



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 2022



“THE UNITED STATES IS A PROUD PACIFIC POWER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ACTIVE, ENGAGED PARTNER IN THE REGION.”

PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, 2021

“THE HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED.”

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM, 2022





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INTRODUCTION

The Pacific Islands region spans nearly 15 percent of the Earth’s surface — part of an “ocean continent” eight times the size of the United States. Within it are nations and territories, with rich diversity of people and the environment they steward. The Pacific Islands region connects the United States with the broader Indo-Pacific; the nations and territories of the Pacific Islands are our friends, relatives, and close neighbors — two million U.S. citizens call the Pacific Islands home.

Geography links the region’s future to our own: U.S. prosperity and security depend on the Pacific region remaining free and open. For decades, the United States and the Pacific Islands have worked together to realize that vision, from the Solomon Islanders who built airstrips side by side with American and Allied troops in World War II, to the Fijian ship-riders who sail with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Navy today. Upon this foundation of peace, the Pacific Islands have grown their economies; built the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), a critical driver of regional action; protected and sustainably managed the Blue Pacific environment, which is vital to global health, commerce, stability, and security; and contributed internationally as leading advocates for accelerated action to combat the climate crisis.

Even so, the region faces urgent challenges. Most of all, the climate crisis is the region’s top security concern, bringing rising seas, stronger and more frequent storms, warmer oceans, and severe, imminent threats to people in the Pacific and the Pacific way of life. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is pervasive throughout the region, damaging the marine environment and depriving Pacific islanders of livelihoods, food, and economic security. COVID-19 halted tourism, which is struggling to rebound, and vector-borne diseases outbreaks continue to threaten the area. Meanwhile, as the PIF stated in its 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: “We occupy a vitally significant place in global strategic terms. As a consequence, heightened geopolitical competition impacts our Member countries.” Increasingly, those impacts include pressure and economic coercion by the People’s Republic of China, which risks undermining the peace, prosperity, and security of the region, and by extension, of the United States.

These challenges demand renewed U.S. engagement across the full Pacific Islands region. To that end, President Biden is elevating broader and deeper engagement with the Pacific Islands as a priority of U.S. foreign policy. This national strategy — the first-ever from the U.S. government dedicated to the Pacific Islands — both reflects and advances that commitment.



OUR OBJECTIVES

The United States is a Pacific nation, with its homeland including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Hawai'i. We have an interest in partnering with the Pacific Islands to drive global action to combat climate change. We have an interest in maintaining free, open, and peaceful waterways in the Pacific in which the rights to the freedom of navigation and overflight are recognized and respected, people are prioritized, trade flows are unimpeded, and the environment is protected. We also have an interest in ensuring that growing geopolitical competition does not undermine the sovereignty and security of the Pacific Islands, of the United States, or of our allies and partners. Based on these interests, the United States seeks four complementary and overlapping objectives:

1. A STRONG U.S.-PACIFIC ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP

The foundation of our engagement in the Pacific Islands must be strong ties between the United States and the Pacific Islands, individually and collectively. We recognize that, as a committed partner to the Pacific, we must enhance our enduring relationships, especially with the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, with which we have Compacts of Free Association. Doing so requires a substantial increase in the overall U.S. diplomatic presence and engagement in the region through new embassies, additional personnel from across the U.S. government, and enhanced U.S. Coast Guard and defense engagements.

2. A UNITED PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION CONNECTED WITH THE WORLD

The Pacific Islands region is stronger united, with the Pacific Islands Forum at its core. The Pacific Islands Forum provides a platform for the Pacific Islands to speak with a common voice to drive Pacific priorities and engage other partners, including the United States, a proud Dialogue Partner of the organization. We will coordinate with other nations, including through the Partners in the Blue Pacific, that share our aims: to support a free and open region that benefits people in the Pacific, to address Pacific priorities working together with the Pacific, and to do so according to principles of Pacific regionalism, transparency, and accountability.

3. A RESILIENT PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION PREPARED FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND OTHER 21ST-CENTURY CHALLENGES

The Pacific Islands region faces daunting and mounting challenges. Chief among these challenges is the climate crisis, an existential threat to many Pacific Islands. The United States is committed to maintaining its global leadership in combatting the climate crisis, while partnering with the Pacific Islands in adapting to and managing the impacts of climate change on lives, health, and livelihoods. The region also faces challenges to security and sovereignty, including in the maritime domain. The Biden-Harris Administration will work in partnership with Pacific governments and people to ensure they have the autonomy and security to advance their own interests. We support the Pacific Islands as they guard against corruption and protect the dignity of Pacific Islanders.

4. EMPOWERED AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC ISLANDERS

To fully empower the Pacific to capitalize on the opportunities of the 21st century, the United States is committed to increasing trade and investment with the Pacific Islands; expanding people-to-people ties, including through the Peace Corps; increasing English-language programming and overall professional advancement; bolstering health architecture in the Pacific; and providing educational and development opportunities for Pacific Islanders, with a particular focus on women and youth.



OUR APPROACH

What we seek to achieve with our Pacific partners is as important as how we do so. The Biden-Harris Administration will take the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) as its guide; that forum has stated it seeks “effective, open and honest relationships and inclusive and enduring partnerships—based on mutual accountability and respect.” As we pursue these partnerships, our approach will align with the Administration’s Indo-Pacific Strategy, which envisions a free, open, interconnected, secure, resilient, and prosperous region, and specifically commits in its action plan to “Partner to Build Resilience in the Pacific Islands.”

“WE STRIVE FOR EFFECTIVE, OPEN AND HONEST RELATIONSHIPS AND INCLUSIVE AND ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS—BASED ON MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPECT—WITH EACH OTHER, WITHIN OUR SUB-REGIONS, WITHIN OUR REGION, AND BEYOND.”

– THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM 2050 STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT (2022)

To achieve our four **objectives**, the United States seeks to partner with the Pacific Islands along the following ten **lines of effort**; each fulfills one of this strategy’s four objectives, and all are designed to also advance the Pacific’s own priorities, as outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy):

I. STRONG U.S.- PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP	II. UNITED PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION	III. RESILIENT PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION	IV. EMPOWERED AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC ISLANDERS
1. Fulfill and Increase U.S. Commitments to the Pacific	3. Bolster Pacific Regional Institutions and Elevate the Pacific in the Regional Architecture	5. Combat the Climate Crisis and Build Climate Resilience in the Pacific	8. Create Economic Opportunities and Forge Connectivity
2. Build U.S. Capacity to Support the Pacific	4. Coordinate with Allies and Partners, Within and Beyond the Region	6. Support Marine Conservation, Maritime Security, and Sovereign Rights	9. Bolster Health Architecture to Promote Health Security
		7. Support Good Governance and the Human Rights of All People	10. Partner with Pacific Islanders to Strengthen People-to-People Ties and Seize 21 st -Century Opportunities

1. STRONG U.S.-PACIFIC ISLANDS PARTNERSHIP

FULFILL AND INCREASE U.S. COMMITMENTS TO THE PACIFIC

We will fulfill our historical commitments and strengthen our enduring relationships with the full Pacific Islands region, including our special relationship with the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. We will:

- ◆ Successfully complete negotiations on the Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia in a way that demonstrates respect and our shared vision for a strong, lasting relationship with these countries.
- ◆ Conclude negotiations on the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Annex amendments and associated Economic Assistance Agreement for 2023 and beyond to reflect the strength of our relationship with the Pacific and the respect we have for the Pacific Islands as stewards of this great ocean.

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC AREAS: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centered Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; Technology and Connectivity

BUILD U.S. CAPACITY TO SUPPORT THE PACIFIC

We will demonstrate the diplomatic attention the Pacific deserves and position ourselves to best meet its needs. We will:

- ◆ Open an embassy in Solomon Islands, as well as begin discussions with other countries, including Kiribati and Tonga, regarding developing embassies in those locations, which would expand the number of Pacific Island embassies from six to nine. Where gaps in permanent presence remain, we will pursue additional facilities and creative solutions to provide the Pacific Islands with the diplomatic attention they deserve.
- ◆ Reimagine how our diplomats operate, with creative deployment of diplomatic personnel, bringing in much needed expertise from across a range of U.S. government agencies, to include Departments of Transportation, Commerce, Treasury, Energy, Defense; the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and the USCG, among others.
- ◆ Re-establish USAID's regional mission for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji to advance a more democratic, prosperous, and resilient Pacific Island region.

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC AREAS: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centered Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; Technology and Connectivity.

2. A UNITED PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION CONNECTED WITH THE WORLD

BOLSTER PACIFIC REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ELEVATE THE PACIFIC IN THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE

We will support Pacific regional institutions such as the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and other regional organizations, including the Pacific Community (SPC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) of which the United States is a member—and ensure the PIF is at the center of the regional architecture. We will:

- ◆ Appoint the first-ever U.S. envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum and look to add additional staff to deepen U.S. partnership with the PIF.
- ◆ Elevate a commitment to Pacific regionalism across multilateral groupings in the Indo-Pacific.
- ◆ Encourage connectivity with existing multilateral groupings, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Quad.
- ◆ Bolster U.S. engagement in the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific and its member agencies such as the SPC and the SPREP.
- ◆ Encourage Pacific Island countries to apply for guest status in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation fora and as observers in other fora.

**PIF 2050 STRATEGY
THEMATIC AREAS:**
Political Leadership and
Regionalism

COORDINATE WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS, WITHIN AND BEYOND THE REGION

We will ensure that we coordinate with our allies and partners – as well as with the Pacific Islands – to avoid redundancy and best meet the needs of the Pacific Islands.

We will:

- ◆ Deliver results through the Quad and the Partners in the Blue Pacific and in alignment with the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.

PARTNERS IN THE BLUE PACIFIC

PURPOSE: TO SUPPORT THE PACIFIC REGION AND ITS PRIORITIES MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

MEMBERS & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, GERMANY, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES

PROSPECTIVE LINES OF EFFORT:

- ◆ CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION, AND DISASTERS
- ◆ SECURE AND RESILIENT TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY
- ◆ PROTECTION OF THE OCEAN AND ENVIRONMENT
- ◆ PEOPLE CENTERED DEVELOPMENT
- ◆ RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ◆ POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND REGIONALISM

- ◆ Leverage multilateral partnerships with France, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, India, and other partners of the Pacific Islands to cooperate with the Pacific on climate resilience and adaptation; education and employment opportunities; access to financing; and protection of maritime domains and livelihoods.
- ◆ Ensure U.S. activities and those with our partners and allies are coordinated with the Pacific Islands and conducted in an open and transparent manner to best support the objectives of the Pacific Islands, as outlined in the 2050 Strategy.

PIF 2050 STRATEGY
THEMATIC AREAS: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centered Development; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; Technology and Connectivity.

3. A RESILIENT PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION PREPARED FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND OTHER 21ST-CENTURY CHALLENGES

COMBAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC

We will uphold global U.S. leadership on the climate crisis and support the Pacific Islands’ efforts to address its threats to the future of the region’s people – and the territory, livelihoods, and cultural heritage of Pacific nations. Of all the 21st-century challenges, none is more pressing for the Pacific Islands region than climate change. We will:

- ◆ Strive to enhance the adaptive capacity and build upon the resilience of Pacific Islands to the devastating impacts of climate change through the President’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE), by expanding climate-information services; integrating adaptation-planning across central and line ministries; and financing resilience within infrastructure, water, food security, and health systems.
- ◆ Collaborate with partners and international institutions through mechanisms such as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment to improve Pacific Island countries’ access to adaptation finance from multiple sources, including multilateral funds; the private sector, including the philanthropic sector; and blended finance vehicles.
- ◆ Leverage the capacities of U.S. government agencies such as the U.S. Trade & Development Agency, Development Finance Corporation, and the Export-Import Bank to help partners develop and finance climate-resilient and adaptive infrastructure.

PIF 2050
STRATEGY
THEMATIC AREAS: Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment

- ◆ Leverage USAID and other technical agencies to strengthen the ability of Pacific governments and communities to mobilize climate finance by increasing awareness of international climate funds and providing specific technical assistance to develop funding proposals.
- ◆ Coordinate with partners through mechanisms such as the Partners in the Blue Pacific on Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief response, infrastructure adaptation, early-warning systems, and pre-positioning efforts to strengthen Pacific Islands’ disaster risk reduction capacity.
- ◆ Facilitate greater access and training of environmental and climate information and services through the

“WE REAFFIRM THAT CLIMATE CHANGE REMAINS THE SINGLE GREATEST THREAT TO THE LIVELIHOODS, SECURITY AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLES OF THE PACIFIC AND OUR COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT”

– THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM
BOE DECLARATION

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other programs, such as those provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), that will strengthen Pacific nations’ ability to minimize the impacts of climate change. Work with Pacific Island partners to produce useful drought, heat-wave, coral bleaching, and extreme-weather forecast tools that cover Pacific Islands regions.

- ◆ Drive action and support investment in climate mitigation in the region, including renewable energy, clean transportation (including zero-/low-carbon shipping), nature-based solutions and natural infrastructure, including healthy coastal ecosystems that store carbon and build resilience.

SUPPORT MARINE CONSERVATION, MARITIME SECURITY, AND SOVEREIGN RIGHTS

We will support the Pacific Islands as they continue to shoulder the great responsibility of stewardship over the Blue Pacific Continent. We will:

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC

AREAS: Peace and Security; Ocean and Environment

- ◆ Build capacity in maritime domain awareness (MDA) to ensure Pacific Islands have the capability to monitor their maritime domains, including fisheries and protected areas. We will support the Quad’s efforts to implement the Indo-Pacific MDA initiative, which will increase Pacific Islands’ capacity to address pressing challenges, including exercising their sovereign rights to secure their offshore resources, combatting IUU fishing, and eliminating drug trafficking and other maritime security matters.
- ◆ Increase United States USCG, NOAA, and Department of Defense presence to support enhanced law-enforcement relationships and training engagements through recurring subject matter expert exchanges. We will pursue opportunities for capacity building on international law of the sea, port

security and marine pollution, to counter threats such as IUU fishing, wildlife and drug trafficking; and safeguard coastal and marine ecosystems.

- ◆ Support Pacific Island efforts to sustainably manage their marine, fisheries and coastal resources through close partnership with U.S. government technical agencies like NOAA and USAID.
- ◆ Coordinate security cooperation and training with other likeminded partners and with civil society through the Multinational Working Group to ensure a layered and mutually supporting approach to enhancing the capacity of the entire region.
- ◆ Address partner nation security concerns and help to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific through expansion of Shiprider agreements and the State Partnership Program.
- ◆ Strengthen partnerships and capacity-building to enhance Marine Protected Area (MPA) management effectiveness in the Pacific Islands by promoting the use of endorsed best practices, establishing additional sister sanctuary arrangements with Pacific Island nations, and supporting other MPA capacity building programs such as the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community.
- ◆ Partner with Pacific Islands to develop sustainable, climate resilient ocean or “blue” economies, including the development of Sustainable Ocean Plans to manage 100 percent of our EEZs sustainably. We will work with Pacific partners to drive initiatives to combat the scourge of plastic pollution and marine debris.

SUPPORT GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE

The Pacific Islands region is home to diverse democracies and participatory governance. To promote democracy, human rights, and good governance, we must build capacity among Pacific stakeholders in government, private sector, media, academia, and civil society. We will:

- ◆ Build good-governance capacity across the Pacific, including through strengthening support for transparency, anti-corruption, civil society, media, and human-rights programs.
- ◆ Deliver technical assistance and training to improve governments’ capacity to identify, investigate, and prosecute corruption; promote judicial independence and review; and implement laws and legal systems in accordance with international human rights law.
- ◆ Promote a free and open Pacific media through access to credible, independent news sources, training, equipment, and innovation in business practices and technology. We will improve the capacity of civil society organizations, journalists, and independent media to serve as advocates and to inform and amplify citizens’ voices and engagement.

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC

AREAS: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centered Development

- ◆ Support the region in implementing the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration of 2012, including working toward eliminating gender-based violence. We will identify areas for collaboration to increase U.S. commitment towards the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda to include existing regional action plans which accelerate the implementation of existing international, regional, and national WPS commitments and advance women’s social, political, and economic empowerment broadly.
- ◆ Expand efforts to partner with governments and civil society to improve human-rights conditions for members of marginalized and underrepresented groups, including promoting the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, and preventing and responding to gender-based violence.
- ◆ Strengthen relationships between U.S. and Pacific Island legislators and build the capacity of Pacific Island legislatures to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of the 21st century.

4. EMPOWERED AND PROSPEROUS PACIFIC ISLANDERS

CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND FORGE CONNECTIVITY

We will work with the Pacific Islands and partners and allies to drive economic growth and prosperity regionally and globally. We will focus on key logistics, transportation, and technologies to enhance connectivity within the Pacific Islands region and with the world. We will:

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC

AREAS: Resource and Economic Development; Technology and Connectivity; People-Centered Development

- ◆ Collaborate with partners on submarine cable implementation and upgrades and other connectivity options.
- ◆ Build cybersecurity capacity to bolster connectivity and support open and transparent communications.
- ◆ Facilitate and promote secure and trusted partners operating in the Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) realm.
- ◆ Work with Pacific Island countries to leverage private-sector solutions to advance strategic projects and commercial priorities in the region.
- ◆ Drive efforts to build out air and sea transportation to support tourism throughout the region, to include launching a Transportation Partnership with the Pacific Islands, which will use fora, such as the Aviation Cooperation Program, to facilitate events and infrastructure project preparation activities designed to enhance air and maritime connectivity in the region.
- ◆ Enhance financial linkages in the Pacific and work to preserve Pacific Islands’ access to correspondent banking relationships in order to facilitate efficient cross-border payments, including remittances.

- ◆ Deploy demand-driven technical assistance to strengthen Pacific Islands’ public financial management and debt sustainability in order to drive inclusive economic growth and support macroeconomic stability.
- ◆ Support Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Pacific Islands through programs that foster public-private partnerships and reach female entrepreneurs especially from historically marginalized populations.

BOLSTER HEALTH ARCHITECTURE TO PROMOTE HEALTH SECURITY

The Pacific faces health threats from COVID-19 and vector-borne diseases. We will:

- ◆ Continue close coordination with Australia, New Zealand, and Japan and expand our partnership with the Republic of Korea, as we strive to meet the COVID-19 vaccination needs of the region to lift the Pacific Islands out of COVID-19, as well as strengthen regional health security in preparation for future outbreaks.
- ◆ Strengthen regional health security, particularly resilience against climate-exacerbated health threats, and strive to strengthen Pacific representation in international climate fora, including specialized agencies of the United Nations such as the World Meteorological Organization where climate-related issues are addressed.
- ◆ Partner with public-health entomology networks to improve how the region effectively prevents, detects, and responds to vector-borne disease threats.
- ◆ Continue our commitment to addressing war legacies by expanding our conventional weapons destruction program and enhancing efforts to build host nation capacity to identify and remove unexploded ordnance to protect the health and safety of people in the Pacific.

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC

AREAS: Resource and Economic Development; People-Centered Development

PARTNER WITH PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO U.S.-PACIFIC PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES AND SEIZE 21ST-CENTURY OPPORTUNITIES

We will support Pacific Islands in their objective to ensure that everyone can realize their full potential. The Pacific Islands face unique challenges but also possess a rich variety of national heritages that should be highlighted. Enhancing people-to-people ties between the Pacific Islands and the United States is vital to supporting our shared goals. We will:

- ◆ Raise awareness among Pacific Island youth, students, and professionals of existing U.S. exchange opportunities – including private-sector exchange opportunities such as the Summer Work Travel program – to increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of the Pacific Islands, benefit American communities, and provide opportunities for skill-building for Pacific Islanders.

- ◆ **Prioritize the Pacific Islands as we return Peace Corps volunteers abroad and look for new opportunities to open additional Peace Corps missions.**
- ◆ **Expand educational opportunities for Pacific Island youth, as well as exchange and training programs for emerging leaders and diplomats in the region, through both public and private partnerships.**

PIF 2050 STRATEGY THEMATIC

AREAS: Resource and Economic Development; People-Centered Development

- ◆ **Enhance programming that facilitates Pacific Island educational exchanges with American universities and leverages institutions such as the East West Center and the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawai'i.**
- ◆ **Work with the Young Pacific Leaders Program to increase opportunities and develop new initiatives to engage young adults across the Pacific region in areas like education, the environment, civic leadership, and economic and social development.**
- ◆ **Work with Pacific Island government entities to develop English language programming initiatives, and leverage the network of American Spaces in the region to offer Pacific Islanders information and programs highlighting American culture, history, current events, and government.**
- ◆ **Support U.S. exchanges to the Pacific Islands and the establishment of Pacific studies programs at U.S. universities.**



CONCLUSION

This first-of-its-kind U.S. Strategy for Partnership with the Pacific Islands is urgently needed, and its timely implementation even more so. We will continue to fulfill the vision presented here by building on a strong foundation of historical, cultural, and people-to-people ties between the United States and the Pacific Islands region, with new initiative and ambition. In this decisive decade, we will draw ourselves closer to the Pacific Islands, individually and regionally; coordinate more efficiently with our allies and partners; and create opportunities and work together to address threats to the region—the climate crisis most of all.

“PRESIDENT BIDEN IS ELEVATING BROADER AND DEEPER ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AS A PRIORITY OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. THIS NATIONAL STRATEGY - THE FIRST-EVER FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS – BOTH REFLECTS AND ADVANCES THAT COMMITMENT.”

Together, we will forge a region built upon Pacific Island resiliency and realize as fully as possible the potential for sustainable prosperity, in a region where people in the region are unified and empowered. Together we can support the sovereignty of Pacific countries and their ability to protect and sustainably manage their national resources; provide educational, employment, and professional opportunities to youth; seek an inclusive future in which cultural heritage and tradition are respected, honored, and protected; and bolster the capacity of Pacific governments to promote democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights, and gender equity and equality. The United States, as a Pacific nation and a steadfast ally in the Pacific, is committed to partnering with our neighbors to achieve this vision. We commit to living up to our role as a Pacific power, not only as a result of our geography but of our actions.