



# PACER Plus General Review – public feedback sought

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) is seeking feedback on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus.**

## What is the General Review?

The PACER Plus General Review will assess and provide recommendations on:

- Implementation and achievements of PACER Plus;
- Implementation and effectiveness of the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme.

The General Review is conducted three years from the Agreement's entry-into-force and every five years thereafter. This will be the first General Review of PACER Plus.

All PACER Plus countries, including New Zealand, will contribute to the review. MFAT is leading preliminary consultations in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Who can provide feedback?

We are keen to hear from you. We welcome feedback from businesses, Pacific communities, Māori, civil society, government, academics and other individuals and organisations that wish to comment on PACER Plus.

If you wish to provide feedback, please email: [FTA\\_outreach@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:FTA_outreach@mfat.govt.nz) for further details.

**We ask that you please provide feedback by Monday 27 November 2023.**

## Objectives of the General Review:

The objectives of the General Review are as follows:

1. Objectively assess the benefits of the PACER Plus for Parties, having regard to the objectives of the Agreement as set out in the chapters, associated annexes and documents.
2. Assess the implementation of the Agreement since its entry into force in 2020 and the priority requirements in each Party to deliver on the objectives of the PACER Plus Agreement.
3. Identify required modifications to the PACER Plus Development and Economic Work Programme with due regard to the status of implementation of the obligations under the PACER Plus development and cooperation objectives as set out in the Implementing Arrangement for Development and Economic Cooperation and the PPIU Constitution.

4. Review the existing governance structures of the PPIU including the Terms of References of the PACER Plus Joint Committee and Subsidiary Bodies.
5. Strengthen Parties' observance of the PACER Plus provisions and obligations.
6. Consider the parallel independent review of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility and any implications on the PACER Plus.
7. The parallel independent review of the Arrangement on Labour Mobility and any implications on the Development Economic Cooperation and Work Programme.

## **Scope of the General Review**

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The General Review will consider:

1. Status of implementation of each Chapter of the PACER Plus.
2. Regional and national level priorities to promote the implementation of the Agreement.
3. The role of the Development Economic Cooperation in the ongoing implementation of the Agreement and negotiation of the built-in agenda, as well as advancing economic integration among the Parties (Implementation Arrangement of the Development & Economic Cooperation) on PACER Plus.
4. The outcomes of any reviews from other FTAs (Pacific Islands Country Trade Agreement, Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement, interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU) that Parties are members of.
5. The effectiveness of the institutional and decision-making process relating to the Agreement including assessment of the role of the PPIU.
6. Review of the Rules and procedures of the Joint Committee and the Terms of Reference of the Subsidiary Bodies.
7. Recommended improvements to the PACER Plus and Work Programme.

## **Additional resources**

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Links to key documents, including press releases and public information papers, are provided here, [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force/pacer-plus/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force/pacer-plus/)