Appendix 3
Forum Review of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. Terms of reference

Mandate
At the 37th Pacific Islands Forum, Leaders agreed, following a six-point submission from the Solomon Islands Government (SIG), to establish a Task Force to expeditiously review RAMSI and to report back to Foreign Ministers who would make recommendations to leaders.

The Leaders also agreed that in the interim RAMSI will continue to operate in its current form and that a Consultation Mechanism between the Government of Solomon Islands, RAMSI and the Pacific Islands Forum is established. The Consultation Mechanism is to be a high-level reference group which provides strategic advice to all parties on the policy direction of RAMSI until the Task Force publishes its findings.

The composition of the Task Force will include deputation from the Solomon Islands Government, being a major partner and the most directly affected stakeholder, in accord with the Forum Chair and the Forum Secretary-General who will be tasked to appoint the Task Force to undertake the review.

Purpose
The purpose of the review is to assess and recommend a way forward to guide the future operations of RAMSI which, represented by the SIG, is in the best interests of the people of Solomon Islands. It is also expected that the review propose substantive recommendations across a broad range of RAMSI’s activities which affect the Government and people of the Solomon Islands.
Scope

To fulfil the mandate by the Leaders and complete the review of RAMSI, the Task Force will undertake:

1. To review the operation of the Facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003 and the multilateral Assistance Agreement (2003) ATS 17 between participating countries.

2. To establish the original basis for RAMSI’s intervention in the Solomon Islands in 2003 and clarify general contingencies surrounding the intended partnership arrangements at the time between RAMSI and the SIG.

3. In consideration of progress made, to evaluate since its arrival, the overall impact of RAMSI on the sovereignty and integrity of the Solomon Islands Government in relation to:
   - the integration of RAMSI into Solomon Islands Government institutions
   - operational aspects of the RAMSI partnership which overlap with functions of the Executive Government.

4. To examine RAMSI’s focus, objectives and its key guiding principles in the context of the Solomon Islands Government’s Six Point Plan.

5. To examine the role, responsibilities and objectives of RAMSI, including existing coordination and partnership mechanisms with the SIG, in the following key areas:
   - economic governance and growth (including financial management, financial accountability, economic reform and development)
   - law and justice (including the legal, judicial, law enforcement and correctional sectors)
   - government sector (including accountability of institutions, the public service, cabinet and parliamentary processes)
   - compliance with existing legal requirements including Public Service rules and regulations affecting the appointment and facilitation of personnel under RAMSI
   - the employment of externally based commercial private sector companies to provide administrative and logistical support to government orientated programs that include policing and security operations.
6. To identify areas in the Government’s ‘Bottom Up Approach’ Policy on Rural Development which could be supported and implemented by RAMSI.

7. To appraise whether the progress made by RAMSI on capacity building is aligned to SIG development priorities and policy objectives in ensuring government agencies are staffed and funded appropriately, and to also consider:
   • goals for strengthened capacity building including towards the localisation of positions
   • specific benchmarks to measure progress of these efforts
   • improvement in Public Service Systems.

8. To examine current aid and policy coordination between RAMSI and the Solomon Islands Government in particular, to establish a clear demarcation between the RAMSI and bilateral AusAID programs by separately defining the joint cooperation of both organisations on contingencies specifically related to programs supported by RAMSI.

9. To examine processes by which decisions are made to change existing arrangements relating to RAMSI programs and personnel.

10. To examine the role of the Pacific Islands Forum in RAMSI, including Forum–RAMSI–Solomon Islands Government consultation mechanisms and the possibility of creating a Forum Ministerial Standing Committee to be established as a governing body designed to regulate the operations of RAMSI.

11. To consider the recommendations made by the Pacific Islands Forum Eminent Persons’ Group (EPG) in its 2005 Review of RAMSI, determining its relevance in the context of present circumstances and what possible action might be taken by the Solomon Islands Government and RAMSI.

12. Appreciate the ultimate necessity for the eventual exit of RAMSI and to determine the timetable and withdrawal strategy.

Methodology
In carrying out its mandate, the Task Force is requested to:
• peruse the documents leading to the establishment of RAMSI which shaped its spirit, accent and values such as the 34th Leaders’
Declaration on the Solomon Islands in Auckland 2003 and the Biketawa Declaration

- consider the current roles, obligations and responsibilities of both RAMSI and the Solomon Islands Government

- consider relevant SIG, RAMSI and Forum documents including the SIG recurrent and development budgets, SIG Policy Translation and Implementation Document, SIG departmental corporate plans and annual reports, the draft RAMSI Medium Term Strategy, RAMSI Performance Framework, RAMSI 2006 Performance Report, Capacity Building Stocktakes, the Financial Management Strengthening Review (FMSP) report, Economic Reform Unit reports, existing RAMSI reports to the Forum and the Forum EPG report also including the Oxfam report on Bridging the Gap Between State and Society 2006 and other documents describing the social, cultural, economical and historical background of the Solomons for the 10 years preceding the Social Unrest years which informed and shaped events leading to military intervention

- consult with the Solomon Islands Government Members of Parliament, provincial and local governments, constitutional office holders, government officials, the Solomon Islands Police Force and Solomon Islands Prison Service, judicial bodies, traditional leaders, business and professional representative organisations, representatives of civil society, women’s organisations, youth organisations, religious leaders, media organisations, RAMSI participating governments, the RAMSI leadership and personnel on the ground including development partners

- invite submissions from any interested or affected persons or organisations on their assessments and perceptions of the role, record, performance and future of RAMSI.

Outputs and reporting

The Task Force will compile its findings and recommendations in a Report. In line with the 2006 Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué, the Report will be presented to Foreign Ministers, who will make further recommendations to Forum Leaders.