

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

Concept note for side event

Information session on regional cooperation on Labour Mobility in the Pacific 25 April 2024, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

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. **From 23-26 April the ILO and PIFS will be jointly organizing a Pacific Tripartite High-level Dialogue that will bring together labour ministers, union representatives and employer representatives from the region.**

Labour migration, when well-governed, offers considerable benefits to migrant workers, their families, and communities – as well as to the social fabric and economies of countries of employment and origin. Much of the labour mobility in the Pacific context is temporary. Temporary labour migration, which can be defined as ‘migration for a specific motivation and/or purpose with the intention that, afterwards, there will be a return to the country of origin or onward movement’ also comes with specific risks including exploitation, forced labour, unethical recruitment, and trafficking¹. For labour markets in countries of origin, it may also lead to temporary skills shortages. Good governance implies that labour migration is safe and orderly, and that regular migration pathways and decent work are incentivised. Social dialogue is a critical component of good labour mobility governance; it is essential if international labour mobility is to benefit all the stakeholders, and in particular migrant workers, employers and the host societies.² In the Pacific, dedicated regional platforms facilitate discussion on labour mobility, namely the Forum Trade Ministers Meeting, the principal Ministerial Meeting with oversight of this issue, and the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting, the key regional meeting thematically dedicated to labour mobility that includes a diverse range of government and non-government stakeholders. Such platforms facilitate progress on different regional initiatives related to labour mobility and migration.

In light of the critical perspectives of the participants attending the Tripartite High-level Dialogue, the PIFS is convening a side-event in collaboration with ILO and IOM to share updates on regional labour mobility initiatives, that will be further progressed and discussed at the dedicated meetings mentioned above.

¹ ILO (2022), "[Temporary labour migration: Unpacking complexities](#)".

² Good Labour Mobility Governance: Considerations for the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting. Prepared by Nilim Baruah, Angelica Neville, International Labour Organization (ILO), and Sally Barber (ILO consultant) for the PLMAM 2023.

Agenda:

25 April 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

Venue: PIFS room TBC

	<u>Agenda Item</u>
4:00 – 4:10	<u>Welcome from Chair</u>
4:10 – 5:20	- <u>Concept Note for the Development of Regional Labour Mobility Principles (20 minutes)</u> - <u>PIFS</u> - <u>IOM</u> - <u>Good Labour Mobility Governance: Key Principles and Approaches</u> - <u>Revisiting the paper presented at PLMAM (November 2023) (15 minutes)</u> - <u>ILO</u> - <u>Update on the Regional Reintegration Strategy (15 minutes)</u> - <u>PPIU</u> <u>Plenary Discussion – moderated by PIFS Director of Programmes and Initiatives (20 minutes)</u> - <u>Response from government, worker, and employer representatives.</u>
5:20 – 5:30	<u>Closing Remarks</u>