



Political Leadership And Regionalism

Effective governance, inclusivity and ownership are crucial for Pacific Islands to ensure regional collaboration while upholding the sovereignty of each nation to address geopolitical issues and multifaceted security challenges, as presented in the 2050 Strategy.

As outlined in the ABAS, SIDS have demonstrated **steady governance amid global challenges**, leading progress in policy development and concrete multilateral action. They have played a leading role in areas such as finance, climate change, and plastics and are stewards of the ocean, including managing 19.1% of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones and the resources they hold. In alignment with the 2050 Strategy, the ABAS also promotes **regionalism, calling for strengthening regional institutions to foster connectivity** between SIDS, promoting regional economic and value chain integration to strengthen economic ties and facilitate the movement of goods and people. This is achieved through enhanced transportation using integrated and sustainable maritime and air transportation systems. E-government and digital solutions are similarly presented as a means to promote greater regional coordination and bridge the digital divide.



People-Centered Development

Pacific people value cultural diversity and spiritual attachments to their surroundings, as well as a people centered development approach. The 2050 Strategy focuses on promoting **inclusion, equality, and respect for human and environmental rights**.

In alignment, the ABAS supports **enhanced productive capacities, employment, equity and inclusion** in SIDS. It recommends improvement of educational attainment through multi-sectoral action and the strengthening of health systems. The ABAS calls for policies to reduce poverty, scale up investment in quality education, increase resilience to disasters and alleviate barriers to employment, especially for youth, women, and people in vulnerable circumstances.



Tom Vieras / Ocean Image Bank



"It is imperative that the 2030 Agenda, the 2050 Strategy, and the ABAS go hand in hand so that as we prioritize SDG acceleration. Our collective efforts translate into tangible, meaningful contributions to the longer-term goals of the 2050 Strategy and a prosperous Pacific."

Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser of the 4th International Conference on SIDS
Photo: UNOHRLLS



"The 2050 Strategy is our commitment to ensure that we will not leave our future to chance and that together, we will be stronger and more resilient. We call on all our partners to engage with us, to support our vision and our priorities."

Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum
Photo: Pacific Islands Forum



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For more information, visit

www.un.org/ohrls/content/small-island-developing-states

The ABAS and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent



UN Photo/Kiara Worth

UN Secretary-General António Guterres (center) joins Pacific Island leaders at the opening ceremony of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum in Tonga.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy) is a comprehensive long-term plan adopted by **Pacific Island Forum (PIF)** leaders in July 2022. It aims to guide regional cooperation and development across the Pacific region, focusing on seven key thematic areas.

The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS) is a comprehensive 10-year plan adopted during the **Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)** held in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27 to 30, 2024.

The agenda outlines the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS and the support required from the international community to achieve them.

Both the 2050 Strategy and ABAS share the common objective of **promoting resilient prosperity** for SIDS in the Pacific and around the world.



UN News/SIDS4



Peace And Security

Peace and security are essential to the stability and prosperity of the Pacific SIDS. As outlined in the 2050 Strategy, the regional security environment is becoming increasingly crowded and complex, with challenges related to climate change, geography and global connectivity increasing regional risks. Recognizing these threats, the 2050 Strategy remains **committed to the principles of democracy and non-interference in national affairs**, working through forum member cooperation to uphold regional peace and security.

The ABAS emphasises the importance of peace and security, stating that anthropogenic pressures and the adverse effects of climate change on SIDS and other global shocks continue to hamper water availability and food and energy security, and calling for **the support of the international community**.



Ocean And Environment

The 2050 Strategy focuses on stewardship of the Blue Pacific continent through **collective responsibility, commitment and investment**, with a focus on supporting sovereign rights of the ocean and lands. It recommends that biodiversity, the environment and resources be protected through the right policy choices, partnerships and preventive investments, while regional coordination and cooperation be strengthened to address sustainable development and environmental protection issues.

The ABAS calls for a **win-win outcomes for the economy and the environment** through sustainable management of aquaculture, tourism and fisheries, conservation and use of marine resources, and the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; addressing biodiversity loss from improper waste management, overfishing, invasive species and pollution, and strengthening marine protected areas and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). The ABAS furthermore aims to **build the capacity of SIDS** to understand their rights, obligations and responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and support SIDS in ratifying and implementing the provisions of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).



Resources And Economic Development

The Pacific region's economic growth requires **ownership and sustainable management of resources**. Pacific SIDS face the twin challenges of fiscal sustainability risks and funding shortfalls. The 2050 Strategy calls for enhancing economic resilience through private sector engagement and scientific and technological innovation, with special attention to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth and women. Meanwhile, regional and international cooperation should be promoted to develop a blue and green economy that builds on a deep respect for the sustainable use of natural resources.

The ABAS calls for enhanced **inter-island and global supply chain connectivity** to link SIDS economies to regional markets and global supply chains. In line with the 2050 Strategy, ABAS calls for strengthening institutions at all levels to build capacity, optimise the regulatory environment, and foster a conducive business environment for private sector investment and MSME development. It also proposes a dedicated platform for sustainable economic development to enhance resource mobilization. Investment monitoring, and building data capacity are similarly promoted, to support the unique needs of SIDS in relation to investment, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. The ABAS recommends reviewing and reforming investment treaties, as needed, to safeguard policy space for sustainable development goals.



Climate Change And Disasters

Climate change and disasters represent a grave threat to the Pacific region. The 2050 Strategy advocates for **collective, culturally appropriate responses**. While being a global leader in advocating for ambitious climate action, the region faces frequent extreme weather events and inadequate financing for adaptation. Greater cooperation is needed to contain warming to within 1.5°C, as well as innovative financing, protecting the rights and cultures of Pacific peoples, promoting investment in renewable energy, building resilience and ensuring that global commitments meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

The ABAS similarly calls for **expanded climate action and support**, including climate finance, and urgent action to keep global temperature rise well below 2°C, working towards a limit of 1.5°C. ABAS advocates for accelerated action to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty, as well as providing timely support for adaptation, phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, and operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund. This should be based on the best science and reflecting equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.



Technology And Connectivity

The 2050 Strategy emphasises **inclusive and affordable regional connectivity**, ensuring access to transport and information and communications technology. The adoption of emerging digital technologies requires effective partnerships and regulation, with a focus on data sovereignty and accurate information to enhance decision-making. By strengthening partnerships and regulation, regional transport and ICT connectivity can be promoted to ensure safe, reliable and affordable services for Pacific people, while protecting cultural sensitivities and cybersecurity.

The ABAS aligns with the 2050 Strategy by promoting stronger data infrastructure, digital cooperation, and bridging divides to advance digital transformation. Both emphasize **effective partnerships and data sovereignty**, enhancing decision-making and promoting spatial data. By fostering innovation via the Center of Excellence and developing digital and technological roadmaps, the ABAS aims to improve digital literacy, create inclusive digital societies, and ensure opportunities for people in vulnerable situations.