agreed outcomes in the region of the Forum members;

12. *Also welcomes* the substantive progress achieved by the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency since its establishment in Tonga in 2017, with a view to forming an emerging global network of regional centres, thereby expanding dialogue and cooperation on sustainable energy;

13. *Recalls* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings”, prepared pursuant to resolution [69/288](#) of 8 June 2015;¹⁴

14. *Stresses*, in that regard, the value of enhanced close cooperation and coordination between the programmes and activities of the United Nations system and Pacific Islands Forum members, the Forum secretariat and associated institutions, including the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, welcomes recent efforts by United Nations and regional agencies in the Pacific to enhance cooperation through joint activities, working groups and other means, and encourages further practical steps to enhance such cooperation and coordination;

15. *Also stresses* the importance of coherent and integrated approaches to building resilience to extreme weather events, including both slow- and rapid-onset events, and to stressors related to increased climate variability across the Pacific;

16. *Reiterates* the importance of strengthening resilience and mitigating risks in the region of the Forum members, and encourages the United Nations system to work collaboratively with the Pacific Islands Forum and associated institutions in this regard;

17. *Stresses* the importance of resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the region of the Forum members strengthening consultations with national Governments and relevant stakeholders, including the Pacific Islands Forum, in accordance with its resolution [71/243](#) of 21 December 2016, and ensuring that the development and implementation of all United Nations programme and plan

¹⁴ [A/72/119](#).

documents increase coherence and coordination in support of national development needs and priorities;

18. *Reiterates* the importance of continuing to enhance and strengthen the United Nations field presence in the region of the Forum members, in accordance with its resolution [71/243](#), in particular with regard to operational activities of the multi-country offices, using flexible, cost-effective and collaborative models, as appropriate;

19. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the multi-country office reviews, and reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to conduct regular monitoring, reporting and follow-up, including to the annual operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council session, with a view to considering the adjustments necessary to ensure the delivery of sustainable and effective development resources and services to enable countries served by multi-country offices to implement the 2030 Agenda;

20. *Welcomes* the progress in the establishment of a multi-country office in the North Pacific;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations”, the sub-item entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum”.

*84th plenary meeting
22 June 2021*