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## Pacific Regional CSO 2006 Report

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Together for a Just  
and  
Peaceful Pacific

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PIFS



PACIFIC CENTRE

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACFID	Australian Council for International Development
ACP	Africa/Caribbean/Pacific
APF	Asia Pacific Forum
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AVI	Australian Volunteers International
BMF	Biwako Millennium Framework
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CID	Council for International Development
COPE	Council of Pacific Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSFT	Civil Society Forum of Tonga
DPIO	Disabled Peoples International Oceania
DSE	Development Services Exchange
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
FPAID	FPA International Development
FRSC	Forum Regional Security Council
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific
FOC	Forum Officials Committee
GNI	Gross National Income
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NLU	National Liaison Unit
NSA	Non State Actor
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PACFAW	Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women
PANG	Pacific Network on Globalization
PCC	Pacific Conference of Churches
PCDF	Partners in Community Development Fiji
PCF	Pacific Cooperation Foundation
PCRC	Pacific Concerns Resource Centre
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organizations
PICs	Pacific Island Countries
PICTA	Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PPAC	Pacific Plan Action Committee
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission
SPOCTU	South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USP	University of the South Pacific
WTO	World Trade Organization

# Pacific Regional CSO Forum NADI COMMUNIQUÉ 2006

## Preamble

We, the representatives of 64 national and regional civil society organizations from the 19 Pacific countries and territories, who met in Nadi from 20-23 October 2006, thank the Forum Leaders for the opportunity to contribute to their discussions at the 37<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Forum Summit. This document focuses on the Pacific Plan and its first Annual Report.

The Vision of Pacific Leaders in April 2004 will not be realized until the Pacific Plan is truly the Pacific Peoples' Plan.

We acknowledge with appreciation the inclusion of the recommendation from the Port Moresby CSO Forum Communiqué in the Pacific Plan Annual Report para 33 that "*the Leaders' intention to develop the Pacific Plan as a 'springboard' for debating and negotiating the region's long term future be continued in an open and inclusive manner*". We urge that governments engage effectively with CSOs at both the national and regional levels.

We warmly welcome the appointment of an NSA Liaison Officer in the Forum Secretariat as a stepping stone to better engagement with CSOs. We urge that adequate resources be made available to the position to consult at the national and regional levels.

We commend the Forum Secretariat for creating a Disability Coordinator Officer position under the Policy Coordination and Advice Unit.

We welcome the commitment to translate the Pacific Plan and other documents into local languages.

We encourage the Pacific Island Countries to work in solidarity as a bloc at international forums at all times.

We commit ourselves to the monitoring of the implementation of the Pacific Plan and call on Pacific Regional NGOs to collaborate with their national affiliates and networks in this endeavour.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

CSOs believe that social wellbeing, cultural values and protection of the environment should be the priority areas for economic development initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Pacific people. In this context we acknowledge that natural, cultural and indigenous property rights are a basis for economic growth.

We are deeply concerned over the approach to economic growth in the Pacific Plan, particularly its inappropriate focus on trade liberalization. This is exemplified by unrealistic demands placed on the Pacific particularly through Economic Partnership

Agreements (EPAs) and negotiations on accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). We call for a people-centred approach to development.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

CSOs emphasize that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be a minimum standard for achievement in all relevant areas of the Pacific Plan.

We believe that sustainable development is holistically driven rather than economically driven. We recognize that sustainable development cannot exist without self determination for all the indigenous peoples of the Pacific. Furthermore, CSO membership is not limited to the Pacific Islands Forum members and we therefore recommend that regional initiatives should include all indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

We further recognize the critical contribution of women at all levels of development in Pacific island countries. We acknowledge that gender is a cross-cutting development issue that should be integrated into all four pillars of the Pacific Plan. Similarly, youth and disability are pressing cross-cutting issues that must be included.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

The approach to good governance in the Pacific is oriented towards externally defined processes and institutions. CSOs recognize the value of traditional governance. Good governance at regional level requires a meaningful “bottom up approach”. This would see empowered communities working together with Governments and NGOs to identify national priorities which would then be supported regionally. Community governance systems must remain an integral part of the solution to the region’s governance challenges.

The Pacific Plan must integrate Pacific and non-Pacific values of good governance. CSOs recognize that good governance must operate at all levels and not be limited to governments. We further recognize that governments must be transparent and accountable at all times.

## **SECURITY**

We strongly support the concept of human security that assures the security of people in their homes, jobs and communities through sustainable development and not through military force or arms; that promotes sustainable management of natural resources, food and health security, protects traditional knowledge and the environment and guarantees self determination.

We recognize that security is multi-dimensional and stress the importance of addressing human security when designing interventions to make the Pacific a safe and secure region.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The CSO forum recommends that improved links be made between national and regional policies with national policies driving regional initiatives.
2. The CSO Forum expresses concern that the current mechanisms of CSO engagement at the regional level remain inadequate. The inclusion of CSOs in the Pacific Plan process is critical if the Plan is to include the voices and aspirations of Pacific peoples. We call for the immediate endorsement of the regional CSO accreditation policy by our Forum leaders and its extension to national umbrella CSOs.
3. We recommend that a tripartite forum of CSOs, governments and the private sector be established in Forum countries to discuss the implementation of the Pacific Plan (PP) at national and regional levels.
4. The CSO Forum acknowledges and welcomes the inclusion of representatives of CSOs in the Secretary General's Reference Group on the Pacific Plan.
5. We call on Pacific Island Forum States (PIFS) to ensure there are opportunities for CSOs to develop more links with the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC) and the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) at both national and regional levels and to work with the Secretary General's Reference Group.
6. Two years after its first draft, awareness of the Pacific Plan amongst Pacific peoples remains inadequate. The CSO forum recommends that resources be made available to CSOs (including women, youth and disability groups) at the national level to ensure that consultation, planning, implementation and monitoring of the Pacific Plan is deeper, wider and more participatory.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

CSOs believe that social wellbeing, cultural values and protection of the environment should be the priority areas for economic development initiatives to enhance the livelihoods of Pacific people. In this context we acknowledge that natural, cultural and indigenous property rights are a basis for economic growth.

We reiterate the recommendations 1, 2 and 7 on Economic Growth from the Port Moresby Statement and urge that they be implemented (see Attachment A).

We recommend that:

1. As called for by the Apia and Port Moresby Statements, EPA Trade negotiations must be suspended until there has been adequate time and capacity for preparation and a democratic process. This requires sufficient time for a comprehensive social impact assessment, meaningful engagement with Civil Society on the recognition of non-negotiables (including land, public services and public goods) and education of the public as outlined in the communiqué from the Nadi conference on trade capacity building in June 2006 (see Attachment B). *Pacific Plan Annual Report (PPAR) 1.1, 1.2, 1.4*

2. EPA trade negotiations should not be restarted unless there is a focus on enhancing sustainable livelihoods at the local level through the full involvement of Civil Society.
3. Negotiations on the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) should not be initiated unless there has been a comprehensive impact assessment, full consultation and democratic decision making.
4. We call for all Pacific governments to work for reform of the deeply unjust processes that apply to countries acceding to the World Trade Organization, currently involving Vanuatu, Tonga and Samoa.
5. Pacific island governments should urge Australia and New Zealand to develop frameworks and criteria in partnership with CSOs for more access of less skilled Pacific peoples to meet gaps in their labour markets. Mobility of labour should be treated as a development issue and not linked to negotiations on trade concessions by Forum island countries. *PPAR 1.4*
6. The Pacific Islands Forum must recognize the contribution of the unpaid labour and traditional roles of women, youth and elders to wealth creation, which cannot be measured by the instruments of market economics and are not be registered as economic growth.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSOs believe that sustainable development is holistically driven rather than economically driven. We recognize that sustainable development cannot exist without self determination for all the indigenous peoples of the Pacific. Furthermore, CSO membership is not limited to the Pacific Islands Forum members and we therefore recommend that regional initiatives should include all indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

We reiterate the Sustainable Development recommendations of the Port Moresby Statement and call for the implementation of these recommendations. (Attachment A).

### Recommendations

1. The conservation of each country's ecology and society as well as the sustainable use and management of renewable and non-renewable resources should be a major priority of the Forum's environmental, cultural and social initiatives. *Ecology and Culture (PPAR 5.6, 11.1, 11.2):*
2. The Forum Secretariat's proposed framework for understanding pro-poor economic growth in the Pacific with the aim of helping countries to develop concrete strategies, must be developed from the grassroots and within a timeframe that allows full participation of all Pacific peoples. *Reduced Poverty (Pacific Plan Annual Report [PPAR] 4):*
3. Any measures of poverty must take into account the Small Island States Vulnerability Index developed by SOPAC.
4. In order to facilitate poverty elimination in the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia must meet the internationally agreed targets of giving 0.7% of Gross National Income to untied Official Development Assistance by 2015 (MDG 8)

5. Pacific peoples should have the opportunity to define “improved health”. Any strategies for non-communicable diseases must go beyond use of tobacco. *Health Initiatives (PP 6, PPAR 6.1):*
6. CSOs urge government to direct relevant regional organizations to take advantage of multilateral environment funding mechanisms such as the Global Environmental Facility, to help fund the implementation of the sustainable development activities of the Pacific Plan. *International Financing (PPAR 5.6):*
7. The Forum leaders must recognize that indigenous peoples’ ownership of customary resources including land, oceans, forests, minerals, traditional knowledge and genetic material, are non-negotiable.
8. The Forum leaders must recognize that the use of indigenous people’s customary resources including land, oceans, forests, minerals, traditional knowledge and genetic material must deliver a just, equitable and sustainable return to resource owners and should not be exploited by local and foreign investors.
9. While we endorse the recommendation that water, sanitation and hygiene challenges be addressed through the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, we stress that access to clean water is a right, a global public good that must not be privatized. *Water (PPAR Recommendation 2[b]):*
10. Australia must sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol immediately and New Zealand must ensure that it meets its obligations. *Climate Change (PPAR 5.5):*
11. The Pacific Plan must acknowledge that the relationship between climate change and sea level rise is a scientific reality. Measures must therefore be put in place for affected atoll peoples.
12. There is overwhelming evidence that key symptoms of gender inequality including violence against women, political representation, and sexual and reproductive health, must be addressed urgently. We also call on the Forum Secretariat to provide financial resources for country specific studies that examine the contributory factors to gender violence and to ensure that resources are provided for the implementation of the recommendations of the study. Accurate measurement tools as promised in the Annual Report are not enough to address gender issues in the region. *Gender (PPAR 8):*
13. The *Youth Visioning for Island Living* must be implemented immediately. *Youth (PPAR 9.1).*
14. A Youth Desk should be established in the Forum Secretariat to reinforce the PIFS's commitment to increase youth involvement in the Pacific Region. There should also be a youth desk managed by youths in member countries where one is not already in place, as part of the Forum’s focal point. *PPAR 9*
15. Support perma-culture training as part of vocational training systems. *PPAR7.3:*

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

The approach to good governance in the Pacific is oriented towards externally defined processes and institutions. CSOs recognize the value of traditional governance. Good governance at regional level requires a meaningful “bottom up approach”. This would see empowered communities working together with Governments and NGO to identify national priorities which would then be supported regionally. Community

governance systems must remain an integral part of the solution to the region's governance challenges.

The Pacific Plan must seriously integrate Pacific and non-Pacific values of good governance. CSOs recognize that good governance must operate at all levels and not be limited to governments. We further recognize that governments must be transparent and accountable at all times.

We reiterate the recommendations 17, 19 and 20 and on good governance from the Port Moresby Statement and express our disappointment that they have not yet been implemented.

### **Recommendations**

1. Human Rights must harmonize with cultural customary practices and traditional values. These uphold and maintain the dignity of people (including women, youth, children and all vulnerable people) and promote peace within and between communities. We recommend that these rights, practices and values are incorporated into the current development and human rights initiatives of the PIFS. We further recommend the development or strengthening of legislation for the establishment of national human rights institutions and a regional mechanism. *PPAR 12.3*
2. We urge PIFS to encourage the ratification by all member countries of human rights instruments such as CEDAW, ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous Rights and Conventions on Cultural, Social and Political Rights. *PPAR 12.3*
3. We urge the Forum to facilitate a fact finding mission to investigate human rights situation in West Papua, We call on the Indonesian government to dialogue with the West Papua leadership to work towards solving the many issues of concern in the territory. *PPAR 12.3*
4. We urge the governments of France and French Polynesia to give more consideration to democracy and dialogue with land rights groups and trade unions to solve social conflicts around the current problem of land occupation. CSOs consider that the use of the French police force against the Maohi indigenous people is a violation of the principles and the spirit of the Pacific Plan. *PPAR 12.5*
5. In light of current massive immigration from France to New Caledonia, we call on the Forum leaders to lobby the governments of France and New Caledonia to re-instate the clause of the Noumea Agreement according to which the electoral roll will stay "frozen" from 1998 until the referendum on independence. *PPAR 12.5*
6. Special measures must be introduced in domestic law and implemented in all Forum countries to prevent all forms of violence against children, including the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protect children from involvement in armed conflicts, being sold, prostitution and child pornography.
7. We urge the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat to conduct a mid-term review of the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) in Pacific island countries in 2007 to effectively and meaningfully contribute to the BMF + 5 targets and plans. We further encourage Pacific island countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related Optional Protocol. *PPAR 12.5, 12.6*

## SECURITY

We emphasize the concept of human security that assures the security of people in their homes, jobs and communities through sustainable development and not through military force or arms; that promotes sustainable management of natural resources, food and health security, protects traditional knowledge and the environment and guarantees self determination.

We reiterate and urge the implementation of Recommendations 21 – 24 on Security in the Port Moresby Statement.

We commend the inclusion of human security in the PPAR statements but note the lack of commitment on implementation of necessary activities.

### Recommendations

1. That the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC) incorporates activities on human security in its annual work-plan and report to Pacific Forum Leaders.
2. We support the recommendations of the Forum Regional Security Council (FRSC) and other regional bodies that are working to enhance regional safety and security and stress the need to match these with national efforts.
3. We recognize the role of women in peace-building and mediation at local levels and during times of national crises, and strongly support the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in June 2006, that urges the incorporation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security' into regional and national security mechanisms.
4. We call on Pacific island governments to advocate strongly with developed countries, including Australia and New Zealand, to address externally driven causes of conflict including:
  - inappropriate aid and corruption
  - exploitative foreign investments,
  - theft of traditional knowledge and the Pacific's genetic material
  - inappropriate economic conditions (such as privatization) applied by donors, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank
  - emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change
  - political interference
  - exports, transfer and transport of small arms, nuclear weapons and waste, drugs and hazardous goods.
5. We urge PIFS to develop an early warning mechanism to monitor potential conflicts in the region utilizing the role of CSOs in conflict transformation, mediation and peace building, including traditional means of conflict resolution.
6. We urge the strengthening of community-based risk reduction and disaster management approaches with an emphasis on preparedness and community resilience.

7. We call on PIFS to support the development of national legislation and national strategies to stop human trafficking, in compliance with international conventions. *PPAR13.4*
8. We urge PIFS to set up a definite time-frame for RAMSI to achieve its security and development goals.
9. We call on PIFS to lobby France, USA and the UK to accept responsibility for the effects of nuclear testing in the Pacific and to provide access to medical and military archives showing the consequences on the health of individuals affected and the environment.
10. We call on PIFS to support a UN resolution on an Arms Trade Treaty and to implement the UN Program of Action on Small Arms at national level including strict controls on armories and home made weapons.

## **SELF DETERMINATION**

We welcome the Forum's commitment to strengthen the involvement of US and French territories in Forum affairs, but believe that the rights and responsibilities of self determination must be extended to all Pacific peoples.

1. We call on Forum Leaders to include Hawaii, West Papua, Tahiti Nui, Rapanui, Wallis and Futuna, on the UN list of non-self governing territories.
2. We Ask Forum leaders to:
  - urge the UN to revisit the 1962 New York Agreement on West Papua and ask the UN Secretary General to conduct a review of the UN role in the lead up to the 1969 "Act of Free Choice" in West Papua.
  - grant West Papua official observer status in the Forum meetings in line with the recommendations of the 2004 Auckland Declaration as recommended in the Port Moresby statement, and further recommend that the Melanesian Spearhead Group accord West Papua similar status.
3. We call on the Governments of Fiji and Papua New Guinea as Pacific members of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization to:
  - ensure that CSOs are represented at the Pacific Regional Seminar of the UN Special Committee;
  - Lobby for the 2008 Seminar to be held in Kanaky-New Caledonia.

**SUMMARY OF OPENING ADDRESS**  
**[His Excellency, The Vice President Of Fiji, Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi]**

Creating just and peaceful societies is a collective responsibility that requires the cooperation of all sectors from the government, the “vanua” to the village level.

The role of CSOs complement rather than pose a threat to government seeing that they have developed largely in response to the particular needs of a group and work to empower communities to improve their lives and determine their own destinies.

CSOs exist to remind governments of their obligations to maintain a balance between the accumulation of individual wealth and power in the hands of a few vested interests, and the need to redress the inequalities of the market that sees the majority of people continue to live in poverty.

CSOs need to continue to engage stakeholders of the Pacific Plan as they mediate on the interests and concerns of grassroots constituencies who would be affected by the Plan.

Despite the easy access and connection to information technology across the region, there is a need for CSOs to continually affirm each other through face to face meetings.

Their positive impact and close ties with the most vulnerable in society defines the character of CSOs, which contribute to nation building and regionalism, where peace and justice forming an integral part.

## PART 1: SUMMARY OF PLENARY PRESENTATIONS

### PLENARY 1

#### THE PACIFIC PLAN as a framework for Pacific co-operation for Development

[HE Greg Urwin, Secretary General, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat]

The Annual Report of the Pacific Plan (ARPP) is a key component of the Leaders Meeting in 2006, which outlines the progress in implementing the Plan and recommends the way forward over next twelve months.

The Report makes recommendations in four areas of the 4 pillars of the Pacific Plan:

- (i) **Economic growth** – intensification of regional economic cooperation;
- (ii) **Sustainable development** – promotion of integrated and common approaches to management of natural resources and environment;
- (iii) **Good Governance** – enhancement of institutional governance;
- (iv) **Security**- ensure maritime and aviation safety, and border security.

A key challenge in implementing the Pacific Plan is the need to strengthen the connection between regional initiatives of the Plan and the pursuit of national priorities. This could be more effectively addressed by the establishment of desk offices in the small island states and in having a Forum representative in the Solomon Islands.

A number of initiatives towards greater collaboration with NGOs include the regularizing of the position of the Non-State Actors (NSA) Liaison Officer to provide on-going support to NSAs and the draft NGO accreditation policy for Pacific NSAs currently being considered by members.

For regionalism in the Pacific Plan to work, commitment and action at national level is critical. CSOs play a crucial role as advocates and/or critics of regionalism at national level through on-going engagement with governments and stakeholders to ensure a more consultative process over regional issues. This would ensure that the Pacific Plan is a living document that evolves according to the priorities and needs of the region.

## PLENARY 2: AUSTRALIA'S PACIFIC 2020: What's in it for Pacific peoples?

[Dr Stephen Howes, AUSAid]

The document **Pacific 2020** is a resource for the region that is premised on growth, and based on the logic: **What does the future hold for the Pacific? Why is growth important? Is growth possible? How can we realize a growth scenario for the Pacific? What will the Pacific look like in 2020?**

Growth is critical for employment and livelihood, poverty reduction and to ensure that resources are available to tackle a range of other problems in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Global trends indicated that growth and poverty reduction go together. Positive signs in Asia and global trends indicate that growth is possible in the Pacific. Three common themes identified for growth are **governance and institutions, infrastructure and regional cooperation and integration.**

Current constraints for growth in the Pacific include poor infrastructure and institutions for growth and productive sectors that is evident from examples such as the high costs of conducting business in the Pacific; the need to improve on key institutions such as the government-provided public goods of law and order and the need for market-friendly institutions through land and regulatory reforms.

The implementation of Pacific 2020 can be strengthened by prioritizing reforms based on public consultation and public monitoring. Its success depends on political ownership and consensus on its importance. CSOs are therefore expected to play a critical role to hold governments to account to ensure better growth outcomes.

### **PLENARY 3: THE PACIFIC SCORE ON THE MDGs** [Ms Carol Flore-Smerezniak, UNDP]

#### **MDG Status and trends in the Pacific**

Although there has been some progress, the Pacific is not performing well on many goals and is struggling to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Poverty and hardship are on the increase; HIV/AIDS prevalence continues to rise in line with global trends and non-communicable diseases are among the highest in the world.

There have been marked improvements in the areas of primary school enrolment; gender equality and children and infant mortality and maternal health, but regional and sub-regional disparities remained. Progress in environmental sustainability policies remains slow while global partnership indicates a high ODA level overall, but a decline for the Pacific.

Strategies for improvement include the need for regional governments to adopt national plans on the MDGs by 2006 and to allocate resources to bridge the gaps over the next ten years. Developed countries need to share the responsibility by increasing ODA and debt relief to the small island economies and use this as a condition to strengthen national capacities for the rule of law and good governance.

The multiple roles of CSOs in advocacy, monitoring and holding governments accountable to the achievement of the MDGs are crucial as are their support through service delivery, data collection and analysis for informed policy positions and for monitoring and evaluation.

## PART II: SUMMARY OF PACIFIC RESPONSES TO THE PACIFIC PLAN

### A. PLENARY 4: ECONOMIC GROWTH

#### *Will The Pacific Plan Provide The Catalyst For Economic Growth In Pacific Island States?*

[Barry Coates, Executive Director, OXFAM NZ]

There is a need to re-focus on a new Pacific Plan that is people-centred to ensure an economic growth that meet people's needs and their aspirations, based on the questions, **What kind of growth? For whom? What policies promote pro-poor growth?**

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is driven by the European Union (EU) as a reciprocal free trade deal between unequal partners and the EU is putting pressure through 'divide and rule' as it is doing in the fisheries sector.

Key issues of concern in the EPA negotiations include the lack of a comprehensive research on the likely impacts on the loss of government revenue and other key sectors.

CSOs have had very few opportunities to make any meaningful input into the Pacific Plan hence the need for capacity building for both CSOs and governments. For example, a communiqué endorsed by 60 CSO delegates from 12 countries in the region at a CSO Pacific trade conference in June 2006 in Nadi, Fiji, had called for impact assessment studies, more public consultations, transparency and information sharing on non-negotiable issues. (see Attachment B).

The Nadi Trade Conference Communiqué further called for

- a halt to EPA negotiations,
- the need for more national level advocacy,
- support for a well regulated scheme for labour mobility separate from trade negotiations and aimed at less skilled workers,
- a focus on renewable energy,
- access to affordable medicines and
- donor countries and multilateral agencies to take on greater responsibilities to support the Pacific and
- a review of the Pacific Plan to ensure that it is really a Pacific People's Plan.

### B. Workshop Outcomes

While economic growth is recognized as the key to development in the Pacific, the definitions and model of growth and development in the Pacific Plan have been challenged as inappropriate and exploitative.

The lack of people's participation in the consultation process for the Pacific Plan is a recurrent theme.

## **Role of CSOs**

CSOs have a critical role to initiate action research into alternative economic models that integrates traditional knowledge into the Pacific Plan. The economic value of unpaid labour in the production of traditional wealth must be recognized. Furthermore, there is a need to conduct social assessment impact and awareness of the EPA.

## **Recommendations**

### 1. CSOs called for:

- a moratorium to be placed on EPA, PICTA and PACER until full discussions and consultations have taken place at regional, national and community level, through such strategies as basic needs data collection, research, meetings and workshops resourced by PIFS.

### 2. CSOs further called for a more structured engagement with PIFS through:

- greater coordination with the Pacific Plan Reference group,
- the finalizing and extending of the framework for CSO accreditation and engagement to national and regional levels,
- greater engagement at official and ministerial level, and
- resource support in funding, translation of documents and in the provision of interpreters.

## PLENARY 5: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### How are we ensuring sustainable Pacific communities?

[Speaker 1: Dr Ana Taufe'ulungaki, University of the South Pacific]

Sustainable development in the Pacific Plan targets: reduced poverty, improved natural resource and environmental management, improved health, improved education and training, improved gender equality, youth involvement, increased levels of participation in sports, recognized and protected cultural values, identities, and traditional knowledge.

To ensure sustainable Pacific communities, there is a need to develop a strategy to maintain and strengthen Pacific cultural identity

- through an institution to advocate and protect traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights;
- for the harmonization of traditional and modern values and structures.

Building sustainable livelihoods the Tongan way meant surviving through making the best use of resources. The relationship between education and sustainable livelihoods is promoted through values that shape attitudes, behaviours, skills and knowledge. Core values nourish and sustain the space, circles, connections and spirituality. The centrality of the Tongan language in sustaining communities, reflects the qualities of leadership and good governance and the fundamental values and core principles for Tonga and Tongans.

Fundamental questions that must be answered on sustainable development in the Pacific Plan, are: **Whose communities? Whose values? Whose agenda? Who benefits?**

[Speaker 2- Dr Vijay Naidu, Victoria University of Wellington]

Evidence derived from the erosion of values and relationships and the disintegration of communities indicate that we are not ensuring sustainable Pacific communities.

Sustainable development must be based on the different realities in each island state thus regional integration is not a natural progression of common interests.

Local and national initiatives are vital if we are to achieve a twenty percent (20%) decrease in poverty gap ratio as targeted between 2006 and 2015. The processes and outcomes for sustainable poverty reduction is about enhancing capabilities and not about charity.

Sustainable development is about

- secure livelihoods through meaningful employment, and food security,
- enhanced capability of disadvantaged groups such as women and girls, youths and the impaired,
- having access to training and education opportunities,
- expanding the labour markets through positive investment climate,
- reinforcing and creating safety nets and social protection,

- wider participation in decision making,
- having the ability and access to saving, thrift, credit, household support networks,
- fighting HIVAIDs, malaria, TB, lifestyle diseases, avian flu, etc.

It is clear that the Pacific is not on track to achieve the MDGs. The state therefore has a redistribute role through the provision of services and infrastructure to address growing inequality that bears social consequences and costs.

Sustainable development remains a big challenge that must be tackled holistically.

## **B. Workshop Outcomes**

The key message centred on the recognition that sustainable development is economically driven, must be holistic, must be people-centred and relational.

It was acknowledged that there are critical considerations missing from the Pacific Plan due to its assumption that member states would embrace regionalism as a natural progression, without considering the different stages and levels of progress and development each member state is at. An example is the rising sea level and its likely impact on atoll inhabitants. These concerns justify the call for the integration of CSO and Pacific people's perspectives on what is missing in the Pacific Plan.

Another assumption in the Plan is its conception of time, which sees the Pacific Plan being "rushed" where sustainable development is concerned, compared to real time value in the Pacific, where the more appropriate method of communication is through "beating and dancing with the lali" at their own pace and time.

Participants from Pacific territories contend that Sustainable Development is about justice, through political independence and self determination in the management and sustainability of their sources of livelihoods.

## **Workshop Recommendations**

### **1. Time frame and integration of people's perspectives:**

Pacific people should have the opportunity to:

- share their views within a reasonable time frame,
- define what "improved health" means to them such as where specific diseases such as non-communicable diseases are concerned,
- have a more structured dialogue at national level,
- have a Vulnerability index as part of the assessment,
- have capacity building to enable better access to resources (GEF)

### **2. Environmental sustainability**

- Participants call on Australia to sign the Kyoto Protocol
- Strong emphasis on each country's ecology, culture, natural and renewable resources,

- Support the recommendation on Pacific Plan's annual report (Pg 8) that water is a human right that must not be privatized,
- Ownership of certain resources are non-negotiable including land, ocean, and forests even if this is seen as anti-development,

### 3. Poverty reduction

- That New Zealand and Australia make more realistic efforts to reach the internationally agreed target of giving 0.7% of GNI to untied ODA by 2015 according to MDGs,

### 4. Youth perspective and involvement

- CSOs to ensure that young people are involved and engaged,
- The PIFS to support what young people in the Pacific have committed to: 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' and SIDS
- Establish youth desk/focal point at PIFS

### 5. Role of PIFs

CSOs acknowledge the need for PIFs to:

- provide financial assistance for awareness raising and education by CSOs, through a bottom-up approach at the village level,
- include educational curriculum to include Sustainable Development at all levels,
- initiate monthly acquittal progress report as part of institution engagement of CSOs in the Pacific Plan,
- establish a Perma-culture Trainers Institute as an immediate action;
- develop a tri-partite process using the ILO model

CSOs strongly support Pacific Island countries working together to realize the Pacific Plan.

## PLENARY 6: GOOD GOVERNANCE

### A. Weaving Good Governance into traditional Pacific societies in transition

[Speaker 1- Dr Okusitino Mahina, University of Auckland]

The concept and practice of governance examined through theory that is developed in terms of the bigger and smaller pictures:

- The bigger picture sees **governance** as means of inter-connected and intersected Western and Pacific cultural and historical contexts ranging from imperialism, colonialism, traditionalism, modernity to modernization and globalization.
- The smaller picture focuses on governance in the context of a newly developed Pacific general '**ta-va, time-space**' theory of nature and mind and society where both irreconcilable Pacific and western senses of time and space are formally integrated in social process.
- Good governance is seen as a post cold war phenomenon, a democratic political instrument facilitating the transition from modernization to globalization, i.e. mediation of cultural and historical tensions between the Pacific and West.

A harmonization project requires that a sense of balance be restored by bringing interconnected and intersected western and Pacific cultural and historical realities into a unified Pacific social context, applicable for example in the issue of leadership.

- In traditional Pacific and Tongan society, leadership is **freely achieved** through on going obligations or keeping of spaces, and maintained by equal, generalized and specialized relations of exchange between individuals, groups and institutions. A symmetrical multiple flow of material and human resources and services within and across the whole social spectrum occurs that was fair, just and equitable.
- Leadership in modern times in the Pacific and Tonga is **forcibly achieved** on all social levels by means of on-going political coercion or dictation and maintained by unequal multiple flows of material and human resources and services. An asymmetrical exchange between individuals, groups and institutions occurs that sees power and wealth concentrate in the hands of a privileged few, while the poor are fated to a constant life of unnecessary poverty and misery.
- For example, the logic "**people and their king and king unto himself**" throws Tonga into a state of social equilibrium and a condition of bad spaces - '**vakovi**' or **social instability**, a recipe for disaster that is characterized by political instability, economic chaos and social disharmony.

[Speaker 2 – Dr Steven Ratuva, University of the South Pacific]

The metaphor of '**weaving**' of diverse patterns is used to highlight the relationship between good governance and traditional culture. The Pacific Plan is an example of how culture is incorporated into governance, and how governance is incorporated into traditional societies.

There is a need to re-conceptualize “good” governance which appears too moralistic and universal and can be replaced by “appropriate” governance. A number of good governance norms and cultural perception between Pacific customary and western concepts are compared, for example,

- **transparency** in traditional societies signify collective knowledge, while in the west it connotes public accountability,
- **nepotism** is seen as a social investment in traditional societies but a misuse of resources in western connotation,
- **accountability** denotes customary authority in traditional society, whereas in the west it is about institutional or public authority.

Just as there are diverse patterns in the weaving metaphor, so too must good governance represent collective will.

A way forward requires continuing dialogue between traditional and modern norms and practices, by creating a synthesis between the two to suit the prevailing circumstances rather than being imposed from outside or applied within a rigid template.

## **B. Workshop Outcomes**

It was acknowledged that key elements and underlying principles of good governance as highlighted in the Pacific Plan, have existed in various forms in traditional Pacific societies. Thus it must not be assumed that good governance is a new concept that needed to be “weaved” into traditional Pacific societies in transition.

A key concern raised is that what is strategically missing from the Pacific Plan is the “how” of the Plan. How can CSOs effectively engage in negotiations or how can they facilitate more consultative discussions in traditionally oral societies. Another concern is whether the kind of governance promoted by the Pacific Plan has been through any investigation or stocktaking.

The challenge of governance in Pacific societies in transition comes from the ability to balance, merge, bridge and/or complement tradition values with western ones. Specific examples include the harmonization of individual rights according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and national constitutions, with the prioritizing of group rights in traditional societies. It is about identifying “best” practices in traditional systems and seeing how these can be adapted into modern governance. It means being able to critique and question new ideas and systems rather than accepting them without question.

Weaving good governance into traditional processes such as “bulubulu,” a traditional ceremony of seeking forgiveness in Fijian society, means finding ways of bridging western justice with traditional justice. In the Solomon Islands, the mediation role of traditional chiefs in conflict resolution can be utilized and complemented by the foreign-imposed RAMSI, to help restore law and order.

Governance is about harmonizing relationships. It is not a stand alone issue but about being inter-connected. There is a need for continuing dialogue and consultation to harness greater understanding of good governance at all levels, as greater access to information is critical for informed decision-making.

## **Recommendations for Actions**

### **(a) Role of CSOs**

#### **(i) National level advocacy role**

- Provide information and build alliances and relationships to empower communities to make more informed decisions and are able to reconcile modern and traditional systems of government,
- Promote and monitor good governance in villages and communities,
- Provide relevant information to governments based on reality on the ground for example, on environmental concerns such as mining, logging, tailing, socio-economic issues;
- Strengthen capacity of CSO leaders or managers (refer to UNITEC model)
- Engage with governments through annual national NGO forum, budget sessions;
- Lobby governments to set up Human Rights Commission in their own countries and regionally
- Demand for better governance from leaders

#### **(ii) Regional level on the Pacific Plan:**

- To have a seat and voice at the negotiating table through the Working groups;
- Facilitate real CSO-PIFS dialogue between communities and governments for better, deeper, wider and more participatory consultation on Pacific Plan that links national priorities to regional focus, links governments to their communities
- Provide a people-centred, human and gendered face to development and governance issues in the Pacific Plan;
- Monitor CSOs in the region on who is doing what, what works or does not work, etc.
- Ensure an inclusive participatory process for marginalized sectors such as women, youth, disabled, etc.

#### **(iii) Practice what you preach: CSOs to Walk the Talk of Good Governance**

- Practice good governance internally
- Work in solidarity within CSOs for more efficient mobilization of resources, energy and expertise;
- Have a clear understanding of governance, accountability and leadership at all levels.

**(b) The PIF Secretariat to**

- recognize the values of existing traditional governance systems and ensure that the Pacific Plan is flexible enough to complement “modern” system;
- institutionalize a legal framework for CSO engagement with PIFS at all levels;
- engage CSOs through consultations and dialogue in relation to Human Rights conventions with new, innovative methods for bottom-up process.
- recognize the CSO Forum as a formal mechanism for constructive consultation between those representing the voice of communities, where they can meaningfully access and engage with the PIFS without the exclusive “Forum eyes only.”

## PLENARY 7: SECURITY

### Challenges and Opportunities for the Pacific

[Speaker 1: Paul O'Callaghan, Executive Director, Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)]

Human security is a critical security issue in the Pacific Plan which includes, among others, security from HIV/AIDS epidemic and major illnesses; the adverse impact of climate change; negative external economic changes and ensuring livelihoods to take care of families.

CSOs need to take up the challenge to ensure that Pacific island voices shape their development paths by:

- deepening donors understanding of what is involved in good governance and sustainable economic growth;
- strengthening basic service delivery in health and education and ensuring that donor support is done in a culturally appropriate way;
- focusing on local capacity building that prioritizes local views for long-term and sustainable skills upgrading;
- advocating for the creation of opportunities such as the opening up of overseas markets through a trial labour mobility program to create employment opportunities for short-term work in Australia, New Zealand, etc.
- building partnership with divergent CSOs to increase donor share of support to NGOs.

Opportunities are available through Australian NGOs playing a supportive role for Pacific partners to achieve good governance in the region, strengthen relationships and for advocacy and capacity building for the Pacific NGO sector.

**[Speaker 2: Paul Tovua, Chairman, National Peace Council, Solomon Islands]**

The metaphor of navigation highlights one of the greatest challenges facing governance in the Solomon Islands, which is the need for strong, principled, and visionary leadership such as displayed by great navigators of the past.

Given the great socio-cultural, economic and physical diversity, with at least 60 languages spread across over 900 islands, a “one-size fits all” solution to peace and security remains a challenge.

Although the Solomon Islands is now in a post-conflict state, it somehow remains in a pre-conflict stage because many of the issues that had been the root causes of conflict in 2000 were still not being addressed by or through RAMSI, posing a threat to future peace and security.

There is a need for stronger Parliamentary/democracy oversight to improve governance relations and weed out corruption such as that associated with the recent riots in the Solomon Islands.

The role of traditional leaders remain critical in times of crisis thus the need to strengthen and enhance skills and capacity of traditional leaders to better handle pressures that lead to conflicts and leadership challenges.

Key security issues for the Solomon Islands as a post-conflict society include the need to:

- strengthen the role and capacity of traditional leaders to mediate conflicts;
- resolve long-standing land ownership issues;
- for strong leadership and good governance at all levels from the village up;
- maintain and strengthen partnership with RAMSI based on the principle of equal partnership with the people of the Solomon Islands, with a definite time frame to hand back to the local people.

## **B. Workshop Outcomes**

Discussions and concerns were raised on the lack of progress on economic, environmental and human security threats to peace in the region since the Port Moresby PIF and CSO Forum meeting in 2005.

Existing gaps in the Pacific Plan Annual Report 2006 were identified as the lack of reference to activities to address the underlying causes of conflict in the region and the lack of reference to human security issues which are at the root of conflicts and sources of threats to peace and security in the region.

The workshop made a number of recommendations on key human security indicators that needed to be addressed which include:

- Increase in economic opportunities through access to and control over resources, that addresses the failure of Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPS) to address economic security and poverty,
- Environmental protection and management by addressing threats to environmental security as a result of unsustainable, destructive and illegal logging and mining practices, rising sea-level and natural disasters,
- Food security that assures safe water, protection and promotion of native food species and self-sufficiency,
- Health security from life style diseases and changes in diet and the threat of HIV/AIDS,
- Addressing the potential assault on political security from threats of armed violence and conflicts,
- The guarantee of personal and community security by addressing domestic violence and increasing violent crime rates,
- Human trafficking and inter-migration as a social security issue;
- Theft of intellectual property rights, knowledge and resources of indigenous peoples and its impact on their human rights;
- The need for integrated effort towards rapid response during natural disasters.

## Recommendations

### (i) Role of CSOs on human security issues

- The critical role of Pacific CSOs ensures that a strong and independent voice is taken seriously to influence and impact on government policies at national and regional levels.
- National CSOs must play a watchdog role and to advocate for relevant policy and legislative changes.
- Compile research on work currently available on human security concerns that underlie the causes of conflict and to make recommendations from these studies for implementation at national and regional levels. Such resources must be made available to countries in conflict particularly Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.
- To urge the PIF to set a definite timeframe for the withdrawal of RAMSI from the Solomon Islands.

### (ii) Peace and conflict management

- Act as mediators of peace between governments, state and non-state actors,
- Active lobby for the incorporation of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into regional security policy,
- The need for an early warning mechanism to be developed so that CSOs can play a pivotal role in conflict prevention and peace-building by utilizing best practices from traditional means of conflict management

### (iii) Corporate responsibility

- On corporate responsibility, to name offenders such as Trans-national corporations, countries and agencies.

### (iv) Judicial integrity

- Role of CSOs to ensure that the integrity and independence of the Judiciary is upheld as in the Solomon Islands, PNG and Fiji.

### (v) Self determination

- For the PIF to continue to lobby governments of New Caledonia and France to reinstate the original clause of the 1998 Noumea Accord to which the electorate for the referendum on independence will remain “frozen.”

### (vi) Arms control

- For PIF to lobby France, U.S.A. and the United Kingdom to be transparent about the effects of nuclear testing in the Pacific, and accept responsibility for the consequences on the health of individuals affected by such tests, and the environment.
- To lobby all fourteen PIF countries who are members of the UN to endorse the resolution for the first formal steps towards an Arms Trade Treaty to control the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms trade in the region, and address the illegal use of small arms in the region.

## Port Moresby Statement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Civil Society Forum Meeting 21-24 October, 2005

### THE PACIFIC PLAN

#### PREAMBLE

WE, the representatives of national and regional civil society organizations from the Pacific, who met in Port Moresby from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, thank the Forum Leaders for the opportunity to contribute to their discussions at the 36<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Summit.

WE appreciate the hard work that has gone into the preparation of the Final Draft document. We have some suggested changes and additions.

#### INTRODUCTION

SLOW DOWN ALL FURTHER WORK ON THE PACIFIC PLAN UNTIL THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS ARE PUT IN PLACE:

- More consultation with stakeholders at all levels;
- CSO representatives are included in all stages of the process, including the Pacific Plan Action Committee, and any review procedures.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

1. Economic growth initiatives in the Pacific Plan are not closely linked to social and environmental aims and should be subject to evidence-based objectives for:

- poverty reduction;
- environmental sustainability;
- maintenance of cultural diversity.

2. Fair distribution of resources: Civil society should be involved in the preparation of each government's Annual Budget and will set up a monitoring process to follow delivery of services with strict guidelines and policies.

#### Trade (Strategic Objective 1)

3. We reiterate the appeal in the Apia Statement for a freeze on further commitments through free trade negotiations, further accession to the WTO, and the development of EPA-WTO compatible arrangements by Pacific ACP countries, until there has been transparent assessment of the actual and potential impacts of PICTA and PACER on PICs and local communities, full consultation and public understanding.

4. We reject the inclusion of PACER since it has not been triggered, and we reject its extension to include services.

5. (Strategic Objective14) Remove any reference in the Pacific Plan to a comprehensive framework for trade (including services) and economic co-operation.

6. (Strategic Objective1.2) The issue of labour mobility needs more analysis of its benefits and negative effects on PICs. There must be agreements between PICs, Australia and New Zealand governments and union movements in order to protect workers rights; Australia and New Zealand should offer labour mobility without requiring PICs to negotiate a services agreement.

7. (Strategic Objective 2.2) A gender inclusive and community-based approach must be brought to the digital strategy to ensure appropriate and accessible use of ICTs.

8. Australia and New Zealand must both meet international obligations to set tight timetables to allocate 0.7 percent of GNI (Gross National Income) to overseas aid, targeted mainly to the Pacific.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

9. (Strategic Objective 4) All Pacific Plan initiatives should be linked to the MDGs and national, regional and international poverty-related commitments.

### **Environment**

10. (Strategic Objective 5)

- Add 5.6: “All sustainable development strategies must be developed and implemented with CSO participation”;
- Economic considerations and development must be based on sound environmental policies that can be monitored and enforced effectively with adequate funding;
- We urge Australia and New Zealand to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and Australia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

11. (Strategic Objective 6) The Pacific Regional Strategic Implementation Plan on **HIV/AIDS** must:

- Stress the need for greater national political will to address all issues including cultural practices, that lead to HIV/AIDS;
- Revive the cultural approach to the care of people living with HIV/AIDS to deal with the stigma;
- Provide NGOs and CBOs with appropriate resources for HIV/AIDS-related activities;
- Address specific needs of West Papua;
- Support national campaigns of HIV/AIDS awareness in culturally appropriate mediums and a variety of forms, e.g. drama, video, etc;
- Ensure that national HIV/AIDS coordinating mechanisms conduct themselves in an inclusive and transparent manner.

### **Education**

12. (Strategic Objective 7)

- (Strategic Objective 7.3) These studies and scholarships should be allocated by Pacific Island selection panels including CS representation;

- The Forum is urged to negotiate with the French government to recognize all qualifications gained from the Pacific education institutions;
- A mechanism for the standardization of quality teacher training across all PICs should be put in place in the Pacific Plan

## **Gender Equality**

### **13. (Strategic Objective 8)**

- There should be gender mainstreaming across all sectors of the Plan, in line with the MDGs and all relevant international and regional gender equality conventions and commitments;
- Pacific governments must be assisted to fulfill these commitments, including Women's National Plans of Action; in particular increasing the numbers of women in decision-making up to the Parliamentary level.

## **Youth**

### **14. (Strategic Objective 9)**

- The Plan should include National and regional quality job creation strategies for young people, including opportunities in rural areas;
- Countries must develop and enforce legislation to prevent sexual exploitation of children and youth.

## **Culture**

### **15. (Strategic Objective 11)**

- The capacity of Pacific universities should be increased to incorporate courses on cultural and traditional knowledge, including languages. Scholarships should be made available for these courses;
- National legislation must be developed to protect indigenous knowledge, genetic materials, indigenous intellectual and customary property rights and languages. Funding must be made available for research in these areas.

## **16. Disability**

- Activities of the Biwako Millennium Framework towards an inclusive barrier-free, rights based society for people with disabilities must be implemented and the drafting process of the United Nations Disability Convention should be supported (from Apia statement).
- Traditional, social and cultural safety nets must be developed as part of the Pacific Islands Forum planning process;

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

17. All Forum member countries must set up a mechanism to monitor all human rights instruments including labour rights and to promote the ratification of those that have not been considered, working in liaison with civil society organisations and governments and ensuring that funding is available.

18. Special measures must be introduced to prevent all forms of violence against children including ratification of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child.

19. Australia and New Zealand must also be held accountable for any lapses in good governance.

20. All good governance initiatives should recognise the vital role of an independent media and active role of civil society in promoting good governance and holding governments to account.

## **SECURITY**

21. In recognition of the economic, human security and environmental threats to peace in the region, we urge that the Plan takes all of these factors into account in a regional security plan;

22. (Strategic Objective 13.2) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security, must be incorporated into regional security policy;

23. We urge the Forum to set a definite time frame for the withdrawal of RAMSI;

24. We urge all Forum members to support the negotiation of a UN Arms Trade Treaty, particularly to control the trade in small arms. (refer Apia Statement)

## **Self-Determination**

This Plan is incomplete without addressing issues of self-determination.

25. The Forum is asked to:

- Urge that the UN revisit the 1962 New York agreement on West Papua and the 1969 UN-endorsed “Act of Free Choice”;
- Grant West Papua official observer status in the Melanesian Spearhead Group meetings and Forum meetings in line with the recommendations of the 2004 Auckland Declaration;
- Lobby to have West Papua as well as Rapa Nui, Tahiti Nui and Hawaii, re-inscribed on the UN Decolonisation list (refer Apia Statement).

26. We call on Australia to negotiate a fair maritime agreement with Timor-Leste based on a median line (refer Apia Statement).

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

27. Civil society organisations must be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Pacific Plan at the regional and national level. Funding must be made available for these processes;

28. We call on all Forum governments to submit the Pacific Plan, when agreed, for Parliamentary ratification, allowing adequate time for consultation and debate.

24<sup>th</sup> October 2005

**Nadi Statement on Pacific Regional Civil Society Meeting  
on Trade Negotiations  
13-16 June, 2006**

**PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

**Nadi, Fiji, 13-16 June 2006**

*Pacific island governments, as members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group (ACP) are meeting this week to prepare negotiating positions for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU). The negotiations are currently scheduled to be completed by December 2007, and aim to redefine the relationship between the EU and Pacific island states. The EPA is expected to replace current arrangements covered under the non-reciprocal Cotonou Partnership Agreement from the beginning of 2007.*

As civil society groups meeting in Nadi, Fiji, we believe that trade agreements must have just and equitable development at their heart. Genuine sustainable development – including economic, social, cultural, gender and environmental dimensions – must be the central pillar of these agreements.

We are concerned that the proposed EPA in its current form will not fulfil these development objectives.

To address this, there must be a stronger partnership between government and civil society in the Pacific, to ensure that all aspects of the EPA and possible alternatives are explored, to achieve the best outcomes for the peoples of the Pacific, both at national and regional levels.

We were honoured that our conference heard addresses from Senator Kaliopate Tavola (Fiji's Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade and Chair of the Regional Negotiating Team); Hon. Misa Telefoni (Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa); Mr. Greg Urwin, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; and Roy Mickey Joy (Vanuatu's Director of External Trade).

We also had valuable discussions with officials from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and trade negotiators from Pacific ACP governments, who shared their perspectives on the current preparations for an EPA.

However, following our discussion and our meetings with key government leaders, trade negotiators and officials, we believe there are many areas of concern that need to be addressed prior to any formal negotiating position being adopted:

**1) IMPACT STUDIES:**

There must be independent and extensive studies on the impacts – social, cultural, gender, economic, developmental and environmental – of the EPA, PACER and other regional trade agreements. There must be a deeper analysis of potential costs as well as benefits, to allow public discussion and decision on any trade-offs needed to reach an agreement.

From our dialogue with Forum Secretariat officials and Pacific government trade negotiators, we welcome their pledge that comprehensive impact studies will be carried out before commitments are finalized in the EPA negotiations.

**2) PUBLIC CONSULTATION:**

We seek a formal process of consultation with government as work on developing negotiating positions proceeds, including the EPA Formal Review in 2006.

**3) TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION SHARING:**

Meaningful consultation requires greater transparency and information sharing on the EPA between governments and community organizations, regarding the process, substance and implications of the negotiations.

**4) NON-NEGOTIABLE ISSUES:**

There are areas which should not be liberalized as part of trade deals, including our land, ownership and use of customary land, cultural heritage, key public services, food security and farmers' livelihoods.

**5) REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY:**

There is a need for Pacific countries to unite with common purpose, to avoid the danger that developed – country trading partners will attempt to divide island governments, and make demands in areas outside our common interests as island peoples.

These concerns have all been raised on a number of occasions in the past. As we move towards the deadline for the finalization of the EPA, these issues are critical and need an urgent response.

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## **IMPACT STUDIES**

Regional trade agreements are not simply about economic benefits. They must address all aspects of human development, security and sustainability.

The process, terms of reference and outcomes of past impact assessments and current proposals for the PACER study fail to provide adequate guidance to governments and protect the interests of Pacific peoples.

For this reason, our conference drafted recommendations for the Terms of Reference for these studies, for the consideration of the Forum Secretariat and member governments.

It is essential that genuine impact assessments reflect the fundamental rights of Pacific peoples to poverty eradication, human development, vulnerability, environment, security and sustainability. People and governments must also have the capacity to participate effectively in such assessments.

We believe that these studies must be undertaken by qualified and independent people from the Pacific, through consultation at national and regional level. These studies must address the particular needs of rural communities, people with disabilities and the most marginalized sectors of our societies.

As civil society representatives, we commit ourselves to actively participate in this process, to help bring the voices of Pacific communities to the highest levels of government deliberations.

## **ANALYSING COSTS AS WELL AS BENEFITS**

Governments have a moral and political obligation to safeguard the interests and well-being of the community. They should develop frameworks and legislation to ensure the monitoring and regulation of trade and corporate investment, for the benefit of our peoples.

Particular provisions in the EPA negotiations which could cause dangers to Pacific societies include the local impacts of foreign fishing operations, unregulated tourism, lack of control and regulation of foreign companies, lack of government capacity to regulate in the public interest, threats to essential public services such as water and energy, and pressures for alienation and foreign control of our land, especially customary land.

Strong regulatory frameworks should be in place before any liberalization of investment and services. We are concerned that without such frameworks, there is potential for foreign investment in areas such as logging, mining and fisheries to create tensions and disputes within the community, which can lead to conflict and violence.

Governments must avoid Investment Protection Agreements which give corporations undue rights and limit government policy options.

An EPA may provide important benefits such as greater access to the European labour market for skilled workers from the Pacific. But we are concerned that greater labour mobility under EPA and PACER will be used to demand unacceptable trade-offs from Pacific island countries, including the reciprocal demand for unrestricted entry for overseas professionals and executives which will affect employment in our region.

We are also concerned that the EU has refused to respond to Pacific calls for:

- a regional agreement on fisheries, having already developed bilateral fisheries agreements with three island nations;
- reform of investment facilities;
- reform of rules of origin, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) and other unfair trade barriers;
- additional funding for the costs of adjustment and capacity building for Pacific ACP countries to benefit from new market access.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

We welcome the proposals from our leaders and officials to forge a stronger partnership between government and community organizations, to promote the welfare and development of our Pacific peoples. The proposal for the establishment of Trade Advisory Committees at national level and other consultative structures at regional level provide important mechanisms to engage in formal and ongoing discussion on the content of any partnership agreements.

We urge Pacific Island Governments to utilize the resources of civil society organizations, to raise awareness about regional trade negotiations and the ways they will affect the peoples of the region.

## **TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION SHARING**

The lack of meaningful consultation and transparency on the EPA is a concern for civil society. It seems that it is only government trade officials and their counterparts in the Forum Secretariat who have a detailed knowledge of the EPA and what it offers. The region's civil society organizations are fearful that the EPA trade negotiations are being carried out purely on the basis of theoretical economic analysis.

We call for a campaign of education and mobilization to inform the public about important issues that are being decided in the coming weeks and months. This should involve a range of government departments (other than trade ministries), churches, trade unions, NGOs, private sector organizations, environment groups, landowners associations, councils of chiefs etc, as well as local communities.

We commit to undertake public education campaigns and call on government and Forum officials to provide more information and engage in open and meaningful dialogue.

## **NON-NEGOTIABLE DEMANDS**

There are areas which should not be liberalized as part of trade deals, including our land, ownership and use of customary land, cultural heritage, key public services, food security and farmers' livelihoods.

The EPA negotiations and trading agreements between EU and ACP countries raise issues that have been rejected by developing countries in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), such as competition policy and government procurement.

We believe these issues should not be part of the current negotiations.

## **REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

Pacific governments need to maintain solidarity when they negotiate for the EPA. This unity needs to extend to other developing countries who are struggling to obtain just trade rules internationally through the WTO.

We are especially concerned about OECD countries, including regional partners like Australia and New Zealand, who are demanding unfair, excessive concessions as Pacific countries like Tonga accede to WTO membership.

We call for regional solidarity, information sharing and support to ensure that small island states are not played off against each other. The EPA negotiations should not be used to undercut developing country policies being protected in other multilateral forums.

Civil society groups have expertise and influential networks that our governments can use to carry Pacific island concerns to the international stage.

We will work with our colleagues in Australia and New Zealand to resist pressure on our governments to begin negotiations under PACER through linkage to the EPA.

We call on EU member states to be accountable for the negotiations being undertaken in their name. We will lobby our counterparts in Europe for support against the intransigence of EU negotiators on key areas of concern. We call on our partners in

Europe and in African and Caribbean countries to carry our voices into other forums in the weeks and months to come.

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The consultation in Nadi Fiji brought together over 60 representatives of churches, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, national business and farmer groups, women's and environment organizations, people's movements and academics from 12 Pacific countries. Participants included key regional bodies such as the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), the World Council of Churches – Office of the Pacific, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW), the South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU), Council of Pacific Education (COPE), Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Disabled Peoples' International, Greenpeace Australia Pacific, and the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG). Participants thanked Oxfam for their support in hosting the conference.



## Attachment C

### Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006, Nadi, Fiji: Programme October 20-23, 2006

Theme: Together for a Just and Peaceful Pacific

TIME	FRIDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	SATURDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	SUNDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	MONDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
8.30 am  <i>(Morning tea follows)</i>	<b>Opening Plenary</b> <b>Registration</b> Welcome Explanation of objectives, processes and outcomes Drafting Team Announcement Housekeeping <b>Formal Opening Programme</b> <b>9.30 am Formal Opening:</b> <i>Vice President of Fiji, H.E. Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi</i> <b>Welcome and Introduction of Chief Guest:</b> Adimaimalaga Tafunai, PIANGO Chairperson	<b>Plenary 8 : 8.30am</b> Recap of Day 1 & Process for Breakout Groups discussed <b>Chair:</b> Setareki Macanawai (Fiji Council for the Disabled, Fiji)  <b>9.00-11.00am Four Breakout Groups</b> <b>Groups 1&amp;2:</b> Economic Growth <b>Groups 3&amp;4:</b> Good governance	<b>10am -3pm</b> <b>Pacific NGO and Media Workshop</b> (hosted by FSPI)	<b>10-11am: Plenary 12</b> <b>Draft Communiqué presented to CSO Forum</b> <b>Chair:</b> Drew Havea
10.15-11.15am	<b>Plenary 1: The Pacific Plan as framework for Pacific cooperation for Development</b> <b>Speaker:</b> HE Greg Urwin (Sec Gen PIFS) <b>Chair:</b> Drew Havea (Chair, TNYC/CSFT, Tonga)	<b>11.00am-12.00noon</b> <b>Plenary 9: Groups Reporting</b>		<b>4.00pm: Plenary 13</b> <b>Final draft communiqué presented to CSO Forum</b> <b>Chair:</b> Drew Havea  <b>5.00pm: Plenary 14</b> <b>Final communiqué presented to CSO Forum</b> <b>Chair:</b> Drew Havea  <b>6.00pm Formal Closing</b> <b>PIFS SG arrives and formal ceremony to receive Communiqué</b> <b>Chair:</b> Drew Havea
11.15am-12.15pm	<b>Plenary 2: Australia's Pacific 2020: What's in it for Pacific peoples</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Dr Stephen Howes (AusAID) <b>Discussants:</b> Roina Vavatau (SUNGO, Samoa) & Drew Havea (CSFT, Tonga) <b>Chair:</b> Margaret Sete (MNCL, Papua New Guinea)	<b>12.00noon-1.00pm Lunch</b>		
12.15-1.15pm	<b>Plenary 3: The Pacific score on the MDG</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Carol Flore-Smerezniak (PSRC, UNDP) <b>Chair:</b> Vijay Krishnarayan (Commonwealth Foundation) <b>Discussants:</b> LTevi (FCOSS, Fiji) & SNewcombe (DSE, Solomon Is) & RTimeon (KANGO, Kirib)	<b>1.00-3.00pm</b> <b>Four Breakout Groups</b> <b>Groups 1&amp;2:</b> Sustainable Dev. <b>Group 3&amp;4:</b> Security		
2.00-3.00pm	<b>Plenary 4: Economic Growth: Will the Pacific Plan provide the catalyst for economic growth in Pacific island states?</b> <b>Speaker:</b> Barry Coates (Executive Director, OXFAM NZ) <b>Discussants:</b> Susana Tuisawau (PACFAW) <b>Chair:</b> Ahohiva Levi (NIUANGO, Niue)	<b>3.00-4.00pm: Plenary 10</b> <b>Groups Reporting</b>	<b>3.30-5.30pm</b> <b>Communiqué Working Group meeting</b>	
3.15-4.15pm	<b>Plenary 5: Sustainable Development: How are we ensuring sustainable Pac.communities?</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Dr Ana Taufe'ulungaki (USP) & Dr Vijay Naidu (Victoria University Wellington) <b>Discussants:</b> Annie Homasi (TANGO, Tuvalu), Joanna Spratt (FPAID) <b>Chair:</b> Rae Julian (ANGO/CID, NZ)	<b>5pm Communiqué Working Group/ Drafting Team to commence aggregation of statements</b>	<b>5.30pm: Plenary 11</b>	

4.15-5.15pm	<b>Plenary 6: Good Governance: Weaving good governance into traditional Pacific societies in transition</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Dr Okusitino Mahina (Auckland University) & Dr Steven Ratuva (USP) <b>Discussant:</b> Gabriel Tetiarahi (Hiti Tau, Tahiti) <b>Chair:</b> Lionel Gibson (FSPI)		<b>Presentation of Draft Communiqué for discussion by CSO Forum</b> Chair: Drew Havea	<b>6.30pm Closing of the 2006 Pacific CSO Forum</b> followed by the farewell dinner (see below)
5.15-6.15pm	<b>Plenary 7: Security: Challenges and opportunities for our Pacific security</b> <b>Speakers:</b> Paul O'Callaghan (Executive Director, ACFID) & Paul Tovua (Peace & Reconciliation Council, Solomon Islands) <b>Discussants:</b> Nilesch Goundar (Greenpeace) & Ema Tagicakibau (PCRC) <b>Chair:</b> Vince McBride (NZ PF)			
6.30pm	Cocktails Palagi style. Venue: Mocambo Hotel	<b>7pm Tour of Diwali Lights</b>		<b>Farewell Dinner</b>

## Attachment D

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Opening Address by His Excellency the Vice President of Fiji,  
Ratu Joni Madraiwiwi  
CSO Forum Meeting 2006

## A CIVIL INFLUENCE

(Opening remarks to Pacific Regional CSO Forum 2006, Mocambo Hotel, Friday 20 October, 2006, 9.30am)

Creating just and peaceful societies in the Pacific is our collective responsibility. It requires the co-operation of the Government, the private sector, the churches, the *vanua* and civil society. Because our societies comprise interconnecting interests, we all have a role to play in achieving that outcome. Justice and peace are co-extensive terms. They are meaningless without each other. Peace without justice is empty rhetoric because it merely camouflages the tensions inherent where there is inequality. Justice without peace is equally hollow. It is not an end in itself, but strengthens the cohesiveness of our societies in reinforcing notions of fairness.

The emphasis in this gathering is necessarily the place of civil society in this great challenge. The task is made difficult by the attitudes of Governments throughout the region. They are often suspicious of community organisations, querying everything from their motives, their mandates, their funding as well as their legitimacy. It is unfortunate as well as unhelpful. Unfortunate because it diverts energies from the real priorities. Unhelpful, because many of these groups represent particular interests advocating for improvement in the lives of the people or causes they are working for. Such betterment is beneficial to the community as a whole.

Part of the problem is one of perception. Many of us tend to see Parliament as the sole repository of the will of the electorate. Politicians themselves confine that mandate to themselves, and bureaucrats take their cue from that vantage point. Civil society develops largely in response to the particular needs of a group or issues of great moment. They are in their own way representative of the community. They complement rather than supplant Parliament and the Government. We need to recognise that the machinery of the State is far too structured and limited to cater for particular and varied interests in our societies. They should not be considered a threat, but a boon to the process of development for reasons already explained.

Throughout the Pacific, we continue to be largely agrarian societies, although urbanization is changing this in a profound way. One of the serious obstacles to development is the lack of empowerment many rural people feel. It is largely dependent on the quality of leadership they have, and this is often uneven. Where leaders are bereft of ideas and defensive about input from elsewhere, the problem is compounded. The advent of community-based groups seeking to work with people in partnership provides mutual benefits to those concerned. Where development

takes place in this manner, it helps to relieve the pressure to emigrate to the urban areas. In the larger countries such as Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, Fiji and Vanuatu we have yet to take full advantage of the agricultural resources available to us. This is a field where a few community-based initiatives are making a meaningful contribution.

As regards the role civil society plays in contributing to just and peaceful communities, that I believe is necessarily implied. Whether your organisations are rights specific or development-oriented is immaterial. The important common features you share are the improvement of the lives of the people or the causes you serve. Emerging from this base is the empowerment of those for whom you are involved. In those ways, those who have neither the means nor the confidence to assert themselves are able to be heard. Moreover, they are able to make their presence felt and thus facilitate the initiation of remedial measures. As relatively small societies, our Governments must balance the accumulation of great individual wealth with a concern to redress the inequities of the market. Civil society is well-placed to remind Governments of this obligation.

Regionalism is a ready catchphrase but it often founders on national interests. This is an area where I believe civil society can play a seminal influence. This is because the nature of your concerns are broadly similar, and you often attract defensiveness if not hostility from your respective Governments. You represent the power of ordinary people at their level, which is the grassroots level in common parlance. The major issues like HIV/AIDS, climate change, indiscriminate logging, overfishing, squatter settlements, poverty, gender inequality to name a few are not specific to one country. They are challenges we all face. The common thread is broadening participation and empowerment in order that communities and groups can determine their destinies for themselves. We are scattered over a vast expanse of ocean. It is costly and time consuming to meet. That is a price we must be willing to pay. Information technology and telecommunications are partly overcoming the obstacle of distance. But they will never fully replace the need to meet in person and affirm each other from time to time.

It is in renewing and reinforcing these networks and connections that civil society can more actively engage in dialogue about the Pacific Plan. It sets out a path for the future of the region, attempting to integrate national and regional development. The term is self-explanatory. As a plan it sets out guidelines and objectives. It is not written in stone. It is open to change. That is why it is so critical for you as community-based organisations to engage the politicians, the economists, the bureaucrats and the varied consultants who have contributed to it. You deal with ordinary people every day. Those whose lives will be directly affected by this Plan have their best opportunity of being recognised through you. It is a grave responsibility. It will be your task to infuse this noble conception with the salt and sweat of the people throughout the Pacific. Only when it is translated to that level, will it begin to be more meaningful for our own people.

Economic growth and sustainability are concepts with which civil society is familiar. Because of your practical experience, no one better understands the dynamic between the two. If we as Pacific societies are to survive and prosper, then the answer must lie in a reassessment of the relationship between growth and sustainability. To ensure

that our proud heritage as Pacific peoples, of which the land, ocean and resources therein are an indispensable part, is enjoyed by future generations, an appropriate balance must be struck. Better husbandry of our resources and our surroundings is crucial in this regard. That requires us to think more laterally about the issues. Put simply, unrestricted access and uncontrolled use of our natural heritage will leave our islands as desolate and lacklustre places filled with sad, demoralized populations.

The strength of civil society in the Pacific lies in its ability to respond effectively and expeditiously to people's needs. Not in the sense of fulfillment of what they seek, rather as a channel for their hopes and concerns. Development in all its complexity is multidimensional. Earning a living is the primary goal but it is not the only one. Where are we headed? The economic trends are not promising. At a time when the generation of economic wealth is fuelled by lightning advances in technology, particularly in information and telecommunications, the number of people in abject poverty has never been greater. So too the accumulation of wealth and power in fewer hands. As Governments are held captive to the power of multinational corporations, powerful vested interests and the middle classes, the growth of community-based groups to articulate particular concerns provides much-needed balance. It is about allowing those without voice or influence to be heard and play some part in decision-making.

The rise of civil society in the Pacific has been overwhelmingly positive in that it has given recognition to women and children, the most vulnerable members of our society. It has correspondingly allowed women to play increasingly valuable roles beyond the hearth and home. In places such as the Solomons, Bougainville and Fiji, civil society has been at the forefront of the rebuilding of bonds within the community. Whatever their concern, their close ties with people is perhaps their defining character. It is this intimacy that is relevant to nation building and regionalism, of which peace and justice form an integral part. Where people are engaged in processes that contribute to the improvement of their lives and that of their families and communities, they are less likely to be discontented. This is because they are made to feel part of the process of development. Is that not what justice and peace are about?

**Joni Madraiwiwi**

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