



PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE

2025 REPORT

“As Pacific Leaders, our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives.”

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

2025 REPORT

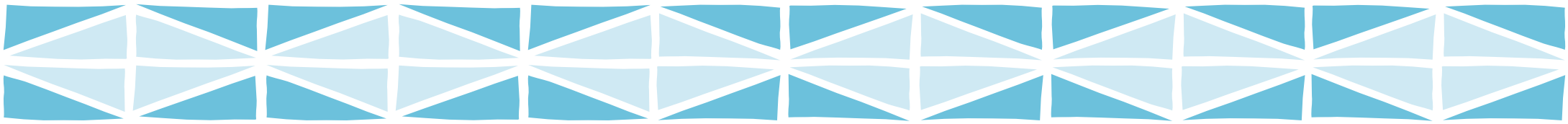
TOWARDS THE OCEAN OF PEACE



“Asia has the Shangri-La Dialogue.
But the Pacific has the Pacific Regional
and National Security Conference.

“This is where we will build our mighty
drua, or waka, for the great journey ahead.”

Prime Minister of Fiji
The Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka



CONTENTS

2	A message of thanks	27	Sessions	44	Trends in national security panel	66	Technology: the promise and the peril panel
6	Welcome remarks from the Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi	27	Political leaders on Pacific peace, security and defence panel	48	Women, peace and security panel	70	The Ocean of Peace panel
10	Welcome speech from the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka	32	Political leaders on climate security panel	54	Maritime and environmental resources panel	79	The Ocean of Peace in 2050: Workshop report
16	Welcome speech from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa	38	Diplomats on partnerships in a time of disruption panel	58	The Boe Declaration and beyond panel	112	Closing speech from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa
20	Conference statement	40	Transnational crime and national security: the methamphetamine crisis panel	62	Human security and humanitarian assistance panel	116	Closing speech from the Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Representatives from across the Pacific gathered in Suva for the Pacific Regional and National Security Conference from 14-16 July. We were particularly pleased to welcome our senior political leaders this year to hear their wisdom.



The conference aimed to contribute to the important regional discussions on the Ocean of Peace, the refreshed *Boe Declaration on Regional Security Action Plan*, and the review of regional architecture. Over the first two days, we discussed the topics in the Boe Declaration. On the third day we discussed how the Pacific could be an Ocean of Peace in 2050, and what we needed to do today to realise that vision.

The topics were serious, but there was good cheer and camaraderie as the members of the Pacific security community shared their stories and learnings.

My thanks and gratitude to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of Fiji for their kind and gracious hosting; the 10 partner organisations who did everything to make the conference work; the wise and clever moderators and panellists who taught us; and all the wonderful participants from the Pacific security community who demonstrated that whatever the future may hold, none of us are on our own.

This booklet is a souvenir of that happy gathering, and a resource for the voyage ahead. But more than that, it's a reminder that we're all in this together, and a peaceful and prosperous future in 2050 is there to be won.

With much gratitude,

Professor Dave Peebles
Director
Pacific Security College







WELCOME REMARKS

Prime Minister of Niue
The Honourable Dalton Tagelagi

Salutations

- The Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka
- Government Ministers from fellow Forum members
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa
- Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Senior regional and national officials
- Academics and civil society representatives

Friends, good morning, and welcome to the Pacific Regional and National Security Conference.

The conference gives all of us the opportunity to reflect on what we can do at home, and what we can do as the united Blue Pacific together, to promote security.

I look forward to sharing our journey, and to learning from yours.

We have had a busy year in Niue, thinking about national and regional security.

We launched our National Security Strategy this year. There is a copy of our strategy in each of your conference packs for your homework tonight.

We have also served as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum's committee for security officials. We welcome the regional discussions about the Ocean of Peace, the next steps with the Boe Declaration, and how we can all realise the vision of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*.

Let me begin this important conference by asking, what does security mean to you?

In some ways it's the hardest area of government policy, because it involves so many elements.

Our choices, our actions, on security define the things we value, to ourselves, and to the world.





For Niue, what we value is this.

True security is preserving the precious heritage treasures into which each Pacific citizen is born:

- our people,
- our land,
- our values,
- our culture,
- our spirituality,
- our resources, and
- our oceans.

If we can do that, we believe we will have done right by our children and grandchildren.

We come to learn from your wisdom as well: how you choose the things you value; how you go about protecting them; and how we can all work together to protect the things we value and love as a Pacific family.

How can we turn the dreams we all have for the next generation into a reality?

With that encouragement, I wish you a happy, interesting and successful Pacific Regional and National Security Conference.

God bless you all.





WELCOME SPEECH

“The Ocean of Peace is a shared aspiration, rooted in our traditions and guided by a collective commitment to regional cooperation and stability.”

Prime Minister of Fiji
The Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Civil Service and Public Enterprises

Salutations

- My brother leader, Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi
- Ministers from across our great Blue Pacific
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa
- Fellow members of the Pacific Islands Forum, represented here by Heads of Mission and senior officials
- Heads of CROP agencies and representatives of our regional security organisations
- Sisters and brothers from the Pacific security community
- Academics and civil society representatives

Ni sa bula vinaka!

A very warm welcome back to everyone from the Pacific security community and beyond, gathered here in Suva for this second Pacific Regional and National Security Conference.

A peaceful and prosperous Pacific depends on all of us cooperating and learning from each other.

This is why I am so pleased you have gathered, in a spirit of friendship and shared purpose, to focus this year on the Ocean of Peace concept and to take it further in your discussions.

The timing is critical. For I must unfortunately contest that, for now, the region's outlook is more uncertain than at any time since Fiji's independence.

I believe on Wednesday you will conduct a futures exercise to consider how we can navigate the decades ahead so the Pacific is an Ocean of Peace by 2050.

- What is the end state we would like to see?
- What are the urgent actions we need to take now to realise this future?
- How can we best prepare for the voyage ahead?
- What are the conditions we must face together?



These are the great questions before us if we are to ensure the Pacific is peaceful and prosperous by 2050. We are responsible, today, for the world our children and grandchildren will inherit.

The Pacific Ocean, and Fiji's place in it

But first to go back, to over five centuries ago. On 15 November 1520, long after the first Pacific Islanders had reached this ocean, Ferdinand Magellan sailed into the Mar del Sur and renamed it Mar Pacifico – the Pacific Ocean – because of its calm waters.

Those waters have sustained and linked generations of Pacific people.

However, the waters of the Pacific are not always calm.

This ocean has been a theatre for external wars, it has been treated as a testing ground for the most dangerous weapons, it has swollen because of climate change, and its rich resources are coveted by many.

This is the current reality of the Blue Pacific.

Fiji's Foreign Policy White Paper in 2024 assessed that Fiji's most significant security threat lies in the prospect of a wider region which is riven by division, insecurity and instability.

We decided the most significant contribution Fiji can make to a state of strategic equilibrium, to a stable balance in the broader Indo-Pacific, is to focus on the challenge of peace and security in our own Pacific neighbourhood.

I feel a particular responsibility as the Prime Minister of Fiji.

First, of course, for the sovereignty, security and prosperity of Fiji. But also, for the contribution we can make to the region.

We take that regional role seriously.

So, I am also greatly concerned about the polycrisis before the Blue Pacific, which I talked about at last year's conference.

The global rules-based international order is eroding.

There is growing economic uncertainty throughout the world, and that is felt keenly in our geographically dispersed Pacific states.

The impacts of climate change – rising sea levels, increasingly severe extreme weather events, and changing ecosystems – threaten our ways of life and our very existence in the Blue Pacific.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing undermines our economic security and harms our fragile Pacific environment.

And unfortunately, transnational criminals now criss-cross our Pacific waters. The surge in methamphetamine trafficking and use strains law enforcement and is fuelling a growing public health crisis.

Human security, and the need to lift up our women and children, is an ongoing endeavour.

We also face new challenges – for example Fiji, as a financial and administrative hub of the region, is increasingly becoming a target for cybercrimes. We must be awake to the rapid acceleration of digital technologies and evolving threats.

The Ocean of Peace

That brings me to what we can do as a Pacific family.

I have always believed in a Pacific approach to security, stability and prosperity.

We are stronger when we face our challenges together.

So, at the Pacific Islands Forum in Rarotonga in 2023 I proposed that regional leaders agree on a set of principles that embed peace as the cornerstone of our individual and collective policies.

This is the Ocean of Peace concept.

The Ocean of Peace is a shared aspiration, rooted in our traditions and guided by a collective commitment to regional cooperation and stability. It reaffirms our commitment to ensuring our people can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

The Ocean of Peace is a signal that we seek a region in which strategic competition is managed; where stability is the touchstone of regional relationships; and where coercion is eschewed.

The Ocean of Peace reflects my belief that a united region is a strong region: that when we speak with one voice, our power is magnified.

HON. SITIVENI RABUKA, BARON WAQA & HON. DALTON TAGELAGI



The Ocean of Peace also calls for us to remain committed to development, because lasting peace across our countries requires both national security and national development.

Peace is not something achieved through our police or security forces alone. It also requires families and communities, societies and nations that are built on the foundations of harmony, stability, satisfaction with life, and freedom from want and fear.

The Ocean of Peace Principles

To achieve this, the Ocean of Peace concept draws on foundational tenets of Pacific regionalism. It is our opportunity to weave the threads of our Pacific past with our vision for our Pacific future.

While much work is ongoing, Fiji promotes the Pacific as the Ocean of Peace based on the following 12 principles:

1. A shared commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes based on the Pacific Way.
2. Respect for international law and norms. We recall the United Nations' General Assembly *Declaration on the Rights of People to Peace*, that was adopted on 12 November 1984.
3. Rejection of coercion as a means to achieve security, economic or political advantage.
4. The freedom to determine our own security and strategic policies.
5. Upholding freedom of navigation and overflight.
6. A commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
7. Protecting the maritime environment.
8. A recognition that common challenges require common solutions.
9. Respect for human rights.
10. Support for regional institutions.
11. Calling on external actors to champion rules of responsible, peaceful, deconflicting behaviour.
12. Bringing our people together.



These principles are based on the Pacific Way. The Pacific Way is about these principles as a deed.

They also offer an opportunity for us to set out how we expect those from outside the region to respect our approaches and participate with us. This means respect for the Pacific Way. Respect for norms and the law. No coercion. Protecting the environment. Respect for and embrace of Pacific regionalism.

I also believe through the Ocean of Peace there are opportunities to share Pacific Way successes with the world.

For example, Fiji pioneered the Talanoa Dialogue as a new approach to climate negotiations, with the Pacific concept of *talanoa*, or storytelling, supporting consensus building and decision making.

And it was in 1970, that Fiji's first prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, introduced 'the Pacific Way' at the United Nations General Assembly, setting out Fiji's peaceful transition to independence.

So too can the Ocean of Peace offer a platform to expand concepts central to the Pacific Way with a global audience.

As we speak, officials across the Pacific are working to prepare the Ocean of Peace Declaration for when Prime Minister Tagelagi and I meet with our fellow leaders at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Solomon Islands in September.

I know Minister Shanel, and Prime Minister Manele, will host us very well in the Hapi Isles!

From principles to implementation

Esteemed participants, this is my request of you for this conference.

Realising the Ocean of Peace isn't just a job for our leaders.

It is a shared endeavour involving all of us.

We must work together to safeguard our Blue Pacific, our Ocean of Peace, for this generation and those to come.

My hope is that together, as a Pacific family, we can agree in Honiara on the principles for the Ocean of Peace Declaration.

But then the work falls on all of us for implementation.

Some of the issues you might want to discuss at this conference include:

15

- How can the 'good offices' role of the Forum Secretary General be strengthened to support peace, particularly if there is an issue that threatens the Pacific as an Ocean of Peace?
- How should Forum member countries consult if they are worried about an issue?
- What does the Ocean of Peace mean for our regional architecture? And for the review of the Boe Declaration Action Plan?
- How can our law enforcement agencies and defence forces and regional agencies and secretariats contribute to the Ocean of Peace?
- How can the next generation of national security agreements reflect the Ocean of Peace?
- What can we all do in our countries and our communities to promote peace?

We will look forward to your advice.

A great voyage ahead

Esteemed delegates, Asia has the Shangri-La Dialogue. But the Pacific has the Pacific Regional and National Security Conference!

This is where we will build our mighty *drua*, or *waka*, for the great journey ahead.

The Pacific security community is always welcome here in Fiji. We will be very pleased to have you back in Suva for your important discussions next year. You will be made to feel very welcome!

My best wishes to each of you for a successful conference.

Enjoy the warm hospitality of Fiji.

May God bless Fiji and may God bless the Pacific.

Vinaka vakalevu, thank you.



WELCOME SPEECH

“Let us move forward to shape a peaceful, secure, and resilient Blue Pacific for generations to come.”

Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General
Baron Waqa

Salutations

- Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka
- Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi
- His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of Tonga, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tupoutoʻa ʻUlukalala
- Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation
- Excellencies
- Senior officials
- Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to welcome you all to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for the Pacific Regional and National Security Conference.

I warmly acknowledge our distinguished leaders, national and regional security heads, and our many stakeholders from government, law enforcement, regional agencies, and community-based organisations. Your presence and ongoing leadership underscore the shared responsibility we all carry in ensuring the security of our Blue Pacific Continent.

This conference brings together a broad and essential cross-section of actors from across the Pacific and beyond. All of you, policymakers, practitioners, advisers, analysts and advocates play a critical role in building the foundations of peace and security in our region.

For building a safer Pacific is not the work of one sector or institution. It requires all of us, working in step, to shape a stronger, more inclusive regional security ecosystem that reflects the priorities of our people and the vision of our Leaders.

Today, we gather to reaffirm our collective commitment to the peace, security and prosperity of our Blue Pacific Continent.



In May this year, I attended the 22nd ASEAN Security Summit, also known as the Shangri-La Dialogue.

The discussions were clear and sobering. Conflicts in the Middle East, the war in Eastern Europe, and rising tensions between major powers are reshaping the global security landscape.

These developments are not distant from us. They are already being felt in the Pacific, through economic impacts, rising risks and changing perceptions.

What stood out to me was the strong and repeated message: multilateral engagement is essential.

Leaders and experts called for collaborative and preventative approaches, for better crisis management and cooperative security frameworks.

These are not new ideas for us. They reflect the principles we've long upheld in the Pacific.

But today's global context gives these principles new urgency. We must deepen our own security cooperation.

Progressing a flexible, inclusive and responsive regional security mechanism is critical.

We must also ensure that our regional security architecture delivers real, prevention-focused action. Action that protects lives, upholds peace and strengthens trust among our communities.

As we continue to build our regional security capability, we must also recognise the wider global pressures that are affecting us.

Economic shocks, climate change and unequal development are interconnected pressures that deepen vulnerabilities across the Pacific.

To meet these challenges, we need a unified and holistic approach. One that builds resilience and protects our shared future.

This is why this conference matters.

The Pacific Regional and National Security Conference is a key platform that brings together leaders, policymakers and security professionals from across our Forum membership and partners.

It provides a valuable opportunity to share insights, align strategies, and strengthen our collective resolve to respond to regional security issues.

This conference fosters trust and supports coordination. It helps us build security solutions that are coherent, inclusive, and grounded in the Pacific Way.

It is through gatherings like this, we lay the foundation for a resilient and secure Blue Pacific.

As we embark on our discussions, it is timely to reflect on our progress in implementing the Boe Declaration.

The Boe Declaration Action Plan gives practical effect to the *2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.

It reinforces our expanded concept of security, one that includes human security, humanitarian assistance, and environmental security.

As we review the implementation, we can see real progress in regional cooperation and national preparedness.

We acknowledge the efforts to strengthen national security approaches and foster secure domestic environments. These national efforts are the foundation for collective security across the Blue Pacific.

The Action Plan has also shown the value of innovation and adaptability. We must continue to evolve, responding to new challenges with resilience, confidence and foresight.

Today, we acknowledge the progress on the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration.

Inspired by the Honourable Prime Minister of Fiji and directed by our Leaders at the 52nd meeting in Rarotonga, this initiative aims to solidify our region as an Ocean of Peace, guided by trust, dialogue and shared responsibility.

As the Prime Minister of Fiji has outlined, the Ocean of Peace Declaration offers us a principled foundation, anchored in sovereignty, resilience, inclusion, and regional solidarity.

It is more than a statement. It is a pledge to lead with peace. To embed it across our institutions, invest in conflict prevention, and protect our people and our environment.

Our region's commitment to peace is not new.

The Rarotonga Treaty remains a powerful symbol of our leadership and



unity. It reflects the Pacific's moral clarity in pursuing disarmament and our shared stand against nuclear threats.

This commitment continues to guide our regional security approach and is an enduring example of the Pacific speaking with one voice on global issues.

Through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, we stand ready to support our members to bring the vision of an Ocean of Peace to life.

As we move forward, let us embrace our shared responsibility to sustain peace and stability.

Let us keep building a robust and transparent regional security architecture that meets the needs of our members, empowers our people and reflects Pacific-led decision making.

In closing, I acknowledge the Pacific Security College for organising this important meeting and I urge us all to think boldly and act collaboratively as we map out our steps towards a secure and prosperous future for the Pacific.

Let us build on the foundation of the Boe Declaration Action Plan and the intention of the Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration.

Let us move forward together to shape a peaceful, secure and resilient Blue Pacific for generations to come.

Thank you.



KEY OBSERVATIONS

Pacific Regional and National Security Conference A dialogue about Pacific security cooperation to 2050

14–16 July 2025
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Suva, Fiji



Ni sa bula

Overview

1. In a spirit of cooperation and unity, the Pacific security community gathered for the second Pacific Regional and National Security Conference (PRNSC) in Suva, Fiji, from 14–16 July 2025.
2. The conference brought together political and official-level representatives from across the membership of the Pacific Islands Forum, and senior officials from 11 partner organisations: the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), the Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Fusion Centre (PFC), Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON), Pacific Security College (PSC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) – highlighting the strength and solidarity of the Pacific's security efforts.
3. Alongside USP, representatives from many national universities and think tanks joined the conference to discuss perspectives from the policy and academic communities, and the conference welcomed the vital contribution of civil society representatives. A number of Forum Dialogue Partner countries were also represented, including India, Indonesia, Japan, and the United States.

Strategic context

4. In his opening address, Prime Minister of Fiji, the Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka reminded the conference that the polycrisis of geopolitical competition and conflict, the erosion of the rules-based order, and climate- and disaster-induced security threats were all front of mind for Pacific Island Leaders - given their potential impact on peace and security in the Pacific. Prime Minister Rabuka also stated that the Ocean of Peace Declaration would form a critical part of the region's approach to preventing conflict and instability, positioning the Pacific well to maintain peace and security into the future.
5. The Prime Minister of Niue, the Honourable Dalton Tagelagi highlighted that true security would require preserving the precious heritage treasures into which each Pacific citizen was born: our people, land, values, culture, spirituality, resources and oceans.
6. Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General Baron Waqa also highlighted the need for the region's security effort to align to the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. The conference also heard the review of regional architecture would ensure the Pacific Islands Forum became a 'future-ready' regional organisation, able to address critical challenges in years to come.

CONFERENCE
STATEMENT



Security threats and responses

7. During the *Political leaders on Pacific peace, security and defence panel*, the conference was reminded of the need for the Pacific's collective security efforts to be driven by Pacific values; that our people remain our biggest strength when it comes to maintaining peace and security; and that our regional security structures must be owned and driven by the Pacific, and not externally imposed.
8. In the *Political leaders on climate change panel*, the conference heard that climate change remains the single greatest security threat to the Pacific, and that the window for adaptation was "quickly closing". The Pacific Resilience Facility was raised as having the potential to alleviate community impacts of climate change and disasters; while ongoing multilateral processes were seen as critical in addressing the causes of climate change – including seeking an Advisory Opinion on the obligations of states in respect of climate change through the International Court of Justice. Similarly, participants highlighted the opportunity of Australia hosting COP31 in partnership with the Pacific.
9. A number of Forum Dialogue Partner country representatives discussed the role they played as external partners in upholding Pacific peace and security. They recognised that the Ocean of Peace Declaration would make a positive contribution to Pacific peace and security, and models for maintaining peace from other regions, such as ASEAN, were raised. The dialogue partner country representatives also encouraged the Pacific to articulate its priorities to all partners with a united voice, and there was indication that partners were listening and ready to support the Pacific, where appropriate.
10. The importance of addressing transnational crime as a critical and immediate threat to the region was raised – while also acknowledging the varying experiences and challenges that countries faced. The growing societal and public health impacts of the methamphetamine crisis in Fiji and a growing number of other Pacific Island countries was raised, requiring forward-looking national and regional interventions,

informed by evidence-based analysis and policy interventions. The need for a cross-sectoral approach to transnational crime, that included public health and traditional and cultural structures was also raised.

11. Linked to this, maritime security, while a long-standing element of security across the Pacific, was highlighted by participants as requiring special attention and strategic oversight in coming years, given the impacts of climate change on the ocean; the changing nature of illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, transnational crime occurring across maritime boundaries, and the potential for deep sea mining to divide Pacific countries.
12. Participants heard that human security had a number of elements; however, it was fundamentally about ensuring that human rights could be fulfilled, and that the conditions were in place for all people to have full participation in society. The role of youth, and leadership, were raised as vital elements in maintaining human security. The role of women in peace and security was also emphasised as a critical ongoing enabler and contributor to the achievement of peace and security across the region, and while there were some gains in women's representation in the sector, participants heard that much more needed to be done.
13. Similarly, cybersecurity threats and the malicious use of ICT was highlighted by the conference as a priority security threat for all Forum member countries – given that these undermine global peace and security, adversely impact economic growth and sustainable development, and hinder the full enjoyment of human rights. It was noted that these issues require an immediate policy response, legislative change, infrastructure and national resourcing. There were calls for strengthened collaboration amongst governments and for more cross-regional partnerships to be established, given the cross-boundary nature of ICTs. Increased public-private partnerships and genuine multi-stakeholder engagement was also called for.

National security

23

14. Conference participants shared their experiences on the measures being undertaken to strengthen national security – including updating legislation and policy, strengthening technological capability, investing in training and infrastructure, and building regional and global partnerships.
15. Participants emphasised the importance of drawing on traditional knowledge, languages and cultural and spiritual values to navigate a dynamic present and future, while maintaining national sovereignty amidst regional cooperation and commitment. The participation of youth and civil society in strengthening national security, and the critical importance of the inclusion of women in all their diversity and persons with disabilities was also raised.
16. A number of Forum member representatives highlighted the benefit of having national security strategies, and it was reported that the number of national security strategies in place had increased – from three in 2018 to 13 in 2025 – with a number of others in train. To that end, the conference congratulated:
 - Fiji – for the approval by Government of its National Security Strategy 2025-2029.
 - Niue – for the launch of its National Security Strategy 2025-2029.
 - Papua New Guinea – for the National Executive Council approval of the Papua New Guinea National Security Policy 2024-2029; and the establishment of the new national security architecture – inclusive of the National Security Agency as the coordinating body for the national security sector.
 - The Republic of the Marshall Islands – for launching its initial draft National Security Strategy and establishing the legislative foundation for its national security architecture.
 - Solomon Islands – for the launch of its National Security Strategy 2025-2028.
 - Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu – for starting the process of developing their national security strategies and architecture.

Regional security

Boe Declaration Action Plan Review

17. Conference participants heard that gender and social inclusion, human rights and cultural protection should all be strengthened within the refreshed Boe Declaration Action Plan. The Action Plan needed to draw on traditional knowledge and work holistically with cultural systems and traditional leaders to address security issues. Participants also raised the need to strengthen the regional architecture, particularly by putting forward more binding agreements between Forum countries, including treaties.

Ocean of Peace

18. Participants considered the Ocean of Peace across the breadth of the conference. It was seen as a valuable contribution to supporting long-term peace and security in the Pacific, but the need to ensure complementarity with existing frameworks was highlighted, as was the need for the provision of time and space for the effective implementation of existing commitments.
19. Participants heard the Ocean of Peace needed to acknowledge and address a “crisis of disempowerment” among Pacific Island people, by restoring agency to communities and civil society in general; strengthening cultures; and strengthening governance and accountability. It was stated the region already had powerful instruments on which the Ocean of Peace could be built – including the *Treaty of Rarotonga* and the Biketawa and Boe Declarations; but importantly, the Ocean of Peace concept needed to streamline and strengthen, not complicate or duplicate, these existing arrangements, and the regional security architecture more broadly.

Regional security architecture

20. Amidst the review of regional architecture, the conference also highlighted the benefit of enhanced cooperation and coordination across the region’s agencies – particularly to ensure greater cohesion and alignment to Forum Leaders’ decisions, given members’ preference for a Forum-first approach to regional security. The conference acknowledged the contribution of regional security and law enforcement secretariats to national and regional security.
21. Conference participants noted the value of regional *talanoa* like the Pacific Regional and National Security Conference and the *Pacific Dialogue* hosted by the University of the South Pacific – as opportunities for frank and free dialogue to inform and shape regional security policy and action.

Regional policy considerations

22. Drawing from the three days of discussion, several considerations arose which may have utility for ongoing Forum policy processes. These are presented here for consideration:

Ocean of Peace:

- Ensure the Ocean of Peace implementation plan and the updated Boe Declaration Action Plan are fully aligned.
- Consider the following measures as part of the implementation of the Ocean of Peace:
 - similar to the *Biketawa Declaration*, a ‘good offices’ role for the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum
 - a commitment to consultations with fellow Forum members on major security developments
 - a regular Forum meeting to convene critical interlocutors for dialogue to maintain and promote peace
 - further resources for the security team at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat



- further discussion about how the Pacific security community can contribute to the Ocean of Peace, including through the next generation of national security strategies.
- Develop a Pacific definition of Peace, and a Pacific Peace Index.

Boe Declaration Action Plan Review:

- Ensure the updated Action Plan contains measures that promote: women, peace and security; maritime security; human rights; and cultural security.

Review of the Regional Architecture:

- Strengthen regional security cooperation through more binding agreements and arrangements between Forum member countries, including treaty-level agreements.
- Consider how the Forum Officials Sub-committee on Regional Security (FSRS) can be fit for purpose for the next phase of Pacific security cooperation.

Conclusion

23. The conference participants and organisers sincerely thank the Government and people of Fiji for their warm hospitality and support. We also sincerely thank Secretary General Waqa and the Forum Secretariat team for making the Forum Secretariat's facilities available for the conference, and for their broader support to the 2025 Pacific Regional and National Security Conference.

Vinaka vakalevu





POLITICAL LEADERS ON PACIFIC PEACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE

“The Ocean of Peace is like a beacon of light. It is important for us to see the Ocean of Peace made up of principles that will guide our relationships and allow us collectively to navigate a challenging international system.”

The Honourable Peter Shanel Agovaka,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands

SESSIONS

“Let’s get all our national priorities, our national strategies together and let our Secretariat work and design a framework that suits and helps everyone, a big blue Pacific continent family.”

The Honourable Dalton Tagelagi, Prime Minister of Niue

The work of the conference began with several Ministers sharing their wisdom on security issues. The leaders discussed the challenges and the opportunities of the current, highly fluid situation. They called for regional unity, a stronger homegrown security framework, and peace rooted in Pacific values to be at the heart of the region’s responses to the challenges ahead.

Leaders identified a range of security and security-related challenges as being priority issues for the Pacific, requiring urgent action. These included: natural disasters; geostrategic competition; protection of borders, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and natural resources; cybercrime; food security; illegal drugs; disease; and problems relating to underdevelopment, including youth unemployment and urban drift.

Climate change was a particular focus both as an existential threat for many small Pacific countries and as a security issue for the wider region. This was because of the instability caused by displacement, resource scarcity and environmental degradation. In many instances the challenges were overlapping and cascading.

The leaders said while the challenges facing the region might be daunting, they should not hold Pacific Islanders back from working on solutions. It was essential to take a people-centred approach and build on the natural bonds that already united the region. Pacific security should be grounded in shared values, relationships and trusted institutions.

The panel discussed the importance of national security strategies in focusing thinking on how to address the challenges. Well-considered strategies helped governments prioritise initiatives and expenditure and enhance coordination both domestically and regionally.

Leaders agreed it was important to be proactive in safeguarding sovereignty and national and regional interests. There was a recognition that traditional security agencies – defence, police and border control – could play a constructive role in addressing both traditional and broader security concerns. This included human security in its many forms.

Leaders saw the Ocean of Peace concept as a set of guiding principles – a ‘beacon of light’ – that would help Pacific Islanders navigate a challenging international environment and live their lives in freedom and safety. It could focus on maritime security and strengthening regional cooperation through mechanisms such as the Biketawa and Boe Declarations, the Joint Heads of Pacific Security Forum (JHoPS), the South Pacific Defence Ministers’ Meeting (SPDMM), and the emerging Pacific Response Group. It could also contribute to the reform of the existing regional architecture and the implementation of already agreed strategies to address shared challenges and opportunities.

The ultimate aim should continue to be Pacific-led security architecture rooted in culture, cooperation and the enduring strength of regional solidarity.







HON. DALTON TAGELAGI, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE TUPUTO'A 'ULUKALALA, HON. PIO TIKODUADUA, HON. DR BILLY JOSEPH & HON. PETER SHANEL AGOVAKA
 MODERATOR: MS. ANNA NAUPA



POLITICAL LEADERS ON CLIMATE SECURITY

“If we do not take action now, the stability, security, and development gains we’ve made over the last 50 years could all be lost.”

The Honourable Professor Biman Prasad,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and National Planning, Fiji





PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE



PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE



A DIALOGUE



“Our collective and united voice will carry more weight than our individual fragmented voices.”

The Honourable Tingika Elikana,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cook Islands

The climate security panel called for urgent reform to climate finance and increased regional cooperation. As highlighted in the 2025 Pacific Security Outlook Report and in many studies and assessments, climate change remains the Pacific’s greatest security challenge. For some states and areas, it could lead to depopulation. For the region as a whole, it threatens all the development gains of the past 50 years.

The conference heard there has been some positive international progress on climate change action in recent years. The International Court of Justice legal case has united the Pacific and the judgment should be the basis for further coordinated action. The creation of the Loss and Damage Fund in 2022 and the prospect of a substantial New Collective Quantified Goal could help address serious financing shortfalls. The Pacific had been influential in advocating for these and other initiatives because it had spoken with a collective and united voice. The close cooperation on the ICJ case had set the tone for the Pacific’s advocacy in the future. And participants highlighted the opportunities that might arise for the region as a whole from Australia hosting COP31 in partnership with the Pacific.

But leaders argued the world is failing the Pacific Island countries and other vulnerable states on climate finance. Action had to happen now. The Pacific’s development partners needed to speak in similar terms to the Pacific in advocating for increased support. There was a narrow window available for adaptation; for some states and regions it may already be too late to avoid serious social dislocation. The financing needs for adaptation were beyond the capacity of Pacific governments. The international community had to significantly increase the pool of funds available and the capacity of the Pacific to quickly access them.

Other actions discussed by the panel included deeper regional integration, a Pacific Development Bank, and greater mobility frameworks, allowing for the free movement of people.

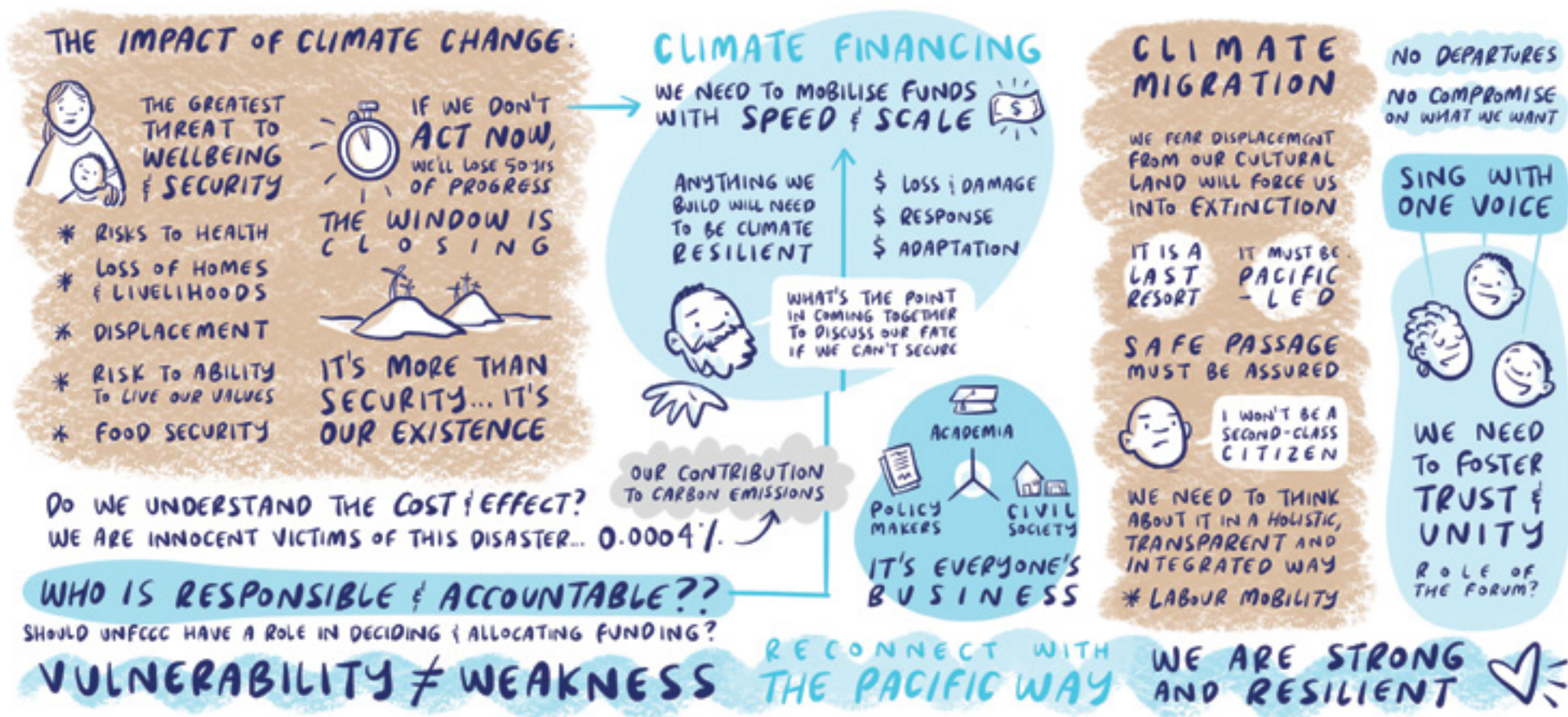
The panel concluded the Pacific Island Forum needed to take an even stronger leadership role on coordinating migration and displacement policy, and lobbying for stronger international responses. This should be reflected in the values of the Ocean of Peace proposal along with a shared commitment to “Pacific-led, Pacific-owned” approaches to climate change.







HON. PROF. BIMAN PRASAD, HON. DR. MAINA TALIA, HON. TINGIKA ELIKANA, HON. PAULA PIVENI PIUKALA



DIPLOMATS ON PARTNERSHIPS IN A TIME OF DISRUPTION

Senior diplomats from many of the region's most important partners outlined how they were partnering with Pacific countries, as part of their strong ongoing commitment to peace and security in the region.

Focus areas included: capacity building, notably in health; as well as infrastructure (including roads, bridges and medical facilities); technology; maritime resources, such as in fisheries and addressing coastal erosion; and climate change adaptation and readiness. Responding to disasters both with immediate aid and through resilience development was also a donor priority. Technological expertise in meteorological satellite imagery, connectivity (such as undersea cables) and cyber were also important areas of partnership, allowing domestic agencies to draw on top-level expertise and data.

Panel members highlighted the importance of individual nations and the region collectively being clear about their priorities. This would lead to better targeting of assistance.



Partner governments also discussed how key security issues, such as transnational crime, could be managed most effectively through international cooperation and inclusive processes. It was clear that no one country, big or small, could respond to many existing and emerging problems on their own. Ongoing dialogue and regular meetings were a key element of effective responses. The experiences and lessons learned from other regions could help Pacific Island countries work more effectively together for better results.

The diplomats also offered their thoughts on amplifying Pacific voices. The ASEAN model, with its guiding treaty and centrality of mutual respect, was suggested as one option for Pacific cooperation and diplomacy. Partner countries strongly emphasised the value of the multilateral system for the Pacific. The voices of regional countries were amplified in the UN system and international agencies if the region speaks in a united voice.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SUNEET MEHTA, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ROKUICHIRO MICHII, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DUPITO DARMA SIMAMORA, MR. KELLY BUSBY

PARTNERING TO REALISE THE 2050 STRATEGY



GEOPOLITICS - LESSONS LEARNED



PEACE & STABILITY



OCEAN OF PEACE



TRANS-NATIONAL CRIME



TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND NATIONAL SECURITY: THE METHAMPHETAMINE CRISIS

“If we do not start thinking regionally and resourcing locally, we are going to lose this fight. The meth trade is outpacing our current responses.”

Ms Virginia Comolli, Head of the Pacific Programme at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

“The 2050 Strategy gives us the vision, but now we need the tools. That includes real-time data, harm reduction programs, and law enforcement that works with, not against, health interventions.”

Dr Jason Mitchell, Chairperson,
Fiji National HIV Outbreak Cluster Response Taskforce

The conference heard the Pacific was becoming a more important transit point for illegal drug smuggling, and dangerous illegal drugs were increasingly gaining a hold among domestic users. Methamphetamine use, in particular, had become a crisis in some Pacific countries, threatening the social fabric, health systems and security infrastructure. This was fuelling criminal networks and had the potential to spread further.

Law enforcement was having some success with major interdictions in recent years of methamphetamines, cocaine and other illegal drugs. But the situation posed huge challenges for under-resourced agencies. Panellists said the criminal networks running the illegal drug trade through and in the Pacific Islands region were increasingly sophisticated and diversified. They were also adept at exploiting vulnerabilities by networking themselves into local politics in the region.

The human cost of drug use in the Pacific was growing, particularly among youth. It was no longer a fringe issue and was linked to rising HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and domestic violence. Communities were breaking down under the weight of untreated addiction and disease. The spread of HIV in Fiji was of grave concern and had spiked in recent years. This should serve as a warning signal to other countries in the region, which should take measures now to avoid heading down the same path.



The session highlighted the importance of integrated strategies, community education, intelligence sharing, and stronger cross-border enforcement to disrupt criminal networks. But more tools were needed, including real-time data and harm reduction programs, and greater engagement by law enforcement with health interventions.

Panellists noted that a useful and practical step would be to harmonise illegal drug legislation across the region. Greater regional solidarity and cooperation would minimise the ability of criminal syndicates to exploit gaps and differences in national legal regimes. Traditional security agencies had a vital role to play, but the problem was not only a law enforcement issue. The challenge needed to be addressed by involving and strengthening the capacity of civil society. This included non-government organisations, the media, traditional leaders and churches. Together this would ensure a whole-of-society, Pacific-led and Pacific-designed approach to the challenge.



COMMISSIONER RUSIATE TUDRUVU, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DONALD YAMASOMBI, ASS'T COMMISSIONER NIGEL RYAN, DR JASON MITCHELL & MS. VIRGINIA COMOLLI



A WHOLE OF COMMUNITY APPROACH - THE PACIFIC WAY

WE CAN'T ARREST OUR WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM... SO HOW CAN WE DISRUPT IT?

TRENDS IN NATIONAL SECURITY

“Governments can set policy priorities and objectives, but it takes the whole country to be able to implement to give effect to policies on the ground. It just underscores the need for us to be as inclusive as possible and make sure that everyone is involved in the development of policy, and everyone knows what specific role they can play in terms of ensuring both national and regional security.”

Mr Viliame Bovoro, Director, Pacific Fusion Centre



The Boe Declaration on Regional Security Action Plan encouraged Forum members to develop national security strategies and supporting arrangements to coordinate domestic and regional security efforts. When the Boe Declaration was announced in 2019, only three Forum member countries had developed national security strategies; now, the number of regional countries that had strategies, or were in the process of developing them, had risen to 13.

Panellists shared their experiences in developing the next generation of strategies. Niue and Solomon Islands had recently launched their strategies; Fiji had finalised its strategy but, at the time of the conference, had not yet launched it; the Republic of the Marshall Islands had passed framework legislation for its national security architecture, and was proceeding to develop its strategies.





The conference heard there was considerable overlap in the key security challenges faced by countries across the region. Climate change and its impacts, transnational crime, cybersecurity, threats to the maritime environment, and health security were all identified as common and significant security issues. Panellists shared their view that the Pacific was in a state of constant change with more actors, both state and non-state, seeking to play roles.

It was important to focus on both state-centric notions of security, and on human security. Culture and identity were critical in facing the challenges confronting the region. Strategies must address the needs of communities and individuals.

To this end, panellists underlined the importance of broad community consultation in the preparation of national security strategies. This ensured they reflected local priorities and embedded strong local ownership. Security was a whole-of-nation challenge, not simply one that could be addressed by formal security agencies alone.

While individual strategies should address local priorities, they should not be developed in isolation. It was vital that strategies dovetailed into an overall regional approach to security. This would help promote the sharing of knowledge, cooperation and interoperability among Forum member countries. Forum members had an appetite for collaboration and cooperation.



MS. PELENI TALAGI, MR. ANTHONY KIVOLYN, MS. SAINITIKI RAVUSO, MR. CHRISTOPHER deBRUM, & MR. VILLAME BOVORO

NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES



CAPACITY BUILDING
• COEs • TRAINING • PEER TO PEER

CONSTANT CHANGE & COMPLEXITY
MEAN ALL THESE ISSUES ARE WORSENING



CAPACITY — AMBITION
— WE DO HAVE TO BE REALISTIC —

IF WE TRULY WANT
TO BE PACIFIC LED
& OWNED, WE MUST
HAVE SOME SKIN
IN THE GAME AT
A REGIONAL LEVEL
(NOT JUST RELYING ON
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS)



WE NEED TO
BRING IT BACK
TO THE HUMAN
ELEMENT

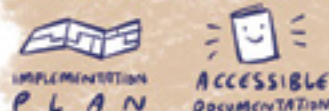
NOT JUST THE
STATE, BUT THE
INDIVIDUAL

NOT ANOTHER
WORKING GROUP



UTILISE EXISTING
STRUCTURES

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT



INCLUSION & OWNERSHIP

WHAT ARE THE
PRIORITIES
FOR US?



WE DON'T HAVE THE
RESOURCES FOR
DUPLICATION
↳ DIVISION OF LABOUR?

PRIORITIES/ LEARNINGS

MAINTAINING
MOMENTUM

FLEXIBILITY

RESOURCING
(THE RIGHT FIT)

SOPs

TRAINING for
IMPLEMENTATION

REGIONAL
COMMITMENTS

FIT FOR YOUR
CONTEXT

COORDINATION

INCLUSIVITY
EVERYONE
CONTRIBUTES &
KNOWS THEIR ROLE



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

“Our traditional view of security has always been from a male perspective, and now this is an opportunity for us, women and minority groups, to have a platform to raise and to also address security issues from a female perspective.”

Deputy Commissioner Papāli'i Monalisa Tia'i-Keti, Samoa Police Service

Panellists discussed the need to increase the rate of engagement of women in Pacific security agencies. More women were becoming involved, but progress was still too slow. Women needed to be better represented at all levels in national security organisations across the region. Greater diversity would lead to improved insights into policymaking and more effective strategies.

Panellists also spoke of their experiences in seeking to engage fully as professionals while retaining their identities as Pacific women. These shouldn't be incompatible. Having more Pacific women in security-oriented agencies, in particular the police, would contribute to making women feel safe and secure at home. Domestic violence rates in Pacific societies were too high and damaging communities. Studies showed as many as two out of three women reported incidents of violence. Bringing these rates down was imperative for the region's overall security.



50 Women in Pacific security agencies faced many challenges. These included gender bias and workplace harassment. Often when women were present their voices were not heard or acknowledged. In many cases internal processes hindered progress and made it harder for women to lodge complaints and suggestions about organisational and staffing issues. Women could be influential and bring about significant cultural change, even when not in leadership positions.

More women needed to be included in planning, decision-making and implementation, and national security strategies needed to strongly recognise the role of women. But there was already a noticeable gap between existing legislation and policies, and the reality of the situation. Panellists argued men and women across the Pacific needed to stand up and call out failings in the system and bad behaviour in the workplace. Male champions for change should be more prominent in providing leadership. There were many contradictory messages playing out publicly and in the workplace. This made it far too complex for women and men to navigate the workplace, including for younger women trying to find their way.



MRS. LITEA SERVIRATU, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MS. PAPĀLI'Ī MONALISA, ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MRS. JILL ROGERS, & MS. SHAMIMA ALI









MARITIME AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PANEL

“We cannot remain passive and let these decisions be made by others, because our future is intrinsically tied to global decisions about what we want to do on the ocean.”

Dr Filimon Manoni, Pacific Ocean Commissioner

Panellists called for bold, collective leadership, underpinned by the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* and the Boe Declaration, to protect the Pacific’s maritime and environmental resources. They warned the region’s security, food systems and livelihoods were under growing threat from climate change, illegal fishing and deep-sea exploitation.

Participants heard the fisheries industry was of immense value to the Pacific, both for food security and its significant contribution to regional economies. Collectively, about 26,000 to 28,000 Pacific Islanders were employed in fishing: with overall export revenue of about US\$1 billion. This could increase three- to four-fold in coming decades if good management practices were put in place. Pacific leaders should drive new approaches to sustainable fisheries management, which would be regionally designed and enforced. Innovative investments, including in more downstream processing, would extract more export value from fisheries for Pacific states.



PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE

DIALOGUE
ABOUT
SECURITY
RATINGS



PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE



56 Panellists warned that current trends in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the impacts of climate change, could undermine this potential and destabilise Pacific economies if not addressed.

To counter such threats the Pacific needed to be prominent in global forums and resource negotiations. The region had been well served in recent decades by the multilateral and regional institutions and frameworks that govern maritime and environmental resources. This began with the 1982 United Nations *Convention on the Law of the Sea* and continued with regional and domestic legislation and processes. Pacific-led initiatives and partnerships focused on ocean conservation and sustainable marine management were vital, including those underway in the Cook Islands, Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Pacific Island countries needed to continue to work as one in global forums and resource negotiations to lobby for and unlock climate financing for vital adaptation programs. Innovative approaches, such as regional parametric insurance mechanisms (a specialised form of insurance for disasters), should also be pursued to buffer against climate shocks. And traditional knowledge should be integrated into new scientific methods and processes.

Pacific-led enforcement and coordinated implementation across regional governments and ministries was critical. Seabed mining had become a contentious issue in the Pacific and was an example of an issue that could undermine regional cooperation and consensus on maritime policy. A high-level *talanoa* on seabed mining convened earlier this year would report to Forum Leaders and hopefully provide a way forward.

The panel concluded that achieving an Ocean of Peace required robust Pacific-led legal, policy and enforcement frameworks, grounded in traditional knowledge, and powered by collective action.



MR. NOAN PAKOP, DR. FILMON MANONI, DR. RAJELI TAGA & MR. AMENA YAUVOLO



FISHERIES



SUSTAINABLY MANAGE SO OUR PEOPLE CAN ENJOY THE BENEFIT

WE ARE MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER

INNOVATION

↑ REVENUE ↑ EMPLOYMENT

INITIATIVES E.G. DOWNSTREAM PROCESSING & COOPERATION

UNIFIED REGIONAL RESPONSE

SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY, PROSPERITY

PACIFIC COOPERATION

1982 CONVENTION:
THE LAW OF THE SEA



FRAMEWORK FOR PEACEFUL
USE OF OCEAN SPACES

MULTI-LATERAL
APPROACH



GENUINE
PARTNERSHIPS

- NATIONAL
- REGIONAL
- GLOBAL

WE MUST
ALL FIGHT
TOGETHER



THE STAKES ARE
TOO HIGH



LAND & SEA ARE
WITHIN US



UNITE AS
ONE PACIFIC
VOICE

SDG 14 IS THE
LOWEST FUNDED

WE
ARE
ONE

WE
C
TALANOA

WE MUST
TAKE THE
REIGNS

WE
C
SHARE

THE
PACIFIC
WAY

REGIONAL
TREATIES &
AGREEMENTS



COMING TOGETHER
TO EFFECTIVELY
MANAGE OUR
RESOURCES

OCEAN = 65-75% NATIONAL BUDGETS

WE CAN'T BE
PASSIVE.

WE MUST TAKE
LEADERSHIP.



YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE GAME TO MAKE CHANGES.

WORK TOGETHER
TO REDUCE INSURANCE
PREMIUMS



RELOCATION
PLANS



GHG
EMISSIONS

WE MUST
DEMAND
CHANGE

UNLESS WE ADDRESS POLLUTION, NOTHING WILL CHANGE



THE BOE DECLARATION AND BEYOND

“We’re not defending culture with guns.
We’re defending a way of life with our actions,
words, and intergenerational continuity.”

Ms Anna Naupu, PhD scholar, Australian National University,
and former Associate Director of the Pacific Fusion Centre

Updating and strengthening 2018’s *Boe Declaration on Regional Security Action Plan* would be an opportunity to deepen the relevance of the Declaration in the lives of Pacific Islanders. Aligning the Declaration with the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* would ensure it better reflected Pacific systems, peoples and priorities.

Panellists recommended several priority areas for updating the Boe Declaration, many framed against the backdrop of climate change threats. These included:

- Broadening the Declaration’s relevance to the role of women in the field of peace and security.
- Formalising a Forum approach to human rights in the Declaration. This could potentially include a formal regional human rights mechanism.





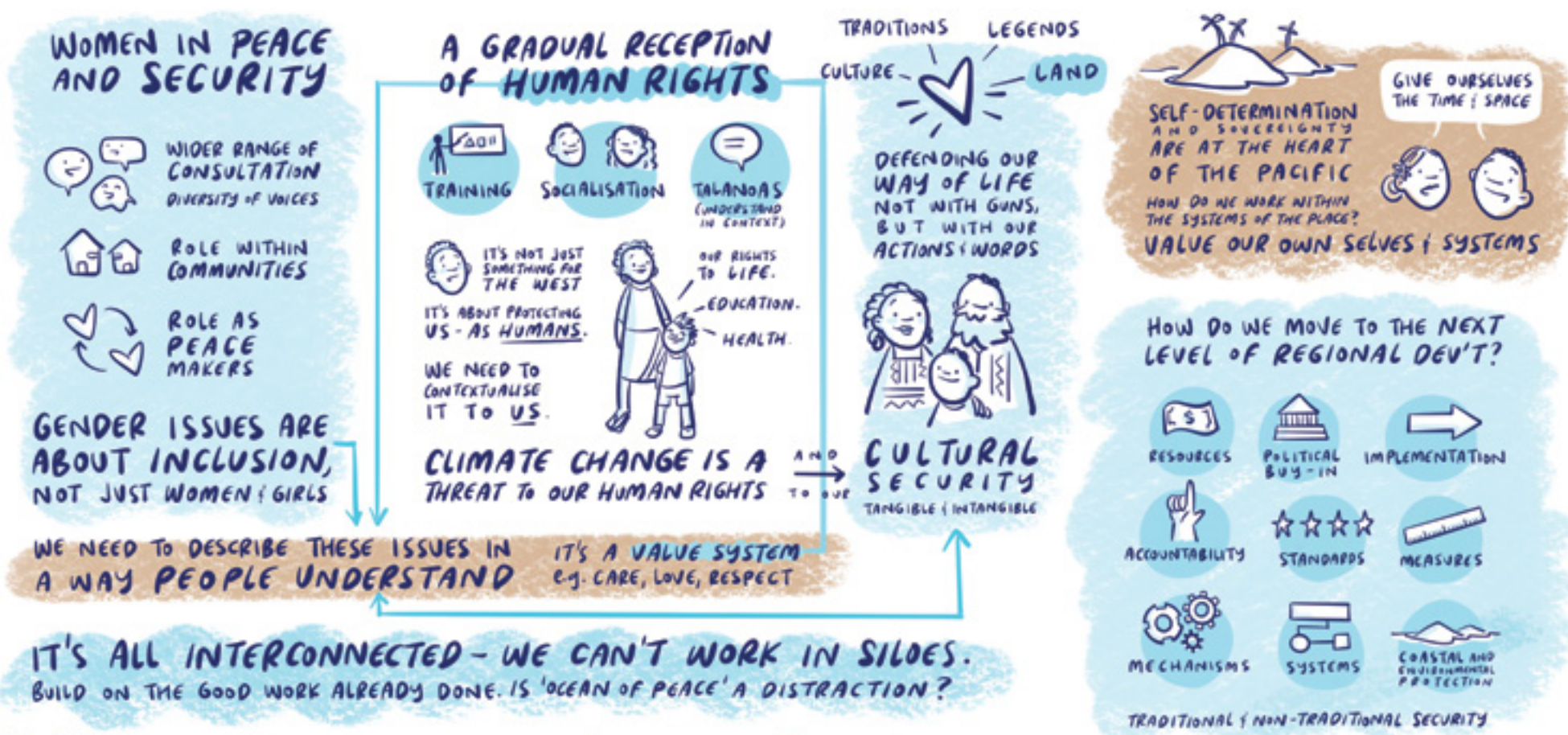
- Acknowledging how much more needed to be done to address the legacy of armed conflict, particularly unexploded ordnance. This should involve deeper cooperation across the Pacific, including donor support, regional security partnerships, better resourcing of local clearance teams, and linkages between UXO remediation and broader environmental security and ocean conservation frameworks.
- Emphasising the essential role of cultural security, cultural self-determination and cultural sovereignty as the foundation of Pacific Islanders' sense of security and identity, and consequently of their ability to be in control of their own destinies particularly in the face of climate change. It was noted that cultural security was strongly recognised by the Melanesian Spearhead Group in its Treaty on Traditional Knowledge.
- Providing a better understanding of the nexus between climate change and conflict in the region.

One challenge was that while the Boe Declaration highlighted growing geostrategic competition in the region, it provided little guidance on how this might be managed in reality. A case in point was the test firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific in 2024, which would have justified a unified response by Forum members.

It was also suggested that the Boe Declaration might usefully be upgraded from a non-binding aspiration to a legally enforceable regional treaty to better respond to challenging issues such as transnational crime, gender-based violence and climate displacement. And should Forum Leaders agree to a new Ocean of Peace declaration, it would need to complement the task of deepening and furthering the aims of the Boe Declaration.



DR. FIONA HUKULA, SENIOR SERGEANT PETER RIRIVERE, MS. ANNA NAUPA & MR. ROMULO NAYACALEVU



HUMAN SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

“We must be uncompromising in demanding what is needed by communities.”

Ms Vani Catanasiga, Executive Director, Fiji Council of Social Services

Panellists discussed how the Pacific region can best complement national security and humanitarian assistance efforts. Human security was an increasingly important part of national security planning and the recently published national security strategies. This was a strength of the Pacific region where security involves a holistic approach – with a focus on community, health, access to food and culture.

The conference heard the Pacific would face new and more intense human security and humanitarian challenges, particularly in the face of climate change, which would reach into all pockets of Pacific life. The complexity, scope and interconnectedness of human security issues was set to grow, making it critical for leaders and planners to think across many sectors. Many national, regional and international interventions were already taking place in the Pacific and these were set to increase significantly. Sustainability needed to be taken into account in all such interventions.

Health was a key area for action, with knock-on effects taking a terrible toll on communities. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were estimated to be causing as many as 70% of deaths in the region. Improvements could be made, but Pacific governments and people had to drive that work. Harnessing data and using it for powerful storytelling could be effective as a community health tool, as it was proving to be in climate change.

Respect for human rights was also identified as a priority for human security planning. A productive and secure Pacific depended on peoples being treated with dignity and given the freedom to fully and safely participate in the economy and society.

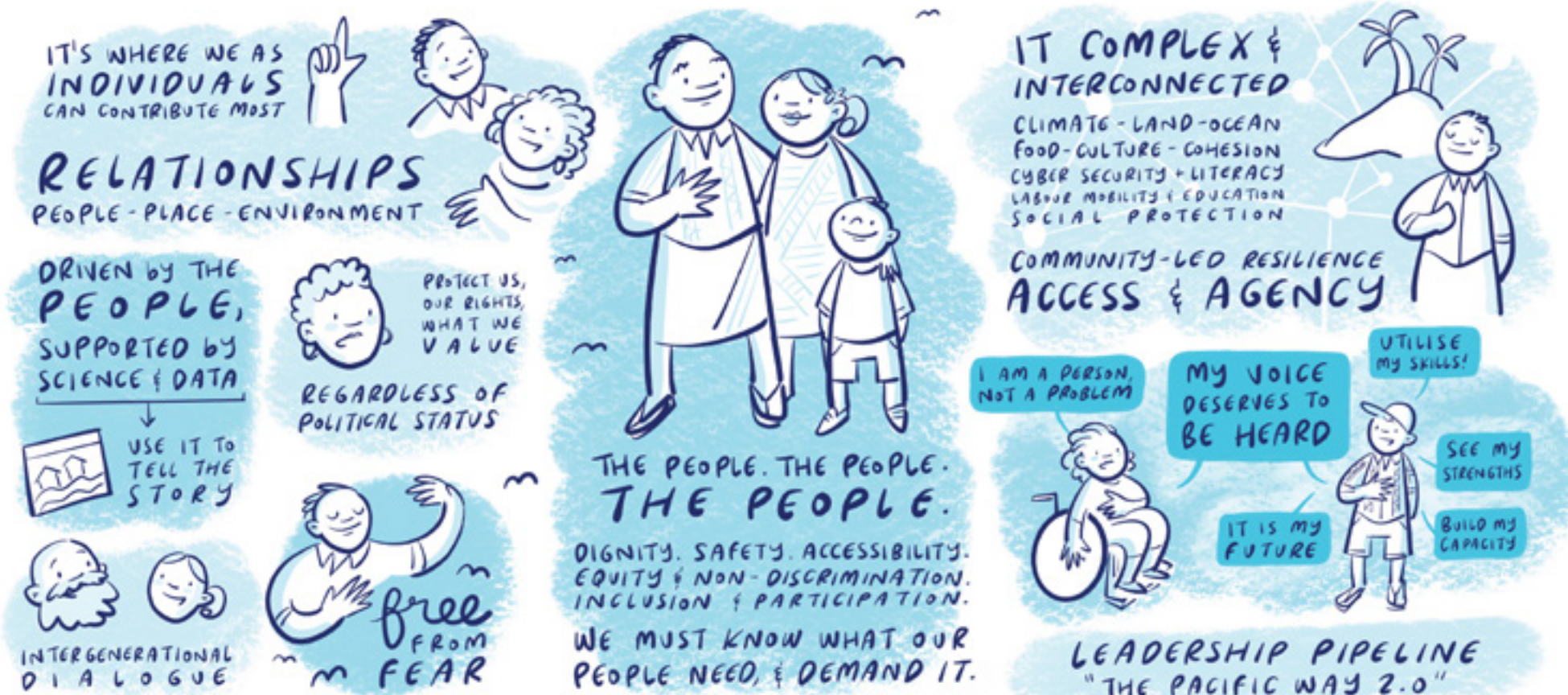
The panel argued for a strong focus on youth, who would be the foundation of a Pacific 2.0. Creating pipelines for nurturing youth and developing leadership and other skills should be a high priority for Pacific governments.

The panel expressed particular concern that vulnerable members of the community, notably people with a disability, risked being left further behind in the current security environment. This was at a cost to Pacific communities as it left talent underutilised, frustrated that they couldn't contribute, and at risk.





DR. PAULA VIVILI, MS. VANI CATANASIGA, MS. SAINIMILI TAWAKE & MR. MORI-M MAHONEY MORI



TECHNOLOGY: THE PROMISE AND THE PERIL

“One of the key priorities for Government is to ensure we provide meaningful and secure connectivity to our people so they can utilise technology in a way that empowers their lives and raises their livelihoods. At the same time, we must ensure they are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and the skill sets to be able to safely navigate these online spaces.”

Ms Tupou'tuah Baravilala, Director-General of Digital Government Transformation, Cybersecurity and Communications, Fiji

Cybersecurity must be embedded from the ground up if the Pacific is to harness the promise of technology. Panellists highlighted the urgent need for digital transformation that is safe, inclusive and resilient, and framed within the region's collective ambitions under Pillar 3 of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* and the emerging threats provisions of the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.

The Pacific's relatively fresh digital landscape means governments have an opportunity to design with foresight and leapfrog others. The Pacific doesn't have the extensive and expensive legacy infrastructure many other countries must work around.







In developing and updating digital frameworks, Pacific governments must ensure their citizens are equipped with the knowledge, tools and skill sets to safely navigate online spaces. Panellists discussed the rise in cyberattacks and threats in the Pacific that pose risks to governments, institutions and individuals. Users were falling victim to online scams and cybercrimes in increasing numbers.

Panellists said it was crucial to instil strong cybersecurity practices at the beginning of the digital transformation. Data from Microsoft showed that basic cyber hygiene would protect against 99% of cyber attacks. The region should adopt cybersecurity by design, and data protection by design, approaches; ensure the integrity of supply chains; create a robust talent pipeline; and inculcate a culture of cyber hygiene in communities and businesses. Digital literacy needed to be embedded in the education system at all levels and through community programs.

The conference heard that countering fraud and misinformation was complex and expensive, requiring robust legal frameworks, constant updates and monitoring. This was beyond the capacity and resource base for many Pacific countries to do alone. Cross-border collaboration would help. It would require prioritisation by leaders and a recognition of cybersecurity as both a development and security priority.

The panel strongly recommended Forum members also take advantage of international opportunities. The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime offered invaluable technical, legal and funding support to developing countries, as would the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime once it entered into force. More Forum members would benefit from joining the Budapest Convention.



MS TUPOU'UAH BARAVILALA, MR. MATTHEW WATSON & MR. SAVENACA SIWATIBAU





THE OCEAN OF PEACE

“When we look at the Ocean of Peace, the whole purpose is basically for the Pacific region to navigate this changing environment, to navigate it with a sense of certainty, with a sense of real reliability, and with a sense of direction.”

Collin Beck, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands



“When we think about peace, and this work towards a 2050 that’s an Ocean of Peace, it has to embrace the human elements and the human costs and human challenges, and it has to invest in our people.”

Dr Manumatavai Tupou-Roosen, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Regional Campuses and Global Engagement), University of the South Pacific

The flagship panel brought together senior voices from diplomacy and academia to reflect on how the Ocean of Peace concept might help the region respond to the convergence of challenges it faced – from intensifying climate impacts to nuclear legacies to growing militarisation to building stronger regional cohesion.

Panellists offered a broad range of ideas about how the Ocean of Peace concept might be fleshed out and made meaningful to Pacific peoples. The concept represented an opportunity for the region to assert its agency, resilience and unity. The principle of neutrality should be central. And the Ocean of Peace concept should address the region’s nuclear legacy through the full implementation of the *Treaty of Rarotonga* and a renewed push for a nuclear-free Pacific.

Panellists expressed the hope that the Ocean of Peace concept might help fix recent fracturing within the regional system, largely brought about by strategic competition. This had manifested itself in cracks in Pacific solidarity – from diverging positions on the Fukushima wastewater discharge issue to fragmented voting blocs in the United Nations. Overall, the Ocean of Peace concept was seen as an opportunity to substantively strengthen the institutional and legal basis of Pacific regionalism.

Panellists agreed the Ocean of Peace Declaration should encompass a people-centric approach to security and development generally – peace should be grounded in the rights, dignity, culture and aspirations of Pacific peoples. It would need to avoid a purely state-centric approach, let alone one that was dictated from outside the region.

Another strong theme was the Ocean of Peace was an opportunity to promote growth and renewal in Pacific Islands societies themselves. It was suggested the Ocean of Peace should acknowledge and address a “crisis of disempowerment” among Pacific Island peoples, restoring agency to communities and civil society in general, and strengthening cultures, governance and accountability. Panellists argued the Ocean of Peace could help promote progress in social justice, cultural integrity and inclusive education. And it had the potential to empower citizens and foster leadership grounded in identity and service.

Several panellists argued the Pacific region was rich in vision and frameworks but the capacity to translate these into action remained uneven. It was hoped the Ocean of Peace concept could help reduce this “implementation gap”. The Pacific already had powerful instruments on which the Ocean of Peace could be built – these included the *Treaty of Rarotonga*, the Biketawa and Boe Declarations, and the 2050 Strategy. Panellists believed the articulation of the Ocean of Peace concept should serve to streamline and strengthen – not complicate or duplicate – existing regional architecture.







HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JUNIOR AINI, PROF. TRANSFORM AOURAU, DR. MANUMATAVAI TUPOU-ROOSEN, ASSOC. PROF. ANNA POWLES, MR. SIONE TEKITEKI
 & MR. COLLIN BECK





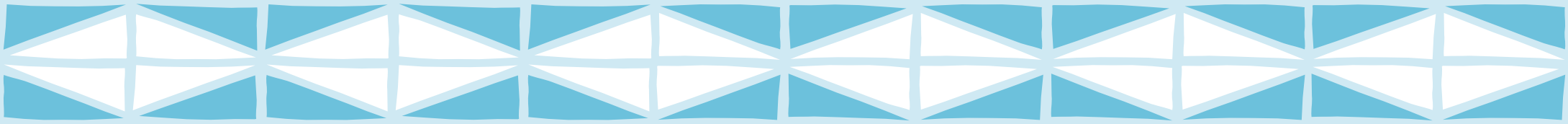
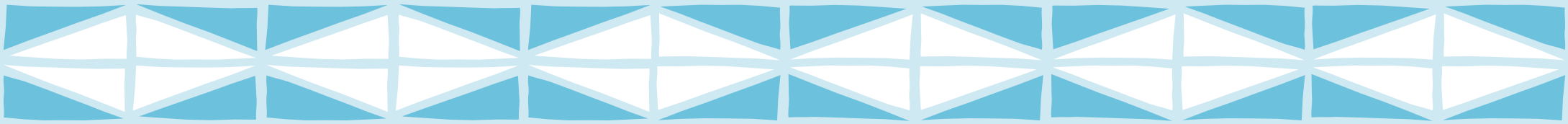




FUTURES WORKSHOP REPORT

The voyage to the Ocean of Peace

FUTURES
TO 2050



A VOYAGE TOWARDS THE OCEAN OF PEACE

The Pacific Regional and National Security Conference concluded with a full day workshop focused on the Ocean of Peace concept being developed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

Participants from across the Pacific security community considered what the voyage to an Ocean of Peace in 2050 might involve.

This involved participants:

- setting out their desired destination – their vision for an Ocean of Peace
- considering the conditions ahead: the social, technological, economic, environmental, political, geopolitical, cultural, traditional, spiritual and religious factors that would shape the voyage to the Ocean of Peace
- charting a course by discussing the headwinds and tailwinds – the opportunities and the challenges ahead – that would affect the voyage
- packing the waka, or canoe, by identifying the actions that we can all take now to ensure the voyage's success.

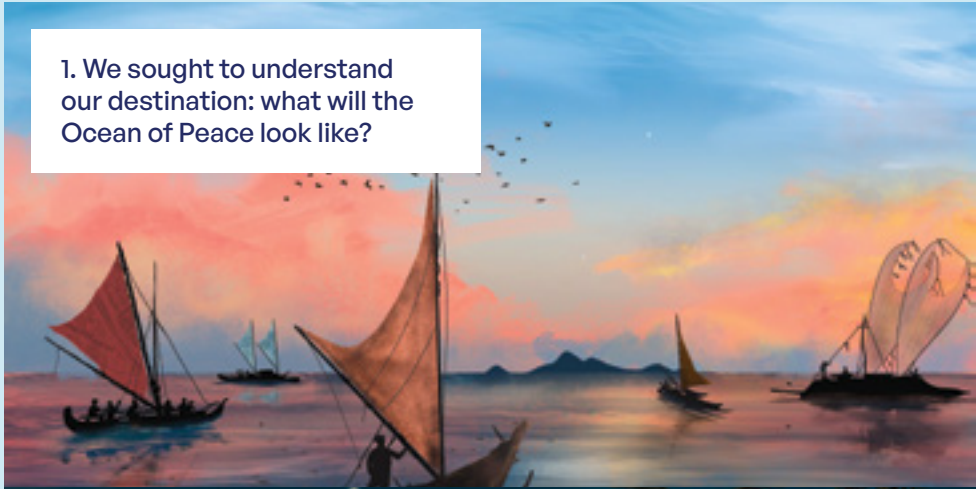
There was a vibrant and rich discussion throughout the day, reflecting perspectives from across the Blue Pacific. This report draws directly from and summarises participants' contributions to the workshop. It brings together a range of visions for the Ocean of Peace concept and the actions to be considered. We hope you enjoy participants' insights.



A VISUAL METAPHOR: THE VOYAGE TO THE OCEAN OF PEACE

The workshop was built around the idea of a long ocean voyage, as we stepped through the planning required.

1. We sought to understand our destination: what will the Ocean of Peace look like?



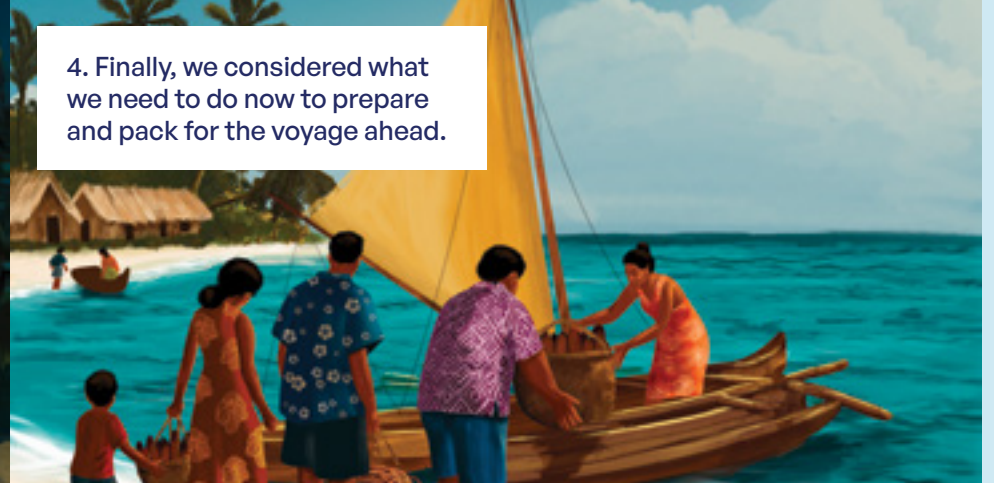
2. We mapped the conditions we expect we might face on our voyage over the next 25 years.



3. We charted our course: what are the opportunities and challenges along the way?



4. Finally, we considered what we need to do now to prepare and pack for the voyage ahead.





THE OCEAN OF PEACE

2050



PACIFIC REGIONAL & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 14-16 JULY 2025

©JESSAM 666 2024

1. VISIONS OF AN OCEAN OF PEACE



A VIVID AND PEACEFUL PACIFIC IN 2050

When imagining the Pacific as an Ocean of Peace, participants called for the region to cherish its distinctive Pacific way of life as the foundation of future growth and opportunities. This included upholding traditional culture and values, preserving land, ocean, and fisheries resources, and ensuring a Pacific region that is sovereign to chart its own future for generations to come. Beneath the broad ambitions, participants expressed a range of specific hopes for the Pacific in 2050 across different levels of governance.

People and Communities

A people-focused, positive conception of peace was strongly desired, including:

- Collective, not individualistic, approaches
- Increased access to high-quality education
- Increased social equality
- People being empowered to pursue their own paths

Nations

Pacific nations can provide the foundation for peace through:

- National peace and security strategies
- Utilising advanced technology
- Safe and secure communities, from climate change, drugs, crime
- Domestic political stability
- Democratic decision-making, through parliament and involving the people more broadly in government processes

The Pacific Region

A strong Pacific regionalism was seen as critical for peace, and ambitions included:

- Coordinated, Pacific-wide approaches leading to a unified region
- Harmonised migration and people movement across the Pacific, including opened borders
- Stronger regional ties leading to a prosperous region, with social cohesion
- A Pacific free of nuclear threat or encroachment

International

The global situation sets the context in which peace is possible, and there were hopes for:

- A strong multilateral, rules-based global order
- Respect for the sovereignty of Pacific nations
- Respect for the contribution the Pacific can make to global peace-building
- An equitable UN Security Council which reflects the world

THE OCEAN OF PEACE: VOICES ON RESILIENCE, REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGIC DIPLOMACY

Participants articulated hopeful visions for collective action, regional strength, governance, and the future of Pacific leadership in 2050.

“When standing at the beach, looking at the ocean – there is no boundary! The Pacific has unlimited potential and an unlimited horizon.”

“Some of our islands won’t be there but we will have acted on climate change.”

“Peace starts within, we must manage the small things, then we can manage the large ones.”

“Countries utilise their resources in a manner that cares for future generations.”

“Collective approaches to problems – it takes a village to raise a child.”

“Pacific diplomacy needs to be strong and robust!”

“Let the Pacific change – change is part of life. It can make us more resilient for the future.”

“Australia and New Zealand will need to share a Pacific understanding, otherwise no Ocean of Peace. They must be interested in helping their younger siblings – the Pacific Island Countries.”

“Sustainable freedom.”

“Reawakened!”

“An Ocean of Peace that is empathetic.”

“Coherence will have strengthened in the Pacific, leading to a Pacific Union.”

THE OCEAN OF PEACE: VOICES FROM THE ROOM ON PEACE, HARMONY AND WELLBEING

Participants voiced clear ambitions for peace as a holistic concept – cultural, spiritual, environmental, relational.

“Advanced tech protecting our ocean with traditional wisdom and knowledge.”

“We want the Pacific way of life protected and preserved: culture, food, tradition, heritage – for new generations.”

“A healthy people – that’s peace.”

“The ocean and land will be free of violence and overtly demilitarised.”

“Being LOUDER – acting on our voice not just listening!”

“A Pacific that is imaginative, curious and creative.”

“The power of Love!”

“We did have an Ocean of Peace.”

“A sun that glitters and dances across the waves.”

“People prioritised as the area of focus.”

“Lots of kids, fish, fruit and trees.”

“Nuclear Free.”

“The Ocean of Peace is Peace the Pacific Way.”

“Peace is non-militarised.”

“Our children are set up to be free to pursue their own paths; secure economically and developmentally.”

“The Ocean of Peace will be underpinned by the International Rules-Based Order.”



THE OCEAN OF PEACE **OUR VISION**



**MAINTAINING
PEACE & SECURITY
IN OUR REGION**

PROTECTING OUR
SOVEREIGNTY & ENVIRONMENT
IN A TIME OF



GLOBAL
UNCERTAINTY



STRATEGIC
COMPETITION



NATIONAL &
REGIONAL
CHALLENGES

ABSENCE OF
CONFLICT & +
INSTABILITY

**BUILD
CONDITIONS
TO MAINTAIN
PEACE**

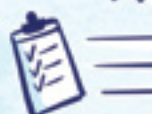
IT WILL REQUIRE
COLLABORATION & UNITY



BASED ON OUR VALUES
& THE PACIFIC WAY



TRADITIONAL &
NON-TRADITIONAL
SECURITY



IMPORTANCE OF
MULTI-LATERAL
RULES BASED ORDER



IT MUST BE LOOKED
AT TOGETHER
WITH EXISTING
DECLARATIONS



SO WE CAN LOOK AT
SECURITY &
PEACE
TOGETHER

SO WE CAN ADDRESS
OUR ISSUES IN
TOTALITY



IT IS NOT
JUST THE
ROLE OF
LEADERS



WE ALL MUST
UNDERSTAND
OUR ROLE

OUR UNIQUE
WISDOM
AND WAYS OF
KNOWING



INTER-
GENERATIONAL
THINKING

WE ARE THE
CUSTODIANS

WHAT LEGACY
DO WE WANT
TO LEAVE?



BY & FOR THE PACIFIC... IT MUST SMELL, FEEL, TASTE LIKE US.

PACIFIC REGIONAL & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 14-16 JULY 2025

© JESSAMIE GEE 2024

2. CONDITIONS FOR OUR VOYAGE



SELECTED PACIFIC TRENDS AND DRIVERS

These trends and drivers describe a range of factors that will shape the Pacific and the globe out to 2050: they are the conditions that will shape the voyage to the Ocean of Peace. These trends and drivers were drawn from sessions across the whole conference, with most provided and specifically prioritised during the Futures discussions; they reflect different visions for how the coming decades may play out.

SPIRITUAL/RELIGION

- Christian faith endures as a force for social stability and individual resilience in the face of uncertainties like climate change, geopolitics and security tensions
- Churches remain active in social services, community cohesion and climate change advocacy
- Rise of diverse faiths in the region
- Risk of superstition/witchcraft going mainstream
- Risk of religion being politicised
- New ideas of faith spread in some communities via the internet and social media and the immigration of different communities into the Pacific.

POLITICAL

- Genuine decolonisation efforts
- Political stability and democracy challenged by economic, societal and geopolitical pressures
- Instances of corruption reduce trust in leaders and institutions
- Limited governance and law enforcement capabilities across the Pacific, in the face of large-scale challenges.

SOCIAL

- Large and growing youth populations – with rising aspirations, digital connections, and a desire to be heard
- Migration from outer areas and islands to urban centres for economic opportunity
- Ageing populations require resources and specialist care
- Risks of new pandemics/spread of endemic disease
- Return of diaspora involved in criminal enterprises overseas is increasing the frequency and severity of criminal activity
- Rising use and trade of illicit drugs across many Pacific countries, creating health, crime and social problems.

ECONOMIC

- Potential for single economic bloc with single Pacific currency
- Remittance income increasingly important for Pacific economies...
- ... but economic draw of offshore work and remittance pay driving domestic brain drain within Pacific Island countries
- Monopolistic practices across a number of industries are rising and broadening
- Ageing infrastructure requires significant resources
- Shrinking banking services across the Pacific - hurting businesses and slowing development
- Increasing income inequality within and between Pacific countries.

CULTURAL/TRADITION

- Reawakening of ancestral knowledge
- Renewed focus on traditional Pacific knowledge and practices
- Societal, economic and generational pressures challenge tradition and cultural authorities
- Loss of remote languages
- Loss of culture through depopulation and migration
- Commercialisation of traditional cultural practices leads to fears of loss of traditional meaning and over-harvesting of natural resources.

GEOPOLITICAL

- Regionalism and Pacific solidarity tested by the scale of key threats, some of which are experienced unevenly
- Ongoing geopolitical competition in the Pacific, in the context of a less unified and emerging multi-polar world
- East Asia conflict having overflow and overflight risks for the Pacific
- Nuclear weapon contagion, with an increasing number of nations seeking nuclear deterrence
- Uncertainty around strategic trust between partners and Pacific Island countries
- Indo-Pacific strategies set the wider context without necessarily consulting Pacific Island countries and are therefore exclusionary
- External donors seek to build influence in numerous ways, including through conditional aid.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Sea-level rise directly affects Pacific Island countries
- Frequent and more severe cyclones, floods and droughts
- Risk of man-made ocean contamination and environmental degradation impacting fisheries and agriculture
- Fisheries and local food production face pressures from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activity, and ocean warming
- Waste management and marine pollution challenges increase as development increases and consumption grows.

TECHNOLOGICAL

- Expansion of space tech/space exploration
- Rapid digitalisation leading to cyber threat vulnerability
- Rise in misinformation and disinformation across Pacific Island countries
- Technologically driven social decline (particularly amongst youth)
- Spread of electrification through affordable renewable energy technologies – enabling lighting, refrigeration, air conditioning and more
- New and more affordable satellite technologies help Pacific countries manage fisheries, track climate impacts, respond to disasters, and monitor maritime zones
- Decentralised banking services – including cryptocurrencies and blockchain – decrease remittance costs and increase banking availability, but also create new threats.

3. CHARTING A COURSE



OPPORTUNITIES: BUILDING COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE

Participants identified a long list of opportunities that would help ensure the Pacific is an Ocean of Peace in 2050. Many of these focused on a regional, collective approach to build strength and resilience across the region.

- A better joined up Pacific, including free movement of people and trade.
- The threat of geopolitical risk drives regional solidarity and smarter policy, pushing Pacific Island countries and Australia and New Zealand closer together.
- Mobility between Forum members enables better livelihoods and skills development between nations, though a fine balance is required. Regional approaches could also enable regional delivery of social services i.e. health, education.
- Unified Pacific diplomatic approaches increase international clout and influence and win economies of scale through trading as a bloc/single market.
- Regional approaches developed to meet specialised needs or capabilities, like health services, regional financing or banking, chemical testing, research and data.
- A Pacific-coordinated approach to social and issues and conflict develops (through a Regional Peace and Security Council) with potential for a Pacific Response Group (pooled military resources that protect and defend Pacific interests).
- A regional energy security reserve self-allocates energy resources among Pacific Island countries.
- The value of Pacific nations to the geopolitical balance enables the Pacific to extract concessions while maintaining the international order.
- Pacific-led approaches develop to disarmament including unexploded ordinance (UXO) and small-arm weaponry disposal, tracking and monitoring. Countries suffering from UXO risk to lead the disarmament coalition.
- Successful prioritisation sees economic and social ambitions advanced.





OPPORTUNITIES: EMPOWER PACIFIC PEOPLES AND KNOWLEDGE

Aligned with the holistic, people-centre focus of much of the discussion, many participants identified opportunities to support and empower people across the Pacific.

- Traditional knowledge, systems and culture connect to modern approaches across all fields to build resilience.
- Modern digital technology, including AI, is used to increase connectivity and local economic and education opportunities.
- Investment ensures education is contextualised for the Pacific, and responds to local skills needs and ways of life, and matches Pacific values and priorities.
- Significant remittance income is leveraged to grow local economies.
- Informed children are able to contribute to building and developing the strongest Pacific possible for 2050... and 2100.
- There are more opportunities for mentoring and sharing skills with upcoming leaders.
- There is broad participation from all citizens and especially the youth in decision making.



CHALLENGES: CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

Participants also discussed the many challenges to be navigated along the journey towards an Ocean of Peace in 2050. Many existing ways of life and systems will be under pressure from a range of factors.

- Traditional culture, structures and practices, including religions, are under pressure from economic trends, ongoing information, inward migration of other cultures and religions, as well as from the development priorities of external partners.
- Migration out of the Pacific contributes to an ongoing brain drain and fractures local labour markets and social structures.
- Tribal dynamics likely to worsen with forced migration resulting from climate change.
- Entrenched patriarchal models mean the Pacific needs to ensure women have a seat at the table.
- Tradition and religion impeding addressing serious social issues like the high spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Stability and reliability of core needs and infrastructure, such as food and water security, health services, basic infrastructure and digital/data systems.
- Impacts of extreme weather events and climate change.
- Limited biosecurity in the Pacific, with one zoo undertaking zoonotic research.
- Technology, though a great enabler of Pacific development, creates reliance and new threats from cyber attacks, misinformation and disinformation and scamming.



CHALLENGES: FRAGILITY IN REGIONAL UNITY

A significant source of the challenges identified by participants were the many dynamics that might undermine a regional approach.

- The tension between unity and solidarity across the Pacific, and national interests and sovereignty. National-level issues, like differing legislation and visa requirements, are a drag on growth and security.
- External geopolitical influences and expectations of other countries, both direct and indirect.
- Countries seek bilateral deals which undercut regional positions and solidarity.
- Risk of redefined regionalism post conflict equating to a less unified Pacific.
- Political stability at national levels, with ongoing issues around corruption, financial mismanagement and missed opportunities. There are risks of state collapse within the Pacific.
- The mismatch between national and regional policy and law disrupts cohesive responses to challenges.
- Aid programs are implemented without adequate consideration or adherence to Pacific ways of operating.
- Use of grey zone tactics within the Pacific – including weaponising food and fisheries.
- Limited border security and rising criminal activity, including drugs, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, cybercrime and the full range of transnational criminal activity.
- Resource constraints and the polycrisis distracts leaders from thinking strategically and long-term, with a lack of understanding of the future and the consequences of actions taken today.

4. PACKING THE CANOE



PRODUCTIVE AMBITIONS TO CONSIDER TODAY

Participants were asked to plan what they would need to pack in their wakas, or canoes, for a successful journey to the Ocean of Peace in 2050. And they were asked to identify practical actions that could be put in place by 2030 to help the Pacific achieve this ambition.

One theme was the importance of action and implementation – particularly of existing plans, principles and frameworks. It was expressed as the need to move beyond talking, and to take regional action as one Pacific – including realising the potential of existing agreements and architecture.

There was a shared view the Pacific has many of the right elements already in place, but that implementation could be improved. Prioritisation and focused attention were seen as critical.

In this context, the Ocean of Peace concept could be most powerful if it was considered not as a new framework, but as a catalyst to revive and accelerate existing initiatives.

Participants generated a wide-ranging list of more detailed actions to consider, under these broad themes:

- Supporting regional institutions and initiatives that can accelerate, deepen and enable regional cooperation, security and peacemaking – to underpin the Ocean of Peace
- Building local strength and resilience across the Pacific, with a focus on food, oceans, water and infrastructure
- Investing in the people of the Pacific, putting them at the centre of policy decisions, from population-wide initiatives like education, to a focus on growing the professionals involved in peace and security work
- Reinforcing the Pacific Way and promoting adherence to Pacific priorities and values.

PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO TAKE BY 2030

Participants generated many actions that would help achieve their ambitions over the next five years.

Collaboration will give the Pacific options and agency, especially if **facilitated through regional institutions and initiatives**, which could include:

- Creating a charter for a Pacific Union
- Removing trade barriers for open trade and investment opportunities
- Agreeing to regional standards and cooperation for border control
- Creating a regional financial institution such as a regional development bank, building on the Pacific Resilience Facility
- Developing and ratifying a regional security strategy for the whole Blue Pacific
- Creating regional hubs for specialised support, such as medical/health expertise
- Systemising and formalising a Pacific-wide approach to tackling transnational crime, drawing on diverse perspectives and expertise.
- Building an open accessible app for the public to report maritime information like illegal vessels
- Using Pacific labour to stabilise migration impacts between Pacific Island countries
- Creating an intelligence sharing regime between Pacific Island countries and key partners like Australia
- Developing a code of conduct for a shared approach for how Pacific Island countries can manage geopolitical issues
- Investing in the downstream fisheries industry including the management of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- Exploring whether seabed mining and sustainable tourism offer opportunities, and developing shared approaches
- Exploring a sovereign wealth fund model.





PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO TAKE BY 2030

Pacific Island countries could **actively build local strength and resilience** though:

- Building and modelling peace-building at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Creating education and initiatives for food and water security, especially encouraging traditional food over imports
- Setting up food banks for climate resilience and food security
- Building resilient infrastructure on food and water security and investing in agricultural development
- Implementing maritime protected areas
- Investing in self-reliance and sovereign regional capacity
- As Pacific Island countries face unique simultaneous challenges, leveraging the strengths of some, to balance the weaknesses of others, will best protect everyone's interest
- Working with partners with mutual interests will be key
- Investing resources collectively where possible, especially on issues of collective security and collective bargaining for access to medicines and other items.

PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO TAKE BY 2030

Options to invest in people included:

- Establishing a Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Ocean of Peace mentoring program for early career professionals
- Prioritising education for everyone as it is an enabler for all other initiatives and options
- Improving the Pacific's human capital through a cohesive approach; by scaling to a Pacific-wide education model, costs could be reduced and standards increased
- Developing a Pacific-first curriculum, which builds knowledge and boosts scientific capacity, and addresses issues like gender-based violence, health and nutrition, technology and agricultural yield
- Decolonising the curriculum so it embeds Pacific knowledge and reflects Pacific morals and values
- Articulating people-centred policies across education, health-care, migration, youth and poverty alleviation.

To reinforce **Pacific Way**, suggested actions included:

- Learning and drawing from traditional knowledge and practices, adapting them to the current context
- Reaffirming Pacific values through traditional means, like churches and communities
- Maintaining and building partnerships and collaboration across the pillars of Pacific societies (government, chiefs, churches)
- Resourcing Pacific civil society organisations to lead peace-building efforts across the region, and cooperate with regional partners outside the Pacific
- Bringing Pacific youth into the peace and security conversation.



THE OCEAN OF PEACE

WHAT DO WE WANT
IN THE CANOE?



PACIFIC REGIONAL & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 14-16 JULY 2025

© JESSAM 666 2024

STORIES ABOUT THE VOYAGE AHEAD



2050 SCENARIOS

Participants imagined some clear scenarios for the future which captured many of the challenges and opportunities they are facing.

Diplomacy from the ground up

In 2035, Teresa, a young carer from a remote atoll, defied expectations. With dreams of becoming a diplomat, she joined the Ocean of Peace Emerging Diplomats Program – a new pathway grounded in culture, humility, and intergenerational mentoring – then helped negotiate Ocean of Peace agreements with third parties.

Returning home as an experienced regional leader, she mobilised local youth to form a cooperative that built climate-resilient infrastructure – housing, health clinics, and an evacuation centre – on reclaimed land.

With help from regional entrepreneurship grants and supported through virtual learning in local languages and cultural knowledge, Teresa established a youth-led innovation hub providing training in sustainable construction and digital services. The hub became an example for the region.

When a devastating cyclone struck, the new buildings endured. Teresa's diplomacy – practical, culturally rooted, and people-focused – modelled a new kind of practical leadership focused on building community resilience, rain tank by rain tank.

Staying or going

As climate impacts accelerated, communities across the Pacific faced stark choices: relocate or remain and adapt. In one coastal village, some families sought better wages and education opportunities through new regional migration frameworks, which allowed for free movement across the Pacific.

Others chose to stay, revitalising the land with aquaculture and traditional farming. A revival of customary decision-making practices brought together women, elders, and youth in shared leadership roles, blending tradition with inclusive, intergenerational governance to face growing challenges. New policies focused on youth employment, housing, mental health, and opportunities to remain rooted. Church networks remained central to community cohesion. Over time, the village reduced gender-based violence, and increased food security and pride in Pacific ways of living. Technology played a role, but so did deliberate efforts to retain manual skills and traditional knowledge in the face of growing digital dependence.

Their story showed that adaptation was not just about survival – it was about rebalancing old wisdom with new freedoms.

Towards a Pacific Union

By 2050, the Pacific Union was no longer aspirational – it was operational. Binding agreements on trade, security, migration, environmental protection, and a shared currency gave the region more bargaining power and internal cohesion.

The Pacific Union's people-first approach – anchored in cultural values and spiritual inclusivity – offered not perfection, but direction.

Communities successfully blend traditional ways with AI-enhanced logistics, ensuring food, water, and medical supplies despite fragile global supply chains.

Local economies are increasingly driven by clean-tech entrepreneurship and sustainable resource management. A region-wide plastics treaty had curbed marine pollution.

Churches and cultural leaders help communities navigate the ethical challenges of modernity, including social media dependency, drugs and gang activity.



THE OCEAN OF PEACE REFLECTIONS

OUR FAMILY. OUR CULTURE. OUR WAY.

OPPORTUNITY
IS ON THE HORIZON

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT BECAUSE WE WANT IT TO BE

LEARN FROM OUR
ANCESTORS &
OUR PAST

WE DON'T EXPECT
FULL SUN
ON ARRIVAL...
BUT RAIN STILL
HELPS THE
GRASS GROW

WE ARE
STEWARDS
FOR THE
NEXT
GENERATION

OUR STRENGTH
IS OUR PEOPLE

ADAPTABILITY
& RESILIENCE

CREATIVE COLLABORATION
AND SOLIDARITY

WHATEVER COMES
OUR WAY, WE MUST
FACE THIS FUTURE
TOGETHER

TOGETHER WE RISE... DIVIDED WE DRIFT

PACIFIC REGIONAL & NATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE 14-16 JULY 2025

© JESSAM 666 2024





CLOSING ADDRESS

Pacific Islands Forum
Secretary General
Baron Waqa

Salutations

- The Honourable Dalton Tagelagi, the Prime Minister of Niue
- Honourable ministers
- Distinguished delegates
- Esteemed colleagues and friends

Ni sa bula, and a very good afternoon to you all.

As we come to the close of the 2025 Pacific Regional and National Security Conference, I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude. Gratitude and pride at the collaborative spirit that has been displayed over these past three days.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the government and people of Fiji for their warm hospitality and support. I hope this has made your time here both productive and enjoyable.

I would also like to thank the Pacific Security College, Professor Dave Peebles and your team, and the policy team here at the Forum Secretariat for your tireless efforts organising this conference.

From the learnings of this week, I believe we can look forward to another one next year.

My gratitude also goes to the members. Thank you. Thank you for making the meeting a success and for sharing your perspective and experience with us. Vinaka. Vinaka vakalevu.

Our discussions have underscored the importance of unity and cooperation in addressing the complex security challenges we have. From climate change and transnational crime to cybersecurity and maritime security, to women, peace and security, we have explored the multifaceted threats that require our collective actions.

The insights and perspectives shared by all participants have been invaluable in shaping our path forward.

The Ocean of Peace concept stands up as a testament to our commitment to maintaining long-term peace and security in the Pacific. We recognise that our region's unique geopolitical landscape necessitates a comprehensive and integrated approach to managing conflict and instability.

The Ocean of Peace, aligned with the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* and the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* will guide our efforts in safeguarding our communities and preserving our heritage.

I'm particularly heartened by the progress made in enhancing our national security framework. The launch of the national security strategy by Niue, Fiji, Solomon Islands and others reflects our dedication to strengthening our national capacities and ensuring the resilience of our nations.

Our discussions over the last three days have emphasised the importance of addressing the various security issues we face through regional cooperation, evidence-based policies and improved alignment between national and regional security priorities.

As we move forward, the review of our regional security architecture will be essential in ensuring our mechanisms are fit for purpose.

In particular, driving the renewed peace effort, we must continue to explore the potential to strengthen our security collaborations. We must continue to look at strengthening information sharing by breaking down barriers that continue to hinder our collaboration. These efforts will enhance our cohesion and alignment to address the polycrisis facing our Blue Pacific continent.

In conclusion, I am optimistic. I'm optimistic about the future of our region's security, the 2025 Pacific Regional and National Security Conference has demonstrated our collective resolve to work together, share information and build trust.

I have no doubt as we continue our journey, that the conference will find its right place within the regional security architecture.

Over the next two days, we are going to consider key security priorities that will be considered by Forum Leaders in September through the sub-committee on security. I urge members to use the sharing undertaken over the last three days to continue to strengthen our collective approaches to peace and security.

Thank you all for your participation, your dedication and your unwavering commitment to the security of our Pacific region.

Safe travels, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Tubwa kor, vinaka vakalevu, thank you.







CLOSING ADDRESS

Prime Minister of Niue
The Honourable Dalton Tagelagi

My friends, my Blue Pacific family, I thank you.

I thank you for the opportunity to join you here this afternoon and have the honour of closing this conference. I think it's the Shangri-La Dialogue of the Pacific and in the Pacific Way.

I hope you all had a wonderful three days. This is probably one of the conferences that I pay more attention to, from the opening to yesterday, and I congratulate you all.

Just listening to the reflections, wow. You have all done well at this second conference.

May I quickly acknowledge those that work tirelessly and I give my vote of thanks, vote of confidence, in acknowledgment of all those – from the moderators, the facilitators, the partners and everyone – for their work to make this conference what it is, which I think is a success.

I hope that your minds have been nourished by big discussions and big issues, big ideas for the future. That your spirit has been nourished by fellowship with your brothers and sisters from the Pacific security community. There is nothing like knowledge to empower us and there is nothing like family gathering to lift us up.

I started the conference by posing the question, 'what does security mean to you?' The answer has come back. Security is holistic. It is the whole person. It is a whole community. It is a whole country, and it is the whole region.

Security is leaving no one behind. Security is about protecting our values. Security is applying our traditional knowledge and customs and faith in God to the challenges before us.

I started the conference by saying: security is one of the hardest areas in government policy. It is challenging. But the clear message from this conference is we will hold each other up and we will do it together.

And another clear message is, we will succeed by drawing in the whole community and our traditional leaders. None of us are on this journey on our own.

Let me finish the conference with a new question: what makes us strong? It is the things that have always made us strong, all the precious treasures which we have been born into as citizens of the Blue Pacific Continent. Our traditions, our cultures, our values, our faith, our connection to land and ocean, our love and concern for the next generation, our Pacific unity.

The polycrisis before the Blue Pacific is big and difficult. Some may wonder, “will the Pacific fall or rise before this crisis?”

My friends, the clear answer from this conference is the Pacific will rise and beat these challenges. I finish our *talanoa* with hope and optimism for the future.

Let me share some of the wisdom we have heard during our discussions. From the Solomon Islands National University Vice-Chancellor Professor Transform:

“The Pacific is the most successful region for oceans management in the world, and the Pacific Island countries continue to collaborate very strongly.

“Let us celebrate the success of the region.”

That’s where we are today. In terms of where we are going tomorrow, the Ocean of Peace is the clear destination for our voyage.

Minister Peter Shanel from Solomon Islands said:

“The Ocean of Peace is like a beacon of light.

“A beacon that helps you to know where there is a good place to travel, and where there is the reef that will cause us to crash.

“It is a beacon that will allow us to navigate the challenging times ahead – together.”

My friends, we are on a great voyage together, and the next step is our Leaders’ Meeting in Honiara, Solomons in September.

But all of you have sent out a great beacon of light to guide us onto the Leaders’ Meeting and I thank you.

God bless you all. God bless your important work. God bless our families who support you, and God bless our great Blue Pacific Continent, which we all serve. I thank you very much. And I have the honour of saying that is the end of this conference.

The conference is now officially closed.

Thank you.





CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS

3 PILLARS THAT SHOULD ALWAYS be RECOGNISED



WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE OUR LANDS, TRADITIONS & CULTURES ARE SAFE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

WE NEED TO BRING THE RIGHT CREW

WE NEED TO TRUST EACH OTHER

CHECK THE BOAT FOR HOLES



ARE WE LOUD ENOUGH?

ARE OUR VOICES BEING HEARD?



WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE & BUILD ON THE WORK DONE BY LEADERS BEFORE US



THE NEXT STEP? STOP TALKING.

ACT NOW

SELF DETERMINATION



A HUMAN-CENTRED APPROACH TO SECURITY



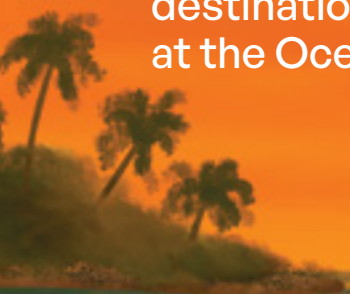
INCLUDING YOUTH VOICES IS ESSENTIAL

NATION BUILDING STARTS WITH FAMILIES

THE PACIFIC WAY
together
UNITY & SOLIDARITY



We hope this report serves as a record of our time together but also sparks continued conversations about the future of the Pacific and the Ocean of Peace. The future is not set. Rather, it is influenced by the actions or inactions we take today. It is in our hands to prepare for the voyage and the destination ahead – and to realise the benefits of arriving at the Ocean of Peace. Together, all things are possible.











An Australian Government Initiative



PRNSC

PACIFIC REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY CONFERENCE
14-16 JULY 2025

