

Pacific Tripartite High-Level Dialogue on Decent Work and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

23 - 26 April 2024 | Suva, Fiji

Session 1: Contextual framework and regional mechanisms
24 April, 10.30 – 11.45

This version: 23 April 2024

Proposed Speakers

Speakers

- ▶ Mr Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary General, PIFS
- ▶ Ms Reiko Tsushima, Chief, Regional Programming Services, ILO

Interventions from the floor

- ▶ Ms Caroline Mareko, National Co-Convener, New Zealand Council of Trade Unions
- ▶ Mr Howard Politini, Chair, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO)

Moderator: Mr Martin Wandera, ILO Country Director for Pacific Island Countries (TBC)

Chair: Ms Batetaake Tatoa, Director of Labour, Ministry of Employment and Human Resource, Government of Kiribati

Background

The Pacific Islands Forum and the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is the Pacific region's premier political and economic policy organization. Through numerous strategies and action plans, the Forum progresses a Pacific version of development that prioritises peace, harmony and prosperity. The key development framework for the Forum is the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. This crucial document outlines the commitment to ensuring health and wellbeing of Pacific peoples, and to human rights and equity for all. The 2050 Strategy places emphasis on the ocean and land and celebrates Pacific communities, the natural environment, resources, livelihoods, faiths, cultural values and traditional knowledge.

The 2050 Strategy will be achieved through coordinated work with support of national and regional institutions. Governance in this process is critical, and the 2050 Strategy acknowledges both the need for and greater expectations of transparency and accountability at all levels of government and community. Broadly, the 2050 Strategy intends to move the Pacific towards greater resiliency 'future-proof' the region from the risk of climate, geopolitical, security and other eventualities.

The International Labour Organization in the Pacific

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is dedicated to realizing social justice through the promotion and implementation of international human and labour rights, in pursuance of its foundational belief that peace is essential to prosperity and development. In this statement, the echoes of the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent are already evident. Today, the ILO helps Member States, including in the Pacific region, to deliver decent work and economic and working conditions that give all those within the 'world of work' a stake in lasting peace, prosperity and progress.

In 1975 the ILO opened its office in the Fiji Islands. The primary objective of the ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries to assist ILO's tripartite constituents, governments and employers' and workers' organizations of the Pacific Island countries, in their efforts to reduce decent work deficits and to pursue development for dignity through the achievement of rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue

The ILO-PIF Agreement

The ILO-PIF Agreement demonstrates the shared values and commitment to partnerships of the two organizations. The Agreement recognizes the broad strategic guidance of:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The ILO's Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis
- The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway
- The PIFS' 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

PIFS and ILO also agreed to centre their cooperation around principles of human-centred development, climate change and just transition, and social dialogue and tripartism. The Agreement further proposes cooperation on:

- Private sector development to promote inclusive, job-rich economic growth, as well as employment diversification for sustainable development. Regulatory and policy reforms to improve enabling environments for innovation, support the establishment and growth of small enterprises, and enhance skills development
- Strengthening the capacity of governments to promote and ensure the observance of fundamental principles and rights at work, both to protect workers and to ensure a level playing field for investment in the region. Promotion of regional coordination to address common labour market issues including the needs to advance gender equality, to combat violence and harassment at work, and to ensure good governance of labour mobility schemes
- Promoting universal access to comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection for a people-centred approach to development, including by adapting and preserving indigenous knowledge. It is important to capture integrated sets of policies designed to ensure income security and support to all people across the life cycle, paying particular attention to the poor and the vulnerable.

It is thus critical for PIFS and the ILO to discuss and shape concrete interventions and coordinated approaches to address these areas and to ground

Detailed agenda (draft)

The session will be led by a discussant moderator (TBC). After introductory presentations from ILO and PIFS representatives, participants from tripartite and development partners will discuss how their institutions work towards achieving their respective strategies and identify synergies with other institutional approaches. The discussant moderator will also recall and emphasize the interdependence of development goals and the need for coordinated approaches to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

Speakers will be requested to discuss the advocacy partnership that have advanced their institutional goals and outcomes. Speakers may use slides. Interventions from the floor will be requested and targeted in the first instance, after which a plenary discussion will ensue.

10.30 – 10.33

Chair opening

10.33 – 10.40

Opening remarks

- Mr Martin Wandera, Country Director, CO-Suva

10.40 – 11.00

Presentation of PIFS streams of work relating to ILO mandate

- Mr Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary General, PIFS

11.30 – 11.42

Plenary exchange

11.42 – 11.45

Chair closing