

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 8 – 12 May 2023

TD 04: PACIFIC PORTS VISION 2030 – 2050 RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

[Submitted by Pacific Community]

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to present the *Pacific Ports Vision 2030 – 2050 Recognition Framework* (Recognition Framework¹) for adoption by Transport Ministers.

Background

2. In support of the need for an integrated approach towards increased resilience of port infrastructure, sustainable economic development, and reduced carbon footprint and mitigation of environmental impacts, the 4th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (PRETMM) of 2019 adopted the *Pacific Ports 2030-2050, a vision of Resilient, Green and Clean Ports in the Pacific* (Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050).
3. In their meeting outcome, Transport Ministers and Officials tasked the SPC to develop a regional Recognition Framework to support the vision and guide the adoption of ambitious targets related to resilience, operational, energy and environmental management of ports in the Pacific Islands region.
4. Coordinated by SPC and jointly supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance (PMTA), port stakeholders in the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), became actively engaged in developing the Recognition Framework since March 2022. After two regional consultation workshops and extensive consultations with key stakeholders, there was agreement to present the Recognition Framework for adoption at the next Transport Ministers meeting. A hard copy of the Framework is tabled before Ministers.

Overview of the Recognition Framework

5. The Recognition Framework supports the *Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050*, and its design is kept relatively simple and broad to ensure it applies to Pacific ports of varying sizes, technological assets, and differing operational models.
6. It provides objectives, measures, and targets across three domains:
 - (i) *Resilient Ports* – to adapt port development and strengthen preparedness, response and recovery to climate change and disasters, implement processes to support economic development, achieve port operational efficiency, and compliance with international standards and best practises;
 - (ii) *Green Ports* – to contribute to low-carbon development by reducing the carbon footprint of Pacific ports, increasing their energy efficiency, and incentivising green shipping; and
 - (iii) *Clean Ports* – to reduce the environmental impact of port operations and comply with international standards and best practises for pollution prevention and control.

¹ [*Pacific Ports Vision Recognition Framework.pdf*](#)

Indicators

7. Each domain has key indicators that outline actions Ports should undertake. Indicators are divided into four separate stages that demonstrate a ports' commitment across each of the three domains (resilient, green and clean) as follows.
- (i) *Unengaged* - This applies to a port that is yet to develop any plan or undertake any action relevant to long-term objectives and the Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050.
 - (ii) *Engaged* - These ports are recognised as making preliminary steps towards identifying areas for improvement and developing plans relevant to long-term objectives and the Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050. Initial assessment and measurements may have been completed but plans are yet to be developed or implemented.
 - (iii) *Highly Engaged* - Such ports are recognised as making significant contributions to long-term objectives and the Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050. They have made specific, targeted goals to improve port operations and have begun implementing those plans.
 - (iv) *Leading* - This applies to ports considered to be high-achieving models of resilient, efficient and sustainable ports in the Pacific region in all or most indicators. They demonstrate consistent commitment and growth towards the Pacific Ports Vision 2030-2050 and have achieved improvements in port operations and development in line with long-term objectives for resilient, clean and green ports.

Administration of Recognition Framework

8. SPC and SPREP will provide administrative services for the effective deployment of the Recognition Framework. In addition, an oversight group (OG) will be formed, consisting of representatives from Ports Authorities or operators to monitor the progress of implementing the framework. The OG will be selected by the PMTA and be affiliated with the Pacific Islands Maritime Conference (PIMC). The tasks to be performed by this body include:
- (i) securing funding to support the deployment and use of the Recognition Framework;
 - (ii) raising awareness of the Recognition Framework amongst Pacific ports;
 - (iii) facilitating training and provision of tools and a technical help desk for ports to work with;
 - (iv) verification activities; and
 - (v) certification.

Recommendations

9. Transport Ministers are invited to:
- a. **adopt** the *Pacific Ports Vision 2030 – 2050 Recognition Framework*;
 - b. **applaud** the efforts of the SPC, SPREP, IMO, PMTA and other ports stakeholders in developing the Recognition Framework; and
 - c. **urge** PICTs, development partners and ports stakeholders to commit to the resourcing and implementation of the Recognition Framework.

Date: 24 April 2023