



Pacific Trade
Facilitation



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy



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Foreword by the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Baron Waqa



The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) is the overarching blueprint to advance Pacific regionalism for the next three decades, articulating the region's long-term vision, values and key thematic areas. The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders' vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

Efficient and seamless trade facilitation is paramount to unleashing the economic potential of the Pacific Region as envisioned in the 2050 Strategy. As the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), it gives me immense pleasure to introduce the Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy (Strategy), a milestone document that outlines our collective vision for enhancing trade facilitation across the Pacific Region, implements the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy 2020-2025 (PAFTS), and contributes to the Resources and Economic thematic area of the 2050 Strategy.

The PIF Members have recognised the imperative of addressing inefficiencies and barriers to trade to propel regional economic integration and prosperity. The development of this Strategy underscores our commitment to supporting national trade facilitation reforms while advancing regional cooperation and coordination.

Inefficient border procedures, excessive documentation requirements, and opaque controls undermine trade flows and hinder economic growth in the Pacific Region. This Strategy aims to address the challenges by specifying regional actions that will support national trade facilitation reforms over the next five years.

The Strategy's scope is defined by three key criteria: supporting the implementation of trade facilitation measures in existing Pacific trade agreements; addressing common priorities identified by Pacific Island Countries (PICs); and aligning with other regional initiatives such as the PAFTS.

The Strategy's vision is a Pacific Region where trade flows freely, efficiently, and inclusively, driving sustainable economic growth and development for all. Our mission is to create an enabling environment for trade facilitation through regional cooperation, capacity-building, and policy reforms.

The Strategy outlines five strategic objectives with corresponding regional actions aimed at achieving tangible outcomes in trade facilitation. These objectives range from implementing risk-based border controls to expanding electronic information exchange, reflecting the diverse needs and priorities of PICs.

The successful implementation of this Strategy hinges on active and coordinated participation from all stakeholders, including PIF Members, PIFS, donors, and implementation partners. A Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Committee will play a leading role in governance, ensuring effective coordination and oversight.

In closing, I extend my gratitude to all stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to advancing trade facilitation in the Pacific Region. Together, we can overcome challenges and seize opportunities to foster inclusive and sustainable economic development across our region.

Sincerely,

Baron Waqa

Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum

Acknowledgments

The Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy was prepared by the World Bank Group (WBG) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). It was coordinated by Dr. Andrea Giacomelli and Jemima Holborow under the guidance of Noah Patrick Kouback at the PIFS, and by Bill Gain and Alina Monica Antoci at the WBG. The design and layout were produced by Ms. Jackie Potgieter, from Pandanus Consulting.

The PIFS and WBG wish to express their sincere gratitude to Senior Trade, Customs, Standards, and Biosecurity Officials of the Pacific Island Countries, representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Pacific Community (SPC), Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), and World Customs Organization (WCO), and the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (WTO-TFAF) for the input and direction provided during consultations. Gratitude is also expressed to Mr. Brian J. O'Shea, the WBG expert consultant who supported the drafting of the Strategy.

The WBG's Trade Facilitation Support Program (TFSP) supported the development of the Strategy and will continue to support PIFS for the implementation phase of the Strategy.

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Acronyms

AEO	Authorized Economic Operator
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific Charter
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FFA	the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
ICT	Information and communication technology
LDC	Least-developed country
MSG	Melanesia Spearhead Group Agreement
NTFC	National Trade Facilitation Committee
PafTS	Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy
PCA	Post-clearance audit
PICTA	Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement (2001)
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PNAO	the Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement
SPS	Sanitary/phytosanitary
PACER Plus	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (2017)
TACB	Technical assistance and capacity building
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TFA	Trade Facilitation Agreement
WBG	World Bank Group
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive Summary

Inefficient, excessive, and opaque border procedures, documentary requirements and controls add unnecessary time and cost to trade. Administrative barriers of these kinds further distance Forum Island Countries from each other's markets and international markets, thereby diminishing the Pacific region's economic potential. Ultimately, this will impede the regional economic integration envisaged by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Members have designated trade facilitation as a high priority for regional support. Specifically, the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025 (PAfTS) identified the implementation of "trade facilitation aspects of existing trade agreements", including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the PACER Plus Agreement, and the interim EU Economic Partnership Agreement, as key issues to be addressed through forms of regionalism.

The purpose of this document - The Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy (Strategy) - is to specify those forms of regionalism - the regional actions - that will support PIF Members' national trade facilitation reforms and outline a framework for implementation over the next five years.

The scope of this Strategy was determined based on three criteria -

- (i) it supports PIF Members' implementation of the trade facilitation measures contained in existing Pacific trade agreements¹, which include the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), taken in the aggregate;
- (ii) it supports the implementation of trade facilitation measures that are common PIF Members' priorities and for which external technical assistance and capacity building support is needed, as indicated by PIF Members' WTO notifications, international trade facilitation surveys and indices, and consultations conducted with PIF Members during the development of this Strategy; and
- (iii) it gives weight to the implementation of those trade facilitation measures that will also support other PAfTS initiatives, particularly the Pacific E-commerce Initiative² and the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative³.

To achieve this vision, the Strategy defines five strategic objectives, and with respect to each strategic objective, defines two or more regional actions that will be carried out collectively by the PIF Members, with the support of implementation partners.

The strategic objectives and associated regional actions are the following:

1 This document refers to "Pacific trade agreements." For purposes of this strategy, these Pacific trade agreements are the five agreements listed under Appendix C.1.

2 <https://www.forumsec.org/2021/02/23/pacific-e-commerce-initiative/>

3 <https://www.forumsec.org/pacific-quality-infrastructure-pqi/>

Strategic Objective	Regional Action
1 Risk-Based Border Controls Implemented	1.1 Model Customs Auditor Manual
	1.2 Regional Customs Valuation Database
	1.3 Regional Exchanges of Customs Value Information
	1.4 Regional Arrangement for Sharing Customs Post-Clearance Audit (PCA) Expertise
	1.5 Regional Electronic Exchange of Risk Information
	1.6 Regional Risk Management Framework
	1.7 Designated Laboratories for Confirmatory Tests
2 Clearance Processes Simplified and Coordinated	2.1 Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications
	2.2 Regional Mutual Recognition of Authorized Operators
	2.3 Regional Support for Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods
	2.4 Regional Support for Implementation of Time Release Studies
3 Transparency and Advance Decisions Promoted	3.1 Advance Rulings Model
	3.2 Regional Recognition of Advance Rulings
	3.3 Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Enquiry Point
	3.4 Regional (Subregional) Trade Enquiry Point
	3.5 Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Trade Portal
	3.6 Regional (Subregional) Trade Portal
4 Administrative Regulation Streamlined and Harmonized	4.1 Trade Facilitation Regulatory Impact Assessment
	4.2 Regional Exchange of Draft Standards and Participation in Standards-Setting Organizations
5 Electronic Exchange of Information Expanded	5.1 Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments
	5.2 Regional Customs and Trade Electronic Systems committee
	5.3 Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods

The active, sustained, and coordinated participation of all stakeholders, including PIF Members, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), donors, and implementation partners, will be essential to the successful implementation of this Strategy. At the center of the governance structure shall be a Regional Trade Facilitation Committee which will be responsible for oversight, monitoring progress, and the coordination of stakeholders' decisions and activities.

I. Introduction

A. Purposes

The Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy outlines regional actions to support PIF Members implement national trade facilitation reforms.

The formulation of this Strategy was guided by the objectives of the PAfTS.⁴ The purpose of the PAfTS, which was endorsed by the PIF Members in July 2018, is to identify a limited number of high priority areas for regional aid-for-trade projects and ensure that they are properly resourced. High priority areas are those “that can be usefully addressed through forms of regionalism included in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism”⁵.

An area of specific importance to this Strategy is “Deepening Forum Markets” or improving access to regional and international markets for goods and services by Pacific people through “trade facilitation reforms and capacity building to implement trade facilitation aspects of existing trade agreements.”⁶

The aim of trade facilitation reforms and capacity building initiatives is to reduce or eliminate the administrative “red tape” in import and export operations – excessive document and data requirements, complex border procedures, inefficient administrative regulations and controls, lack of transparency, etc. – that add unnecessary time and cost to trade and constitute a non-tariff barrier. In effect, these unnecessary administrative costs and delays further distance Forum Island Countries from each other’s markets and international markets, and thereby impede economic development. In a larger sense, the PAfTS suggests that these trade facilitation barriers will frustrate the advancement of the Blue Pacific Narrative which was first formulated by Prime Minister Tuila’epa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi of Samoa in 2017 and more recently embedded in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent:⁷

History shows that “exercising a sense of common identity and purpose” will be difficult unless the members of a community promote the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.⁸

Trade facilitation reforms are often assumed to be non-discriminatory and apply to all traders in their design; however, these measures may not necessarily impact or benefit all traders in similar ways. Surveys of over 1,500 cross-border trading firms in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu carried out by the World Bank Group (WBG) confirmed that women traders experience specific challenges to trade facilitation.⁹

The purpose of this Strategy is to put into action the PAfTS’ trade facilitation reform and capacity building objectives, with an aim to make the trade more beneficial to all. It will do so by leveraging existing regulations and systems, and ongoing and planned developments a national and regional levels

Consistent with the PAfTS requirement that aid-for-trade projects be member driven, this Strategy was developed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), with support from the WBG. A regional workshop was conducted in November 2021 and a series of national consultations, with the border agencies and private sector from individual PIF Members, were undertaken in the first half of 2022.

4 <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pacific-Aid-for-Trade-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf>, endorsed at the Forum Trade Officials Meeting in July 2018
5 Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025, p.3. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism is available at: https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Framework-for-Pacific-Regionalism_booklet.pdf
6 Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025, p.6
7 <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PIFS-2050-Strategy-Blue-Pacific-Continent-WEB-5Aug2022.pdf>
8 Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020-2025, p.8
9 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/trade-facilitation-support-program/publication/trade-facilitation-challenges-for-women-traders-in-the-pacific-region>
Trade Facilitation Challenges for Women Traders and Freight Forwarders in the Pacific Region, World Bank, 2021

This Strategy assists to define PIF Members' priorities for external technical assistance and capacity building (TACB) support in the form of regional action. It will be used by the PIFS and its partners to advocate for the development of regional projects, to support trade facilitation reform, and to coordinate trade facilitation support. The regional trade facilitation strategy will supplement and complement any TACB projects that are or will be implemented at a national level.

B. Strategy Scope

The scope of this Strategy was determined by the application of three criteria:

- (i). this Strategy should support implementation of those trade facilitation measures and principles contained in existing Pacific trade agreements, which include the WTO TFA, taken in the aggregate;
- (ii). this Strategy should support the implementation of trade facilitation measures that are common PIF Members' country priorities for which external technical assistance and capacity building support are needed; and
- (iii). this Strategy should give weight to the implementation of those trade facilitation measures that will also support other Pacific regional initiatives.

(i). Trade Facilitation Measures of Existing Pacific Trade Agreements

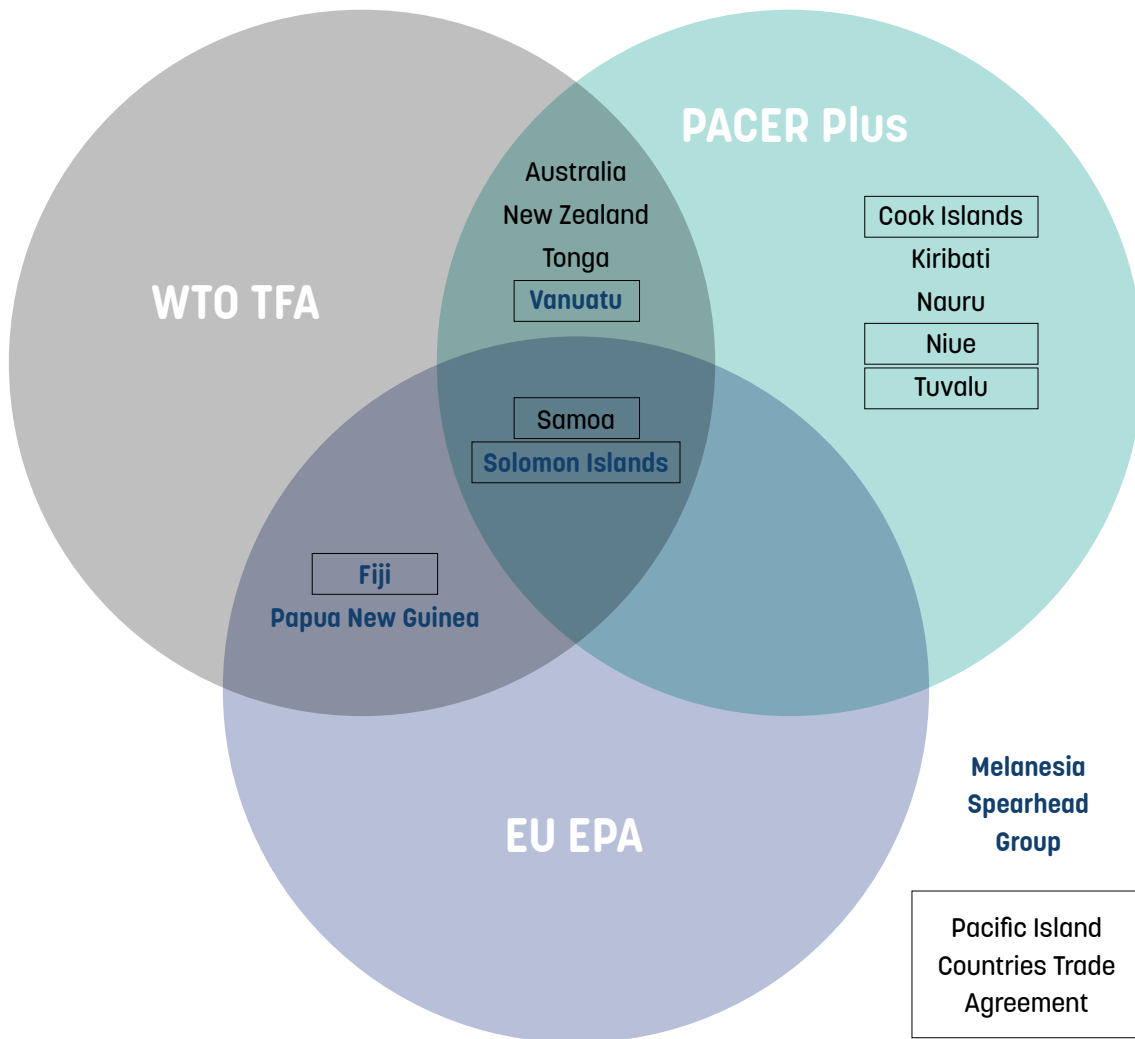
In accordance with the PAfTS mandate, this Strategy will support PIF Members' implementation of the "trade facilitation aspects of existing trade agreements."

There are five "existing trade agreements" to which PIF Members belong that incorporate trade facilitation aspects, namely -

- the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA);
- the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus);
- the Pacific Islands Countries Agreement (PICTA);
- the interim EU Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA); and
- the Melanesia Spearhead Group Agreement (MSG).

There is considerable overlap in membership of these agreements among the Forum Island Countries, and many are members of two or more agreements.

Figure 1 Pacific Trade Agreements with Trade Facilitation Aspects



The trade facilitation provisions are more detailed in some of these agreements than in others, and there are differences in obligations among the agreements. For example, the obligations of the TFA extend to all border agencies, whereas most of the trade facilitation obligations of PACER Plus and the iEPA are only applicable to the customs administration. Similarly, PACER Plus and the iEPA include obligations on customs valuation and customs automation, which are obligations not specified in the TFA. PICTA contains only a few general provisions on trade facilitation, whereas the TFA includes more than 30 different measures.

While recognizing the different legal obligations applicable to PIF Members under these five agreements, for the purpose of identifying the trade facilitation measures within the scope of this Strategy, they will be taken in the aggregate. Moreover, as discussed in the Implementation Matters (Section IV, below), sub-regional approaches may be considered where implementation of a trade facilitation measure is a priority for some PIF Members only.

(ii). *Trade Facilitation Measures Requiring External TACB for Implementation*

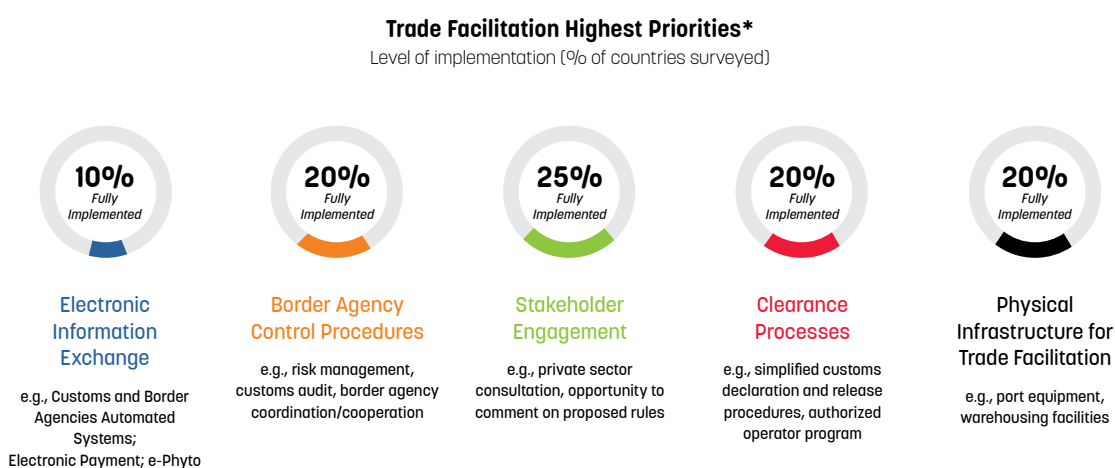
In determining the scope of this Strategy, significant weight was given to PIF Members' trade facilitation implementation priorities and needs for TACB support. That is, if a trade facilitation measure is one that many PIF Members have indicated is a reform priority and requires TACB implementation support, regional action would be particularly appropriate. Conversely, if most or all PIF Members have already implemented a trade facilitation measure of an existing Pacific agreement or intend to do so without need of external TACB support, the need for regional action is less.

Information concerning PIF Members' common trade facilitation priorities, level of implementation, and needs for external TACB support was obtained from the following sources:

- PIFS/World Bank Survey (4Q 2021)

In October 2021, with the support of the World Bank Group, PIFS conducted a survey of trade, customs, and other border control authorities, as well as private sector representatives. The purpose of the survey was to determine the implementation level of selected trade facilitation measures within the Forum Island Countries, and those countries' trade facilitation objectives, priorities, and challenges.¹⁰

Figure 2 PIF Members Trade Facilitation Priorities and Level of Implementation



* Trade facilitation measures designated "high priority" by ≥ 4 or more of countries surveyed

- PIF Countries' TFA Notifications

The WTO TFA "special and differential treatment provisions" allows WTO developing or least-developed country (LDC) members to designate, by means of a notification to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC), the provisions of the TFA where implementation is dependent upon the receipt of external TACB. All six developing and LDC Forum Island Countries who are members of the WTO have made notifications on the TFA measures where implementation support is required, so-called "Category C" measures.

10 The survey requested respondents to indicate their progress, priorities, and challenges in implementing trade facilitation measures of the kind found in Pacific trade agreements such as transparency of information; stakeholder engagement; legal rulings and decisions; border agency control procedures; clearance processes; fees and formalities; electronic information exchange and Single Window; and physical infrastructure for trade. Survey results may be found on the Pacific Island Forum website at: <https://www.forumsec.org/2022/02/25/pacific-trade-facilitation-initiative/>.

Table 1 PIF WTO Members Category C Notifications (Most Commonly Notified Measures)

TFA	TFA Measure	Number PIF Countries Notifying Measure under Category C
7.4	Risk Management	6
7.7	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	6
10.4	Single Window	6
7.6	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	5
10.1	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	5
1.2	Information Available Through Internet	4
8	Border Agency Cooperation	4
3	Advance Rulings	3
4	Procedures for Appeal or Review	3
5.3	Test Procedures	3
10.3	Use of International Standards	3

- National Consultations (1Q-2Q 2022)

PIFS and World Bank Group representatives conducted national consultations with each PIF Member, to obtain their views on the regional actions proposed for inclusion in the Strategy, as well as priorities and TACB needs.

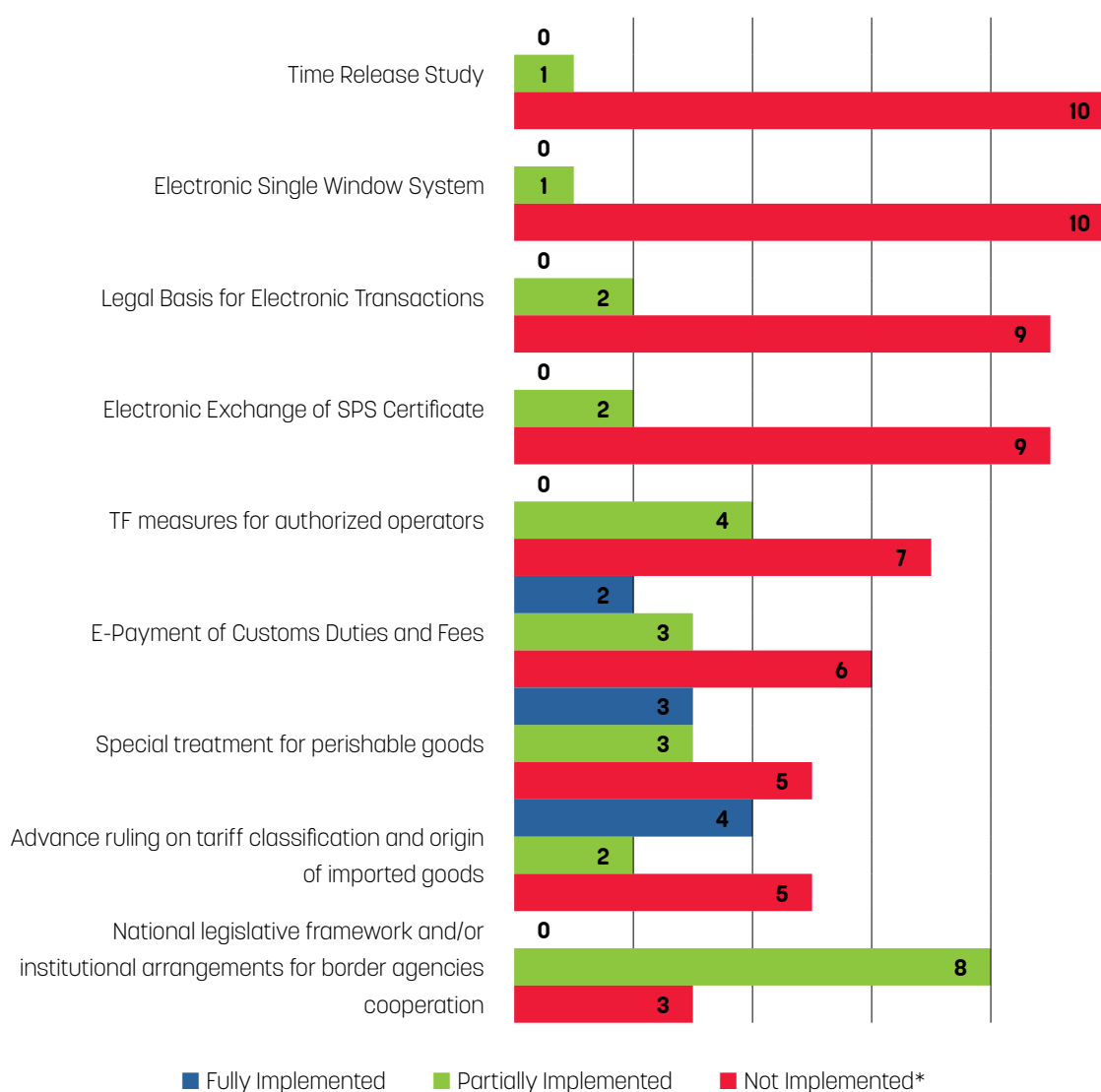
- UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (2021)

This global survey of trade facilitation experts in governments, the private sector, and academia in 144 countries, which is conducted every two years, collects data on the level of implementation of 58 trade facilitation measures, including those of the TFA. Results are published online.¹¹ Eleven developing Forum Island Countries were included in the 2021 survey.¹²

11 <https://www.unfssurvey.org/>

12 Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation in Pacific Island Developing Economies (PIDEs) 2021, available at <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/unf-survey-2021-PIDE>.

Figure 3 UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation: Forum Island Countries (Selected Lowest Implementation Level Measures)



* Number of countries. Survey responses "not available" or "planning stage" are counted as "not implemented".

- WBG Survey of Traders and Customs Brokers (2021)

In 2021, the WBG interviewed over 1,500 cross-border trading firms and Customs Brokers in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu to confirm gender specific gaps to trade facilitations. Five country specific reports and one regional report presenting findings and recommendations to address confirmed gaps were produced and are available [online](#).

(iii). Trade Facilitation Measures Supporting Other Pacific Initiatives

The scope of this Strategy gives weight to those trade facilitation measures that will also support implementation of other PAFTS regional priorities.

Two regional priorities that can benefit directly from trade facilitation reforms are:

- development of electronic commerce (e-commerce) in the Pacific region; and
- strengthening Pacific quality infrastructure systems.

E-commerce is important to the Pacific region because of its potential to narrow distances and trade costs – to “mitigate the tyranny of distance”.¹³ However, in e-commerce transactions for the sale or purchase of goods across-borders, the goods must be physically delivered, and are therefore subject to the border controls, documents and data requirements, customs formalities, fees, etc. applicable to goods bought and sold through traditional channels. Trade facilitation reform is therefore essential to enable Pacific businesses and consumers to realize the full potential of the e-commerce market.

This Strategy will support the Pacific E-commerce Initiative by supporting the implementation of national e-commerce delivery channel measures. These trade facilitation measures are set out in the World Customs Organization’s (WCO) framework of standards for cross-border e-commerce¹⁴, which has considerable overlap with the trade facilitation measures found in the five Pacific agreements.

This Strategy will also support the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative. The intersections are the measures in the trade agreements related to the conformity assessment and transparency requirements of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) authorities.

C. Regional Action

Consistent with the PAFIS mandate, this Strategy will complement PIF Members’ national trade facilitation implementation reforms through “forms of regionalism” or “regional actions.”

Regional action means an activity that an individual country would otherwise be required to undertake on its own, relying on its own resources, is instead undertaken in part or in whole by all members of a group using their collective resources.

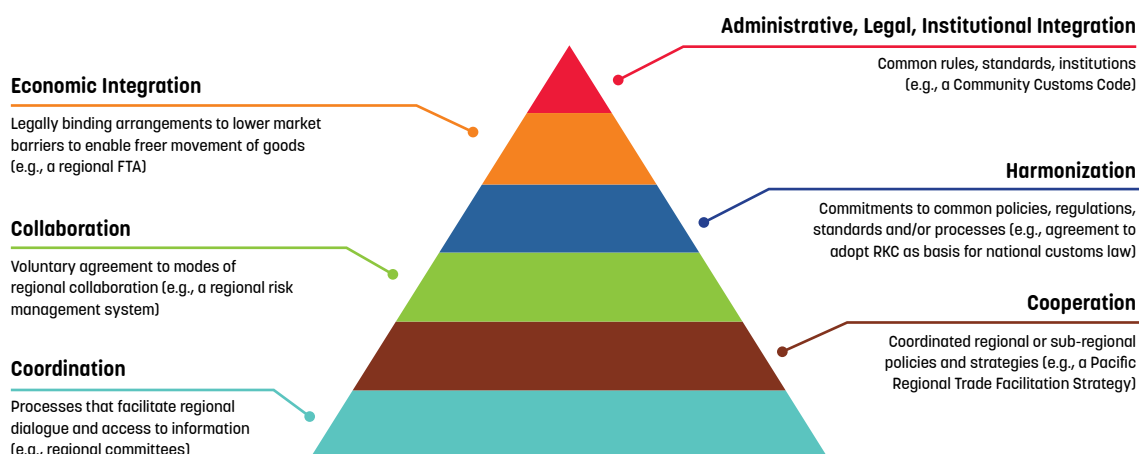
The different forms in which regional action can be carried out are defined in The Framework for Pacific Regionalism¹⁵. The forms range from those that require a high degree of integration among participating countries, such as regional laws or the establishment of regional institutions, to lower degrees of regional coordination and cooperation among participating countries, such as voluntary regional arrangements and regional consultative mechanisms.

13 Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Regional E-Commerce Strategy and Roadmap (August 2021), available at: <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Regional-E-commerce-Strategy-Roadmap.pdf>

14 World Customs Organization, Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards (June 2022), available at: http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/e-commerce/wco-framework-of-standards-on-crossborder-e-commerce_en.pdf?la=en

15 Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, The Framework for Pacific Regionalism (July 2014), available at: https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Framework-for-Pacific-Regionalism_booklet.pdf

Figure 4 Forms of Regionalism



Regional action aims to reduce the time and cost an individual country would incur in national implementation. Regional action may even obviate the need for national implementation; for example, a regional trade enquiry point, that answers questions and provides information on behalf of two or more countries, can replace the function of a national enquiry point.

Other potential benefits of regional action, particularly in the form of harmonization of laws, procedures, and requirements, is the reduction of complexity for businesses operating in the region and deeper regional economic integration.

Sharing resources and expertise among participating countries also enables individual countries to overcome national capacity constraints, such as countries that have limited laboratory and testing facilities.

In view of the benefit of regional action, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, which several Pacific countries have ratified¹⁶, provides that members of a regional economic arrangement, such as the PIF, may adopt regional approaches to assist in the implementation of their obligations, including through the establishment and use of regional bodies¹⁷.

D. Strategy Elements

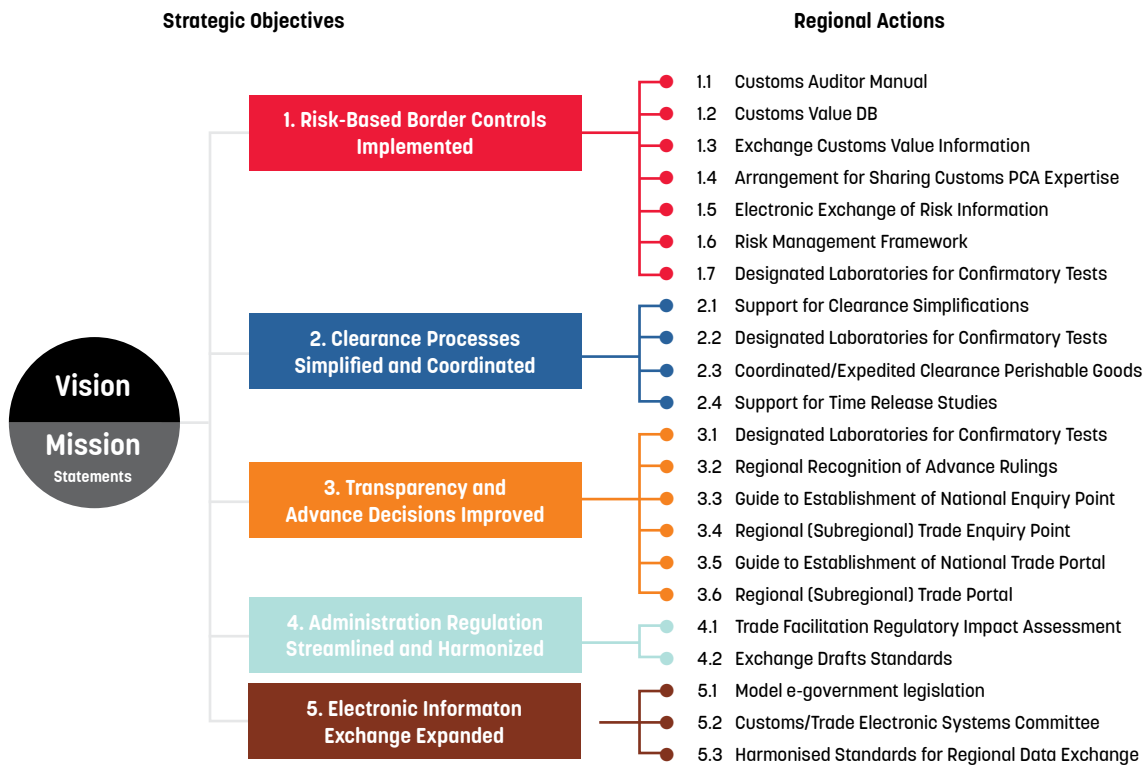
This Strategy is comprised of the following elements –

- **Vision and Mission Statements (Section II)**
These are high-level statements on what PIF Members aim to achieve in terms of trade facilitation in the next five years by implementing the regional trade facilitation strategy.
- **5 Strategic Objectives (Section III)**
The five **strategic objectives** are the main areas of focus that will contribute to achieving the vision statement.
- **22 Regional Actions (Section III)**
Linked to each of the five strategic objectives are two or more **regional actions**. These are specific regional actions or projects that will be carried out to realize the strategic objectives.

¹⁶ The following Pacific Island Countries have ratified the WTO TFA: Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands (Tonga has not yet ratified).

¹⁷ Article 24.3, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Figure 5 Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy Structure



One or more performance indicators are suggested for each regional action. These indicators are intended both to guide the development of implementing measures, by indicating expected outcomes, and to determine whether goals have been met.

- **Implementation Matters (Section IV)**

Implementation of this Strategy will require establishment of a governance structure, including a **Regional Trade Facilitation Committee**. The Regional Trade Facilitation Committee will oversee an **Action Plan or Roadmap** for the implementation of the regional actions. To assist in the development of Project Plans, this Strategy includes a project description, main tasks, and outputs for each regional action.

II. Vision and Mission Statements

Vision:

Goods to, from and between PIF Members will move smoothly and efficiently, thereby leading to enhanced regional economic integration, international competitiveness, and overall prosperity.

Mission:

Within 10 years, the PIF Members will have fully implemented all trade facilitation aspects of existing trade agreements, as measured by international surveys and indices.

Within 5 years, the average level of implementation of trade facilitation measures in existing trade agreements by PIF Members will have increased to 50%, as measured by international surveys and indices.

Within 5 years, the average level of implementation of trade facilitation measures of existing trade agreements in PIF Members will be at least equivalent to that of comparator economies, as measured by international surveys and indices.

The overall aim of this regional trade facilitation strategy is to support PIF Members, through regional actions in conjunction with national reform efforts, in their full and effective implementation of “trade facilitation aspects of existing trade agreements.” Accordingly, the success of this Strategy will be determined by the extent to which PIF Members implement the trade facilitation measures in these existing trade agreements by the end of the strategy term.

The indicators to be used to measure this are publicly available international surveys and indices on the level of implementation of trade facilitation measures or the ease of moving goods across borders. Such surveys and indices may include the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation (<https://www.untfsurvey.org/>); the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators (<https://www.compareyourcountry.org/trade-facilitation>); the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (<https://pi.worldbank.org/international>); or a combination of these or other such surveys or indices.

The Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (see Section IV, below) will be responsible for determining the surveys and indices used for this measurement, as well as establishing the baseline measurement.

III. Strategic Objectives and Regional Actions

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Risk-Based Border Controls Implemented

Regional actions to improve the efficacy and efficiency of customs and other border agencies' controls based on risk management

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>1.1 Model Customs Auditor Manual</p> <hr/> <p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PIF Members that have adopted the model Customs Auditor Manual as the standard operating procedure for a PCA. Number of audits conducted based on the model Customs Auditor Manual. 	<p><i>A technical guide to aide customs officers in carrying out a Post-Clearance Audit (PCA).</i></p> <p>The model Customs Auditor Manual will contain operating procedures for an internationally compliant PCA, including guidance on audit selection; planning and execution of an audit; conduct of a field audit, including audit techniques; preparation of audit work papers and reports; and standard forms and templates, etc.</p> <p>This manual will support PIF Members in the effective implementation of customs valuation controls based on WTO rules.</p> <p>The regional action will include training on how to carry out a PCA based on the model Customs Auditor Manel.</p>

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>1.2 Regional Customs Valuation Database</p> <hr/> <p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of users of the database. Number of searches made on the database. Number of records created in the database 	<p><i>A regional database to support customs officers in assessing the risk of undervaluation/valuation fraud.</i></p> <p>A customs valuation database is –</p> <p>“a risk assessment tool which may be used by a Customs Administration along with other risk tools to assess potential risk regarding the truth or accuracy of the declared Customs value for imported goods.”¹⁸</p> <p>Valuation databases support Customs risk assessment decisions in the course of clearance of goods, to determine whether a goods declaration should be selected for control. They may also support Customs in selecting importers for PCA.</p>

Typically, customs valuation databases are compiled at a national level from accepted goods declaration data, PCA results, and other sources consistent with WTO valuation methods (e.g., resale price in the domestic market of imported goods). Typically also the information included in the database concerns a limited set of commodities that present higher valuation risk, rather than on all goods in trade.

The regional action is the development and implementation of a regional customs valuation database. It is envisaged that the database would include values verified by participating customs administrations, as well as other sources to be agreed by the participating countries.

The regional action would also include development of an agreement among the participating countries on establishment and use of the database, guidelines, procedures, and training programs to ensure the data is compiled, updated, and used in customs controls consistent with WTO rules and WCO guidelines.

Regional Action	Explanation
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**1.3
Regional Exchanges of Customs
Value Information**

Regional procedures for Customs-to-Customs exchanges of information to verify declared customs values.

Indicators

1. Number of completed requests for information (query and response).

Article 12 of the WTO TFA defines a procedure that would allow a customs administration in the country of import to request documents and information from the customs administration in the country of export for the purposes of verifying declared customs values.

The TFA procedure requires the requesting country to conduct “appropriate verification procedures” and inspect the relevant available documentation before making the request. The TFA also includes requirements concerning the form and content of the request, the use of information, the establishment of contact points, time periods for response, etc.

The regional action is to develop a similar arrangement, procedures, and a mechanism at a regional level, for intra-regional trade, with variations and extensions as appropriate to the Pacific region’s requirements. It will enable a customs administration of the importing Pacific country to request from the exporting Pacific country documents, information, or other assistance required to verify the goods declaration.

Regional Action	Explanation
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**1.4
Regional Arrangement for
Sharing Customs Post Clearance
Audit (PCA) Expertise**

Regional collaborative arrangement to enable one Pacific country to obtain expert PCA assistance from another Pacific country on request.

Indicators	
1. Number of requests for assistance satisfactorily fulfilled (query and response).	<p>PCA involves the systematic examination and analysis of financial records and accounting systems. This requires a specific set of technical skills and knowledge, which is not a usual requirement of customs officers, and is often challenging to develop within a customs administration.</p> <p>The regional action is an arrangement to establish a network of auditors that can be called upon by a PIF Member to assist in an audit, to overcome the technical expertise gap.</p> <p>Development of the regional mechanism would include establishing a collaboration agreement, which defines the scope of assistance that might be provided, the forms that include answers to specific queries, document analysis, or on-site technical audit support.</p> <p>The regional support would also include the development of procedures for operating the network, such as making and responding to requests for assistance.</p>

Regional Action	Explanation
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**1.5
Regional Electronic Exchange of
Risk Information**

An electronic system for the regional exchange of risk information among participating PIF Members.

Indicators	
1. Number of risk information reports created on the system. 2. Number of searches for risk records made on the system.	<p>The regional electronic system would allow one PIF Member's customs or biosecurity administration to report the results of its controls to another PIF Member's administration for the purpose of alerting them of new or different risks found or possible new targeting elements.</p> <p>A model for the development of this regional electronic information system is the EU Customs Risk Management System (CRMS), whereby a customs office reports significant control results by an online form, which is then immediately accessible to all other customs offices of other countries on the system.</p> <p>It is envisaged that this system would be established to support both customs risk management and the exchange of risk information for controls exercised by the biosecurity authorities. As such, the system would allow participating country administrations to submit notifications of significant test results and related import transaction details (e.g., product type and description, country of export, hazard found, analytical results, etc.), which might be of importance to biosecurity authorities of other PIF Members, who can search and view the notifications.</p>

A benefit of this electronic exchange is that common risks are made known quickly to all participating PIF Members. It will also assist the national development of risk profiles. The system may be used to broadcast alerts; for example, the EU system has been used to distribute risk information related to dangerous and non-compliant COVID-19 related medical products, medical devices, and personal protective equipment, to allow Customs administrations in each country to take adequate measures to stop similar dangerous goods coming to their country.¹⁹

Regional action would include support for the establishment and management of the communication network, including a formal agreement (e.g., a voluntary agreement on collaboration), as well as procedures, guidelines, and training on proper use of the system.

This proposal to establish a regional system for electronic exchange of risk information is separate from the proposed regional Customs valuation database that is described under Regional Action 1.2, above. Both support risk assessment and selectivity decisions, but each has different uses and content. The regional customs valuation database compiles customs values (e.g., accepted prices) for specific goods (e.g., mobile phones classified under a particular HS code) imported over specific period (e.g., prior 6 months) to assist Customs officers make decisions as to which goods declarations should be selected for control for potential undervaluation. The system for regional exchange of risk information is envisaged as a communication mechanism to enable one administration in the region alert another administration about a potential new risk of any type of non-compliance – revenue, security, food safety, plant pest and disease etc. - found during their controls.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>1.6 Regional Risk Management Framework</p>	<p><i>A regional committee or other collaborative mechanism to develop and distribute risk criteria and standards based on the assessment of common threats and risks, and to monitor results.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <p>1. Number of regional risk profiles made available to participating countries.</p>	<p>PIF Members' customs and biosecurity administrations would collaborate in conducting a regular risk assessment of regional threats, disseminate the risk criteria (e.g., a description of the risk and the risk indicators used to select the goods for control) and the appropriate control measures, and monitor and evaluate the results of the control measures.</p>

¹⁹ European Commission, Directorate-General Taxation and Customs Union, Note to Directors General of the Member States and the UK'S Customs and Tax Administrations: COVID-19 actions at EU Level (26 March 2020).

This regional collaboration might be exercised through a regional committee of experts or by other such forms.

This collaboration would provide countries with more limited resources and expertise to benefit from the collective risk assessment. Regional risk assessments will supplement and enhance national risk assessments.

Regional action would be based on already existing risk management approaches at national and regional levels and include the establishment of procedures and the means of communicating risk criteria and the results of control measures to and from the participating administrations. This may be an extension of the regional system for the electronic exchange of risk information described in point 1.5, above.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>1.7 Designated Laboratories for Confirmatory Tests</p>	<p><i>A regional agreement that would require participating PIF Members to allow confirmatory testing to be carried out by any designated laboratory in the Pacific region holding the appropriate accreditation.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <p>1. Number of confirmatory tests by designated laboratories in one country in relation to imports made in another.</p>	<p>Under the WTO TFA, a country may, upon request, allow a second test of imported goods where the results of the initial test are averse to the importer, and consider the results of that second test in determining the release and clearance of the goods. Such second tests may be carried out at any laboratory designated by the authority.</p> <p>The regional action would develop and implement an agreement among PIF Members to allow the importer to have the second test carried out in any designated laboratory under the agreement. Regional action would include development of the agreement, necessary procedures, and would be supported by regional training programs on implementation of the procedures.²⁰</p> <p>This regional action has a trade facilitation purpose (i.e., to expand the pool of laboratories where confirmatory testing can be done, thereby reducing potential clearance delays). However, the regional action is also consistent with the goals of the Pacific Quality Infrastructure (PQI) Initiative to address the prohibitive costs involved in setting up and maintaining conformity assessment systems in each PIF Member. As such, implementation of this regional action will need to be coordinated with implementation of the PQI Initiative.²¹</p>

20 This regional action envisages support for the development and implementation of legal provisions and procedures (including training) required for the regional recognition of results conducted by laboratories located in the Pacific region; financing and technical support for the acquisition, set-up or operation of laboratories and testing equipment is not within the scope of this regional action.

21 The Pacific Quality Infrastructure (PQI) Initiative will establish a regional coordination mechanism with the aim to make recognized testing service more accessible across the region, to harmonize test methods and procedures, offer training and benchmarking exercises such as proficiency testing programs, etc.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

Clearance Processes Simplified and Coordinated

Regional actions to support coordinated implementation of simplified and expedited clearance and release procedures, including for perishable goods, to reduce the time and cost of border processes

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>2.1 Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications</p>	<p><i>Model legal provisions, procedures, and training programs to enable the implementation of simplified and expedited procedures for the clearance and release of goods.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>The Pacific Trade Agreements require Customs, in coordination with other border agencies, to implement simplified procedures for expedited clearance and release of goods. These simplified procedures, include –</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of registered authorized operators. 2. Number/ percentage of import transactions released under simplified declaration and release procedures. 3. Number/ percentage of import transactions released prior to final determination of duty and tax. 4. Number/ percentage of import declarations made prior to arrival of goods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-arrival processing, which means traders can submit the import documentation prior to the physical arrival of the goods at the port, to expedite release; • procedures for the release of goods prior to the final determination of duty and tax; and • simplified declaration and release for authorized operators (e.g., release on the basis of a simplified declaration, periodic declaration, release at importer’s premises, etc.). <p>The regional action is to develop the model legal provisions for Pacific Island Countries to use in developing their national legislation, and the model procedures and guidelines to be applied by Customs and other border agencies.</p> <p>The regional action would include support for the implementation of authorized operator programs, such as a harmonized definition of eligibility criteria, application procedures, validation/audit process guidelines, and a harmonized definition of simplifications to be made available to authorized operators.</p> <p>The regional action would also include regional training programs to support the implementation of these model laws and procedures, as well as the development of practical guides on the use of these simplified procedures for publication on national websites.</p>

Implementation of such simplified procedures is an element of the Pacific E-commerce Strategy, particularly in relation to express consignments arriving by air, an important e-commerce channel. The E-commerce Strategy requires Forum Island Countries to “accelerate the harmonized implementation of the **WCO Framework of Standards for Cross-Border E-Commerce**.”²² Many of the WCO’s framework standards are related to trade facilitation measures provided in the Pacific Trade agreements, including submission of advance electronic cargo information for risk management, simplified clearance formalities/procedures utilizing pre-arrival processing, procedures for immediate release of low-risk shipments, and application of the authorized operator programs and mutual recognition arrangements in the context of cross-border e-commerce.

Accordingly, to support the Pacific region e-commerce initiative, the implementation of those trade facilitation measures in the WCO e-commerce framework, as well as the related **WCO Immediate Release Guidelines**²³, will be considered in this regional action.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>2.2 Regional Mutual Recognition of Authorized Operators</p>	<p><i>Model legal instrument and implementing procedures for regional recognition of authorized operator status conferred by any participating Pacific country.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <p>1. Number of businesses in PIF countries that operate under AO mutual recognition arrangements.</p>	<p>A regional mutual recognition arrangement would allow a business that is qualified or registered as an authorized operator by a customs administration in one Pacific country to be recognized as an authorized operator, and accorded agreed trade facilitation benefits, by customs administrations in all other participating Pacific countries in relation to that business’ import and export transactions.</p> <p>Mutual recognition arrangements are considered a key element to strengthen and facilitate end-to-end security of international – or regional – supply chains and a useful tool to avoid duplication of security and compliance controls.²⁴</p> <p>Trade facilitation benefits, which would be negotiated and agreed as part of the arrangement, would typically include fewer safety and security controls, and priority treatment in customs clearance (e.g., at import, where the exporter of the goods is registered as an authorized operator in a partner country), to enable faster release of goods and more predictability for traders.</p>

22 World Customs Organization, Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards (June 2022), available at: http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/ecommerce/wco-framework-of-standards-on-crossborder-ecommerce_en.pdf?la=en#:~:text=The%20Framework%20provides%20the%20standards.Overall%2C%20the%20Framework%3A&text=Establishes%20global%20standards%20to%20promote,the%20E%2DCommerce%20supply%20chain.

23 World Customs Organization, Immediate Release Guidelines (2018), available at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/instruments-and-tools/tools/immediate-release-guidelines/immediate-release-guidelines.pdf?db=web>.

24 World Customs Organization, AEO Mutual Recognition: Strategy Guide (June 2021), available at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/facilitation/instruments-and-tools/tools/safe-package/strategy-guide-for-aeo-mutual-recognition.pdf?la=en>

In view of such enhanced security and trade facilitation benefits, the WTO TFA provides that WTO members “shall afford to other Members the possibility of negotiating” such arrangements. The WCO Framework of Standards for Cross Border E-Commerce, the implementation of which is an element of the Pacific regional e-commerce strategy (see Regional Action 2.1, above), encourages the application of AEO mutual recognition arrangements to cross-border e-commerce.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>2.3 Regional Support for the Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods</p>	<p><i>Model legal provisions, joint border agency control procedures, and training programs for the coordinated control of perishable goods</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>As defined in the WTO TFA, perishable goods are those “that rapidly decay due to their natural characteristics, in particular in the absence of appropriate storage conditions,” such as fresh or refrigerated fruits, vegetables and other foods, as well as bodily organs, blood and blood plasma, perishable medical research, medicaments and vaccines.²⁵ Goods of these kinds typically involve controls of two or more border authorities (e.g., the customs administration plus the biosecurity authorities and/or the health authority) and such goods are the most susceptible to deterioration if their release is delayed.</p>
<p>1. Release time of perishable goods.</p>	<p>Implementation of expedited and coordinated border clearance processing is therefore particularly important for perishable goods and should be particularly beneficial to women traders that tend to be heavily involved in trade of perishable goods across the region. The WTO TFA requires countries to develop necessary procedures to enable the release of perishable goods within the shortest possible time, under normal circumstances.</p> <p>The regional action includes the development and implementation of a model regulations for border agencies, to coordinate the import clearance of these types of goods. This model regulation would include procedural rules related to the sampling and testing of imported goods, the immediate release of perishable goods for clearance at the importer’s premises, detention and rights of appeal, and rights and procedures for re-export or re-conditioning non-conforming imported goods, as well as the procedures for inter-agency coordination on these matters.</p> <p>In addition to a model regulation, the regional action will include the development of joint standard operating procedures, or practical guidance for the border agencies involved in the clearance of these types of goods. This will be in the form of a joint import manual or how-to guide and translated to local languages as needed.</p>

25 See World Customs Organization, Kyoto Convention General Annex Guidelines, Chapter 3 Clearance and Other Customs Formalities at 37 (Version 1.0)

The regional action also includes regional training programs to support the implementation of a model regulation and joint standard operating procedures manual.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>2.4 Regional Support for Implementation of Time Release Studies</p>	<p><i>A regional decision on the time release methodology to be applied by Pacific Island Countries, with support for its implementation.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of Pacific countries conducting regular time release studies. 2. Number of time release studies published by Pacific countries 	<p>A time release study (“TRS”) is a method for measuring the average time required for clearance of goods at points of entry or exit from the country. By systematically collecting time data at each step, from arrival of the goods to physical release to the importer or exporter, a TRS assists Customs and other border authorities in identifying bottlenecks and potential targets for efficiency improvements in the goods clearance process. Moreover – and of particular importance to the Pacific Regional Strategy – a TRS conducted on a regular basis provides governments and stakeholders with a basis for monitoring the impact of their trade facilitation reforms.</p> <p>Article 7.6 of the TFA thus “encourages” WTO members to “measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, inter alia, the Time Release Study of the World Trade Organization,” noting, however, that each member may determine the scope and methodology in accordance with its needs and capacity.</p> <p>The regional action is decision to be developed and agreed by Pacific Island Countries on a common approach to implementation of the time release studies; that is, an approach to implementation on the basis of a common methodology and approach. In addition, the regional action includes regional training programs and technical support for implementation of the time release study, on the basis of the agreed methodology and scope, at national level.</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Transparency and Advance Decisions Improved

Regional actions to support improved access to trade information

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>3.1 Advance Rulings Model</p>	<p><i>Model legislation, procedures, and practical guidance to support implementation of a customs advance rulings program.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number of PIF Members that have adopted the model as basis of national rulings program. Number of advance rulings issued by such PIF Member customs administrations. 	<p>Advance rulings are binding written decisions given by a customs administration on request, as to the tariff classification, country of origin, or other customs treatment of goods to be imported. An advance ruling provides the importer with certainty in advance of customs costs, and by resolving potential issues before the arrival of goods, can expedite the clearance process.</p> <p>Both the TFA and PACER Plus provide for the establishment of advance rulings programs by Pacific Island Countries' customs administrations.</p> <p>This regional action consists of model legal provisions, procedures, and guidance for Customs administrations and private sector on use of advance rulings programs.</p> <p>The implementation of an advance ruling program typically requires the establishment or appointment of an administrative unit or designated persons to process ruling requests. The regional action would include model guides for organizational structure, staffing, and operation etc., and include forms or templates for requesting an advance ruling decision, and standards for the implementation of an online advance rulings procedure.</p> <p>Regional action would also include explanations and guidance for businesses to request advance rulings, and regional training programs. Training and publication of guidance should be translated into local languages and specifically target women traders where this makes sense.</p>
Regional Action	Explanation
<p>3.2 Regional Recognition of Advance Rulings</p>	<p><i>Model legal instrument and implementing procedures for regional recognition of advance rulings issued by any participating Pacific country.</i></p>

Indicators	
1. Number of advance rulings issued by one PIF Member that are used to clear goods in another PIF Member.	<p>The regional action is the development and implementation of a regional agreement to enable an advance ruling issued by one participating PIF Member to be given binding effect by all other PIF Members that are party to the agreement.</p> <p>For example, a business that obtains a binding advance ruling on the tariff classification of goods from the customs administration of one PIF Member could use that ruling decision to clear the goods in all other participating PIF Members.</p> <p>The regional action might be of particular importance to those PIF Members with limited resources or justification to establish and administer a national rulings program. Implementation of mutual recognition of rulings will contribute to greater predictability and regional harmonization in the interpretation of common customs rules.</p> <p>An agreement on regional mutual recognition of advance rulings may only be appropriate for those PIF Members that share a common legal base for the relevant customs decisions (e.g., the same tariff nomenclature in regard to tariff classification rulings; the WTO system in regard to customs valuation rulings; the same regional or preferential trade agreements in regard to origin rulings, etc.).</p> <p>The coordinating procedures to be established under this regional action would include a mechanism for the exchange of information on advance ruling applications and decisions issued by the participating countries. This information exchange may take the form of a searchable database of ruling decisions issued by the participating countries.</p>

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>3.3 Regional Guide to Establishment of National Enquiry Point</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Indicators</p> <hr/> <p>1. Number of PIF members that have adopted the model as basis of national enquiry point.</p> <p>2. Number of completed requests for information (query and response) by enquiry points established by such countries.</p> <p>3. Percentage increase in queries.</p>	<p><i>Model policies, procedures, and practical guidance to support the implementation of a national enquiry point.</i></p> <p>The TFA requires WTO members to establish an “enquiry point” to answer “reasonable” questions from governments, traders and other interested persons about import, export, transit requirements and procedures, and to provide required forms and documents on request. PACER Plus includes similar provisions in relation to customs queries.</p> <p>The regional action is the development of a standard operating procedure for national trade enquiry points. It is envisaged to include guidance on implementation options; the legal or policy basis of national enquiry points; organizational structure, functions, staffing etc.; inter-agency coordination procedures; fees and charges; monitoring mechanisms to ensure proper/timely response to queries; and standard forms and documents, etc. Where relevant, implementation of Enquiry Points could also be aligned with the implementation of National Trade Portals (see 3.5).</p>

4. User satisfaction surveys, broken down by gender.	The regional action will also include capacity building programs to implement national enquiry points based on the regional guide. Support to the marketing of information on enquiry points across the region, particularly women-owned businesses and SMEs should be provided.
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Regional Action	Explanation
3.4 Regional (or Subregional) Trade Enquiry Point	<i>Establish a regional enquiry point, or subregional enquiry point(s), that will answer questions and provide information on behalf of all countries participating in the arrangement.</i>
Indicators	A regional enquiry point responds to questions about the import, export, transit requirements, and procedures of all participating countries in the region, and provides on request information and any required forms and documents of such countries.
1. Number of queries. 2. Percentage increase in queries. 3. User satisfaction surveys, broken down by gender.	The trade facilitation advantage of a regional enquiry point is that it provides businesses who operate in multiple countries in the region with a “one-stop shop” to obtain information on regional requirements, rather than approaching each national authority separately.
	<p>From an administration point of view, a regional enquiry point can obviate the need of each participating country to incur the costs of implementing and operating their own national enquiry points. For that reason, regional enquiry points in lieu of national enquiry points are authorized by the TFA –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Members of a customs union or involved in regional integration may establish or maintain common enquiry points at the regional level to satisfy the requirement of [a national enquiry point] for common procedures. (TFA Article 1.3.2)</p> <p>Implementation of the regional or subregional(s) enquiry point(s) will require the designation of an enquiry point operator, and the establishment of coordination procedures among the national authorities who participate in the regional enquiry point, to ensure that the information provided through the regional enquiry point is complete, accurate and up to date. This regional activity would therefore include the development of an appropriate policy or legal basis, and governance and coordination procedures. The implementation of a Regional Enquiry Point could also be aligned with the implementation of a Regional Trade Portal (see 3.6).</p> <p>This regional action will require an initial feasibility assessment to determine the extent to which a regional approach is justified. Implementation of a common enquiry point may be of greater advantage and less complex at a subregional level, in regard to those Pacific countries that have common or similar import, export, and transit laws and procedures.</p>

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>3.5 Regional Guide to Establishment of National Trade Portal</p>	<p><i>A harmonized guide to establishment and management of a national trade information website.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of PIF Members that have adopted the model as the basis for a national trade information website. 2. User satisfaction surveys. 3. Website metrics. 	<p>The TFA requires WTO members to publish trade related information in an easily accessible manner and encourages publication by means of the internet. PACER Plus contains similar provisions on internet publication of customs laws, regulations, and procedures.</p> <p>Consistent with these obligations, national trade information portals have been established by the 11 PACER Plus countries. The other Forum Island Countries reported that internet publication of information is only partially or not yet implemented.</p> <p>This regional action will assist Pacific countries establish (if they have not already done so) and maintain a trade information website. The harmonized guide will include guidelines, recommendations, and/or standards concerning the scope of information to be published, the legal basis, the governance structure for implementation and operation, operational procedures, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, as well as the technical aspects, such as design and technology, etc.</p> <p>The regional action will include regional training programs to support implementation based on the harmonized guide.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the harmonized guide and support training will be based on international standards, particularly UNECE Recommendation No. 38 on Trade Information Portals (2021),²⁶ while taking into account the specific context and preferences of the participating Pacific countries, including the publication requirements of related Pacific regional initiatives.</p>

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>3.6 Regional (or Subregional) Trade Portal</p>	<p><i>To establish and maintain a regional or subregional website which publishes or makes available trade information of the participating Forum Island Countries.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. User satisfaction surveys. 2. Website metrics. 	<p>A regional (or subregional) portal provides businesses with a comprehensive and ordered view, on one site, of all laws, regulations, procedures, fees, etc. related to cross-border trade within the region. Regional portals may provide links in one place to all participating national trade information portals; the Regional Trade Information Portal implemented to date by the PACER Plus countries is an example (https://pacific.tradeportal.org/). Regional portals may also include original content such as consolidated information from participating</p>

26 See also UNCTAD, Transport and Trade Facilitation Series No. 16: Roadmap for Building a National Trade Information Portal (2022).

countries in searchable databases (e.g., tariff rates, binding tariff classification rulings, license requirements, SPS/TBT requirements, etc.), which can further facilitate market access for businesses trading in the member states.

Apart from providing businesses greater ease of access to information, a regional approach can obviate in part or in whole the need for national implementation. Members of a regional (or subregional) group, consisting of public and private representatives across genders, may determine that there are time and cost savings in establishing and operating one joint regional trade information portal in lieu of each country developing and administering their own national websites.

The regional action is the development and implementation of a regional trade information portal. This regional action may involve an assessment of the possibility of extending the regional trade portal now implemented by PACER Plus countries to include other Forum Island Countries, the design and content of the portal, the possible portal operators, and need and feasibility of a subregional portal in place of national portals.

The regional action will also require the development of standard operating procedures, including governance and coordination procedures, for the regional portal, of the kind described under Regional Action 3.5, as well as capacity building to support operation of the portal.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Administrative Regulation Streamlined and Harmonized

Regional actions to support measures to improve the efficiency and increase harmonization of trade regulations

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>4.1 Trade Facilitation Regulatory Impact Assessment</p>	<p><i>Model legislation, model procedures and practical guidance to assess the trade facilitation impacts of new or existing import and export requirements</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Administrative formalities and documentary requirements that are outdated or not well designed impose an unnecessary burden on trade, investment, and economic efficiency. The time and cost required to comply with such administrative regulations particularly disadvantages smaller businesses (women in particular) and may act as a disincentive to new business start-ups.²⁷</p>
<p>1. Number of trade facilitation regulatory impact assessments conducted</p>	<p>The TFA requires governments to assess the trade facilitation impacts of proposed or existing import or export administrative regulations</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“with a view to minimizing the incidence and complexity of import, export, and transit formalities and to decreasing and simplifying import, export, and transit documentation requirements.”</p> <p>Similarly, PACER Plus requires “[t]he Customs Administration of each Party [to] periodically review its customs procedures with a view to their simplification and the facilitation of trade.”</p> <p>The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process is a tool commonly applied in international practice to ensure efficiency of administrative regulation, both before a new regulation is introduced and periodically to the stock of existing regulations.</p> <p>The regional action is to develop model legislation, procedures, and practical guidance to enable Pacific countries to conduct a RIA for trade facilitation purposes; that is for the purpose of ensuring that proposed or existing import and export administrative regulations are the most efficient and the least trade restrictive possible consistent with policy objectives.</p>

The regional action will include training on regulatory impact assessment methods and analysis as applied to import and export administrative regulation and with a trade facilitation focus.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>4.2 Regional Exchange of Draft Standards and Participation in Standards-Setting Organizations</p>	<p><i>A regional arrangement and procedures for: (i) regional exchange of information on standards and best practices for import, export, or transit procedures that are proposed or under review in international organizations, and (ii) representation of Pacific countries' views at such organizations.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>The Pacific trade agreements generally encourage international standards and best practices to be used as the basis for customs and other import and export formalities and procedures.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of records created in central repository/ database. 2. Number of searches on central repository/ database. 3. Number of meetings of international organizations where PIF members views are represented. 	<p>Further, the WTO TFA encourages countries to take part in "the preparation and periodic review of relevant international standards by appropriate international organizations."²⁸ Through such participation, international standards and best practices may better reflect the views of all countries that are seeking to apply them. However, the WTO agreement also recognizes the ability of some countries to participate in this work in international organization may be limited by their resources.</p>
	<p>To mitigate that resource limitation, the regional action would establish a mechanism and procedures for the regional exchange of information concerning standards that are proposed or under review in international organizations – such as a central repository or database of meeting reports, draft standards, other country submissions, etc., which would be accessible to all Pacific countries.</p>
	<p>In addition, the regional action would establish an agreement to ensure that those Pacific countries who participate in the work of such organizations represent the views of other Pacific countries.</p>
	<p>In this way, all Pacific countries could be kept up to date on developments in standards, as well as have their views represented at such bodies.</p>
	<p>Interlinkages between these measures and the work of the Pacific Regional Standards Committee established under the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative will be explored to ensure synergies are maximized.</p>

28 As suggested by the negotiation history of the TFA, international organizations involved in developing international standards for trade facilitation may include-

- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- United Nations Organizations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

See e.g., World Trade Organization, Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation, Communication from Mongolia, Norway, South Africa, and Switzerland, TN/TF/W/131/Rev.1 (14 December 2007). International organizations that develop standards and guidelines related to trade facilitation of goods subject to biosecurity regulation, such as the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (see www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/en/) are likewise within the scope of this regional action.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

Electronic Information Exchange Expanded

Regional actions to support the implementation of Customs and Single Window systems and cross-border electronic information exchange

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>5.1 Model legislation to enable electronic transactions and payments</p>	<p><i>Model legal provisions to enable automated and paperless processes, electronic payments, and an electronic Single Window.</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>The Pacific trade agreements generally require customs and the other border agencies to develop electronic systems for information exchange and processing in relation to their import and export activities. The TFA imposes specific obligations for establishment of an electronic Single Window system for trade transactions, electronic payment of the duties, taxes, fees and charges that are collected by Customs, and lodging import documents in electronic form.²⁹</p>
<p>1. Number of Pacific Island Countries that have incorporated or used model provisions as the basis for national law.</p>	<p>Legislation is required to enable the electronic information exchange and electronic payments envisaged by these provisions.³⁰ Outdated legal provisions that require paper or manual processes, without allowing for electronic forms, impede realization of fully paperless import/export processing and the consequent trade facilitation benefits. The regional action here is development of the model legislation required to enable electronic information exchange. Guided by and based on existing rules and electronic clearance and single window solutions at national levels, a harmonized regional approach, for the establishment of this legal base will be important to enable future regional cross-border information exchanges.</p> <p>This legislation would cover such issues as –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal effect of use of electronic documents/data, electronic signatures, electronic stamps in place of paper, handwritten signatures, or manual stamps; • use of digital copies of required supporting documents; • storage of required documents in electronic form; • protection and exchange of confidential business information;

²⁹ TFA Article 10, paragraph 4 (Single Window) thus imposes the obligation on WTO members to use information technology to support the single window "to the extent possible and practicable." Similarly, TFA Article 8, paragraph 2 (Electronic Payment), requires WTO members "to the extent practicable" to adopt or maintain procedures for electronic payment. TFA Article 8, paragraph 1 (Pre-Arrival Processing) requires WTO members to provide for advance lodging of documents in electronic form for pre-arrival processing "as appropriate."

³⁰ Similarly, such legislation will enable PIF members transition from paper to paperless phytosanitary certificates, such as the IPPC "e-Phyto" solution.

- establishment of a National Single Window (NSW) and the NSW entity (e.g., legal effect of transactions with NSW, NSW organizational/governance structure, etc.); and
- registration and the rights/obligations of users of the information systems.

This proposed regional action supports implementation of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, which is a UN treaty that aims to promote cross-border paperless trade by “enabling the exchange and mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form and facilitating interoperability among national and subregional single window systems and/or other paperless trade systems.”³¹ The agreement thus imposes obligations on the parties concerning their respective national legislation.

Figure 6 Framework Agreement on Cross-Border Paperless Trade (Excerpt)

Article 6

National policy framework, enabling domestic legal environment and paperless trade committee

2. The Parties shall endeavour to create an enabling national legislation on paperless trade, in particular addressing the functions of the national operators for cross-border paperless trade, taking into consideration international standards and best practices, if applicable.
3. The Parties may establish a national committee, comprising relevant representatives of government and private sector parties, in accordance with their domestic environment. The committee will promote a legally enabling domestic environment for exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form as well as facilitate interoperability of cross-border paperless trade.

Article 15

Implementation of the present Framework Agreement

Each Party shall endeavour to implement the provisions of the present Framework Agreement by creating a legally enabling environment and developing the necessary technical infrastructure to facilitate the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form.

³¹ The agreement entered into force on 20 February 2021. See <https://www.unescap.org/projects/cpta#:~:text=The%20Agreement%20entered%20into%20force,instruments%20of%20ratification%20or%20accession>. Tuvalu was the first PIF member to ratify the agreement in 2022 and the Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy aims to support 10 Pacific Island countries to join the treaty by 2026.

The Pacific E-commerce initiative includes measures similar to the regional action proposed here:

Figure 7 Pacific Regional E-Commerce Strategy: Legal and Regulatory Framework (Excerpt)	
Strategic Objective	
4.1	E-commerce related laws are made or amended based on UNCITRAL model laws as best international standard, plus other international practices
Measures	
4.1.1	Adopt UNCITRAL model laws on electronic transactions. (i.e., Model Law on Electronic Commerce, Model Law on Electronic Signatures, Convention on Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records)
4.1.2	Adopt other relevant laws and regulations increasing confidence for consumers and businesses and predictability of E-commerce. (e.g., data protection, personal data (privacy), online consumer protection, cybercrime, online dispute settlement, online intellectual property right, etc.)

The focus of the Pacific E-commerce Initiative is transactions that take place between consumers and business (B2C) or between businesses (B2B)³² whereas the focus of this Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy is transactions between business and public authorities (B2G) and among public authorities (G2G). While some legislation is of greater interest to e-commerce (e.g., laws on online consumer protection) or trade facilitation (e.g., laws defining rights and obligations of users of information systems of public authorities) there is nevertheless considerable overlap in the areas of legislation that are important to implementation of both strategies including, in particular, general legislation based on UNCITRAL models enabling electronic transactions. Accordingly, it will be important to closely coordinate development of the model legislation to ensure that the legal provisions fully enable implementation of both strategies in accordance with their respective requirements.

The OECS regional e-government project is an example of a package of model legislation. See www.oecs.org/en/our-work/knowledge/library/projects/egrip.

Regional Action	Explanation
5.2 Regional customs and trade electronic systems committee	<i>A regional committee to promote and guide the harmonized development of national electronic systems for import and export processing to ensure regional interconnectivity</i>
Indicators	The regional action is the establishment of a regional expert committee to share information, oversee, and guide development of the national electronic customs and trade systems and national Single Window systems. ³³
1. Annual number of committee meetings.	

32 "What is E-commerce? It is the buying and selling of goods and services over the internet. It involves different forms of online payment options to complete the sale, utilizing both offline and online modes of delivery of the goods and services to the customer. Whilst one can think of many models of Ecommerce, the Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap predominantly focuses on the main ones, i.e. those involving sales of goods and services by businesses - Business-to-Consumer (B2C) and Business-to-Business (B2B) models, both for domestic and cross-border E-commerce." Pacific Regional E-Commerce Strategy, at 11-12.

33 This regional expert committee may be established as a subcommittee of the Regional Trade Facilitation Steering Committee that is proposed under Section IV, below, to ensure full coordination and transparency. Alternatively, an existing regional committee, such as a customs regional committee or a regional border protection and trade electronic systems committee, may be appointed to carry out the functions of the committee described in this regional action.

2. Annual number of decisions taken by the committee.

The purpose of the regional committee is to promote the interoperability of Pacific national systems, to enable the cross-border exchange of electronic customs and other border agency data. It will be a dedicated forum for the Forum Members Countries to discuss and resolve the various legal, process, technical, and other issues involved in the interconnection of national systems for cross-border electronic data exchange.³⁴

Regional interoperability may be better assured if Forum Member Countries take a harmonized approach in the development of their respective national customs and border agency systems. Survey results indicate that few Pacific countries have begun to design and implement their Single Window systems. There is thus an opportunity to implement a harmonized approach at the outset in the development of national systems and better prepare the way for regional information exchange.

In the near term, a regional customs and trade electronic systems committee will be important to oversee the development of the regional systems for cross-border data exchange that are described in this strategy (e.g., regional electronic exchange of risk data; regional databases for test results and customs valuation). In the longer term, a regional committee would be important to coordinate the establishment of a Regional Single Window to enable cross-border electronic exchange and mutual recognition of customs and trade related documents.³⁵ The ASEAN Single Window Committee is a model,

This regional action is aligned to the recommendations of the Pacific e-commerce strategy:

Measure 3.1.2: Deploy interoperable customs systems including ASYCUDA in all remaining FIC that have not acquired one, to increase harmonization of processes and procedures with the ability to connect to future single window systems.

Technology has improved across the Pacific to the point that a Single Window is achievable in each nation. In this context, the establishment of national and a regional trade facilitation committee is important to guide the ESW efforts. With a view to ensuring the necessary alignment and coordination, it is proposed that the regional customs and trade electronic systems committee reports to the Regional Trade Facilitation Committee also proposed in this document

³⁴ See UNECE, Single Window Interoperability, Recommendation No. 36 (2017) for extended discussion of these issues.

³⁵ A Regional Single Window can envisage that data and documents submitted on one national system will be available immediately to other national systems: for example, an export declaration made in Country A might then be treated as or used as the basis for an import declaration in Country B or, at the least, the information would be immediately available to country B for risk assessment purposes. See UNECE, Single Window Interoperability, Recommendation No. 36.

Regional Action	Explanation
<p>5.3 Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods</p>	<p><i>Harmonized technical standards to enable regional exchange of data related to cross-border movement of goods</i></p>
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Interoperability of national systems is required to enable the regional electronic exchange of data. Interoperability of national systems requires, among other elements, an agreed set of common standards for the information to be shared (a harmonized “data dictionary”), and the harmonization of those business processes generating that data.</p>
<p>1. Number of data messages exchanged based on harmonized technical standards.</p>	<p>This regional action envisages the development of those harmonized standards for data and businesses processes to enable regional electronic exchange of information related to import and export operations. This work might be guided by the regional committee established under Regional Action 5.2, above. Furthermore, the regional approach for exchange of data for cross-border movement of goods would build on the experiences and commonalities of existing electronic solutions at national levels.</p> <p>The scope of this regional action is to be determined by the regional committee, ideally in cooperation with the regional committee on standards established under the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative. For example, the scope may initially be limited to establishing the common data standards and processes required for the cross-border data exchanges described in this strategy (<i>e.g.</i>, electronic exchange of risk information, test results, <i>etc.</i>)</p>

IV. Implementation

A. Regional Trade Facilitation Steering Committee

The successful implementation of this strategy will require the active, sustained, and coordinated participation of all stakeholders.

Foremost of the stakeholders are the Forum Member Countries, of which the developing and LDC members are the main beneficiaries. All key decisions concerning the implementation of the regional actions – such as timing, prioritization, project scope and resourcing – should be driven by and fully reflect the agreed views and preferences of the Forum Member Countries.

The involvement of implementation partners in the implementation of the strategy will also be essential to its success. All the regional actions that are defined in this strategy envisage technical and capacity building support from these implementation partners, such as the World Bank Group (WBG), the Oceania Customs Organization (OCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Quality Infrastructure (QI) Unit, the Pacific Community (SPC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Office of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO), etc. To realize efficiency in TACB delivery and possible synergies of effort, regional actions under this strategy should take into account the trade facilitation projects these organizations have implemented or are planning at a regional and individual country or national-Pacific region level.

Support from like-minded donor partners and multi-donor facilities (Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility, PACER Plus Implementation Unit, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, etc.) will also be critical to ensure adequate resources are provided for implementation.

The coordination role of the PIFS is critical. As suggested by the PAfTS, the Secretariat will play the important role of liaising with implementation partners to promote the strategy and effective complementarities; reporting progress at relevant regional meetings; and liaison to Pacific Islands Forum Members at the Forum for Trade Ministers or Officials Meetings for strategic guidance and direction.

To achieve the objectives of this strategy within the intended timeframes, a formal governance mechanism that will include a regional coordination body is needed.

This regional coordination body – or a **Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Committee** – will be responsible for overseeing and guiding the implementation of the regional actions of the strategy; monitoring and evaluating implementation progress; and ensuring coordination and co-operation among all regional stakeholders and organizations responsible for implementation of other related Pacific regional initiatives, such as the Pacific regional committees on standards and e-commerce. It may also serve as a forum for discussion on emerging trade facilitation issues and sharing of expertise and experience.

The membership and observership of the Regional Trade Facilitation Committee should include representatives from all stakeholders, for example –

Members

- The Chairs (or his/her nominee) of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (or similar body) of each PIF member;
- One Senior Trade Official with lead responsibility for Trade Facilitation (National Trade Facilitation Focal Point) from each PIF member;

Observers

- Representatives of PIF Secretariat
- Representatives of each implementation partner organization
- Representatives of donor partners and multi-donor facilities
- Representatives of Regional Private Sector Organizations - 1 representative for each PIF member.
- Representatives of women led industry or trade associations

Once formally established, the first action of the Regional Trade Facilitation Committee should be to agree its terms of reference. These will define the committee’s governance structure, its operating procedures, and its meeting schedule.

In determining the governance structure, consideration should be given to that proposed under the Pacific E-commerce Strategy. There, the establishment of a regional committee was also proposed, which reports to the PAfTS Working Group, which in turn reports to the Pacific Island Forum Trade Officials and Pacific Island Forum Trade Ministers.

Figure 8 Pacific E-Commerce Initiative: Governance Structure



It is envisaged that PIFS will act as the secretary to the Committee.

As described above, it is envisaged that PIF members will be represented in the Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Committee by the chairpersons of their respective national trade facilitation committees. These national committees have the critical role of coordinating and overseeing the implementation of trade facilitation reforms – many of which are cross-cutting in nature – by the border authorities and stakeholders involved.³⁶ It is expected that these national committees will be also made responsible for facilitating implementation at the country level of the regional actions that are defined in this strategy. Accordingly, it is highly recommended that each PIF member should, if it has not already done so, establish a national trade facilitation committee that includes the participation of all relevant public and private sector stakeholders and which is properly empowered to coordinate trade facilitation issues at the national level.

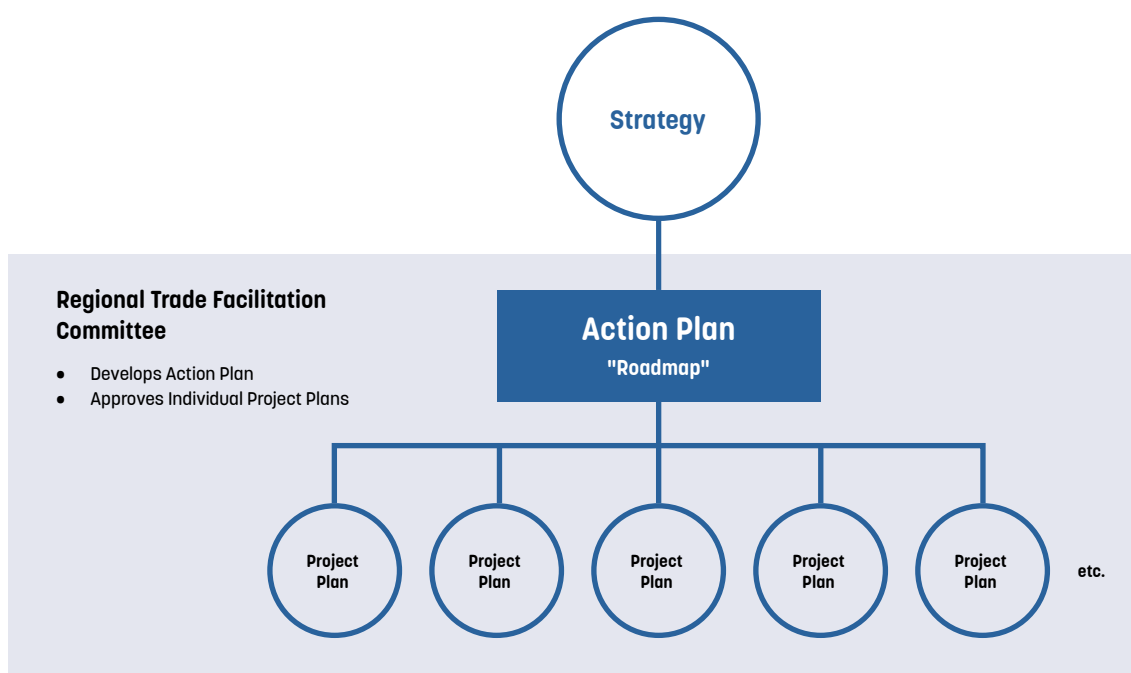
36 For that reason, Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA requires establishment of such a committee:
2. National Committee on Trade Facilitation
Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

B. Implementation Planning

This strategy describes twenty-two regional actions that PIF Members intend to implement over a five-year period. The regional actions are generally described as a product (e.g., a system, a model law, a standard procedure); that is, this regional trade facilitation strategy defines what will be implemented to support national trade facilitation reform. However, to operationalize this strategy, further elaboration of the regional actions will be needed to define how each regional action will be implemented, by whom, in what order, and within what time frames.

Accordingly, an **Action Plan or Roadmap** for the implementation of this strategy is required.

Figure 9 Implementation Planning



The Action Plan should include the agreed priorities and sequencing of implementation of the regional actions; identify the countries and the lead and any supporting implementation partners to be involved in each regional action; indicate the main implementation activities; and set indicative time limits for implementation of the regional actions. To best support national reform activities, the Action Plan should take into account existing plans of PIF members that set out national trade facilitation priorities and time frames, such as national strategies or workplans adopted to implement obligations under the TFA and other Pacific Trade Agreements. Account should also be taken of any time frames and priorities that Pacific countries may have agreed to under other regional plans related to trade facilitation, such as the OCO strategic plan or the Pacific e-commerce action plan.

Implementation will also require individual **Project Plans** to be developed for each regional action, within the parameters of the Action Plan. Development of project plans would typically be undertaken or led by an implementation partner and endorsed by the Regional Trade Facilitation Committee. These plans would typically specify the project tasks and deliverables, milestones and timeframes, required resources and cost estimates, and a schedule for consultations with stakeholders, including the relevant regional and international organizations.

Development of project plans will require an initial **feasibility assessment** based on analysis of the current situation pertaining in the countries where the regional action will be implemented. The details of the design of each of the regional projects will depend upon verification of the extent to which the trade facilitation measures that a proposed regional action is intended to support are implemented in the region, as well as the requirements or challenges of individual PIF Members and stakeholders in relation to implementation of these measures.

Moreover, many regional actions described in this strategy are susceptible to different implementation approaches. For example, a Regional Trade Information Portal might be implemented by aggregating information of all or some Pacific Islands Forum members, or it may simply link to relevant websites; it may present static information or it may include dynamic features, such as a tariff lookup; it may present information on Pacific Islands Forum members common requirements only (*e.g.*, the harmonized tariff) or it may include some or all national requirements of some or all Pacific Islands Forum members. Decisions on these kinds of scoping questions must be made to verify implementation timeframes and determine required resources.

Accordingly, this initial assessment will generally require –

- survey existing conditions in the affected countries relevant to the proposed project (*e.g.*, the relevant national policies, laws, procedures, organizational components, stakeholders and implementation partners involved, technical capabilities, *etc.*).
- verify the validity of the proposed project (*e.g.*, the benefits of implementation of the regional project to individual Pacific Islands Forum members justify the costs);
- identify the main impediments or challenges to implementation;
- identify training needs;
- identify relevant past or on-going technical assistance and capacity building support, and summarize outcomes where project support is completed;
- determine required resources, including human resources (local and/or international), and estimate costs, including costs of on-going operation, where relevant;
- identify variations among Pacific Islands Forum members that may require varied approaches; and
- identify and recommend the appropriate implementation option(s).

This initial assessment will be particularly important where the prior implementation of a national measure is a prerequisite of the regional action (*e.g.*, regional mutual recognition of authorized operators cannot be implemented unless two or more countries have implemented authorized operator programs at a national level).

In that regard, many PIF members have implemented national trade facilitation reforms that are related to regional actions described in this strategy, or they plan to do so. Implementation of the regional actions should build upon and enhance common existing national practices. The initial assessment should thus take into account any such completed or planned national trade facilitation activities, the associated technical assistance support and implementation partners involved, and the outcomes achieved, so that the implementation of the regional actions can be best designed to synchronize with and support these national trade facilitation reforms.

To assist in development of these implementation plans, a **Draft Action Plan** is included under Appendix A. Tentative project tasks comprising each action are included under Appendix B.

Finally, a **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** should be established both at the Action Plan and individual Project Plan levels. In relation to the Action Plan, this strategy suggests indicators in relation to each regional action that may be used.

V. Appendix

A. Draft Action Plan

Explanatory Note

The Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy (March 2023 draft) defines 22 regional actions that will support Pacific Island Forum (PIF) members in their implementation of national trade facilitation measures. To implement these regional actions, the strategy requires the development of an Action Plan which will “define how each regional action will be implemented, by whom, in what order, and within what time frames.”

As defined in the strategy, the elements of this Action Plan are –

- The designation of the lead implementation partner, and any supporting implementation partner or partners, that will participate in implementation of each regional action.
- The priority assigned by PIF members to implementation of each regional action (high, medium, low).
- The proposed start and an indicative end date for each regional action and key activity. These dates may be adjusted by the responsible implementation partners.
- The PIF member countries that will participate in implementation of each regional action.

A key activity that is included under each of the 22 regional actions of this Action Plan is a feasibility assessment (that is, a “stocktaking,” with recommendations) and a project plan to be approved by PIF members through the Regional Trade Facilitation Steering Committee. This assessment and project plan would be typically undertaken or led by the lead implementation partner. The need for this initial feasibility assessment, and suggested areas of focus in the assessment, is described in Part IV.B of the strategy document (“Implementation Planning”).

No.	Regional Action and Action Steps	Priority	Start	End	Implementation Partners ³⁷
1.1	Model Customs Auditor Manual	High	1-Jul-23	1-Jan-25	OCO*
1.2	Regional Customs Valuation Database	High	1-Jul-23	1-Jul-25	OCO*, UNCTAD
1.3	Regional Exchanges of Customs Value Information	Medium			OCO*, UNCTAD
1.4	Regional Arrangement for Sharing Customs Post-Clearance Audit Expertise	High			OCO*
1.5	Regional Electronic Exchange of Risk Information (Customs and Biosecurity Agencies)	High			WBG*, UNCTAD
1.6	Regional Risk Management Framework (Customs and Biosecurity Agencies)	High			WBG*
1.7	Designated Laboratories for Confirmatory Tests				

2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications	High	1-Jul-23	1-Jul-25	WBG*, UNCTAD
2.2	Regional Mutual Recognition of Authorized Operators	Medium			WBG*
2.3	Regional Support for Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods	High			WBG*, SPC, UNCTAD
2.4	Regional Support for Implementation of Time Release Studies	High			WBG*
3.1	Advance Rulings Model	Low			WBG*, OCO
3.2	Regional Recognition of Advance Rulings	Low			WBG*, OCO
3.3	Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Enquiry Point				WBG*, UNCTAD
3.4	Regional (Subregional) Trade Enquiry Point	High			WBG*, UNCTAD
3.5	Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Trade Portal				WBG*, UNCTAD
3.6	Regional (Subregional) Trade Portal	Low			WBG*, UNCTAD
4.1	Trade Facilitation Regulatory Impact Assessment	Medium			UNCTAD
4.2	Regional Exchange of Draft Standards and Participation in Standards-Setting Organizations	Medium			PIFS*, WBG, UNCTAD
5.1	Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments	Medium			UNCITRAL* UNCTAD, UNCDF, PIFS, WBG
5.2	Regional Customs and Trade Electronic Systems committee	Medium			WBG*, WCO, OCO, UNCTAD
5.3	Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods	Medium			UNCTAD*, WBG

B. Action Tasks (tentative)

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
1.1	Model Customs Auditor Manual
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan
2	Draft a model audit manual
3	Train on audit procedures and technique based on audit manual
1.2	Regional Customs Valuation Database
	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
1	Assessment includes: (i) recommendations on db technical and functional features, (ii) identification of any legal constraints to regional sharing of national valuation information, and (iii) recommendation whether the valuation db should be implemented as a component of regional system for electronic exchange of risk information (regional action 1.5) or as a separate system, taking into account cost savings and feasibility.
2	Draft legal acts/provisions as necessary to enable regional information exchange (e.g., a regional agreement and model provisions for national legislation)
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines for access, use and administration of the db
4	Technical design/development/deployment of database
5	Train on use of regional valuation database
1.3	Regional Exchanges of Customs Value Information
	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
1	Assessment includes: (i) identification of any national/regional legal requirements or constraints to regional exchange of valuation data, and (ii) recommendation on technical means for secure, rapid and reliable exchange of information
2	Draft legal acts/provisions as necessary to enable regional information exchange (e.g., regional agreement and model provisions for national legislation)
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines, including (i) organization/governance structure (e.g., contact points) and (ii) procedures for request, response and handling of exchanged information

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
4	Technical design/development/deployment of system for electronic exchange of value information, if required
5	Train on operation of information exchange system
1.4	Regional Arrangement for Sharing Customs Post-Clearance Audit Expertise
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: identification of any legal requirements or constraints on use of national audit experts by other regional partners</p>
2	Draft legal instrument (e.g., a regional voluntary agreement) as necessary to enable sharing audit expertise among regional partners on request
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines, including regional coordination structure (e.g., contact points) and procedures for request/response for audit expertise support
1.5	Regional Electronic Exchange of Risk Information (Customs and Biosecurity Agencies)
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: (i) survey of existing practices of Pacific countries border agencies (Customs and biosecurity agencies) concerning collection, storage and exchange of risk information and inspection results, including types of risk and control information available, manner of storage and exchange, automated systems involved, etc. (ii) identify legal or other limitations or conditions on regional exchange of risk and control information, (iii) recommend appropriate approach for information exchange taking into account relevant aspects (ICT, legal, procedural).</p>
2	Draft legal act (e.g, regional agreement) as necessary to enable regional information exchange
3	Technical design/development/deployment of system for electronic exchange of risk and control information
4	Develop operational procedures/guidelines to ensure appropriate information is shared/updated in the regional system
5	Train on operation of information exchange system
1.6	Regional Risk Management Framework (Customs and Biosecurity Agencies)
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: (i) stocktaking of existing regional risk management frameworks for Customs and biosecurity agencies (ii) recommendation on risk management responsibilities to be exercised at the regional level vs. those exercised at the national level, (iii) recommendation on resources required to support a regional-level risk management function, (iv) identification of legal or other limitations or conditions affecting establishment and operation of a regional risk management function, and (v) recommendation on appropriate organizational and coordination structure taking into account relevant aspects (ICT, legal, procedural)</p>

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
2	Develop legal act as necessary to enable a regional risk management function
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines for regional risk management function, including coordination with national Customs administrations
4	Train on implementation of the regional risk management function
1.7	Designated Laboratories for Confirmatory Tests
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: (i) identification of Pacific labs where a second test of goods imported into other Pacific countries can be conducted and (ii) recommendation on scope of regional agreement
2	Draft legal act/provisions as necessary (i) to enable regional information exchange (e.g., a regional agreement) and (ii) to provide for national recognition of test results of approved laboratories in other Pacific countries
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines for implementation of the regional agreement, including (i) requirements for designation of labs that may be used for second tests, (ii) procedures for carrying out second tests, and (iii) administration, monitoring and enforcement of the regional agreement
2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: recommendation on use of OCO model customs legislation as basis for development of model legal provisions
2	Develop model legal provisions for primary/secondary Customs legislation to enable national implementation of clearance simplifications and authorized operator program
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines, including (i) Customs administration of clearance simplifications and establishment of authorized operator programs, (ii) border agency coordination in application of simplified clearance procedures and authorized operator programs, and (iii) guides for businesses. Focus to be given to export and primary produce.
4	Training on simplified clearance procedures and authorized operator program, for national officials and private sector
*	ASYCUDA Implementation
2.2	Regional Mutual Recognition of Authorized Operators
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
2	Draft model legal acts/provisions (e.g., a model regional mutual recognition agreement and model national legal provisions) as necessary to implement mutual recognition.

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
3	Develop model operating procedures/guidelines for Custom administration of mutual recognition agreement
4	Train on establishment and operation of mutual recognition arrangement
2.3	Regional Support for Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan
2	Develop model joint regulation for coordinated/expedited border release of perishable goods by Customs and other border authorities
3	Develop joint standard operating procedures for border agencies for coordinated/expedited release of perishable goods
4	Train on coordinated/expedited release of perishable goods
*	Implement E-Phyto
2.4	Regional Support for Implementation of Time Release Studies
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
2	Develop a decision on common approach to implementation of time release studies and support its adoption by PIF members
3	Provide technical support for implementation of time release studies based on the common approach within PIF member countries.
3.1	Advance Rulings Model
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
2	Develop operational procedures/guidelines for the establishment and Customs administration of an advance rulings program, including (i) procedures for Customs issuance and monitoring ruling decisions and (ii) use of rulings in clearance of goods
3	Train on operation and use of advance rulings programs for public and private sector
3.2	Regional Recognition of Advance Rulings
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: a recommendation on types of rulings to be given regional effect (e.g., tariff classification, origin and/or valuation)

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
2	Develop legal provisions, including (i) regional agreement to give legal effect to rulings issued by other participating countries and (ii) model national legal provisions, as necessary, to enable implementation of regional agreement for mutual recognition of advance rulings
3	Develop standard operating procedures for national treatment of binding rulings given mutual recognition
4	Training on application of mutual recognition and coordination procedures
3.3 Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Enquiry Point	
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: (i) survey current practices of Pacific countries operating a trade or other WTO enquiry points, including policies and practices regarding fees, (ii) identify potential users of national trade enquiry points and their information needs, (iii) investigate potential use of national trade information portals to implement national trade enquiry points
2	Develop operational procedures/guidelines, including (i) for administration of national trade enquiry point and (ii) on recommended organizational structure, scope, functions, staffing etc. of national trade enquiry point
3	Training on establishment and management of trade information enquiry point
3.4 Regional (Subregional) Trade Enquiry Point	
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan. Assessment includes: a recommendation, based on cost-benefit assessment, as to whether a regional enquiry point or a subregional enquiry point(s) is justified and, if so, (i) recommendation of potential host of the regional/sub-regional enquiry point(s), (ii) identification of potential users of regional/subregional enquiry point(s), their information needs and potential demand, (iii) indication of resources required for operation of the regional/subregional enquiry point(s) (e.g., information, technical, equipment, staff), and (iv) investigate potential use of national trade information portals to implement national trade enquiry points
2	Draft legal provisions as necessary to establish the regional or subregional enquiry point and to define responsibilities of participating national authorities
3	Develop operational procedures/guidelines, including (i) types of information to be provided at regional/subregional level; (ii) regional/subregional enquiry point structure, tasks, coordination with national authorities, monitoring and reporting responsibilities, and (iii) procedures for processing information requests
4	Identify/provide ICT required for operation of the regional enquiry point
5	Training on operation of regional enquiry point

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
3.5	Regional Guide to Establishment of a National Trade Portal
	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
1	Assessment includes: (i) survey Pacific countries' current capabilities and practices on internet publication of trade information, and (ii) identify potential users of national trade information websites and their information needs
2	Develop guidance documents on establishing and managing a national trade information website
3	Training on establishment and operation of trade information website
3.6	Regional (Subregional) Trade Portal
	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
1	Assessment includes: a recommendation, based on cost-benefit assessment, as to whether a regional or a subregional trade portal is justified and, if so, (i) recommendation of potential operator of the regional/sub-regional enquiry portal(s), (ii) indication of potential users of regional/subregional portals, their information needs and potential demand, (iii) indication of resources required for operation of the regional/subregional trade portal (e.g., information, technical, equipment, staff), and (iv) a recommendation on content, functionality, and type of regional website to be implemented
2	Develop governance structure and standard procedures for cooperation and coordination in relation to regional website publication of national information
3	Develop legal act as necessary defining authority and obligations of portal operator and participating Pacific Islands Forum members related to development and operation of the regional trade information website
4	Technical design/development/deployment of regional/subregional trade portal
5	Training on establishment and operation of regional/subregional trade portal
4.1	Trade Facilitation Regulatory Impact Assessment
1	Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.
2	Develop model legal or policy provisions to require the assessment of trade facilitation impacts of proposed new import or export requirements and the periodic assessment of existing requirements
3	Develop model procedures, assessment methods and practical guidance to enable government authorities to carry out analysis of trade facilitation impacts of proposed new or existing import or export requirements
4	Training on trade facilitation regulatory impact assessment and procedures

No.	Regional Action and Action Tasks
4.2 Regional Exchange of Draft Standards and Participation in Standards-Setting Organizations	
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.</p> <p>Assessment includes: recommendation (i) whether the Pacific Regional Standards Committee should be the mechanism to implement regional exchange of trade-facilitation standards, (ii) the list of international or regional trade facilitation standards-setting organizations within scope, and the categories of documents/information to be shared, and (iii) any ICT solutions for exchange/distribution of documents and information</p>
2	<p>Develop legal instruments as necessary to enable (i) sharing of documents and information on trade facilitation standards under review by international organizations, and (ii) presentation of Pacific countries' views in proceedings of such international organizations</p>
3	<p>Develop procedures for regional exchange of documents and information and representation of views at international organizations</p>
4	<p>Develop and implement appropriate ICT solution for exchange of information</p>
5.1 Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments	
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.</p>
2	<p>Develop model legislation to enable electronic transactions and electronic payments</p>
3	<p>Training on legislation</p>
5.2 Regional Customs and Trade Electronic Systems committee	
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.</p> <p>Assessment includes: recommendation whether functions of the committee might be performed by existing regional committee, rather than creation of a new committee</p>
2	<p>Develop legal act as necessary establishing and defining authority and obligations of the regional committee (e.g., structure, composition, governance, responsibilities)</p>
3	<p>Develop committee's terms of reference and working procedures</p>
5.3 Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods	
1	<p>Conduct a feasibility assessment and draft a project plan.</p> <p>Assessment includes: a recommendation on the scope of the cross-border information exchange (i.e., the purposes for which information will be exchanged and related data and business processes)</p>
2	<p>Develop harmonized data and business process models for the cross-border exchanges within scope</p>
3	<p>Training on harmonized data and business process models</p>

C. Pacific Trade Agreements

1. Members of the Pacific Trade Agreements

Pacific Islands Forum Members	TFA x ratified o not ratified	PACER Plus x ratified o signed/ not ratified	PICTA	EU EPA x applies z notified intent to accede	MSG
Australia	x	x			
Cook Islands		x	x		
Federated States of Micronesia					
Fiji	x		x	x	x
French Polynesia					
Kiribati		x			
Marshall Islands					
Nauru		o			
New Caledonia					
New Zealand	x	x			
Niue		x	x		
Palau					
Papua New Guinea	x			x	x
Samoa	x	x	x	x	
Solomon Islands	o	x	x	x	x
Tonga	o	x	x ³⁸	z	
Tuvalu		x	x		
Vanuatu	x	o	x		x

38 Tonga ratified but has not applied the agreement.

2. Trade Facilitation Measures in Pacific Trade Agreements

Trade Facilitation Measure	WTO TFA	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
Publication	X	X				X
Information Available Through Internet	X	X				
Enquiry Points	X	X				X
Opportunity to Comment and Information before Entry into Force	X	X		X		X
Consultations	X					
Advance Rulings	X	X				X
Procedures for Appeal or Review	X	X				X
Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	X					
Detention	X					
Test Procedures	X					
General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	X	X				
Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	X	X				X
Penalty Disciplines	X					X
Pre-arrival Processing	X	X	X			X
Electronic Payment	X					X
Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	X		X			X
Risk Management	X	X	X			X
Post-Clearance Audit	X		X			X
Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	X					X
Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	X					X
Expedited Shipments	X	X				X
Perishable Goods	X					X

Trade Facilitation Measure	WTO TFA	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
Border Agency Cooperation	x					x
Movement of Goods intended for Import under Customs Control	x					x
Formalities and Documentation Requirements	x	x				x
Acceptance of Copies	x					x
Use of International Standards	x	x	x			x
Single Window	x					x
Preshipment Inspection	x					x
Use of Customs Brokers	x					x
Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	x					
Rejected Goods	x					
Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	x					
Freedom of transit	x					
Customs Cooperation	x	x				x
National Committee	x					x
Customs and Border Agency Automated System		x	x			x
Time Limit for Release of Goods						
Regional Cooperation on Implementation of Customs Valuation						x
Regional Harmonization of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Practices			x	x		

D. Trade Facilitation Provisions of Pacific Trade Agreements Supported by Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy

Note: This table lists the trade facilitation measures found in the Pacific Trade Agreements (columns 2-8). Column 1 lists the regional actions defined in this Strategy that will support the implementation of such measures.

Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Regional Action	Pacific Trade Agreements Trade Facilitation Measures	WTO TFA (Section)	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
	Publication	1.1	Chp. 2, Art. 13 Chp. 4 Art. 13 Chp. 13, Art. 2	Art. 29	Art. 17		Art. 3.9
3.5 Regional Guide to Establishment of National Trade Portal 3.6 Regional (or Subregional) Trade Portal	Information Available Through Internet	1.2	Chp. 2, Art. 13 Chp. 4 Art. 13 Chp. 13, Art. 2	Art. 29			
3.3 Regional Guide to Establishment of National Enquiry Point 3.4 Regional (or Subregional) Trade Enquiry Point	Enquiry Points	1.3	Chp. 4 Art. 13				Art. 3.9
	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	2.1	Chp. 13, Art. 2	Art. 29	Art. 17		Art. 3.9
	Consultations	2.2		Art. 29			
3.1 Regional Advance Rulings Model 3.2 Regional Recognition of Advance Rulings	Advance Rulings	3	Chp. 4, Art. 10	Art. 28			Art. 3.9
	Procedures for Appeal or Review	4	Chp. 4, Art. 14	Art. 28			Art. 3.9

Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Regional Action		Pacific Trade Agreements Trade Facilitation Measures	WTO TFA (Section)	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
		Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	5.1					
		Detention	5.2					
1.7	Designated Laboratories for Confirmatory Tests	Test Procedures	5.3					
		General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	6.1	Chp. 2, Art. 13				
		Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	6.2	Chp.2, Art.10				Art. 3.9
		Penalty Disciplines	6.3					Art. 3.9
2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications	Pre-arrival Processing	7.1	Chp. 4, Art. 4.1 Chp. 4, Art. 7	Art. 28			Art. 3.9
5.1	Model Legislation to Enable Electronic transactions and payments	Electronic Payment	7.2					Art. 3.9
2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications	Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees and Charges	7.3	Chp. 4, Art. 4.1	Art. 28			Art. 3.9
1.5	Regional Electronic Exchange of Risk Information	Risk Management	7.4	Chp. 4, Art. 11	Art. 28			Art. 3.9
1.6	Regional Risk Management Framework							

Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Regional Action		Pacific Trade Agreements Trade Facilitation Measures	WTO TFA (Section)	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
1.1	Model Customs Auditor Manual	Post-Clearance Audit	7.5		Art. 28			Art. 3.9 Art. 3.7
1.4	Regional Arrangement for Sharing Customs Post Clearance Audit (PCA) Expertise							
2.4	Regional Support for Implementation of Time Release Studies	Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	7.6					Art. 3.9
2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications	Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	7.7					Art. 3.9
2.2	Regional Mutual Recognition of Authorized Operators							
2.1	Regional Support for Implementation of Clearance Simplifications	Expedited Shipments	7.8	Chp. 4, Art. 4.1 Chp. 4, Art. 7				Art. 3.9
2.3	Regional Support for the Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods	Perishable Goods	7.9	Chp. 4, Art. 4.1				Art. 3.9
2.3	Regional Support for the Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods	Border Agency Cooperation	8					Art. 3.9
		Movement of Goods Intended for Import under Customs Control	9					Art. 3.9
4.1	Trade Facilitation Regulatory Impact Assessment	Formalities and Documentation Requirements	10.1	Chp. 4, Art. 4.3	Art. 29			Art. 3.4 Art. 3.9
5.1	Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments	Acceptance of Copies	10.2					Art. 3.9

Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Regional Action		Pacific Trade Agreements Trade Facilitation Measures	WTO TFA (Section)	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
4.2	Regional Exchange of Draft Standards and Participation in Standards-Setting Organizations	Use of International Standards	10.3	Chp. 4, Art. 4.2	Art. 28			Art. 3.4 Art. 3.9
5.1	Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments	Single Window	10.4					Art. 3.9
5.2	Regional Customs and Trade Electronic Systems Committee							
5.3	Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods							
	Preshipment Inspection							
		Use of Customs Brokers	10.6					Art. 3.9
		Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	10.7					
2.3	Regional Support for the Coordinated and Expedited Clearance of Perishable Goods	Rejected Goods	10.8					
		Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing	10.9					
		Freedom of transit	11					
1.3	Regional Exchanges of Customs Value Information	Customs Cooperation	12	Chp. 4, Art. 5 Chp. 4, Art. 12				Art. 3.7
		National Committee	23.2					Art. 3.9

Pacific Trade Facilitation Strategy Regional Action		Pacific Trade Agreements Trade Facilitation Measures	WTO TFA (Section)	PACER Plus	EU EPA	PICTA	MSGTA2	MSGTA3
5.1	Model Legislation to Enable Electronic Transactions and Payments	Customs and Border Agency Automated System		Chp. 4, Art. 6	Art. 28			Art. 3.6
5.2	Regional Customs and Trade Electronic Systems Committee							
5.3	Harmonized Technical Standards to Enable Regional Exchange of Data Related to Cross-Border Movement of Goods							
1.2	Regional Customs Valuation Database	Customs Valuation		Chp. 4, Art. 9	Art. 30			Art. 3.7
		Time Limit for Release of Goods		Chp. 4, Art. 8				
1.3	Regional Exchanges of Customs Value Information	Regional Cooperation on Implementation of Customs Valuation		Chp. 4, Art. 5				Art. 3.5 Art. 3.7
1.4	Regional Arrangement for Sharing Customs Post Clearance Audit (PCA) Expertise							
	[multiple]	Regional Harmonization of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Practices			Art. 31	Art. 18		

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