



# **Pacific and Small Island Nations Summit**

**Friday, 18 June 2021 · 8:30am – 12:30pm AEST**

**Convened through *OnAIR***

**Global Access Partners (GAP), in association with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP), will host the first GAP Summit for the Pacific and Small Island Nations to consider Environment, Society and Governance (ESG) issues in the Pacific and small island nations.**

International attention on the Pacific has intensified in recent years, with major powers expressing strategic interest in the region, giving small island nations more choice for engagement than ever before. The region's complex and rapidly shifting geopolitical order has important global implications, and Australia's national interest lies in supporting regional stability, development and resilience.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Pacific Island nations, along with the rest of the world, face their biggest collective challenge in a generation. The actions Pacific governments are taking today to contain the spread will have a significant impact on a range of regional security issues in the future. The pandemic and its consequences also risk reversing progress across a range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current crisis emphasises the need to find coherent responses reconciling short and long-term priorities. More than ever, it will be necessary to work collaboratively on common issues and share knowledge and expertise to increase regional resilience, as a lack of coordination could considerably extend the economic recovery period.

Improved connectivity and the ever-increasing international interest in the Pacific create a significant opportunity for the region. New partnerships, coalitions and platforms for collaborative action will help integrate Pacific economies into regional and global trade, empower transnational cooperation, and strengthen and inform a collective response to major challenges. In this context, strengthened governance and coordination mechanisms at the national and regional level will be key to fostering resilience for a sustainable recovery and ensuring balanced growth.

**The GAP Summit for the Pacific and Small Island Nations** will bring together 120 regional business and government leaders to consider Environment, Society and Governance (ESG) issues in the Pacific and small island nations around the world. Topics will include building regional resilience in the post-COVID recovery, assuring macroeconomic stability, encouraging private sector development, stimulating jobs, increasing social inclusion, and other pressing issues. Participants will discuss potential solutions to shared issues of concern, explore the latest technological innovations and forge new business partnerships and coalitions. The Summit will encourage positive engagement and long-term cooperation, develop new sources of investment, build capacity and support good governance.



## PROGRAMME

**Friday, 18 June 2021**

**Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)**

**OnAIR Virtual Platform**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 8:15am  | Online Registration  |
| 8:30am  | Welcome & Setting the Scene  |
| 9:00am  | <b>SESSION ONE - A BLUE RECOVERY IN THE PACIFIC AND SMALL ISLAND NATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought Leader Panel</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul> |
| 10:00am | <b>SESSION TWO - ESG FRAMEWORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought Leader Panel</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>   |
| 11:00am | Break & Virtual Networking   |
| 11:15am | <b>SESSION THREE – A SHARED VISION FOR OUR FUTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought Leader Panel</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>                        |
| 12:30pm | Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks   |

## FORMAT

GAP Summits have become an important feature of Australia's policy landscape since 2010. These high-level, invitation-only annual gatherings are known for their unique format and networking opportunities, and their unwavering focus on economic activity and practical results. The Summits bring together decision makers and creative thinkers from around the world to discuss policy priorities, review progress and set fresh directions. Keynote speakers have included international thought leaders, senior business executives, serving ministers and members of parliament, and secretaries of government departments and agencies.

The Summit's parliamentary format encourages open, informed and constructive dialogue in a safe environment under the Chatham House rule of non-attribution. Every GAP Summit has created new collaborative projects and wider networks of mutual aid which allow delegates to work together long term to shape public policy.

## LONG-TERM VISION

The GAP Summit for the Pacific and Small Island Nations has the potential to become a flagship annual event for the global business community, creating an Australian version of the 'Davos for the Pacific'. It could continue to build awareness around the most pressing regional challenges and provide an independent coordination mechanism to facilitate substantive cross-national policy and business dialogue to implement effective solutions.

## CONVENERS

**Global Access Partners** is a Sydney-based independent institute for active policy that works nationally and internationally on key social, economic and structural challenges. GAP forges links between community, government, industry and academia through the 'Second Track' process to promote innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches to problem-solving. Its global network comprises over 4,000 members, with more than 1,000 people actively engaged in various GAP projects at any one time.

In 2017, GAP established the **International Centre for Democratic Partnerships** to build stronger relationships between Australia and the Pacific. ICDP is implementing *Pacific Connect* – the Australian Government's programme to support leadership and regional cooperation in the Pacific. *Pacific Connect* operates in Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Its goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and wellbeing for all. It draws on almost 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- **Prof Attila Brungs**, Vice-Chancellor & President, University of Technology, Sydney
- **Michael Collins**, CEO, Strategic Development Group
- **Martin Forst**, Head, Governance Reviews & Partnerships Division, Public Governance & Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Peter Fritz AO**, Group Managing Director, TCG, Chairman, GAP
- **Catherine Fritz-Kalish**, Co-Founder & Managing Director, GAP, Director, ICDP and ICDP Foundation
- **Andrew Henderson**, Chief Information Officer, Westpac NZ
- **Taholo Kami**, Special Representative for Oceans, Government of Fiji
- **Peter Kenilorea Jr**, Member for East 'Are'are, National Parliament of Solomon Islands
- **Carina Lindberg**, Policy Advisor, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit, OECD
- **Simone Pensko**, Chief Executive Officer, ICDP
- **Michele Rumsey**, WHO Collaborating Centre, University of Technology Sydney
- **Prof Brian Schmidt AC**, Vice-Chancellor & President, Australian National University, Winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics
- **Dr Melis Senova**, Founder, Huddle
- **Ernesto Soria Morales**, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Coherence for Development Unit, OECD