

► Concept note and final agenda: Pacific Tripartite High-Level Dialogue on Decent Work and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) recognize the need to ensure collaboration under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the significance of fostering tripartite collaboration to address labour-related challenges and leverage opportunities in the Pacific region. The joint initiative proposes to organize a Pacific Tripartite High-level Dialogue that will bring together labour ministers, union representatives and employer representatives from the region.

The technical sessions of the Dialogue will focus on:

- Tripartism and social dialogue in the Pacific
- Realizing decent work through international labour standards
- Labour market data for evidence-based policy making
- Tackling informality and promoting access to jobs and social protection
- Skills shortages, skills development and skills for a green and digital transition

Dialogue participants will have the opportunity to discuss opportunities and collective actions that can enhance job-rich growth that is inclusive and transformative, strengthen capacity to promote and ensure the realization of fundamental principles and rights at work and bolster regional cooperation and multilateralism on world of work issues. The event will also help forge commitment among the tripartite constituents on common priorities for regional collective actions that will help shaping PIF and ILO work in the region for years to come.

The challenges in the region are numerous, given the unique vulnerabilities that exist within our region. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) frequently experience economic setbacks, affecting job opportunities, due to the disruption through external shocks like natural disasters. The consequences of these crises are affecting not only the demand on employment but also its quality and composition in terms of sector, skills, productivity, working conditions and other dimensions.

Stimulating the creation of decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities and getting people into decent employment are important policy priorities for countries in the Pacific. Increasing the resilience of workers and enterprises to cope with possible future crises, leveraging the opportunities of a just digital and environmental transition, and addressing other trends shaping the world of work, including climate change, are key in this context. Adequate social protection systems are also a critical element. Ensuring and observing fundamental principles and rights at work is essential for the economic and social well-being of Pacific people and communities.

In 2022, Pacific leaders adopted the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent to address present and future challenges that countries in the Pacific region are facing. Improved socio-economic well-being and access to employment and entrepreneurship are some of the key ambitions articulated in this Strategy, and the realization of human rights, gender equality, equity and social inclusion is one of the central goals. The proposed Pacific Tripartite High-Level Dialogue will facilitate regional discussions, exchange knowledge and best practices and strengthen partnerships to meet the ambitions and goals of the Blue Pacific Continent,

in line with the Singapore Statement adopted at the ILO's 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in 2022. The proposed meeting will also position PICs as important partners and contributors to the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

The Pacific Tripartite High-level Dialogue follows the ILO High Level Tripartite Dialogue on Future of Work in the Pacific in 2017 and the Pacific Tripartite High-level Forum on Climate Change and Decent Work in 2019. In addition, the ILO and the PIFS are strengthening their collaboration with the signing of an ILO-PIFS Agreement. The proposed Dialogue may initiate the development of PIFS-ILO regional collaboration as part of the ILO celebration of its 50th anniversary in the Pacific in 2025.

Invited participants:

1. Tripartite representatives of ILO and PIFS members Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
2. Tripartite representatives from non-metropolitan territories and PIFS members French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Tokelau; tripartite representatives from non-ILO member states, including Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru and Niue
3. Representatives from Pacific Island Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) and Pacific Islands Council of Trades Union (PICTU);
4. Representatives from ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries in Suva and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), UN Agencies, Pacer Plus Implementation Unit, SPC, ADB, World Bank, academia, relevant NGOs and other organizations.

Objectives:

1. Provide the opportunity for tripartite delegations to express their views on priorities and recommendations for work to be pursued by PIFS and the ILO, including through knowledge sharing and an exchange of best practices.
2. In providing the opportunity for tripartite discussions, strengthen the participation of governments, unions, and employers in the International Labour Conference (ILC) and ensure Pacific voices shape dialogues on decent work and labour rights, and that conversely, ILC and ILO processes contribute to the achievement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific region.
3. Share insights, experiences and best practices related to tripartite approaches shaping labour policies, employment opportunities, social protection, human mobility and sustainable and inclusive economic development.

Date and Venue:

- 23-26 April 2024
- Suva, Fiji

Agenda:

23 April

Day 1: Pre-Dialogue Session: Individual Tripartite Group Discussions

	<u>Agenda Item</u>
09.00-12.30 <i>Venue: Holiday Inn Suva</i>	ILO Members group individual meetings of Governments, Employers – including PIPSO, Workers – including PICTU
12.30 – 14.00 <i>Venue: Holiday Inn Suva</i>	Lunch
14.00 - 17.30 <i>Venue: Holiday Inn Suva</i>	PIF and ILO Members group individual meetings of Governments, Employers – including PIPSO, Workers – including PICTU
18.00 - 20.00 <i>Venue: Grand Pacific Hotel</i>	Opening Ceremony , followed by cocktail/dinner reception

24 April

Day 2: Scene Setting for Tripartite Dialogue, Strengthening Tripartite Strategies for Decent Work – tackling key technical areas

Venue: PIFS Conference Centre

	<u>Agenda Item</u>
09.00 - 09.15	Signing of PIF ILO Agreement
09.15 – 09.55	Strengthening partnerships in the Pacific continent and beyond: The role of the Global Coalition for Social Justice
09.55 – 10.00	Group photographs
10.00 - 10.30	Break



10.30 – 11.45	Session 1: Contextual framework and regional mechanisms
11.45 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.45	Session 2: Tripartism and social dialogue in the Pacific
14.45 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 17.00	Session 3: Realizing decent work through international labour standards
17.00 – 17.10	Main take aways of the day

25 April

Day 3: Strengthening Tripartite Strategies for Decent Work – tackling key technical areas

Venue: PIFS Conference Centre

	<u>Agenda Item</u>
08.30 – 09.00	PIF and ILO Members group individual meetings of Governments, Employers – including PIPSO, Workers – including PICTU
09.00 – 09.10	Opening and recap
09.10 – 10.00	Launch of the ILO Pacific Employment and Social Monitor and discussion on the role of labour market data for evidence-based policy making
10.00 – 10.30	Break
10.30 – 12.15	Session 4: Tackling informality and promoting access to jobs and social protection
12.15 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 15.30	Session 5: Skills shortages, skills development and skills for a green and digital transition
15.30 – 15.40	Main take aways of the day before side event
15.40 – 16.00	Break
16.00 – 17.30	PIFS-ILO-IOM side event: Information session on regional cooperation and labour mobility in the Pacific

26 April

Day 4 (morning): Formulating strategies for change

Venue: PIFS Conference Centre

	<u>Agenda Item</u>
08:30 – 09:00	PIF and ILO Members group individual meetings of Governments, Employers – including PIPSO, Workers – including PICTU
09:00 – 09.10	Opening and recap
09.10 – 10.30	Discussion synthesis and way forward
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Break</i>
11.00 -12.00	Discussion synthesis and way forward - <i>continued</i>
12.00 – 12.30	Closing Ceremony
12.30 - 13.30	<i>Lunch</i>