



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



PACER Plus Development Cooperation Update

Monday 10 September MFAT Auckland Offices

**A conversation regarding the Pacific Agreement of Closer Economic Relations Plus and New Zealand's efforts to boost trade in the Pacific with *Jessica Allison-Batt PACER Plus Implementation Project Manager*—
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



PACER Plus is a Trade and Development Agreement between, Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

Timeline for PACER Plus development cooperation

2017

- The Agreement is Signed and the readiness package is launched

Late 2018- Mid 2019

- The readiness package prepares Signatories for entry into force
- Signatories negotiate procedures for the PACER Plus Joint Committee, including establishment of sub committees and modalities to deliver Aid for Trade
- Signatories design and stand up the PACER Plus Implementation Unit
- Signatories design the PACER Plus work plan of development activities in consultation with national and regional stakeholders

Mid 2019 onwards

- PACER Plus enters into force when 8 ratifications are received followed by the first sitting of the Joint Committee (at this point the Agreement is open for accession)
- The Development Economic Cooperation Work Package is triggered.
- The Joint Committee will endorse its procedures, and adopt the year 1 work plan and built in agenda.
- The PACER Plus Implementation Unit will support the Joint Committee to implement the Agreement.

The Readiness Package was triggered on Signature, providing **AUD 7.7 Million** to support countries to get ready to implement the Agreement

Entry into force will trigger the **Development Economic Cooperation package** providing **AUD 25.5 Million** over the first 5 years, with potential extension., and Aid for Trade Targets under which New Zealand commits to spend 20 percent of official development assistance on Aid for trade on PACER Plus Parties.



Current Projects under the Readiness Package

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has been contracted to deliver:

- ❖ Trade transparency training
- ❖ Training on gender and trade
- ❖ A Regional trade portal



Oceania Customs Organisation has been contracted to:

- ❖ Support countries to meet Customs requirements including transposition of PSR and TRS and practical capability in Customs procedures.

Chapman Tripp has been contracted to provide

- ❖ Legislative reviews to support countries to meet their obligations under the Agreement.



Implementation of the Labour Mobility Arrangement

Implementation of Pacific Annual Labour Mobility Meeting,

- ❖ Meetings took place in Christchurch in 2016 and Brisbane in 2017
- ❖ the next meeting takes place in Honiara in October 2018.

Delivery of new labour mobility initiatives in fisheries and construction

- ❖ Fisherman from Kiribati are at work on New Zealand flagged vessels, working under New Zealand labour laws and taking home upwards of NZD \$3 thousand per week.
- ❖ The construction pilot was a success, leading to the establishment of the Pacific Trades Partnership

Work on future initiatives including on:

- ❖ the empowerment of woman to benefit from future and current labour mobility initiatives
- ❖ Potential expansion to new areas such as tourism.



Preparatory work on Institutional Arrangements

ANZ have commissioned a technical design of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit and year 1 work plan, which Signatories will consider in late 2018 and early 2019.



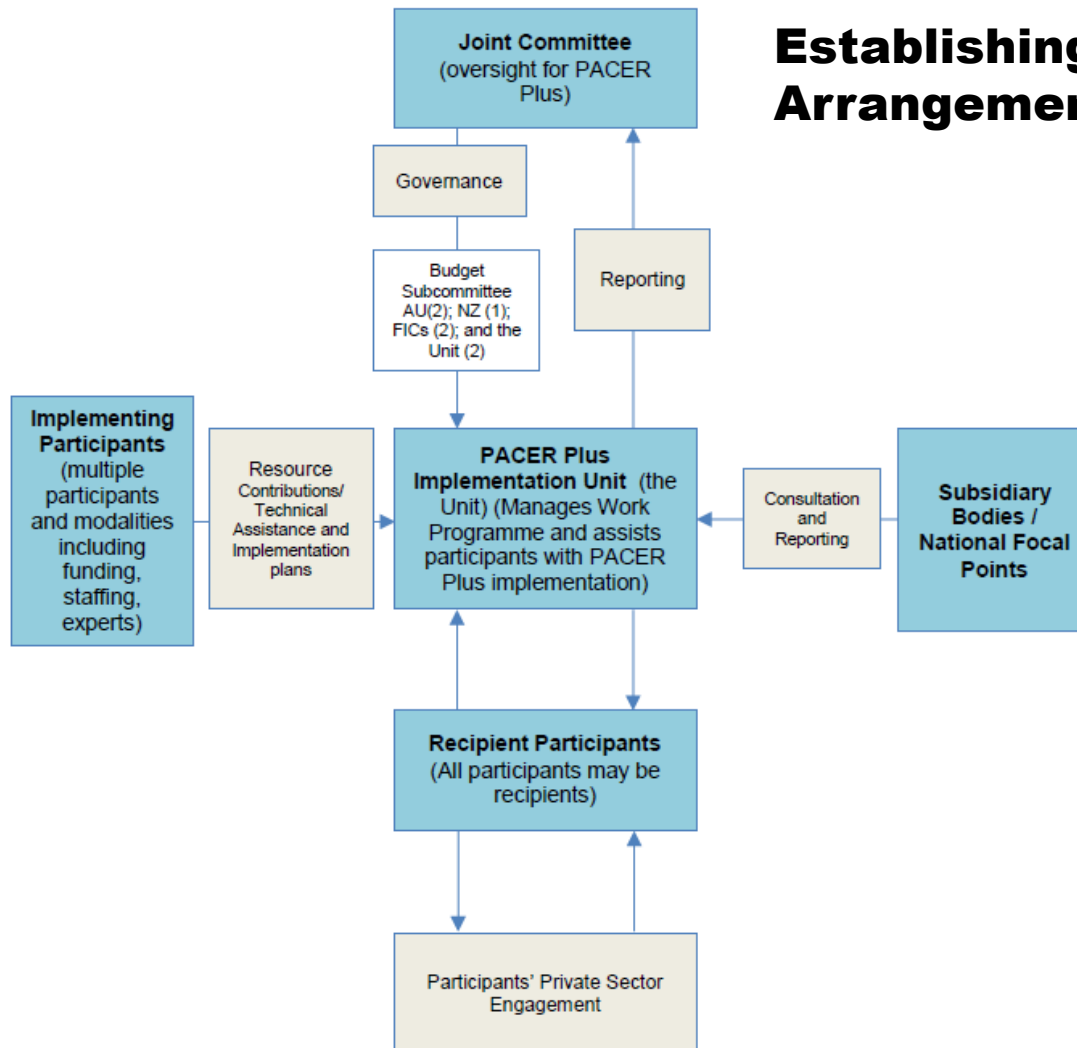
NZ is also developing a Monitoring & Evaluation framework in consultation with academics so that we can measure the success of the Agreement overtime, including development benefits.

Further work is also under way to consider:

- How Aid for Trade should be implemented when PACER Plus enters into force
- How we should engage with business and private sector under PACER Plus
- How we can learn from experiences under the AANZFTA
- How the labour mobility arrangement and development economic cooperation agreements should engage with each other.



Establishing Institutional Arrangements



Parties need to :

- establish the PACER Plus Joint Committee, including operational procedures and priorities for implementation.
- Agree the year 1 work plan of activities to be agreed under the Economic Development Cooperation Work programme
- Establish the PACER Plus Implementation Unit



Next Steps for PACER Plus Implementation

In October Signatories will meet in Honiara to:

- Progress labour mobility discussions at the PLMAM
- Advance work under the readiness package and plan for entry into force of the Agreement at a Signatory Meeting
- Undertake training on trade transparency and gender and trade at a workshop with UNCTAD

Following consultation with Signatories we anticipate national and regional consultations on the PACER Plus Economic Development Cooperation year 1 workplan in late 2018 to mid-2019.



Next Steps on Private Sector Engagement

- Following consultation with PACER Plus Signatories, materials will be made available online at mfat.govt.nz to support more detailed engagement by stakeholders in the implementation of the PACER Plus Agreement, including providing input into the design of the year 1 work plan of activities.
- Stuart Zohrab is also leading policy work to consider how we can engage effectively with national and regional stakeholders, including on the PACER Plus Agreement as we move forward to implementation.



Questions?

