

**55th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji
22 — 26 October 2018*

**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

BOE DECLARATION

Presented by the Pacific Aviation Security Forum Secretariat
on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

The Forty-Ninth Pacific Islands Forum was held in Nauru from 3 - 6 September 2018 and was attended by 20 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, as well as a significant number of regional and international organisations. The Forum developed and endorsed a Regional Security Declaration (Boe Declaration) which recognises the complex regional security environment and an expanded concept of security. The Forum also committed to the development of an Action Plan for implementation of the Boe Declaration.

BOE DECLARATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Forty-Ninth Pacific Islands Forum was held in Nauru from 3 - 6 September 2018 and was attended by the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, Australia, the Republic of Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau and Wallis and Fortuna, as well as numerous regional and international organisations.

1.2 The Forum endorsed a Regional Security Declaration (**Boe Declaration**) which recognises the complex regional security environment and the importance of cooperation in accordance with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Included at Annex 1.

1.3 The Forum set a timetable of November 2018 for the development of an Action Plan for implementation of the Boe Declaration with a review to be conducted in mid-2019.

1.4 It is important to recognise the many and various roles that civil aviation plays in the threat to and delivery of regional security.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Boe Declaration places an emphasis on security in the region and its importance in order to protect our 'Blue Pacific'.

2.2 Forum leaders reaffirmed their recognition of the need to strengthen regional security cooperation and collective action through the assertion of our will and the voices of our Pacific peoples.

2.3 They affirmed an expanded concept of security which addresses the wide range of security issues in the region, both traditional and non-traditional, with an increasing emphasis on: human security, environmental and resource security, transnational crime and cyber security. .

2.4 The leaders also recognized that national security impacts on regional security, and therefore commit to strengthening respective national security approaches by: developing national security strategies and strengthening national security capacity including through training.

2.5 There was a commitment to strengthening the existing regional security architecture inclusive of regional law enforcement secretariats and regional organisations to: account for the expanded concept of security; identify and address emerging security challenges; improve coordination among existing security mechanisms; facilitate open dialogue and strengthened information sharing; further develop early warning mechanisms; support implementation; promote regional security analysis, assessment and advice; and, engage and cooperate, where appropriate, with international organisations.

2.6 The Forum Secretariat is in the process of developing a consultation paper for circulation to Members, regional organisations including the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) to facilitate the development of an Action Plan. A number of avenues for engagement on this will be provided.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

BOE DECLARATION

Forum Leaders:

Recognising and **reaffirming** our endorsement of the Biketawa Declaration in the year 2000 and recalling the principles underpinning the Biketawa Declaration such as commitment to good governance, belief in the liberty of the individual under the law, upholding democratic processes and institutions and recognising the vulnerability of member countries to threats to their security;

Recalling our vision and values for the Pacific under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, as a region of ‘peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives’;

Recognising our endorsement of the ‘Blue Pacific’ identity to drive collective action in support of our vision under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism;

Recalling our agreement at the 48th Forum Leaders’ Meeting in Apia, Samoa, to build on the Biketawa Declaration and other Forum related security declarations and agreements as the foundation for strategic future regional responses;

Recognising the importance we placed on an *expanded concept of security* inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support;

Respecting the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of Forum Members; and;

Recognising the need to strengthen regional security cooperation and collective action through the assertion of *Our Will* and the voices of *Our Pacific Peoples*.

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) We **recognise** an increasingly complex regional security environment driven by multifaceted security challenges, and a dynamic geopolitical environment leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region;
- (iii) We **affirm** our stewardship of the Blue Pacific and *aspire* to strengthen and enhance our capacity to pursue our collective security interests given our responsibility to sustain our Pacific peoples and our resources;
- (iv) We **respect** and **assert** the sovereign right of every Member to conduct its national affairs free of external interference and coercion;
- (v) We **reaffirm** the right of Members to individually and collectively address security issues and concerns;

- (vi) We reaffirm the importance of the rules-based international order founded on the UN Charter, adherence to relevant international law and resolution of international disputes by peaceful means;
- (vii) We affirm an expanded concept of security which addresses the wide range of security issues in the region, both traditional and non-traditional, with an increasing emphasis on:
 - a. Human Security, including humanitarian assistance, to protect the rights, health and prosperity of Pacific people;
 - b. Environmental and resource security;
 - c. Transnational crime; and,
 - d. Cybersecurity, to maximise protections and opportunities for Pacific infrastructure and peoples in the digital age.
- (viii) We **recognise** that national security impacts on regional security, and therefore commit to strengthening our respective national security approaches by:
 - a. developing our national security strategies; and,
 - b. strengthening national security capacity including through training.
- (ix) We commit to strengthening the existing regional security architecture inclusive of regional law enforcement secretariats and regional organisations to:
 - a. account for the expanded concept of security;
 - b. identify and address emerging security challenges;
 - c. improve coordination among existing security mechanisms;
 - d. facilitate open dialogue and strengthened information sharing;
 - e. further develop early warning mechanisms;
 - f. support implementation;
 - g. promote regional security analysis, assessment and advice; and,
 - h. engage and cooperate, where appropriate, with international organisations, partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- (x) We **commit** to continuing regular Leaders level discussions on the expanded concept of security as part of securing our Blue Pacific.

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