

COMMUNIQUE

28th Oceania Customs Organisation Annual Conference

The Intercontinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa

Natadola, Fiji

2 – 4 June 2026

1. The Heads of Customs Administrations of the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), together with partners and invited participants, convened for the 28th OCO Annual Conference under the theme “*Scaling Up the Commitment of Customs to Protect and Grow our Pasifika Communities.*” This year marks 40 years since the first Customs Heads of Administration Meeting in 1986, which began with just six members and has since grown into a robust network of 24 member countries.
2. The Conference hosted by the Fiji Revenue & Customs Services provided an important opportunity for members to reflect on OCO’s legacy, strengthen regional solidarity, and consider priorities for the future of Customs cooperation across the Pacific. The Conference was attended by Heads of Customs or their nominated Executives representing 21 Pacific Island countries and territories including Australia, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Representatives from OCO partner agencies were also present, comprising key regional and international organisations that support customs administration across the Pacific. These agencies play a critical role in advancing regional cooperation through the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building programmes, policy guidance, and operational support in areas such as border security, revenue collection, and trade facilitation.
3. The Conference was officially opened by Fiji’s Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development, the Honourable Esrom Immanuel.
4. The Conference provided an important platform for strategic reflection on the future direction of OCO, with members emphasizing the need for a shared regional vision, as well as practical and inclusive cooperation. Participants highlighted the importance of adopting a differentiated approach that delivers tailored support aligned with the diverse capacities and realities of Pacific Customs administrations. These discussions will directly inform OCO’s

next strategic planning cycle and future work programming. There was also strong reaffirmation to amplify Pacific Customs voices in regional and global forums, strengthening alignment with key stakeholders, and further positioning OCO as a leading voice in advancing regional customs priorities.

5. Members welcomed continued collaboration with regional and international partners and noted the value of technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and coordinated capacity building. The Conference underscored that effective partnerships remain essential to addressing shared threats, strengthening compliance systems, promoting innovation, and supporting sustainable Customs modernisation across the region.

6. Throughout the programme, members exchanged perspectives on current and emerging border management challenges, including maritime security, passenger movement, trade facilitation, and enforcement. Country updates and panel discussions highlighted both the complexity of the operating environment and the shared commitment of members to protect communities, secure borders, and enable legitimate trade and travel.

7. Members noted that Customs administrations are increasingly at the frontline of protecting communities across the Blue Pacific from evolving threats including illicit trade and transnational serious and organised crime (TSOC) - underscoring the need for a stronger, intelligence-led and coordinated regional response, with OCO members united through enhanced cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to safeguard people, economies, and the region's future.

8. In their formal deliberations, members considered key governance and organisational matters, including reports from the Secretariat, interim financial and performance updates, proposed policy changes, and the annual work programme and budget for the financial year 2026-2027. Members considered forthcoming conference hosting arrangements and leadership transitions, reflecting OCO's collective commitment to maintaining momentum and ensuring that the organisation remains responsive to the evolving needs of its membership. The Conference further noted the importance of continuity in leadership and reaffirmed a member-driven approach that strengthens regional ownership and collective responsibility.

9. Members expressed their appreciation to the host- Fiji, organisers, speakers, moderators, and partners for their contributions to the success of the Conference.
 10. Members reaffirmed the importance of sound governance, accountability, and results-focused delivery also underscoring Fiji's strategic leadership for the OCO Secretariat during the transition of the Head of OCO Secretariat to ensure continuity and advancement of the organisation's objectives.
 11. Members confirmed Kiribati as the incoming Chair of the OCO and CNMI as the Vice Chair. Members noted that Kiribati would be the host of the 2027 conference.
 12. Members reaffirmed their commitment to working together in the Pacific spirit of partnership and cooperation to strengthen Customs administrations, protect communities, and support resilient and inclusive economic growth across the Blue Pacific.
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OCO Secretariat

Suva, Fiji