

176th Session of the Council

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 22 – Margarita Lizárraga Medal

Member Name	Comments
Australia (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 22.16)	<p>Australia congratulates the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) on receiving well-deserved recognition in being awarded the Margarita Lizárraga Medal.</p> <p>Fisheries are critical for development, food security, livelihoods, revenue and culture for Pacific Island countries and territories. Tuna in particular is critical for the Pacific’s prosperity, as one third of the world’s tuna is sourced from Pacific waters. As a FFA member, we are proud that tuna fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean are the largest and best managed in the world – with all four major tuna stocks considered sustainable.</p> <p>The FFA underpins the Pacific region’s success in implementing strong tuna management, combating illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, providing development opportunities for Small Island Developing States and supporting coastal states to play a key role in determining the direction of the world’s largest tuna fishery.</p> <p>The FFA sets a worthy example of how regional members can benefit from the sustainable management of tuna, worth over USD 7.1 billion per year. Recent achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiation of a substantial increase in the economic assistance agreement package to its members under the Treaty arrangement with the US• Pursuing the East New Britain Initiative to explore ways to increase returns to members from Pacific tuna resources• Leading regional efforts and collaboration to combat IUU fishing, resulting in a reduction in the revenue losses experienced by Pacific Island countries• Adoption of the first FFA Climate Change Strategy to strengthen resilience of oceanic tuna fisheries to climate change. <p>Australia is proud to be a founding member and long-term partner to the FFA, providing AUD 5 million annually to support the work of this key Pacific regional organisation. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the FFA under our Partnership Arrangement so all FFA members benefit from the sustainable management and development of valuable offshore tuna resources.</p>
New Zealand (Wednesday, 20 November 2024 – 22.17)	<p>New Zealand is delighted to see the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) as the recipient of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. A great recognition of the important work of the FFA for the Southwest Pacific region.</p>