



20 July 2023

## 2023 Pacific Resilience Meeting

### CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 11-13 October, 2023

PRP Youth Hub Meetingc(TBC)

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## Introduction

**The biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM)** is a key element of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)<sup>1</sup> governance structure serving as a regional platform bringing together resilience practitioners across sectors and stakeholders to share and learn from each other, showcase and inspire innovation and higher standards of performance in how the Framework for a Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) is being implemented in the region. Since the endorsement of the PRP governance structure in 2017, there have been 2 PRM.

The inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP), in Fiji from 1 – 3 May 2019. Themed “*Youth Futures in a Resilient Pacific*”, the PRM brought together well over 300 participants who attended around 20 sessions and side events over the 3-days programme and included a pre-PRM Youth forum providing a platform for youth from around the region to coordinate their participation and engagement in the main PRM.

In 2021, as COVID-19 related border closures were still in place, the second Pacific Resilience Meeting was hybrid in nature from 6th to 8th July, 2021 – preceded by a pre-PRM Youth Forum on the 5th July, 2021. The meeting was themed “*Our people, Our journey: Nurturing Pacific Resilience from Home*” to recognize the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the multifaceted nature of risk but also to underline the ongoing efforts at the individual and collective level for resilience that builds on the distinct culture and traditions of our Pacific. It also demonstrated stakeholders coming together converting the challenges arising from COVID-19 into opportunities through leveraging digital technology and adapting to current circumstances. It showcased 26 sessions, with more than 150 speakers and 1700 participants, over the 4-days programme.

The 2023 PRM will build on the strengths of the previous 2 PRM whilst ensuring strengthened inclusivity and participation from all stakeholders at the regional, national and sub-national levels.

## 2023 Theme

Since the 2021 PRM, key developments have included the endorsement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific which underscores our Leaders’ vision for a resilient Pacific region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

This year, the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM 2023) is about: **Our People, Our Strength: Securing Our Pacific Future.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) was called for by Leaders in 2016 to support the implementation and monitoring of the FRDP. In 2017 Leaders endorsed the PRP governance structure that includes the PRP Taskforce, biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM), the Technical Working Groups and Support Unit.

The theme emphasises how all people of the Pacific are at the centre of building resilience, highlighting Pacific rights and local action. The term “securing” refers to taking solid steps from endurance to planting us firmly as a region with a secure and unified future. The PRM 2023 is a platform that will unpack resilience issues including overcoming challenges, transitioning from enduring to resilience through sustainable, transformative local efforts, as well as exploring how resilience is already embedded within us Pacific citizens, underpinned by traditional knowledge and coming to build together as a region.

This meeting will share stories of strength and resilience; highlighting the long-term strength, adaptability, and sustainability of Pacific communities and ecosystems in the face of adversity. Building resilience to secure the future of the region through proactive measures, collaboration, and the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and knowledge will be at the core of discussions at PRM 2023.

### Purpose

The 2023 PRM will be forward-looking and emphasize the key intent of the FRDP and PRP which strives for continued improved outcomes and impacts as well as underscores our accountability as resilience practitioners. The 2023 PRM is an opportunity to showcase such examples of improvement and innovation.

**It incorporates International DRR day on 13<sup>th</sup> October as an opportunity to build on national activities planned on that date and how to reflect and showcase through the PRM.**

### Objectives

1. **ENGAGE** the audience, Pacific Leaders, decision-makers and international partners/donors to hear local, home-grown and enduring resilience actions that set the foundation for strengthened capacity of the Pacific, her peoples, communities and nations to respond effectively in times of adversity including for climate change and disasters (making content engaging, inclusive, representative, culturally sound and inspiring).
2. **CONNECT** the Resilience Community to collaborate, partner, learn, act and be heard on the successes, work and future challenges facing the region in an inclusive and localised manner – that lead to enduring partnerships and collaborative approaches.
3. **DEMONSTRATE** the progress across the region that is contributing to the implementation of the FRDP and towards the aspirations of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific.
4. **INSPIRE** and connect the resilience community and broader stakeholders through innovative, practical, and successful learnings across the Pacific in actions supporting a resilient Pacific from diverse, dynamic and inclusive spaces.
5. **ELEVATE** resilience outcomes, initiatives, challenges and opportunities to our Pacific Leaders, decision-makers, global institutions, and international/donor agencies towards Pacific-led resilience and well-being.

### Expected outcomes

2023 specific outcomes are yet to be elaborated.

The **outcome document** of the meeting would wrap-up the findings and recommendations from the various sessions, collate a multi-stakeholder Pacific position on emerging issues, opportunities and

challenges, and draw the way-forward beyond the Mid-term Review of the FRDP. It should provide value to the participants and be practical and actionable for better impacts and results.

The 2023 PRM should further promote coherence, alignment and integration and share commonalities and convergences towards achieving the sustainable development goals in the context of the Pacific Islands.

### Date and Format

**The Proposed dates** are **11-12-13 October 2023**.

Noting that the 13 October is International DRR Day, focusing on : “Fighting inequality for a resilient future”.

Some countries around the Pacific like to celebrate how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The PRM should then support and strengthen the national programs in many different ways.

**On the format**, the PRM should be hybrid, to reach out throughout the region and down to the local level. Hence, we suggest:

- one PRM regional virtual hub / digital platform
- satellite national hubs in parallel

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

An organising committee (multi-stakeholder in nature) as established by the Taskforce is comprised of PRP members to deliver the meeting.

This organising committee should drive decisions with the support of the PRP Support unit and the technical assistant.

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The Pacific Resilience Meeting will be prepared for and be delivered based on the following **‘organizing principles’**:

- Outcome-focused: Each session should provide learning and recommendation that lead to a strengthening of resilience at the community level under the goals of the FRDP;
- Action-oriented: Each session should allow participants to interact and rally into new types of practices and partnership;
- Inclusive: The event should be organized in a way to maximize the engagement of wider stakeholders and networks;
- Customized: Face-to-face and virtual space should be allocated to encourage networking and inspire stakeholders to take forward actions together;

- Pragmatic: A preference will be given to case studies and practices that demonstrate aspects of strengthening community level resilience that have the potential for *scalability* in the region.

### Meeting structure

Options are:

*In Plenaries:*

- interactive 'interview-style' session with panel members
- technical sessions with presentations and Q & A sessions
- PRP Technical Working Groups learning event [world café style] (1.Risk Governance, 2.Risk Financing, 3.Human Mobility, 4.Localisation, 5.resilient infrastructure, 6. GESI, 7. water security)

*In Country Hubs:*

- locally/nationally focused side-events
- face-to-face interactions with local resilience actors and partners
- booths

#### Pre-PRM Youth FORUM – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

A pre-PRM Youth Forum was organised in 2019 and in 2021.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Forum at the Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) with the theme, '*Youth Futures in a Resilient Pacific*,' was an opportunity to give the space to Pacific young people to contribute their experiences and contributions on disaster risk reduction and other related key areas. A PRP Youth Hub was then established for continued engagement of Youth.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Forum was attended by more than 700 participants from across the Pacific Island countries and territories, under the PRM theme of *Our people, Our journey: nurturing Pacific resilience from home*. Key to the discussions was the sub-theme of '*Why Youth Matter*', a reminder to all that youth is actively engaged in building resilience in our communities.

Members of the Youth Hub shall define needs and requirements for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in 2023.

#### Communication Plan and Outreach

There will be a sub-committee of Communication plan and outreach with members drawn from the PRM organising committee.

#### Budget and Funding support

The total budget for the meeting is yet *to be defined*.

The Support Unit has identified financial resources from the PACRES project, the BRAC project (Water Security) and the BSRP II project.

Budget should include support to national hubs for national actors to come together in their country (venue and catering).

Other contributions are welcomed.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact the PRP support unit:

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