



# Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Nadi, Fiji

Hybrid Meeting: In-person and Virtual

## SESSION 6

TOPIC OUTLINE	
Title	Risk Informed Development: Strengthening Coherence in Addressing Climate and Disaster Risk
Coordinator	<p>Moses Sikiyou, PIFS Email: <a href="mailto:moseses@forumsec.org">moseses@forumsec.org</a></p> <p>Amini Delaisainiai, UNDP Email: <a href="mailto:aminisitali.delaisainiai@undp.org">aminisitali.delaisainiai@undp.org</a></p> <p>Prishika Nandan, Government of Fiji Email: <a href="mailto:prishika.nandan@govnet.gov.fj">prishika.nandan@govnet.gov.fj</a></p>
Moderator	Dr. Viliamu Iese
Supporting Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIFS</li> <li>• UNDP</li> </ul>
Background	<p>To address the impact of disasters caused by climate change-related or geological hazards Pacific island countries endorsed the <i>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management 2017 - 2030 (FRDP)</i> which was approved by Pacific leaders in 2016. The FRDP provides high level strategic guidance to different stakeholder groups on how to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, in ways that contribute to and are embedded in sustainable development</p> <p>The FRDP evolved at the regional level in response and to complement and support strategic national initiatives to integrate climate change and disaster considerations into all decision-making and governance. The main intent of integration is to ensure that all development is risk informed; that climate and disaster related risk, and gender and social inclusion, are fundamental aspects of planning, financing and implementing development at all levels.</p> <p>Some significant progress in ensuring that development approaches are risk informed can be noted across the region. Tonga, Solomon Islands and Fiji are three examples of countries which have achieved a measure of success through substantive institutional reform, such as the establishment of resilience units with ministries responsible for finance to lead the risk informing of national planning and budgeting processes, establishing new coordination networks and partnerships across government and creating the demand for use of risk information from the development space. This is also leading to mobilisation of new sources of financing for resilience. At the local level in Fiji, the way community projects such as roads and footpaths are designed, implemented and managed has been transformed.</p>

	<p>While some helpful progress has been made, there is need for more prominent political level support for several reasons. The related but separate ongoing discourse on climate change and disaster risk at the global and regional level hampers efforts of countries to drive a programmatic approach to integration of all risks into development. Our Pacific leaders are vocal about the impacts of climate change and the actions required to reduce these. There however is less concern about the importance of integrated approaches in a Pacific island context, and inadequate political drive to establish the partnerships, coordination and financing mechanisms required to sustain these approaches.</p> <p>Integration is particularly important for small island economies as it is imperative that we optimise our limited capacity and resources by combining our efforts to reduce vulnerability, exposure and therefore risk. This is particularly relevant as climate change and disaster risk have common root causes: such as poverty, inadequate infrastructure and services. Not doing so divides the attention and time of our small administrations, increasing the resources required to advocate for change and mobilise appropriate resources to respond.</p> <p>Adopting an integrated, or risk informed approach to development enables all development to become more sustainable and resilient. Political level support is required to assist policy, planning and technical officials and to create more awareness generally and spearhead and/or inspire integrated approaches at the national, sector, local and community levels.</p>
Description	<p>The purpose of this discussion is to ensure that Ministers are fully versed with the importance of risk informed development and to seek their support for strengthening integrated approaches to climate change and disaster resilience building at national and subnational levels.</p> <p>The discussion will have two presentations, one technical overview of the concept of risk informed development, utilising risk information in the development space and financing for resilience, followed by a brief account of risk informed action at work. A case example from Fiji (potentially the example of a risk informed farm road in the Northern Division) will be briefly presented to Ministers. The presentation will emphasise the importance of addressing the various dimensions of risk and how these need to be taken into account in planning and financing development.</p> <p>The presentation will also highlight how both climate-related, geological hazards, gender and social inclusion and related risks have been taken into account thus demonstrating integration at work and the importance of examining risk in the context of development from a multi-hazard perspective.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Moderator will present a few guiding questions for Ministers and other stakeholders to consider and share responses to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is risk informed development progressing in their respective country contexts?</li> <li>2. What are the opportunities for ensuring that all development policy and practice supports an integrated approach to risk informed development?</li> <li>3. What action can be taken at national and subnational level to support and accelerate efforts?</li> </ol>

	<p>The Moderator will only canvas responses from Ministers and other stakeholders and draw out a consensus on how risk informed development actions can be enhanced. Follow up questions to support the dialogue may be asked by the Moderator if needed.</p> <p>The results of this discussion will help to frame commitments that Ministers can consider.</p>
Intended Outcomes	<p>§ Improved understanding of by Ministers of the importance of integrated approaches to risk informed development</p> <p>§ Clear guidance on the actions that Ministers can take on this issue</p>
NDMO Preparations	<p>NDMO Directors will need to ensure Ministers are briefed on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The objectives, scope and focus of some key risk informed developments in their country. This can be at the national or subnational level.</li> <li>2. The challenges inhibiting progress to integrated approaches to risk informed development.</li> <li>3. Opportunities for Ministers to provide leadership and improve/strengthen integration and risk informed development.</li> </ol>