



## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

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### NIUE CONSULTATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL LABOUR MOBILITY STRATEGY

**Alofi Niue, - 28 June 2023** - The Pacific Islands Forum Trade team was in Niue to consult with national stakeholders in the development of the Regional Labour Mobility strategy as mandated by Members under the Comprehensive Assessment.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Frank Sioneholo, Head of Economic, Planning and Trade on behalf of the Hon. Crossley Tatui Minister of Finance and Infrastructure reiterated that *“today, as we embark on this critical consultation process, we must recognize the importance of collaboration. We stand here as representatives of our respective nations, united by a shared commitment to forge a path towards a prosperous and resilient Pacific region. It is through open dialogue, mutual understanding, and collective efforts that we can lay the foundation for a Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Strategy that reflects our shared aspirations and addresses the specific needs of our diverse nations.”*

The objective of this national consultation is to get feedback from Niue on the importance of developing a Pacific Regional Labour Mobility Strategy; the priorities to be reflected in Strategy; the appropriate Forum mechanism to deliver on the initiative; and how development and implementation partners can support its implementation said Noah Patrick Kouback, PIF Programme Adviser Trade.

The stakeholders were able to share Niue’s views on their national labour mobility context specifically for the development of a national labour policy, internal process to recruit migrant workers from within the Pacific and outside the region; accommodation; connectivity, medical insurance; cultural framework; peer-to-peer learning, intra-Pacific labour arrangements and visa requirements. The workshop also agreed to organize a national labour mobility forum.

Mr. Sioneholo stressed that to ensure tangible regional integration and connectivity in the blue Pacific Continent, there is an urgent need to consider visa requirements to facilitate the movement of Pacific workers to fill the labour gap in each of the Pacific country.

Finally, while there is no international definition on labour mobility, the Forum Members can come up with a regional definition. The meeting agreed that Forum should remain the mechanism to discuss all aspects of Labour mobility with not limit to a specific trade agreement and working with partners to support the implementation of the regional initiative.

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