PIANGO PRIORITIES FOR THE 2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT
As Pacific civil society our work is centred on Pacific values and guided by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Pacific Principles for Development Effectiveness and the accompanying Drua Model for implementation and the Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration.

Sustainable and effective development needs all of society’s full attention. Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and networks are essential development actors that can hold governments to account and provide a voice and empowerment for communities, in particular those most marginalised. In line with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance donor partners to the Pacific should work to support civic space and civil society actors. Pacific Governments and Pacific development partners must include CSOs in the decision-making process, the development of national and regional policies, strategies, and their implementation.

Investing in long-term, respectful and genuine partnerships takes time and trust to develop, and can evolve in unpredictable ways. There needs to be more effort invested in consultation and dialogue. Enabling locally led approaches ensures the long-term sustainability of development actions and empowers skilled and knowledgeable local leaders and organisations.

As Pacific CSOs we call for Pacific Development Partners (including donor governments, INGOs, development contractors and multilateral institutions) and Pacific Leaders to prioritise:

- placing local and indigenous voice and knowledge at the centre of Pacific development
- strengthening and supporting civil society as development actors in their own right
- urgent and effective climate action through strengthened cooperation, collaboration and co-implementation with civil societies.

Further, we highlight the following priorities and asks for Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners as Pacific people work to implement the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND REGIONALISM**

*Leadership in the Pacific must be inclusive and accountable* - Leadership in the Pacific comes in many forms including political leaders, traditional leaders, faith leaders and leaders across civil society and communities. However, we are seeing governments across the Pacific undertaking actions that are closing safe civic space. Supporting and strengthening civil society strengthens effective and accountable governance, builds deeper partnerships and people-to-people linkages, and contributes to stability.
Regionalism is most effective when countries are also strong - Regional mechanisms are a valuable tool for sharing knowledge, ideas and resources and amplifying the voice of the Pacific. However, engagement and investment in regional mechanisms should not be at the expense of investment in governance and coordination at the country level. This includes supporting the legitimate self-determination aspirations of people across the Pacific including the people of West Papua.

Key asks

1. Pacific leaders should support and resource mechanisms that strengthen civil society and civic space at national and regional levels.
2. Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners should:
   a. strengthen national coordination mechanisms and local systems to build regional connections and approaches. These should include civil society and ensure all voices are included in shaping priorities and decision making at a regional level;
   b. strengthen system-wide support for improved communication and information sharing including deliberate investments in infrastructure as well as human resources; and
   c. institutionalise mutual accountability and safeguarding including supporting the Pacific-led implementation of the Pacific Regional Accountability Framework for Civil Society Organisations and endorse its use as a benchmark for NGO accountability in support of the realisation of locally led development and humanitarian responses across the Pacific.
3. Pacific leaders should:
   a. put the human rights crisis, humanitarian crisis and question of West Papua self-determination on the leader’s agenda for the 2023 PIF Leaders Meeting; and
   b. endorse the right to self-determination of people of the Pacific including the people of West Papua.

PEOPLE CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

Transformational inclusive development is at the centre of the Pacific development - Pacific development must be for all Pacific people; gender equality (including gender and sexual orientation minorities), the inclusion of people with disability, children and young people, migrant workers, and a strong focus on human rights must be at the forefront of development approaches. This requires not only ensuring the voices of the most marginalised are included in decision making and programs but also a focus on addressing the systems and structural drivers of poverty, inequality and injustice.

Traditional culture and knowledge is embedded at the heart of Pacific development - traditional philosophies and approaches to development are frequently
not grounded in Pacific values and beliefs. Alongside greater locally led and locally owned approaches to development it is essential that the traditions and customs of Pacific people are both valued and integrated into all approaches to development. This requires both Pacific leaders and Pacific Development Partners to genuinely engage with tensions of traditional knowledge, power, inclusion and decolonisation.

**Key Asks**

4. Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners should:
   a. reinforce family centred approaches to wellbeing and resilience; and
   b. create clear pathways for supporting social enterprise at community level, particularly for women's engagement in income generating activities that support disaster recovery and resilience.

5. Pacific development partners should:
   a. support civil society voices by providing core funding for civil society organisations to strengthen their role as actors in their own right not just as delivery partners; and
   b. invest in a Pacific leadership program, which includes leaders from across communities, in particular those from marginalised groups.

**PEACE AND SECURITY**

*Climate change is the greatest threat to the security of the Pacific* - The 2018 Boe Declaration and 2019 Kainaki II Declaration highlighted climate change as the key threat to human security for the Pacific. In 2022, civil society came together at Kioa to further articulate the priorities of Pacific people in meeting the 2019 Kainaki Declaration. The Kioa Declaration highlighted that telling stories is no longer enough. For far too long, the realities of Pacific people have been used to highlight the urgency of the climate crisis without seeing any tangible changes. This has placed a heavy weight on Pacific communities.

*Organised crime is targeting the most marginalised* - The 2000 Biketawa Declaration and 2018 Boe Declaration highlighted the expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, environmental and resource security, transnational crime; and cybersecurity. Violence against women and children, human trafficking, modern slavery and illicit drug and money laundering are all on the increase in the Pacific and are a significant threat to social fabric of our communities. These crimes target those who are already vulnerable in our communities and lack voice and power.

**Key asks**

6. Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners should:
   a. endorse and support the Kioa Pledge including the Kioa Finance Mechanism and the appointment of Pacific Civil Society Special Advocates;
b. strengthen education and awareness at a sub-national level on the crimes targeting the most marginalised people. This should be supported by strengthening coordination and response at a national and regional level; and

c. strengthen support to the victims of organised crimes.

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Pacific prosperity is more than economic development* - The Pacific values of wellbeing places prosperity in a holistic frame; encompassing environment, culture and community led responses.

*Financial mechanisms need to be locally led and accountable* - Financial mechanisms and reporting across the pacific need to be more accountable and locally led. International financing mechanisms do not allow for locally led solutions but instead are driven by risk and compliance requirements of donors. Further many Pacific governments have limited transparency and accountability to communities for their national budgets (which include direct budget support from donors) and expenditure is often not prioritised in line with their own development priorities.

*Communities hold the rights to their land* - Across the Pacific, communities often lack voice and decision making in regards to the use of their land. Access and use of land for resource use including mining, logging, palm oil plantations and sand mining is often undertaken with limited engagement of the community. Climate change will further exacerbate this as the amount of sustainable land reduces and the potential for poorly managed carbon sequestration projects further risk the protection of communities rights and access to their lands.

**Key asks**

7. Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners should strengthen regional mechanisms including community involvement to reflect cultural values and traditional knowledge to build a greater level of accountability & transparency to address sustainable management & development of resources.

8. Pacific Development Partner should achieve inter-generational equity, ensuring we leave a better world for our descendants, by cancelling climate debt and a commitment to a debt-free future.

9. Pacific Governments should
   a. implement citizen budget guidelines to strengthen accountability and community engagement in the budget process.
   b. ensure Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of communities be a non-negotiable requirement for any natural resource development. This should be accompanied by greater education of communities in this area.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis - All humanitarian actors must play an active role in addressing escalating climate risks. The climate crisis is exacerbating humanitarian needs and humanitarian funding; global and centralised approaches cannot keep up with increasing demand. Sustainable and effective climate responses must have local priorities at their core. We need a more proactive, faster and localised humanitarian system where communities are supported to analyse risks, create plans and solutions based in their traditional and have access to pre-arranged financing to save more lives. Anticipatory action is one of the practical ways that civil society can address loss and damage. We must scale up anticipatory action to meet the challenges of the climate crisis.

Climate justice is central to our survival and development - Climate change will impact every aspect of the lives, security and development of Pacific people. The Kioa Declaration upholds the civic values and rights of our respective peoples, villages and neighbourhoods, including values and qualities such as spirituality, reciprocity, compassion, love for people, ecosystems: te fenua [land], te lagi [sky] and te moana [ocean]; and with collective aspirations, for a just and dignified legacy for our families and future generations. Pacific people must ensure our communities’ access to resources for climate adaptation, mitigation, relocation, resettlement and human security amidst the climate emergency.

Key asks

10. Pacific development partners should:
   a. devolve power to local responders in Pacific countries. Funding and decision-making power is needed at the local level and donors must action their Grand Bargain commitments; and
   b. support scaled up funding for anticipatory action and pre-arranged disaster risk finance which is complemented by wider risk management efforts within the climate, development, and humanitarian portfolios.

11. Pacific leaders and Pacific development partners should:
   a. work to guarantee access to finance, and the creation of more equitable finance arrangements, beginning with a review of regional and international financial architectures, with inputs from civil society organisations and other stakeholders;
   b. support and fund innovative ways of addressing the climate crisis including forecast-based action, insurance mechanisms, community-based innovation. Ensure that indigenous wisdom and locally led anticipatory action approaches are at the centre of these actions; and
   c. actively create space for communities and civil society to participate in disaster coordination mechanisms. This includes strengthening and supporting CSOs to build and coordinate collective humanitarian priorities and actions.
OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT

The ocean and environment are the source of our resilience - Healthy oceans and environment are central to the livelihoods, food security, health and traditional knowledge of the Pacific Island communities and economies. Climate change and over exploitation of natural resources (including deep sea mining) will impact the development and resilience of Pacific communities and countries.

The Blue Economy narrative is a scramble to control the Pacific Ocean and its natural resources - Pacific culture, spirituality and identity flow with the ocean's tides, connecting our relationships, and regulating our very existence through long-term ocean health. The rhetoric of the dominant Blue Economy distorts this relationship and marginalises Pacific peoples' voices. The planned activities under the Blue Economy encompass both old fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, shipping, and new frontier issues such as deep-sea mining, genetic resources exploitation, renewable energy. Such activities are focused on exploiting our ocean environment at industrial scales and allow for the exploitation of marine and human life, for economic wealth for a few at the expense of so many.

Key asks:

12. Pacific Island leaders and Pacific development partners should:
   a. Prioritise the preservation of the ocean and environment through education, policies and use technological advancement to strengthen best practice across the region.
      • Work to ensure ocean policies that are compatible with the climate goals, including:
      • Ban on deep sea mining;
      • Ban on discharge of wastes, including nuclear;
      • Protect the oceans for the survival of small island communities and ecosystems;
      • Recognise, respect, uphold and value the contributions traditional knowledge, culture and faith have played and continue to play in sustaining the unique relationship between the oceans and the environment.

13. Pacific Leaders should reconsider the current Blue Economy framing with a critical lens on the geo-political, ideological and neo-liberal economic agendas that present it. These should be closely examined in order to identify who and what they truly represent.
TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

Connecting and strengthening Pacific culture and knowledge through technology - technology and the connectivity it brings, can be used to strengthen our knowledge and enhance development. It can connect people, strengthen regional approaches and be a leverage for women’s economic empowerment. However, access to technology and ICT infrastructure is at best uneven across the Pacific. Those without affordable access, many risk being left further behind in accessing the opportunities that come from connectivity and technology. It is important that in embracing technological advancements we do not lose our knowledge, values and ways of communicating. Integrating traditional knowledge and valuing and protecting citizen data and stories are essential to keeping Pacific values and knowledge at the centre of technological advancements.

Key asks

14. Pacific Island leaders and Pacific Development Partners should:
   a. Strengthen ICT infrastructure and ensure all Pacific people, including those most marginalised, have access to affordable ICT infrastructure and the benefits of technology. Alongside this ensure communities are provided with information and education for digital safeguarding.
   b. Support and protect citizen generated data. This includes ensuring access for communities to contribute, protecting their data and privacy and valuing the data they provide as essential research and knowledge.
   c. Integrate traditional knowledge into science and technology for culturally specific responses eg. traditional knowledge integrated into early warning systems.

ABOUT PIANGO

The Pacific Island Association of NGOs (PIANGO) is the regional coordinating body for civil society networks in the Pacific. PIANGO is an established and influential civil society actor that connects and represents civil society bodies across 24 Pacific Island countries and territories, which collectively reach into over 1200 local civil society organisations.

PIANGO’s mandate is to strengthen and build the capacity of Pacific NGOS and the civil society sector through giving the sector a voice in policy formulation and strengthening its member organisations.

Our member

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations – MANGO
Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations – VANGO
Tuvalu Association of NGOs – TANGO
Hiti Tau – Tahiti
Development Service Exchange – DSE
Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisation – SUNGO
PNG Environmental Alliance – PEA
Niue Island (Umbrella) Association of NGOs – NIUANGO
Council for International Development – CID
Unite Territoriale de Liaison Nationale en Kanaky – UTLN
Nauru Island Association of NGOs – NIANGO
Marshall Islands Council of NGOs – MICNGOS
Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Organisation – KANGO
Payu-Ta Inc.
Fiji Council of Social Services – FCROSS
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Alliance of NGOs – FANGOT
The Cook Islands Civil Society Organisations Inc. – CICSO
American Samoa Association of NGOs -ASANGO
Australian Council for International Development – ACFID
The Timor Leste NGO Forum - FONGTIL
Pasifika – West Papua