

# Labour Mobility Working Group - Talanoa on Annual Plan 2021/22 Activities

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 11:00-12:30 (Samoa Time)

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. The Talanoa session was conducted virtually and facilitated by the Head of PACER Plus Implementation Unit, Mr. Roy Lagolago. Officials from Australia, Cook Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu participated during the session. A copy of the participants list is attached as Annex I.
2. The Head of PPIU provided introductory comments and highlighted that there is some crossover in Trade in Services and Labour Mobility activities, PPIU will be working with the number of Agencies working in the space to ensure that there are no duplications.
3. A brief overview was provided for each of the Activities. Table 1 provides a summary of the discussions.

Items	Discussions/Outcomes
1. Activity 024 Skills Development Labour Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to ensure that this activity complement Activity 025</li> <li>• Existing programs such as that with APTC need to be considered and build on existing programs.</li> <li>• Australia indicated support and ability facilitate this activity with other existing programs such as APTC, TVET</li> <li>• Samoa that this activity builds on existing programs</li> <li>• Ensure that the cross-cutting issues from scoping studies are shared with members.</li> </ul>
2. Activity 025 Seasonal Worker Reintegration Program Labour Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is some difficulty in implementing this activity as many seasonal workers return to their provinces after work term and hence this need to be considered in the design.</li> <li>• Samoa indicated that there is a pilot program that is currently underway and there will be opportunity for lessons learnt once the program is fully implemented.</li> <li>• Reintegration programs was supported given the increasing number of seasonal workers during the COVID periods.</li> <li>• Need to consider existing schemes and how this activity can complement it.</li> </ul>
3. Activity 026 Mobility Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sequencing of this activity is important considering the other labour mobility activities. Strategy should be considered first, remaining activities are actions undertaken within the Strategy</li> <li>• PPIU to re-look at the Activities and correct some anomalies.</li> <li>• Ensure alignment and linkages to the Comprehensive Assessment of the Pacific Labour Mobility Arrangements by PIFS</li> </ul>

Items	Discussions/Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity could also incorporate Review of Mobility Strategy for those with existing Strategies like Solomon Islands.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Activity 027 – Data Collection Trade in Services and Labour Mobility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity was supported for better compilation of trade in services data and in particular remittances.</li> <li>• Recommend that the approach be to assess existing mechanism and identify gaps and provide training accordingly at national level.</li> <li>• It is imperative that the scoping to provide on clarity on what the data is to be used for.</li> <li>• Alignment with the work undertaken by SPC</li> </ul>
<p>5. Activity 023 Support for PLMAM</p>	<p>(i) <b>Preparations for PLMAM Conference in November 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PPIU provided update on the preparatory work on the PLMAM Conference.</li> <li>○ Company “Conferenz” have been engaged to provide management oversight and facilitation support to the virtual conference</li> <li>○ Samoa will remain the Chair and there will be discussion on 14<sup>th</sup> October to finalize this.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) <b>Introduction of PLMAM contracted Virtual Facilitator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sarah Day from Conferenz was introduced to the Working Group. She indicated that the 2 key issues that needs consideration is the Agenda and Feedback on attendance</li> </ul> <p>(iii) <b>Ministerial Dialogue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whilst 4 of the Parties have indicated support for the Dialogue, the remaining have yet to respond.</li> <li>○ Discussions were also undertaken on postponement given the level of risk and time frames.</li> <li>○ Parties indicated that there is a need to consider dates of WTO Ministerial preparation and MC12 meeting dates.</li> <li>○ The following dates be considered by members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opt 1: Tuesday, 9 Nov to Friday, 12 Nov (original dates)</li> <li>○ Opt 2: Tuesday, 23 Nov to Friday, 26 Nov</li> <li>○ Opt 3: Tuesday, 16 to Friday, 19 Nov</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(iv) It was agreed that the PPIU will work with members to confirm the dates and Ministerial participation by the end of the week.</p>

**Annex I. Labour Mobility Working Group Consultation Talanoa on Annual Plan 2021/22 Activities**

**List of Attendees**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Role/Title</b>	<b>Email address</b>
<b>Australia</b>	Greg Furness (Chair)	Assistant Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<a href="mailto:Gregory.Furness@dfat.gov.au">Gregory.Furness@dfat.gov.au</a>
	Elisabeth Parkin	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<a href="mailto:Elisabeth.Parkin@dfat.gov.au">Elisabeth.Parkin@dfat.gov.au</a>
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Kairangi Samuela	Principal Immigration officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration	<a href="mailto:kairangi.samuela@cookislands.gov.ck">kairangi.samuela@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
	Ria Arthur	Foreign Service Officer	<a href="mailto:ria.arthur@cookislands.gov.ck">ria.arthur@cookislands.gov.ck</a>
<b>Nauru</b>	Mr. Bobjones Ribauw	Director for Trade	<a href="mailto:detudamo@gmail.com">detudamo@gmail.com</a>
<b>New Zealand</b>	Stacey Kwant	Senior Policy Officer, Pacific Regional Division, MFAT	<a href="mailto:Stacey.Kwant@mfat.govt.nz">Stacey.Kwant@mfat.govt.nz</a>
<b>Samoa</b>	Terozita Uitime	Principal Foreign Affairs Officer – Trade Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<a href="mailto:terozita@mfat.gov.ws">terozita@mfat.gov.ws</a>
	Venus Tupai	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	<a href="mailto:Venus.tupai@mcil.gov.ws">Venus.tupai@mcil.gov.ws</a>
	Theresa Penn	Principal Foreign Affairs Officer – Trade Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<a href="mailto:theresa@mfat.gov.ws">theresa@mfat.gov.ws</a>
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	Raewynn Manuleleua	MFAT, Samoa	<a href="mailto:raewynn@mfat.gov.ws">raewynn@mfat.gov.ws</a>
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	George Tuti	Director of External Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and	<a href="mailto:George.tuti@mfaet.gov.sb">George.tuti@mfaet.gov.sb</a>

		External Trade (MFAET)	
	Natalia Patternot	Chief Trade Officer - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET)	<a href="mailto:Natalia.Patternot@mfaet.gov.sb">Natalia.Patternot@mfaet.gov.sb</a>
	Janice Ashwin	Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET)	JAshwin@mfaet.gov.sb
	Kevin Meplu	Senior Trade Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET)	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Meplu@mfaet.gov.sb">Kevin.Meplu@mfaet.gov.sb</a>
<b>Tonga</b>	Lorraine Kauhenga	Deputy CEO, Policy Division, MTED	lorrainek@mted.gov.to
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<b>Tuvalu</b>	Toaiga Semisi	Assistant Trade Officer, Department of Trade, Ministry of Fisheries and Trade	<a href="mailto:toaigas@gmail.com">toaigas@gmail.com</a>
	Alamai Napoe	Assistant Trade Officer, Trade department, Ministry of Fisheries and Trade	<a href="mailto:alamainapoe@gmail.com">alamainapoe@gmail.com</a>
	Meafou Brian	Labour Officer, Trade Department, Ministry of Fisheries and Trade	<a href="mailto:Meafou.brian@gmail.com">Meafou.brian@gmail.com</a>

	Darryl Farshid Ikbal	EIF Project Officer, Trade department, Ministry of Fisheries and Trade	<a href="mailto:icedarryl.euny@gmail.com">icedarryl.euny@gmail.com</a>
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Absent: Kiribati, Niue, Vanuatu