



FIJI-AUSTRALIA VUVALE UNION

FIJI-AUSTRALIA VUVALE UNION

The Government of the Republic of Fiji ("Fiji") and the Government of Australia ("Australia") (referred to individually as a "Party" and together as "the Parties"),

RECOGNISING the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and democratic systems of the Parties;

COMMITTED to the concept of Vuvale, the Fijian word for 'family' that rests on trust, loyalty, duty, respect, understanding and responsibility;

INSPIRED by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' endorsement of Fiji's vision for regional peace, unity and solidarity captured in the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration* at the fifty-fourth Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in 2025;

RECOGNISING the Parties' responsibility to embed the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration* as a cornerstone of their partnership and align their engagement with the Pacific region's vision for peace;

COGNISANT that we face emerging and multidimensional threats, with climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of Pacific peoples;

REAFFIRMING a shared commitment to Pacific values and aspirations in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, the guiding principles outlined in the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific*, and the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*;

RECOGNISING that our interests are intertwined and decisions taken by one Party affect the other;

DESIRING to make a tangible contribution beyond the Parties, to the Pacific region and provide a blueprint for the advancement of Pacific regionalism;

RESOLUTE in their commitment to strengthen Pacific regionalism through the Pacific Islands Forum, as the apex of the rules-based regional architecture that upholds international law;

COMMITTED to resolving challenges together in the Pacific Way, involving peacefully settling issues, including disputes, through talanoa and consensus-based decision making, while respecting sovereignty and rejecting coercion;

DETERMINED to support Pacific-led approaches to strengthening the stability, unity and peace of the Blue Pacific and the wellbeing of our people;

REAFFIRMING their respective obligations under international and domestic law;

RECOGNISING the significance for the Parties of the legally binding obligations set out in this Treaty;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

- (1) The purpose of this Treaty is to:
 - (a) embed and operationalise the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration* as a cornerstone of the Parties' partnership;
 - (b) establish a Vuvale Union to enhance the Parties' collective security, stability and prosperity; and
 - (c) protect and promote each Party's sovereignty and democracy, and the solidarity of the Pacific region.

ARTICLE 2: VUVALE UNION

- (1) The Parties shall establish a Vuvale Union, and take progressive steps to deepen and evolve it over time.
- (2) Under the Vuvale Union, the Parties commit to move forward in partnership, grounded in the Pacific Way, to:
 - (a) strengthen prosperity and resilience;
 - (b) enhance cultural and people connections;
 - (c) advance climate security; and
 - (d) cultivate and sustain a culture of peace.
- (3) In advancing the Vuvale Union, the Parties shall consider the best interests of their peoples as well as the peoples of the Pacific region.
- (4) The Parties commit to listen and consult with trust, respect and understanding on matters affecting the Vuvale Union.

ARTICLE 3: PROSPERITY AND PEOPLE

- (1) In accordance with the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration*, the Parties commit to the advancement of inclusive development pathways that place economic, social, environmental and human dignity at the centre of lasting peace and resilience.
- (2) The Parties commit to integrate their economies and deepen links between their peoples, including in support of the Pacific region.

- (3) The Parties commit to deepen their economic and human development partnership by enhancing:
 - (a) economic growth and security;
 - (b) the transition to a digital economy; and
 - (c) cultural and people linkages, including through mobility.
- (4) The Parties recognise that economic growth and security requires fiscal stability, resilient infrastructure, rules-based trade and investment, quality education and healthcare, gender equality and reliable supply chains.
- (5) The Parties recognise that the transition to a digital economy requires safe and secure digital infrastructure and systems.
- (6) The Parties recognise that cultural linkages are built on our first nations heritage and multicultural and multifaith societies.
- (7) The Parties commit to deepen people linkages by strengthening border management systems and enhancing mobility settings.

ARTICLE 4: CLIMATE AND PEACE

- (1) The Parties commit to cultivate and sustain peace and security in the Pacific, consistent with the expanded concept of security in the *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*.
- (2) In accordance with the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration*, the Parties shall:
 - (a) prioritise Pacific-led approaches to peace and security in the region, including through Pacific Islands Forum-endorsed mechanisms;
 - (b) engage third parties in their critical infrastructure and technology, and security sectors in a manner that honours the Pacific Way and protects and strengthens the Parties' and the Pacific region's individual and collective security; and
 - (c) mutually advocate for ambitious and meaningful action on climate change in support of Pacific goals endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum.
- (3) The Parties recognise the following could threaten or undermine the Parties' or Pacific region's individual or collective security: a third party military or other security base, ongoing presence, arrangements or visits.

- (4) The Parties commit to the enhancement of their individual and collective peace and security through:
 - (a) transformation of their economies to net zero emissions;
 - (b) supporting adaptation and mobility with dignity for Pacific peoples, recognising the existential threat posed by climate change;
 - (c) action to address transnational crime and illegal unreported and unregulated fishing;
 - (d) strengthening the security of critical infrastructure and technology and cyberspace; and
 - (e) integrated policing, defence and border protection.
- (5) The Parties commit to protect their critical infrastructure and technology which, if destroyed, degraded, or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would affect the Parties' individual or collective security interests.
- (6) The Parties recognise that critical infrastructure and technology includes, but is not limited to, ports, telecommunications, digital, aviation and energy infrastructure, artificial intelligence, cyberspace and quantum computing.
- (7) Neither Party shall act in a manner that would undermine their ability to meet any of their obligations pursuant to this Article.
- (8) The Parties commit to consult on any matter arising under this Article at the written request of either Party.

ARTICLE 5: PACIFIC REGIONALISM

- (1) The Parties commit to work in concert to advance Pacific regionalism and further operationalise the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration*, including by:
 - (a) bolstering the Pacific Islands Forum as the apex of the regional architecture;
 - (b) advocating for the peaceful resolution of disputes through the Pacific Way, based on consensus-based decision making, and respect for sovereignty and international laws and norms;
 - (c) promoting Pacific-led peace and security initiatives and architecture to respond to multidimensional threats and strengthen and safeguard our shared Pacific peace;
 - (d) driving efforts to deepen rules-based trade and investment between regional economies to support inclusive and resilient development and the wellbeing of all Pacific peoples; and
 - (e) ensuring that cooperation through our Vuvale Union contributes to the region's broader development and security.

- (2) The Parties shall establish an Ocean of Peace Centre in Suva to further the implementation of the *Blue Pacific Ocean of Peace Declaration*, in consultation with Pacific Island Forum Members.

ARTICLE 6: VUVALE FORUM

- (1) The Parties shall establish a Vuvale Forum to lead the progressive deepening and evolution of their Vuvale Union.
- (2) The Vuvale Forum shall be co-chaired by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Parties, who may invite other Ministers of the Parties to participate.
- (3) The Chairs may invite traditional, religious, community and business leaders to join a session of the Vuvale Forum.
- (4) The Vuvale Forum may consider and decide any matter arising under this Treaty or related to the relationship between the Parties.
- (5) The Vuvale Forum may take account of the discussions and decisions of bilateral forums not established by this Treaty.
- (6) The Vuvale Forum may establish additional bilateral forums to deepen and evolve the Vuvale Union, including leadership forums incorporating traditional, religious, community and business leaders.
- (7) The Vuvale Forum shall meet annually or as agreed by the Parties or within two weeks of a written request by either Party.
- (8) Grounded in the Pacific Way, the Vuvale Forum shall make decisions by consensus in good faith.

ARTICLE 7: VUVALE BUKMAK

- (1) The Parties shall establish the Vuvale Bukmak to implement their Vuvale Union.
- (2) The Vuvale Bukmak shall be co-chaired by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, who may invite senior officials from other agencies of the Parties to participate in a session of the Vuvale Bukmak.
- (3) The Vuvale Bukmak may consider and decide any matter arising under this Treaty or related to the relationship between the Parties, unless the Vuvale Forum has decided that only it may consider or decide a matter. The Vuvale Bukmak may also make recommendations to the Vuvale Forum for it to consider.

- (4) The Vuvale Bukmak shall develop, maintain and oversee the implementation of a Vuvale Union Work Plan for the phased, long-term implementation of the Parties' obligations and commitments in this Treaty.
- (5) The Vuvale Bukmak shall meet annually or as agreed by the Parties or within two weeks of a written request by either Party.
- (6) The Vuvale Bukmak may meet in person or virtually.
- (7) Grounded in the Pacific Way, the Vuvale Bukmak shall make decisions by consensus in good faith.

ARTICLE 8: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- (1) The Parties agree that the Vuvale Forum or Vuvale Bukmak shall resolve disputes relating to the interpretation, application or implementation of this Treaty, should such a dispute arise.
- (2) Any dispute arising under this Treaty with respect to its interpretation, application or implementation shall not be referred to any national or international tribunal or court or any other third party for resolution.
- (3) Either Party, following provision of written notice, can suspend compliance with their obligations under the Treaty pending resolution of a dispute.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENT

- (1) This Treaty may be amended in writing by mutual consent of both Parties.
- (2) Any amendment to this Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the later notification by either Party of the completion of their respective requirements for entry into force of the relevant amendment unless Parties mutually agree to a retrospective date.

ARTICLE 10: STATUS, ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION

- (1) This Treaty shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the last notification by which the Parties notify each other in writing, through an exchange of diplomatic notes, that their respective requirements for the entry into force of this Treaty have been completed.
- (2) This Treaty shall continue in force unless terminated in accordance with this Article.

- (3) The Parties may agree in writing to terminate this Treaty at any time. Such termination shall become effective on the date agreed by the Parties.
- (4) Either Party may terminate this Treaty upon written notice to the other Party. Such termination shall become effective twenty-four months following the date on which the other Party receives the written notice of termination.
- (5) The Parties may continue to seek to resolve a dispute after written notice of a Party's intention to terminate, including through the Vuvale Forum or Vuvale Bukmak. Parties may mutually agree to extend the time period in Article 10(4) if there is a real prospect of withdrawing a termination notice. The terminating Party may withdraw its termination notice if a solution to the dispute is mutually agreed ahead of the termination becoming effective.
- (6) Article 8 (2) of this Treaty shall remain binding upon the Parties notwithstanding any termination of this Treaty in accordance with this Article, unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing by the Parties.

ARTICLE 11: SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS

- (1) The Parties may enter into subsidiary agreements and implementing arrangements for the purposes of the interpretation and implementation of this Treaty.
- (2) Any subsidiary agreement or implementing arrangement shall be read together with this Treaty. For avoidance of doubt, where there is a conflict or inconsistency between any terms of any subsidiary agreement or implementing arrangement and this Treaty, the provisions of this Treaty shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Treaty.

DONE at Suva, on this 6th day of July 2026
in two originals in the English language, both originals being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI:**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF AUSTRALIA:**

