



INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC EDUCATION MINISTERS

**Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand
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Regional Action for Inclusive Education in the Pacific

(PacREF(23) CPEM. 06)

(Paper prepared by UNICEF and the Regional Inclusive Education TASKFORCE)

Title/Topic	Regional Action for Inclusive Education in the Pacific
Paper Collaboration	UNICEF in their role as Secretariat to the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce.
Purpose of the Brief	<p>Ministers of Education have paid specific attention to inclusion at their meetings over the last 10 years and mandated both national and regional responses to ensure all learners in the Pacific are supported to access and participate in relevant, quality and inclusive education.</p> <p>This paper serves to update Ministers on work contributing to Inclusive Education in the Pacific, including the monitoring of progress towards the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Framework (PRIEF) through PacREF, and formalization of the ministerial-level representation on the Pacific Inclusive Education Taskforce.</p> <p>This paper further requests guidance from Ministers on confirmation of Ministerial members of the Pacific Inclusive Education Taskforce and the development of a Taskforce workplan to advance inclusive education at regional- and national-levels across the Pacific.</p>
<p>Summary: Since the FEdMM¹ of 2014, Ministers have requested specific action on inclusive education in the Pacific region. In response, the region has developed the Pacific Inclusive Education Framework (PRIEF), completed the Regional Review of Inclusive Education, and formalised the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce with ministerial-level representation to oversee coordinated action for inclusive education in the Pacific.</p> <p>The PRIEF has been aligned to the PacREF document. The vision of implementing the PRIEF through PacREF is to ensure attention not only to activities targeting inclusion, but to also advocate that all PacREF activities are implemented through an inclusive lens and process. The Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce (Taskforce) worked with SPC-EQAP and PFU as the leads on PacREF monitoring to identify how this additional monitoring can be incorporated into PacREF monitoring on a regular basis without adding administrative burden to countries or agencies. The monitoring template for the Phase 1 IRP will be modified to include the capturing of information on inclusive education. The use of the modified template will commence in the upcoming PacREF reporting period which is June 2023.</p> <p>Nevertheless, realizing the vision of PRIEF requires more than just ensuring an inclusive lens to PacREF, and therefore it is proposed that the taskforce develop a workplan to ensure the implementation of PRIEF is fully achieved and to further regional action, including potentially a stronger focus on inclusion in PacREF Phase 2.</p> <p>The Taskforce also oversaw the development of a Pacific Regional Review on Inclusive Education. At their meeting in 2021, the Ministers reviewed the preliminary findings of the report and in the July 2021 PHES meeting, senior officials accepted the final report on behalf of the Ministers. The report was formally launched by the Honourable Minister of Education from Niue in his capacity as Chair of the Taskforce at the PHES Steering Committee meeting in November 2022. The value of this report will be in how countries now share experiences and take forward recommendations in the national context. Through PacREF and under the guidance of the Taskforce, support is proposed for country-level dissemination,</p>	

¹ Forum Education Ministers Meeting

consultation and planning on next steps for inclusion based on the findings and recommendations of the report which are provided as an annex to this paper.

At the 12th Forum Education Ministers Meeting in April 2021, Ministers decided to formalise the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce as part of the Pacific education architecture. Ministers also directed that country representation on the Taskforce be elevated to Ministerial level and that this representation should correspond to accepted sub-regional groupings. As an interim measure, those countries that were already members of the Taskforce through previous participation of senior officials took this role - Niue and the Federated States of Micronesia. The Melanesian sub-region did not gain representation this way, so the Solomon Islands as the Melanesian representative on the PHES Steering Committee took this place for the short term. This interim measure was to be in place until the inaugural CPEM meeting where Ministers are asked to decide on ministerial representation for a tenure that lasts to the next CPEM.

Ministers are invited to note:

- The ongoing work in the Pacific on Inclusive Education and how this can be monitored through the monitoring and evaluation tools of PacREF;
- The findings of the Pacific Regional Review on Inclusive Education and the importance of supporting national level responses to these findings, as well as regional efforts under PacREF; and
- Their leadership role on setting the direction of Inclusive Education through the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce, including their guidance on a regional workplan to be presented to PHES SC.

Decision requested	<p>Ministers are invited to:</p> <p>(i) formalize the Ministerial sub-regional representation to the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce, as per the taskforce ToR, to provide oversight and leadership to this work through to the next CPEM;</p> <p>(ii) provide high-level oversight to national level responses to the findings and recommendations of the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Review and mandate their senior officials to take-action on this and provide regular progress reports with the support and coordination of the taskforce; and</p> <p>(iii) direct the taskforce and UNICEF, as its Secretariat, to finalize a regional 2-year workplan for the taskforce and submit this to the PHES Steering Committee at their next meeting.</p>
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Ministers' Position	<p>Ministers:</p> <p>(i) formalized the Ministerial sub-regional representation to the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce, as per the taskforce ToR, to provide oversight and leadership to this work through to the next CPEM;</p> <p>(ii) agreed to provide high-level oversight to national level responses to the findings and recommendations of the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Review and mandate their senior officials to take-action on this and provide regular progress reports with the support and coordination of the taskforce; and</p>
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(iii) *directed the taskforce and UNICEF, as its Secretariat, to **finalize a regional 2-year workplan for the taskforce** and submit this to the PHES Steering Committee at their next meeting.*