

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT AND NIUE

SUPPORT TO PIFS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORKS (TPFS) AND OVERALL TRADE AGENDA IN THE PACIFIC REGION, AND TO NIUE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TPF

PROGRAMME'S HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER 4 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016

The project was designed by TradeCom II Programme in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of Niue to support the PIFs trade mainstreaming agenda for the Pacific ACP states (PACP) through the effective use of the National Trade Policy Framework (NTPFs), using the case of the Government of Niue as a “good practice” for the PACPS in their implementation of respective NTPFs.

The Pacific Island states face trade challenges of small size, both in terms of population and domestic markets, distance from key markets, limited export opportunities and poor infrastructure for trade. Regional economic and trade integration is important to ensure the region's ability to grow and prosper participating in the global economy.

Over the past years the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat-Hubs and Spokes Program has supported PACPS to formulate National Trade Policy Frameworks (NTPFs). These documents evaluate internal and external constraints on a country's integration into the world economy, and recommend actions suitable to address those constraints. As such, TPFs provide invaluable support to coordinate PACPS' efforts to increase trade; guide donors in designing their “Aid-for-Trade” (AfT) interventions, and helps PIC governments to mainstream AfT into national development frameworks.

In particular, the Niue NTPF 2016 was finalized in June 2016 and approved by the Cabinet in the same month. The NTPF 2016 aims to become the main government policy to drive delivery of the Niue National Strategic Plan (NNSP)'s goal on Economic Development. To do so, the high level recommendations of the NTPF need to be transformed in a series of practical action plans, and their implementation needs to be monitored and coordinated by effective mechanisms for trade governance. Moreover, by supporting implementation of selected NTPF's recommendations on FTAs and customs reform, this project will directly contribute to deliver specific elements of the Niue's trade development agenda.

The areas of intervention contemplated under this project are two.

The first support area under this project aims to:

- Reinforce the Regional guidelines on trade mainstreaming and enhance the capacities of trade experts to implement the NTPFs, and
- strengthen PACPS National institutional structures (National Trade Committees and related departments/agencies) for implementing the NTPFs;

The first support area under this project aims to:

- designing action plans to implement the Niue's NTPF recommendations including accession to FTAs;
- strengthening Niue's institutions for trade governance; and
- identifying Key reforms of customs-related legislation and regulations.