



Chair's Summary of Meeting of the Board of Directors

30 June 2021

Pacific Approach, 2021–2025

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Asian Development Bank

1. Directors generally endorsed the Pacific Approach, 2021–2025 for the 12 small Pacific Island countries (PIC-12). They supported the strategic objectives of (i) preparing for and responding to shocks, (ii) delivering sustainable services, and (iii) supporting inclusive growth. Directors noted that all of the PIC-12 are characterized as small island developing states, some of which are considered in fragile and conflict-affected situations, facing geographical, climate and economic challenges, heightened by the negative impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
2. Directors emphasized that increased private sector activities in the PIC-12, along with strengthened implementation of public sector investments, will be key to economic resilience. In this regard, directors encouraged using the private sector window established under the 12th replenishment of the Asian Development Fund (ADF 13).
3. Directors highlighted that strengthening the PIC-12's capacity is key to promoting sustainability in the region, using supplementation where appropriate. Some directors noted that while capacity supplementation can play a vital role in the PIC-12, ADB needs to be sensitive in its application so as not to supplant country ownership of projects.
4. Directors welcomed the proposal for a differentiated approach through project implementation, fragility and governance assessments, and procurement, and expect ADB to be flexible in its assistance to adapt and meet emerging challenges in the region. Directors emphasized that it is important for ADB to translate the commitments made into practical interventions that will support development objectives in the region.
5. Directors also welcomed broadening ADB's approach to addressing climate change and disaster risk management at the project level. To support the climate resilience of all investments in the region, the approach includes country and regional engagement to better understand, plan for, and address climate change impacts.
6. Directors appreciated the ambitious knowledge agenda in the Pacific Approach and encouraged ADB to be strategically focused on the areas with the highest developmental impact, including being selective in using regional technical assistance, so as not to unnecessarily burden the PIC-12 that are already constrained in terms of capacity.