



PACER Plus

PP.MIN.007/C

PACER PLUS MINISTERIAL MEETING

27th November 2025

Honiara, Solomon Islands

COMMUNIQUE

1. We, the Ministers and Ministerial representatives of the Parties to the *Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus*¹ met in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 27 November, 2025 chaired by the Honourable Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Solomon Islands. We welcomed the participation of the members of the PACER Plus Joint Committee in the meeting.
2. We acknowledged the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Honourable Jeremiah Manele, who opened the meeting and highlighted the significance of PACER Plus and the strong progress achieved since its ratification in 2020. Building on this momentum remains critical, particularly through sustainable resourcing of PACER Plus labour mobility initiatives, expanding services trade including digital trade, and increasing foreign investment to support local private sector growth. Continued

¹ Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. See Annex 1 for List of Representatives.

collective action and cooperation is essential to realising the full potential of PACER Plus and ensuring it continues to deliver progressive, people-centred, and sustainable development for the region.

3. We recognised the profound impacts of global trade uncertainty on the livelihoods and prosperity of the peoples of the Pacific region, particularly given the inherent vulnerabilities of our small, developing island economies including to the existential threat of climate change. We therefore reaffirmed our commitment to deeper regional economic integration. Underpinned by the multilateral rules-based trading system, PACER Plus remains an essential platform to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment and foster sustainable and inclusive economic development across the Pacific region.

REPORT ON THE DEC WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2025

4. We noted the progress of implementation of the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Programme 2020—2025, in the face of external challenges, capacity constraints, and complex donor and geopolitical dynamics. We acknowledged the need for targeted investment, private sector support and enhanced coordination to ensure the next phase of the DEC delivers tangible economic benefits for all PACER Plus Parties.
5. We acknowledged the role of the Joint Committee and subsidiary committees of the Agreement and the PACER Plus Implementation Unit to the significant progress made under the DEC Work Programme 2020-2025.
6. PACER Plus represents a collective commitment, under which all Parties have undertaken obligations and concessions. We acknowledged this shared responsibility, which will be crucial as we head into the next five years of PACER Plus.

PACER PLUS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2030

7. We endorsed the PACER Plus Strategic Priorities for the DEC Work Programme 2025-2030. These priorities build on the implementation of activities over the last five years and will focus on the key areas of: Legislation and Policy Reform, Public Sector Capacity Building, Private Sector Development, and Automation and Data Systems. Together, they aim to strengthen compliance, enhance institutional capacity, improve business competitiveness, and support effective monitoring under PACER Plus.
8. We recalled the 2024 PACER Plus Ministers Meeting, when Ministers affirmed the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting as the preeminent regional forum to progress labour mobility issues, and called for dedicated and sustainable resourcing of labour mobility initiatives for 2025-2030.
9. We emphasised the importance of strengthening the principles of inclusive and resilient trade development in private sector engagement, using constructive cooperation to advance trade outcomes for MSMEs, women-led businesses, people with disabilities and marginalized communities, within our regional trade and economic priorities.
10. We encouraged the ongoing enhancement and implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Adaptation (MELA) Logical Framework 2025-2030, which will drive accountability and demonstrate measurable outcomes that strengthen the value of PACER Plus initiatives.
11. We acknowledged the importance of enabling the PACER Plus Implementation Unit to effectively implement the Strategic Priorities of the DEC Work Programme 2025-2030.

PACER PLUS IN REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

12. We recognised PACER Plus' central role in advancing regional economic integration in the Pacific and delivering progress against the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. In this regard, we underscored the importance of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit as a standalone member-driven entity in the regional architecture, supporting Parties to collectively build economic resilience and achieve sustainable development.
13. We endorsed PACER Plus' alignment with regional strategies, while highlighting the unique contributions of Members to regional trade and PACER Plus' ability to cater to the national priorities of Members. Improved regional coordination is critical to reducing duplication and leveraging identified synergies with other bilateral and regional development initiatives in the Pacific. The PACER Plus Implementation Unit is encouraged to continue to engage effectively with other regional partners, including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), to advance regional integration and enhance the benefits of international trade for Parties.
14. We committed to continuing to champion PACER Plus as a catalyst for regional integration and sustainable economic growth, unlocking new business opportunities, expanding market access, harmonising trade infrastructure, and delivering greater predictability for trade among member countries.
15. We welcomed interest from other Forum Island Countries and agreed to advance the development of a structured advocacy strategy under the next DEC Work Programme to promote accession by other Forum Island Countries. In this effort, it is also crucial to ensure that adequate funding is available so that the benefits of the Agreement for all Parties are fully realised and not diminished. We further acknowledged the reaffirmed commitment from Australia and New Zealand to provide additional funding as membership increases. We welcomed further collaboration with strategic partners.

RENEWAL OF THE IA FOR DEC UNDER PACER PLUS

16. We acknowledged the funding support by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand towards the DEC Work Programme and underscored its importance to enabling Pacific Parties to improve their trade capacities.
 17. In this regard, we welcomed the commitment of the Government of Australia to contribute AUD 23.2 million, and the Government of New Zealand to provide NZD 10 million towards funding the management and delivery of the Work Programme including the operations of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit.
 18. We were pleased to sign Phase II Implementing Arrangement (IA) for Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) under PACER Plus for another five years from December 2025 to December 2030.
 19. We expressed our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Solomon Islands for the warm welcome and hospitality, and we looked forward to our continued collaboration in the coming year.
 20. We acknowledged the Government of Tonga as the next Chair of the Joint Committee and PACER Plus Ministerial Meeting.
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ANNEX 1

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES

Australia

1. Honourable Nita Green, Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Tourism, Northern Australia
2. Ms Belinda Featherstone, Senior Adviser for the Assistant Minister for Pacific Island Affairs
3. Mr Andrew Cumpston, Assistant Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
4. Mr Avi Baskar, Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
5. Mr Andrew Schloeffel, Acting High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands
6. Ms Emily Flahive, Acting Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands
7. Mr William Rowell, Acting Economic Counsellor, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands
8. Mr Nicholas Saundersson, First Secretary, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands
9. Ms Lindsay Tupper-Creed, Second Secretary, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands
10. Ms Brooke Haling, Second Secretary, Australian High Commission, Solomon Islands

Cook Islands

1. Honourable Tingika Elikana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
2. Mr Alan Tetava Richard Armistead, Director, International and Trade Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Kiribati

1. H.E. Mr Tukabu R. Tauati, Special Envoy of the Minister for Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives and High Commissioner of Kiribati to Fiji
2. Ms Koaa Ekuata, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives
3. Ms Angoango Fakaua, Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives

New Zealand

1. Honourable Scott Simpson, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Minister for Accident Compensation Cooperation
2. Mr Paul Moir, Senior Private Secretary, Office of the Honourable Scott Simpson
3. Ms Melanie Roberts, Unit Manager, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Implementation Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
4. Ms Ruth Pehbu-Hubscher, Deputy Senior Official, PACER Plus, TPEI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Niue

1. Honourable Crossley Tatui, Minister of Finance and Infrastructure
2. Ms Doreen Siataga, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Infrastructure
3. Mr Aytron Tatui, Trade Officer, Ministry of Finance and Infrastructure

Samoa

1. Honourable Fata Ryan Schuster, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour
2. Mr Henry Tunupopo, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3. Ms Leilua Sosefina S. Faamausili, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
4. Ms Theresa Penn, Principal Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Solomon Islands

1. Honourable Peter Shanel Agovaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
2. Ambassador Collin Beck, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
3. Ms Jenny Barile, Deputy Director of External Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
4. Ms Janice Ashwin, Chief Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
5. Mr Kevin Meplu, Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
6. Mr Burns Waroka, Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade
7. Ms Venice Oge, PACER Plus National Coordinator for Solomon Islands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Tonga

1. Mrs Distaquaine Tuihalamaka, Special Envoy of the Minister of Trade and Economic Development and Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development
2. Mrs Eva Liavaa, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development

Tuvalu

1. Honourable Paulson Panapa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labor and Trade
2. Ms Seluia Haueia, Personal Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Labor and Trade
3. Mr Falaoa Sione, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labor and Trade
4. Mr Mativa Sama, Acting Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labor and Trade

Vanuatu

1. Mr Joe Pakoa Lui, Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade and Acting Director General of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade

2. Mr Michael Ligo, PACER Plus National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade
3. Ms Losalinda Tari, RTO, Vanuatu Government

PACER Plus Implementation Unit Staff

1. Mr Roy Lagolago, Head of the PACER Plus Implementation Unit
2. Ms Ida-Tifitifi Fuimaono, Executive Governance Coordinator
3. Mrs Laisiana Tugaga, Operations and Secretariat Manager
4. Mr Alipate Tavo, Trade and Investment Adviser
5. Dr. Alisi Kautoke-Holani, Labour Mobility Specialist
6. Mr Alistair Molioo, Programme Accountant