



"Smart Pacific, One Voice"

# **“Smart Pacific One Voice - Creating a Digital Future Together For the Pacific”**

**PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE**

**28 August 2023**

**APEC Haus, Port Moresby**

## **LAGATOI DECLARATION ON THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE PACIFIC**

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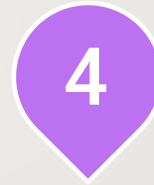
**Background**



**Lagatoi Declaration**



**Key points of the Declaration**



**The Priorities**

# BACKGROUND

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- Pacific ICT Ministers attending the ITU PP 2022 in Bucharest, Romania saw the greater need for a united Pacific to collaborate together to achieve our goals for a digital future. They saw first-hand how the Pacific Island countries and territories could not obtain what we needed since we did not speak with one voice
- Since the 2015 ICT Ministerial Meeting in Tonga that approved the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic (PRISAP, digital technology has advanced with Digital Transformation creating opportunities for nations, service providers and, end users

# KEY POINTS OF THE LAGATOI DECLARATION

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1. Aligns with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
2. Supports Leaders Commitment for a well-connected region and to strengthen our partnerships and regional arrangements.
3. Highlights the need to create an enabling environment to support and harmonise all national/regional efforts for digital transformation and to achieve safe, secure, inclusive affordable, sustainable and competitive ICT services.
4. Identifies six (6) strategic priorities that are critical to Digital Transformation and ICT development in the Pacific.

# KEY POINTS OF THE LAGATOI DECLARATION

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5. Does not override the decisions of countries and territories to adopt their own national policies and implementation plans.
6. Charts a unified digital future together by putting digital transformation at the centre of our development agenda to drive social and economic development and prosperity
7. Is a living document, it will continue to be updated in the coming years as the Pacific makes progress in its digital journey.
8. Tasks Senior Officials to develop a ICT and Digital Transformation Action Plan for the Pacific.

# KEY POINTS OF THE LAGATOI DECLARATION

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9. Calls for the next ICT Ministerial Dialogue in 2025 to monitor progress and implementation and sets an initial time frame (2023 – 2025).
10. Supports the work of the various existing regional governance structures that coordinate and cooperate on the development of ICT in the Pacific.
11. Calls on the ITU, APT and other development partners to strengthen understanding of, and engagement and presence in, the Pacific region, and invite those partners to scale up cooperation in resource mobilization to support Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

# LAGATOI DECLARATION

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- **Acknowledges** that development and Digital Transformation varies in the Pacific - While we are all looking in the same direction, we don't start from the same place, may not evolve at the same pace, may not have the same priorities in the same order,
- **Commends** the activities and initiatives led by individual Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including through regional cooperation and support of development partners, to bridge the digital divide in the Pacific
- **Reaffirms** our commitment to the **ITU Connect 2030 Agenda** and the 2030 UN Agenda for SDGs including the Decade of Action for the United Nations and SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

# LAGATOI DECLARATION

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- **Reaffirms** our commitment to the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security* emphasising cybersecurity as a component of strengthening regional security and combating cybercrime.
- **Emphasis** the critical role and opportunities presented by the use of ICTs and digital transformation to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories as primary enablers' of socio-economic development, inclusive governance and sustainable livelihood in a fast-changing world.
- **Calls** for regional solidarity and commitment



# SIX (6) PRIORITIES

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# PRIORITY I: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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**Commit** to creating an enabling environment and promoting universal and affordable access to connectivity to accelerate Digital Transformation.

# PRIORITY 2: DIGITAL INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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1. **Commit** to promoting digital government strategies, policies, and programs to enable digital transformation of both public and private sectors, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) in the Pacific.
2. **Commit** to enabling MSMEs to take full advantage of emerging technologies; facilitate their effective and meaningful access to digital platforms, and help enhance their competitiveness in an increasingly digitally connected world; facilitate their further integration into global value chains and support job creation



# PRIORITY 3: DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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Digital infrastructure underpins the delivery of digital services. Rolling out widespread, modern, and resilient infrastructure with sufficient capacity is key to development of the ICT sector in the Pacific.

- We Commit to:**
1. Increasing focus on the availability and quality of telecommunication networks and supportive infrastructure.
  2. Increase coverage and penetration rates of high speed meaningful broadband connectivity in order to accelerate the efforts to connect the businesses and citizens in the Pacific



# PRIORITY 4: DIGITAL SECURITY & TRUST

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The take-up of digital services can be promoted by providing a safe and secure digital environment.

We Commit to:



- I. Establishing trusted and secured systems which help create a stable environment supported by the development of policy and regulatory frameworks, to facilitate the use of digital services.

# PRIORITY 5: DIGITAL CAPACITY BUILDING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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We Aim to:



1. Provide ICT technical skillsets including dedicated training to targeted segments of the population to increase demand for digital services, grow the digital economy, and develop digital literacy programs for all to participate in the digital economy.
2. Promote capacity building efforts that go beyond technical skills, fostering an understanding of how people's behavior and cultural norms interact with technology.

## PRIORITY 6: REGIONAL COOPERATION & REPRESENTATION

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### We Intend to:



Adopt a unified approach to set harmonized policy and regulatory frameworks; address common challenges, find solutions, mobilize resources more efficiently and enhance investment; and ensure shared accountability, commitment and values by Pacific Islands Forum Members.

**WE COMMEND THE**  
***LAGATOI DECLARATION***  
**FOR YOUR DISCUSSION AND**  
**ADOPTION**

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# END OF LAGATOI DECLARATION PRESENTATION

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Thank You!