

# **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Contribution to Part II of the Secretary General of the United Nations' report on Oceans and Law of the Sea**

**June 2015**

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**1. Activities, including the adoption of measures, development of programmes, etc. which have been undertaken or which are ongoing in the implementation of specific provisions of the resolution 69/245 relevant to your organisation.**

*Section XIII (Regional Cooperation), Provision 284: The General Assembly,*

*284. Welcomes regional cooperation, and in this regard notes the Pacific Oceanscape Framework as an initiative to enhance cooperation among coastal states in the Pacific island region to foster marine conservation and sustainable development.*

The newly established Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, housed within the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, is responsible for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape ("the Framework"), which was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2010.

This is an ongoing initiative which acts as an umbrella mandate, guiding the rest of the work of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner ("the Office"), described in further detail below.

**2. Highlight the main developments in your organisation in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea that have occurred since the last reporting period, with references to sections of General Assembly resolution 69/245.**

The main developments in the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (the Office) and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) since August 2014 include:

*(a) July - September 2014: Establishment and launch of the Pacific Ocean Alliance at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States*

The Pacific Ocean Alliance ("the Alliance") was called for by Leaders under Action 2B of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape. In late 2014, the Alliance was established via charter then officially launched at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The Alliance is facilitated by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, and seeks to bring together the large and varied collection of stakeholders from various sectors, organisations and levels of ocean development.

This development is particularly relevant to sections XIII (Regional Cooperation) and XV (Coordination and Cooperation) of Resolution 69/245.

*(b) November 2014: Establishment of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner*

The position of Oceans Analyst was recruited and commenced work. Commencing this dedicated, full time staff member marked the establishment of the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner as its own independent unit to support the Commissioner.

This development is particularly relevant to sections XIII (Regional Cooperation) and XV (Coordination and Cooperation) of Resolution 69/245.

General of PIFS, and welcomed Dame Meg Taylor as the new Pacific Ocean Commissioner, along with the establishment of the Office, and works towards management arrangements for the Pacific Ocean Alliance.

This development is particularly relevant to sections XIII (Regional Cooperation) and XV (Coordination and Cooperation) of Resolution 69/245.

*(d) May 2015: Inaugural Meeting of the Pacific Ocean Alliance on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, and the Pacific Ocean Alliance Technical Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction*

The first meeting of the Pacific Ocean Alliance was held in May 25. The meeting drew over 120 participants including Pacific Island State representatives from 13 Pacific Island countries. The remaining participants included representatives from Pacific Island Missions to the UN, CSOs, NGOs,

This development is particularly relevant to sections IV (Peaceful Settlement of Disputes), VII (The Continental Shelf and the Work of the Commission), VII (Maritime Safety and Security and Flag State Implementation), VIII (R