

The background features a stylized sun with concentric circles in shades of yellow, orange, and blue at the top. Below the sun are rolling mountains in various shades of blue and teal. On the right side, there are stylized brown leaves and branches. The overall aesthetic is colorful and illustrative.

# Pacific Women Mediators Network

And She Persisted for Peace:  
Redesign the Table



# Women on the Frontlines of Pacific Peacebuilding

“A stable and peaceful Pacific region is at the heart of security, prosperity, and strategic interests for Australia and Pacific Island countries. Central to this is an inclusive security that understands the significant contributions diverse Pacific women make to mediation, peacebuilding, and humanitarian responses”

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/women-on-the-frontlines-of-pacific-peacebuilding/>



# Inclusive Security

- Inclusive security is a perspective that has been embraced by Pacific Island countries.
- Both the Boe Declaration and 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent recognise an expanded concept of security that incorporates a focus on human security, including threats such as climate change, economic threats, cyber security, and transnational crime. Both documents emphasise inclusive processes to do this, addressing exclusion of women, youth, and other marginalised groups.



# Localising the WPS Agenda

- 2012-2015 Regional Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security was co-created by Pacific civil society organisations, the UN, Pacific Islands Forum, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
- It provided a framework at the regional level for Forum Members and Pacific Territories to enhance women's leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, to mainstream gender in security policymaking, and to ensure women and girls' human rights are protected.
- Several Pacific Island Forum member countries developed their own action plans: *Solomon Islands (2017 & currently in review)*, *Autonomous Region of Bougainville*, *Papua New Guinea (2016)*, *Australia (2012-2018 and 2020-2029)*, *Fiji is currently developing a WPS Strategy*



**“the expertise, cultural context, and knowledge and advice is readily available to regional organizations, NGOs, INGOs, and governments to draft the policies and recommendations to make peace a political priority with a focus on human security to be just as important as traditional security to ensure better nation building for our Pacific” – Litia Nailatikau**

- Launched in Suva, Fiji in June 2023
- We aim to uplift and support Pacific Island women-led approaches, to drive a gender just and human rights-based humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus
- The WPS Agenda also informs and contributes to national implementations of regional frameworks and commitments to gender equality, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action and climate change.

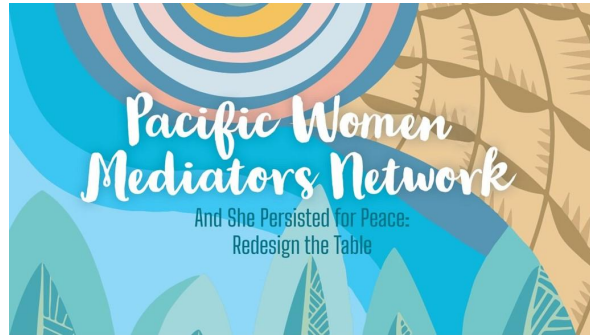




**“And for me, it's always meant that no matter what you're doing, you have to remember always that peacebuilding is in the centre of the work you do, and that doesn't mean being passive. That means that you can be fierce and fiery and that you can work for justice and balance and liberation and all those things that we hold dear as feminists fight that in the heart of it is this idea of having peace and that the outcome is in the process of the work” –  
Noelene Nabulivou**

## **Our work will:**

- i. Facilitate and engage Pacific women in political processes, aimed at driving a gender-inclusive conflict prevention agenda across the Peace, Development and Humanitarian Nexus (Triple Nexus)*
- ii. Advance the inclusion and meaningful participation of Pacific women as mediators and negotiators in all areas and phases of conflict prevention, conflict transformation, restorative justice and peacebuilding.*



“We will have 15 young women joining the network. This is not just a thought out of the air that, we need to include young women. But these are learnings from our own individual journeys, but also being intentional that this work will need to continue, will need to be sustained. How do we sustain this? We need young women to join the network. Who will then carry on the legacy” – Frances Namoumou

- Multi year funding commitment from DFAT
- Our Programme of Action (POA) will focus on building alliances and mediation efforts led by our **Technical Working Group (TWG)**, with strategic support from Pacific Island women in regional and global intergovernmental processes and social movements
- Investing in the capacity development of an intergenerational cadre of women alongside Pacific Island Forum officials to build collective understanding and application of the WPS agenda.
- The network will be supported by **Strategic Advisers, Pacific Elders and key Technical Advisers.**



## Recommendations for Advocacy

*“As we respond to the climate crisis, we must acknowledge the impacts this is having and will continue to have on global peace and security. This starts with recognising that the impacts of the climate crisis and natural hazards differ by gender and can have a disproportionate impact on women and girls”*

*“The WPS agenda also provides a clear framework for bringing our efforts together. With this, the capabilities, insights, strengths and leadership of women and girls, and persons of diverse gender identities, are critical to driving effective strategies for change”*

*“Progressing the WPS agenda also demands addressing all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence in conflict. To do this effectively, we must partner with civil society and support human rights defenders. Australia does this through our work with the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, and regional women peace mediator networks, as well as support for the development and implementation of WPS national, and regional, action plans”*

**Australia Statement - UN Security Council Open Debate - Women, Peace and Security: Towards the 25th Anniversary of Resolution 1325, 7 March 2023**

- Uplift and supporting Pacific Island, women-led approaches and driving gender-just and human rights-based approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- Australia and Pacific Island governments must recognise, amplify, and adequately resource the important peace work that Pacific women do – and incorporate this into security institutions and decision-making forums.
- Australia to prioritize a deep understanding of local contexts, including recognizing and valuing the diverse and significant peace work that is already being done.
- Targeted, systematic, long-term investment in civil society organisations to support this work would further promote opportunities for Pacific women to define and drive peace and security in the region.
- Australia’s foreign policy within the Pacific should have a keen awareness of the significant contributions diverse Pacific women and their organisations make as mediators and negotiators in conflict prevention, conflict transformation, restorative justice, and peacebuilding.



*“I'm so grateful that we have a network that can allow us the freedom to speak and to define peace on our own terms” – Bedi Racule*

