Kia ora koutou katoa, warm Pacific greetings and a very happy New Year and welcome to everyone from all of us here at the Public Service Fale!

I am here today with short message of welcome to 2023 and to let you know, that this year the Fale is moving away from our traditional newsletter format and instead will be using our social media channels Facebook and LinkedIn to share learn and connect.

As always we will be promoting and sharing your stories about the work of Pacific public servants across the Blue Pacific Continent.

Your feedback tells us that social media channels tell us work best for you in reaching public servants across the region, so we have adapted our approach to meet your needs.

So, a couple of to touch on the work we have planned for the year ahead and to reflect on some of our highlights from 2022.

**2022**

With borders reopening we were privileged to host the Fale Governance Board’s first face to face meeting here in NZ.

Along with the Board meeting, the Fale hosted more than a dozen bilateral engagements on topics such as enhancing public service system and agency performance, public sector reform, HR and change management, integrity, ethics and standards, and improving diversity and inclusion in the public service.

The Fale was also privileged to facilitate visits from international delegations including those led by the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon Fiamē Naomi Mata’afa in June, the New Caledonian Government Minister Hon Vaimu’a Muliava in July, and Papua New Guinea’s Governor for Oro Province, Hon Gary Juffa.

Thank you to all our Commissions and public service colleagues across the Pacific region who worked with us during 2022.

**2023**

Looking ahead to 2023 there is much to do and we value and appreciate your ongoing feedback as we to deepen and expand our support for you in enhancing public service delivery across the region. This year we will be focussed on

* Expanding and deepening our offerings to in the strengthening governance, leadership development and HR areas.
* Building more evaluation into our programmes.
* Looking for opportunities to expand our channels for engagement including the Fale travelling to you to. We know face to face is the ideal way to work and we will be working with you and your team to bring our technical experts to you at home.

While COVID-19 has taught us that much of our work programme can be developed and delivered remotely there is no substitute for deepening our relationships and whanaungatanga connections through face to face engagement – kanohi-ki-te-kanohi – which is our preferred Pacific way.

Nothing can substitute for that on-the-ground experience and understanding when we share, learn and connect