



PACIFIC REGION INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

*A partnership for better infrastructure  
services in Pacific Island Countries*

# PRIF CHARTER

2018 (Revised 2023)

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ADB - Asian Development Bank  
DFAT – Australian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
EU - European Union  
EIB - European Investment Bank  
JICA - Japan International Cooperation Agency  
NZMFAT - New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
PICs – Pacific Island countries  
PMC – Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility Management Committee  
PRIF – Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility  
PRIF CO – PRIF Coordination Office  
US – United States  
WBG - World Bank Group, including International Finance Corporation



## **A. Purpose of Charter**

### 1. This Charter:

- Explains what it means to be a Development Partner (Partner) of the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF).
- Is not a legally binding document and does not create rights or obligations under international law; and
- Is a statement of general principles and guidelines governing PRIF and Partners' cooperation.

## **B. PRIF Mechanism**

2. Established in 2008, the PRIF is a multi-agency coordination and technical assistance mechanism aimed at improving the delivery of development assistance from its Partners to the PRIF Members' infrastructure sector<sup>1</sup> in the Pacific region.
3. PRIF provides an institutional and procedural framework to enable its Partners to improve development effectiveness and donor coordination in the Pacific aligned with the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005* and the *Accra Agenda for Action 2008*, and in support of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. It is recognized that PRIF is distinguished from other coordination mechanisms because it has dedicated resources for a Coordination Office and Technical Assistance funds to help promote coordination. This collaborative approach enables PRIF Partners to better address the economic infrastructure needs of Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

## **C. PRIF Aims**

4. PRIF aims to support PICs in:
  - Streamlining access to technical and capacity building assistance and to funding for infrastructure;
  - Improving the quality of infrastructure investments, including to enhance sustainability with measures to support recurrent infrastructure maintenance; and
  - Strengthening capacity to plan, manage and maintain infrastructure for sustainable and improved delivery of services.
5. PRIF Partners work together to:
  - Ensure that Partner-supported activities complement and do not duplicate one another;
  - Reduce transaction costs between PRIF Partners and PICs;
  - Provide more predictable and longer-term financing through long term partnerships;
  - Integrate available infrastructure financing;
  - Improve coordination with other providers of infrastructure assistance, including the private sector; and
  - Design infrastructure project investments to maximize positive and sustainable economic, social and environmental impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> The PRIF focus on economic infrastructure reflects the high priority attached to the major sectoral drivers of utilities and services, including energy, transportation (road, aviation, maritime), telecommunications, water, sanitation and waste, while recognizing the growing importance of environmental infrastructure, such as coastal protection, drainage and flood control, and the broader impacts, links and interactions with social infrastructure for health and education services, housing and government administration.

#### **D. PRIF Principles**

6. PRIF Partners subscribe to the following principles and follow a set of governance and operational procedures aimed at facilitating greater coordination between Partners and supporting sustainable development outcomes for PICs.

<b>i.</b>	Long-term engagement with PICs that provides access to technical expertise and funding for sustained improvements in infrastructure services
<b>ii.</b>	Country-led prioritization of infrastructure sector support based on local capacity through country led planning and priority setting
<b>iii.</b>	Integrated approaches to infrastructure planning, budgeting and priority setting led by PICs
<b>iv.</b>	Support for appropriate institutional and regulatory structures
<b>v.</b>	A strengthened role for the private sector in infrastructure service delivery and, where appropriate, encouraging local employment
<b>vi.</b>	Support for the use of appropriate technology that considers whole-life costing, sustainability, and resilience to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.
<b>vii.</b>	Support for harmonization amongst the Partners and PICs to increase aid effectiveness
<b>viii.</b>	Support for the establishment of performance incentive arrangements to improve infrastructure service outcomes

#### **E. PRIF Institutional Status**

7. PRIF is not a legal entity and Partners retain responsibility for planning and administering their respective infrastructure budgets. The PRIF mechanism is supported by a PRIF Coordination Office (PRIF CO) which implements a work plan determined by Partners, including the provision of secretariat support to PRIF meetings, oversight of a Technical Assistance fund, and PRIF communication and outreach. The PRIF CO reports to the PRIF Partners and is administered on their behalf by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

#### **F. Participating PRIF Partners**

8. Participating PRIF partners are development agencies active in the Pacific that are willing to subscribe to the PRIF principles, and are committed to increasing the quality and effectiveness of infrastructure assistance in the region. Prospective Partners would have, or are planning, significant programs of assistance in the economic infrastructure sector, specifically in the areas of transport (road, aviation, maritime); energy; telecommunications; water and sanitation; and solid waste management. Such work also seeks to strengthen outcomes in a number of cross-cutting themes such as climate change and disaster resilience, private sector participation, gender and social inclusion, and sustainable infrastructure management.
9. Current PRIF Partners:
- ADB
  - Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
  - European Investment Bank (EIB)
  - European Union (EU)
  - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
  - New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZMFAT)
  - United States (US) Department of State
  - World Bank Group (WBG) including the International Finance Corporation (IFC)

10. Admission of new PRIF Partners.  
Development agencies seeking to join PRIF are asked to indicate in writing to the PRIF Management Committee (PMC), via the PRIF CO, their interest and commitment to operate in line with the principles and governance procedures provided in this Charter. Requests to join PRIF will be considered during a closed session of PRIF Partners at a formal PMC meeting. New Partners will be admitted through a consensus decision by the PMC. The PMC may invite prospective Partners to participate with observer status for a short period to allow potential new Partners to observe PRIF operations.

#### **G. PRIF Members**

11. PRIF currently has 13 PIC Members – Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea is an Associated Member.<sup>2</sup>

#### **H. PRIF Governance**

12. The PRIF Partners support the following governance arrangements:
- **PMC:** Comprises management-level representatives of the Partners where practicable, and is responsible for approving the PRIF workplan. The PMC meets formally four times per year. The PMC may convene additional formal or informal meetings on an ad hoc basis. The PMC will nominate a Chair from the PRIF Partners for a one-year term, on a rotational basis. The PMC Chair will serve on a voluntary basis and preside over PMC meetings. The PRIF CO will provide support to the Chair in carrying out their duties.
  - **PRIF Working Groups:** Working Groups comprise sector specialists from the PRIF Partners across a number of sectors or thematic areas (including energy, transport, urban development, water and sanitation, ICT, sustainable infrastructure management and environment and social) who will advocate coherent, coordinated responses to priority and emerging infrastructure development issues in the Pacific region. Each PRIF Working Group will nominate one Chair and one Deputy Chair from PRIF Partners on a rotational basis. Chairs and Deputy Chairs will convene at least two working group meetings per year. The PRIF CO will provide support to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Working Groups. To the extent possible, Chairs and Deputy Chairs will reflect a balance of representation of PRIF Partners.
  - **PRIF CO:** The PRIF CO will be hosted by the ADB's Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney. In addition to its primary coordination role, the PRIF CO is intended to have dedicated resources to provide short term Technical Assistance services in response to requests from Members, or PRIF Working Groups, where these requests align with PRIF work plan priorities and are approved by the PMC.
13. PMC meetings enable PRIF Partners to:
- Discuss strategic policy issues affecting the quality and quantity of economic infrastructure assets in the region;
  - Map current and planned infrastructure programs in the Pacific;
  - Inform each other's infrastructure programs through the sharing of sector analysis and project documentation;

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<sup>2</sup> As an Associate Member, Papua New Guinea will benefit from regional technical assistance and participate in PRIF capacity building and knowledge activities.

- Identify opportunities for joint work including policy work and financing of programs
- Review and approve the work plan of the PRIF CO
- Approve the budget of the PRIF CO
- Approve concept notes for proposed PRIF technical assistance.

## **I. PRIF Governance and operational procedures**

PRIF Partners will be guided by the following governance and operational procedures.

<b>i.</b>	Observe the PRIF principles.
<b>ii.</b>	Provide a representative at an appropriate level to participate in the quarterly meetings of the PMC who will be the focal point for all PRIF-related matters. Note: The PMC Chair will rotate amongst the Partners on an annual basis.
<b>iii.</b>	Put forward recommended personnel to be Working Group Chairs and Deputy Chairs: These roles will rotate amongst PRIF Partners.
<b>iv.</b>	Support the development and implementation of government-led national and sector infrastructure development plans to guide investment in infrastructure.
<b>v.</b>	In the interests of reducing the burdens on Members, coordinate missions to countries where possible.
<b>vi.</b>	Provide project pipelines/activity descriptions and regular updates for circulation to PRIF Partners when requested by PRIF CO.
<b>vii.</b>	Where there is interest by other PRIF Partners, allow participation in respective quality assurance processes for individual infrastructure activities.
<b>viii.</b>	In the interests of information sharing, circulate relevant documents to PRIF Partners. The PRIF CO will treat all materials as sensitive and will only disclose such materials with the prior approval of the relevant PRIF Partner(s).
<b>ix.</b>	Consult with other PRIF Partners co-financing a project prior to the publication of any project related external communication materials.