SEMAPHORE

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Call for a Unified Pacific Maritime Policy

A unified policy framework would transform the Pacific's current fragmented approach into a "dynamic and collaborative maritime strategy, protecting ocean heritage, enhancing regional peace and security and paving the way for a sustainable blue economy".

So states Desley Wartovo, an officer in the National Maritime Safety Authority in Papua New Guinea, in a recent article for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's The Strategist commentary and analysis platform.

"The responsibility for developing a regional maritime policy would rest with the Pacific Islands Forum, with OPOC [Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner] playing a central co-ordinating role," stated Ms Wartovo.

"OPOC is well positioned to lead the drafting, consultation and implementation process, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Pacific community and other Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific agencies.

"The office could facilitate processes with regional priorities and member state commitments. It would ensure that Pacific Islands countries are not only stewards of their waters but also strategic leaders in global ocean governance."

The full article can be viewed at https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/pacific-maritime-policy-could-mend-fragmentation-increase-resilience/.

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