



## THIRD REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PACIFIC WOMEN IN MARITIME

Cairns, Australia

27<sup>th</sup> February - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

1. The Third Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime was held in Cairns, Australia, from 28 February - 03 March 2023. The Conference hosted by the Australian Government through the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), and jointly coordinated by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and attended by representatives from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, the Executive Committee of the Pacific Women In Maritime Association (PacWIMA), partners from AMSA, Maritime New Zealand, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), the Women International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) Australia, World Maritime University (WMU), the Adopt a Ship Programme and private sector organizations. The list of participants is in **Annex 1**.
2. The opening remarks were delivered by the Manager for International and Domestic Engagement of AMSA, Elisa Boughton, who highlighted that the Pacific is a region of maritime nations with strong seafaring cultures, with knowledge, expertise, and dedication to create new opportunities for women in the maritime community. This was followed by an introductory address by the IMO's focal point for the Women in Maritime Programme, Mariana Noceti, who reiterated IMO's commitment to gender inclusivity as enshrined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The keynote address by SPC's Principal Strategic Lead for Pacific Women and Girls, Mereseini Rakuita, who echoed SPC's support to drive transformational change for Pacific women in the maritime sector. This was followed by the PacWIMA Chairperson Dinah Inape-Omenefa, who acknowledged the oversight and support by SPC, IMO, Maritime Administrations and Employers as key to continue the work of women in the maritime sector.
3. The Conference expressed its deepest appreciation to the Australia Government, AMSA, and the people of Australia for the excellent arrangements made in hosting the Conference.



### The Conference:

4. Reaffirmed the Pacific maritime sector's commitment to achieve UN SDG 5: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* and other SDGs related to maritime.
5. Agreed to maintain the Resolutions of the First Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime hosted by Tonga in 2016, as the high-level priorities to guide the Pacific region towards gender equity and equality in the maritime sector.
6. Acknowledged the progress made since the Second Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime hosted by Papua New Guinea in 2018, which included the development and endorsement of the *Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020 - 2024* (the Strategy) during the 4<sup>th</sup> PRETMM in Samoa in 2019 and the establishment of 18 May as the IMO proclaimed International Day for Women in Maritime.
7. Acknowledged the challenges faced by women in the implementation of the Strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic; agreed to continue implementing the Strategy; and requested SPC support and mobilization of necessary resources.
8. Agreed to update the Transport Ministers at the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministerial Meeting (PRETMM), 8 – 12 May 2023 on the status of the implementation of the Strategy; and to seek the endorsement of the Ministers for the development of a new Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025 – 2030 for presenting at the 6<sup>th</sup> PRETMM.
9. Agreed to task SPC to mobilize resources, on behalf of PacWIMA, to carry out the consultative process required for the development and relevant implementation of a new Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025 – 2030.
10. Agreed to promote the adoption of a cross-cutting sectoral approach in dealing with the challenges faced by women in the maritime sector; mainstream gender in the maritime sector; and foster gender-responsive budgeting within Maritime Administrations and National Governments as a proposed action by Ministers at the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> PRETMM and other relevant Ministerial and Pacific Leaders Dialogues.
11. Encouraged State WIMAs to collect and share reliable data to establish a baseline in support to the Regional Strategy and measure progress towards achieving the PacWIMA's objectives; as well as to assist their relevant Maritime Administrations in completing the 2024 IMO Women in Maritime Survey.

12. Following the decision to have a joint meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Search and Rescue (PacSAR) Workshop and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime, supported the recognition of PacWIMA as a strategic partner to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) in SAR efforts, and the continuation of the collaborative efforts between PacWIMA and SAR operators in the Pacific.
13. Acknowledged the need for the prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) of seafarers, and PacWIMA's role in facilitating these outcomes through a community-based approach.
14. Requested SPC to coordinate and provide technical assistance to PacWIMA members through the review of the governance structure of the Association to ensure it is fit-for-purpose and drives sustainability from national member priorities whilst being adequately resourced to achieve the national and regional desired outcomes.
15. Encouraged employers to support the Regional Strategy and actively promote gender equality and equity, including using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and supporting their staff to integrate the implementation of the Regional Strategies for Pacific Women in Maritime in their annual performance review and work activities.
16. Acknowledged the following contributions –
  - (i) IMO sensitizing participants on the gender work on the Women in Maritime programme at IMO, short course fellowships and initiatives to improve the visibility, recognition, and training of women in the maritime sector.
  - (ii) AMSA best-practice to ensure gender equity through its participatory design approach and working together for an inclusive maritime workplace.
  - (iii) Opportunities under the Pacific Women Lead – Women and Girls and SPC training in communications and content development, project proposals and documentation and sharing the lessons learnt through a case study in Fiji on the role of women in maritime energy management and best practices.
  - (iv) Successes and challenges faced by indigenous women in maritime and the governance experience of the Torres Strait Regional Authority.
  - (v) By WMU on the fellowship opportunities at IMO training institutions, and research outcomes from the IOC-UNESCO endorsed programme, *Empowering Women for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*.

(vi) Adopt a Ship Programme on community outreach opportunities to engage schools to generate interest for a maritime professional career, including the integration of maritime training modules in the standard education curriculum. In addition, the Programme can be a beneficial tool to address gender parity, safety awareness and marine environment pollution.

(vii) WISTA Australia on the need to change the narrative and ensure that women support women and the AMSA Board promoting engagement, empowerment and education as tools for advancing the role of women in maritime.

17. Elected the new Executive Committee of PacWIMA as follow:

- a. **Chairperson:** Ms. Meliame Fusi Tualau (TONGA)
- b. **Vice Chairperson:** Ms. Makerita Atonio-Iese (SAMOA)
- c. **Public Relations and Communications Officer:** Ms Amy Takotta Ngatamaine (COOK ISLANDS)
- d. **Member:** Ms. Kiritaake Teannaki (KIRIBATI)
- e. **Member:** Ms. Seiloni Akanete Toakuru (VANUATU)
- f. **Member:** Ms. Diana Kinifusia Lazarus Suafalu (SOLOMON ISLANDS)

**03 March 2023**



## **Annex 1**

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