

REPORT OF MEETING

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NGOS (PIANGO)

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

3-5 FEBRUARY, 2010

NADI, FIJI

PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (PIANGO)

SUVA, FIJI

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(PIANGO)**

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REPORT

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Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACFID	Australian Council for International Development
AUSAID	Australian Aid
CID	Centre for International Development
CSFT	Civil Society Forum of Tonga
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DSE	Development Service Exchange
FANGO	Federated States of Micronesia Association of NGOs
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
GDP	Graduate Diploma Programme
KANGO	Kiribati Association of NGOs
MDG	Millenium Development Goals
MNCL	Melanesian Centre for Leadership
NLU	National Liaison Unit
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NIUANGO	Niue Association of NGOs
NZAID	New Zealand Aid
PACMAS	Pacific Media Assistance Scheme
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PCC	Pacific Conference of Churches
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of NGOs
PIMI	Pacific Indigenous Management Initiative
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella of NGOs
TANGO	Tuvalu Association of NGOs
TUCAN	Tuvalu Climate Action Network
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNITEC	University of Technology

INTRODUCTION

Prominent Pacific Island leaders and activists from Non Government Organisations (NGOs) met in Nadi, Fiji, from 3-5 February, 2010 for a Special Council meeting of the region's peak NGO coordinating body, the Pacific Islands Association of Non Governmental Organisations (PIANGO).

The PIANGO Board convened the Special Council meeting to openly and constructively discuss the way forward, nine months after the 25 year-old organisation was affected by a financial and management crisis which almost brought it to its knees and resulted in a withdrawal of funding by its major donor, NZAID and a suspension of its funding agreement with AusAID.

Representatives of PIANGO's National Liaison Units (NLUs) from Australia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu restated their commitment to PIANGO and expressed solidarity and full support for the organisation at the Special Council meeting.

The NLUs funded themselves to the Special Council meeting as an illustration of their commitment to the role of PIANGO as the peak NGO coordinating body in the Pacific. They acknowledged the goodwill and commitment of its Chairperson, the Board, the interim Executive Director and her team for successfully managing to steer PIANGO through turbulent waters over the past nine months without funding or infrastructural support.

In mid-2009, PIANGO commissioned chartered accountants Ernst and Young to conduct a standard audit of its 2008 accounts. The audit process was brought forward following allegations by NZAID of financial unaccountability and 'maladministration'. The accounting firm presented its audit findings to the Special Council meeting and the transparency of the findings was received with appreciation by PIANGO NLU representatives. In addition, the organisation's interim Executive Director, Ms Emele Duituturaga, tabled PIANGO's Financial Acquittal Report from 18 June 2009 to 31 December, 2010. The PIANGO Board appointed Ms Duituturaga to the position of interim Executive Director on 2 February, 2010.

Based on PIANGO's own internal investigations over the last nine months and the findings of the Ernst and Young report, PIANGO Chairperson Mr Drew Havea, in an official statement made to the Special Council meeting stated: "The PIANGO Board accepts full and final responsibility for the governance of PIANGO, including responsibility for what has happened. We understood the severity (of the situation), released staff and commissioned a full audit to get the full picture and dialogue with membership."

“PIANGO has had to rebuild itself from the crisis and we are grateful to the Fiji Council of Social Services for hosting us at their premises. We would also like to formally acknowledge Coordination Sud and the Commonwealth Foundation for displaying donor confidence in PIANGO towards the end of 2009 as the organisation embarks on a new journey, albeit on a tight budget, but every bit as committed to the NGOs and people of the Pacific as we have been these past 25 years,” Mr Havea said.

Key priority areas for the restructured regional umbrella NGO include advancing PIANGO’s role as a global gateway for Pacific NGOs on thematic issues, refocusing the Pasifika Indigenous Management Initiative (PIMI), devolving delivery of the Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP), leaner operational structures which include tight financial mechanisms, sustainability, development of an organisational communications strategy and rebuilding donor relationships.

In addition, the Council welcomed the very effective special sessions on climate change and feedback from the climate change meeting held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The special session on climate change was financed by Coordination Sud and resourced by the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and the Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TUCAN). The Council also held a special session on the global open forum on CSO development effectiveness at which PIANGO participated in January 2010 in Mexico City.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

OFFICIAL OPENING

1. Ms Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO interim Executive Director introduced Mrs Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member (Fiji) who began the Special PIANGO Council Meeting with devotion.
2. Mr Hassan Khan, Fiji, (FCOSS) welcomed participants in Fiji's capacity as host country. He noted the significance of the Special Council Meeting in terms of PIANGO's development and said that it signalled a climate and a call for change for the organisation.
3. In opening the meeting, PIANGO Chairperson Mr Drew Havea (Tonga), said that PIANGO had emerged from a period of turbulence in its journey saying that hope and belief in the organisation had enabled this to take place. He noted that the PIANGO Board would provide National Liaison Units (NLUs) with a timeline of events leading to the PIANGO financial and management crisis saying he hoped that the information would assist the Council to map out a way forward.
4. Mr Havea said it was time to "roll out the mats and sit down to discuss future directions as a family". He noted the absent NLUs saying that their spirit was nonetheless present at the meeting.
5. Mr Havea said the PIANGO Board had accepted full responsibility for allowing the situation to occur saying that the Council meeting was not designed to exonerate the Board but to provide clear information and understanding of the events which led to the financial crisis which had struck the organisation.
6. In this respect, he acknowledged with gratitude, the support of the Civil Society Forum Tonga (CSFT), Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership (MNCL) and Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) for their part in bringing the Council meeting to fruition. The Chairperson thanked FCOSS for its continuing support of PIANGO, Emele Duituturaga in her capacity as caretaker manager and Litiana Domokamica for her administrative support. He also thanked all NLUs present at the Council for their commitment, passion and support of the organisation.

SESSION 1: SITUATION ANALYSIS – REPORT OF PIANGO BOARD

– *Drew Havea, PIANGO Chairperson*

– *Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO Interim Executive Director*

7. Mr Havea discussed the sequence of events leading to the termination of the NZAID grant financing agreement and core funding, including the consequences of these events. He and Ms Duituturaga discussed PIANGO's continued activities, the future of the Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP), possible scenarios for PIANGO future directions, possible governance scenarios and financial lessons learned.
8. The PIANGO Chair then made the following statement: [Quote] *The Board accepts full and final responsibility for the governance of PIANGO, including responsibility for what has happened. We understood the severity, released staff and commissioned a full audit to get the full picture and dialogue with membership. (This meeting has been convened) to consider the auditors' report and reaffirmations.* [Unquote].

SESSION 2: ROLL CALL

9. The Chairperson conducted a roll call of attendance and NLUs shared their thoughts on the Special Council meeting.
10. Australia (ACFID) reiterated its support for PIANGO and suggested that PIANGO consider a “sliding scale” system for membership fees with Australia (ACFID) and New Zealand (CID) paying higher fees as a way of showing support for PIANGO. ACFID also discussed its desire to collaborate on training programmes with PIANGO.
11. Apologies and best wishes were sent from the Federated States of Micronesia (FANGO), French Polynesia (Hiti Tau) and Niue (NIUANGO).
12. Fiji (FCOSS), Kiribati (KANGO), Solomon Islands (DSE) and PNG (MNCL) restated their commitment and support of PIANGO.
13. Guam (PAY'UTA) has been advocating for PIANGO in the Micronesian states and remains optimistic and confident that PIANGO will continue to make progress and overcome hurdles.
14. Samoa (SUNGO) supported the continuation of PIANGO as a peak body, congratulated the Board for their work in steering PIANGO through a very testing period in its history and highlighted the importance for all NLUs to collaborate together to support the organisation.

15. New Zealand (CID) said there had been a shift in NZ foreign policy structure away from social justice and human rights aspects, however CID is convinced of the need for the existence of a regional NGO umbrella organisation.
16. Tonga (CSFT) reiterated its support for PIANGO as an umbrella organisation and congratulated the interim Executive Director, her team and the Board for their efforts in bringing the organisation back on track.
17. Tuvalu (TANGO) congratulated the interim Executive Director and PIANGO Board and said there were valuable lessons to be learned from the PIANGO experience.

SESSION 3: PRESENTATION OF PIANGO AUDIT REPORT 2008

– *Ernst and Young, Auditors*

18. The representative of Ernst and Young explained the scope of the PIANGO audit and discussed the audit findings which are presented in the Ernst and Young *PIANGO Audit Closing Report, 31 December 2008*.
19. The audit revealed, among other issues, that they were not provided with payment vouchers and supporting documentation for expenses and procurement during the year (2008) amounting to \$610, 167. Furthermore, there were additional payment vouchers without adequate supporting documentation or details. (The full audit report was handed out to NLUs on CD).
20. Some of the financial lessons learned from the PIANGO financial crisis and audit results are:
 - The need for monthly reconciliation of accounts (budget vs actual).
 - The need for a Suva-based co-opted finance committee including external accountants.
 - Due diligence needed on cheque signatories with necessary documentation and reconciliation procedures in place.
 - No two staff members to act as signatories on one cheque.
 - Separation of duties necessary.
 - Financial authority limits on management.

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Australia (ACFID) requested a breakdown of the unaccounted amount of \$610, 167. The PIANGO Chairperson responded that the review of PIANGO staff salaries in line with those of other regional organisations could have contributed to the hike in the figure.

Samoa (SUNGO) sought clarification on why costs for the Auckland CSO Forum in 2008 were so steep. Ms Duituturaga confirmed that \$276,000, including an additional \$50,000 had been approved to hold the CSO Forum.

New Zealand ((CID) sought clarification on whether the \$610,167 included monies owed to UNITEC. This was confirmed by Ernst and Young.

Samoa (SUNGO) commended and congratulated the Board, the auditors and Ms Duituturaga. SUNGO questioned how the \$610,167 was unaccounted for and the auditor restated this was due to missing vouchers totalling the stated value of the missing funds. Ernst and Young have thus issued a disclaimer opinion with the report due to this fact.

Ernst and Young concluded that there was no proper financial oversight by the previous PIANGO management and recommended, amongst others, that in future, any transaction in excess of a said value must be done with the approval of the PIANGO Board. They further recommended financial reporting be done on a regular monthly basis and reviewed by the interim Executive Director.

Australia (ACFID) questioned whether UNITEC would be willing to reduce the PIANGO liability or accept some liability for the funding crisis vis-à-vis monies owed to UNITEC. The PIANGO Chair responded that UNITEC's late billing system and poor administrative procedures had also contributed to the cost accumulation. NZ (CID) said UNITEC should take responsibility for its poor administrative procedures. Ms Duituturaga said the best case scenario for PIANGO would be if UNITEC considered reducing PIANGO's debt.

In response to the question of ongoing UNITEC payments, Ms Duituturaga said the AUSAID Pacific Leadership Programme (PLP) had allocated \$145,000 to PIANGO which appears to have been placed into a single pool of funds which the organisation was using.

Ms Duituturaga said PIANGO's operating deficit includes everything that the organisation owes its creditors, including Fiji, Samoa and PNG. She sought the concurrence of the Special Council to allow PIANGO to proceed with signature of the draft audit report.

Guam (PAY'UTA) commended the Board for its gesture in convening the Special Council meeting and seeking consultation with its membership.

The Chair thanked the auditors and the representative of Ernst and Young stated the company's willingness to move forward with their work with PIANGO, despite the organisation's current tight financial situation.

SESSION 4: NZAID LETTER TO PIANGO

– *Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO Interim Executive Director*

NZAID's letter to PIANGO dated 2 November, 2009 was tabled. The PIANGO Financial Acquittal Report 18 June 2009-31 December, 2010 was also tabled for discussion.

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21. On the NZAID letter, NZ (CID) noted that the letter did not appear to contain much substance, nor did it endorse any of NZAID's allegations of fraud. NZ (CID) further noted that the former PIANGO Executive Director had inherited a deficit of \$200,000. Samoa noted the need for guidelines for engagement between donors and their NGO partners. Samoa further noted the need for PIANGO to have clear recruitment policies in place to prevent mismanagement and ineffectiveness.
22. Tuvalu (TANGO) queried procedures governing staff loans. The PIANGO Chair clarified that under the current staff policy, salary advances are allowed for one pay period. Advances on official staff travel are also allowed however monies must be acquitted immediately following the end of each trip.

SESSION 5: GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Participants divided into groups to discuss the following:

- What are lessons learned?
- If PIANGO is to continue, what services should PIANGO provide?
- Where do you see PIANGO going?
- What should NLUs do to get PIANGO going?
-

(See Annex 1 for a synopsis of Group Reports to Plenary)

SESSION 6: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Drew Havea, PIANGO Chairperson
– *Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO Interim Executive Director*

Ms Duituturaga provided a synopsis of the major thematic areas and issues resulting from the previous day's group discussions as follows:

- Devolving **GDP delivery** to NLUs & accreditation
- **Leaner operational structure/sustainability/Pacific Consultants**
- **Communication Strategy** – (including outcome of the Special Council meeting)
- **Donor relationships** (including response to NZAID)
- **Thematic Approach /Issues** – Regional & Global Platform

Participants then divided into groups to discuss the topics and outline specific actions under the various thematic areas.

RESULTS OF GROUP REPORTS TO PLENARY

(i) Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP)

- Need to revisit the mission and vision of PIMI (Pasifika Indigenous Management Initiative) as it has become a UNITEC initiative.
- Process of accreditation: Can NLUs discuss partnership with a local institution?
- Resume using PIMI instead of GDP – revisit mission and vision of PIMI.
- University of the South Pacific's community development programme is active and should be considered.
- Guam university can be considered for Micronesian countries.
- Financial support – each boundary.
- Invite PIMI fathers to write proposal to PIANGO meeting.
- Tracer study – NLU complete.
- Leadership 'holistic leader'.
- NLU accreditation – certificate courses.

(ii) Leaner Operational Structures, Sustainability and Pacific Consultants

- Retain the PIANGO office in Fiji until the next Council meeting in 2011.
- Retain current PIANGO Chair.
- Trustees roles must be spelled out clearly.
- Cheque signatories must consist of one Board member and one staff member.
- Finance sub-committee must meet monthly and must comprise of at least one Board member.

- A finance floor limit for the Executive Director must be set with any funds exceeding the floor limit to be approved by the Board.
- More management oversight needed.
- The current interim Executive Director is working on a voluntary basis. The Programme Officer and Administrative Assistant posts will be filled subject to financial availability.
- Endorsed the suggestion that the PIANGO Chair and interim Executive Director visit Australia and New Zealand to communicate PIANGO's position.
- Consultation arrangements: Consultancies undertaken by PIANGO for other organisations should incur an administrative fee (suggest 10%) and also include an in-kind figure as well.
- Meeting costs to be met by PIANGO (venue, morning, afternoon teas and lunch etc). No per diem to be paid at present. Acquittals needed with receipts.
- Suggest the next PIANGO Council meeting take place in the third week of July 2011. (Look for an opportunity to piggyback the Council meeting on).
- Code of Conduct for NLUs is needed.

(iii) Sustainability

- Outsourcing PIANGO consultant programme and collecting percentage of consultants fees.
- Register of NGOs and consultants.
- Invoices for membership fees to facilitate membership payments to PIANGO.
- Work with local and corporate sponsors.
- PIANGO's debt repayment can be done via membership fees/UNITEC repayments, consultancy earnings and so forth.
- Website hosting fee.
- Establish partnerships with existing organisations (eg. Rotary etc)

(iv) Communications Strategy

- Need for PIANGO to have a Communications Strategy to act as a foundation upon which to base all advocacy and networking actions. The Communication Strategy will provide a plan and an anchor for the organisation and will assist with implementation of the organisation's Strategic Plan.
- Update directory of PIANGO contacts and distribute to all NLUs.
- Communication Code of Conduct and Ethics to be drafted and annexed to PIANGO Communications Strategy.
- Rebuilding PIANGOs image via Communication Strategy and networking.
- Outputs of meetings etc to be effectively and widely disseminated to local, regional and international media, NLUs, donors and all relevant stakeholders.
- Means of communication: internet (technology tempermental), newsletters, fliers, emails.
- Identification of sub regional focal points to disseminate information.
- Regular monthly newsletter (one page) on PIANGO activities.

- Communications capacity building (PACMAS project).
- Repackage and distribute information on thematic areas and donor priorities etc to make it more friendly and accessible.
- PIANGO to revive role as info clearinghouse and resource centre in particular on thematic issues such as HIV/AIDS, climate change, food security, PACER+ etc.

Suggestions from floor:

- *Add all Council members to PIANGO mailing list and network not just NLUs.*
- *Send PIANGO website address and link to all members.*
- *NLUs to provide major media contacts in country for PIANGO.*
- *Include Francophone territories + Micronesia in communications strategy..*

(v) Donor Relationship and Response to NZAID

- Open dialogue is needed (face-to-face consultations).
- NZAID needs to be more factual in their statements.
- Clean up sheet with UNITEC and NZAID.
- Look for doors that are open if NZAID continues to close doors. Other donors to be considered include Japan, China, EU etc
- Visits by Executive Director and Board to donors in NZ and Australia. Site meetings.
- Multi-stakeholder meeting.
- Global Forum.
- Ensure that all outstanding PIANGO issues have been dealt with.
- Systems need to be put in place to prevent fraud.
- Tighten spending and lack of accountability.
- Regular performance appraisals for staff to be tabled to Board or Executive committee.
- Performance assessments for Board members.
- Share financial information with NLUs.
- Sharing of resources (with donors etc).
- Genuine partnerships are needed.
- PIANGO gives donors access to civil society views therefore they need PIANGO.

Observations:

- *OECD reviews donors engagement with civil society.*
- *NZAID needs CSOs more than CSOs need NZAID therefore PIANGO is not negotiating with NZAID from a position of weakness.*
- *Need to consider how the PIANGO Workplan fits into the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).*
- *Where does PIANGO cap the financial ceiling for donors? For instance, NLU contributions, consultancy fees etc.*

SESSION 7: SPECIAL SESSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- *Peter Emberson, Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)*
- *Taukei Kitala, Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TUCAN)*

23. Taukei Kitala (TUCAN) began the session by discussing the role of civil society in climate change and how PIANGO could incorporate climate change activities into its role. He discussed the role of the Tuvalu Climate Action Network (TUCAN) which was established in 2006. The Climate Action Network is a network of international NGOs focusing on climate change, mitigation and adaptation. TUCAN is the first Pacific member of the CAN network established to avoid duplication of climate change activities and maximise resources and funds. CAN international works to build capacity in negotiations and in all areas relating to climate change and as a result has proved very beneficial for Tuvalu. A Pacific CAN network may soon be established by CAN nodes in the region to specifically focus on climate change issues.
24. Suggested PIANGO options: PIANGO can either work with CAN Pacific or align itself with other international NGOs working on climate change or have its own climate change focus if mandated by NLUs. PIANGO can also become a member of CANPAC if endorsed by the PIANGO Council or alternatively, NLUs can become members of their local CAN node. PIANGO can also identify and develop a directory of experts (climate change, HIV/AIDS, monitoring and evaluation etc) and mobilise their work.
25. TANGO plays an important role via facilitation, coordination, networking, personnel, linking to regional and international agencies and through the provision of free office space and TANGO utilities.
26. TUCAN attended the climate change conference in Copenhagen COP15 and discovered the power of NGOs and CSOs to influence change through solidarity. However, Pacific Island countries did not come together to support Tuvalu's position due to fear of losing bilateral funding from the United States, Australia etc. Pacific Island Countries do not stand together on issues outside of the region, in particular when they are influenced by larger countries and donor agendas.
27. Tuvalu expects that a new legally binding agreement will be agreed upon post-Copenhagen. Tuvalu has proposed a new legally binding agreement to strengthen the content of the current Kyoto Protocol. Relocation is not a priority for Tuvalu as adaptation funds will be undermined and developed countries will not feel obligated to reduce emissions.
28. The Coordination Sud CSO Forum focused on recognising and guaranteeing the principles of additionality, effectiveness and transparency in aid, promoting social justice and ensuring coherent and solidarity-based public policies.

29. **Peter Emberson, Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)** discussed the scientific impacts of global warming in terms of rising temperatures and weather changes, including emissions of greenhouse gases by developed countries vis-a-vis climate change and these implications on Pacific countries.
30. There is evidence to confirm that climate change is now happening and that human activity is its main cause. Its impacts are immense and wide ranging, affecting all ecosystems sectors in terms of basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, health, education and traditional knowledge. All these pose serious threats to the economies of small island developing states, the environment and society, particularly the poor and vulnerable.
31. The Pacific region contributes less than .01% total global greenhouse gases and are now experiencing threats to their ability to sustainably live and survive on their island homes.
32. The challenge is how to achieve a strong, effective, fair and equitable climate deal which will keep temperatures well below 1.5 degrees Celsius in the Pacific by the end of 2100 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
33. Important for Pacific Island countries to see the implications of climate change on a global scale and the importance of solidarity and working together to combat its effects.
34. Major impacts of climate change include: droughts, floods and changing rainfall patterns; extreme weather events (storms, floods); rising sea level (1-2 metres within this century); decline of glaciers and melt water; decreasing fish population, coral destruction; loss in biodiversity (20-30% loss in species at increase in temperature of 2 degrees Celsius); reduced biomass production in particular in tropics/subtropics and impacts on traditional knowledge. In addition, there are also severe impacts of global warming on food security eg. bleaching of coral polyps, hunger and dramatic losses of plant growing potential.
35. Mr Emberson discussed various scenarios such as the (i) Failure of Copenhagen and Mexico (ii) Climate apartheid and the (iii) "Heart-lung Machine" in terms of the collapse of the earth's self regulating mechanisms.
36. In a post-Copenhagen analysis, he emphasised the need for solidarity amongst the Pacific at international level, even if this were to be at the risk of multilateral and bilateral relations and funding.

PLENARY

Guam (PAY'UTA) sought information on the CAN contact in Micronesia.

Tonga queried whether emerging nations could be taken to court for their part in emissions trading and destruction of the environment.

Samoa (SUNGO) emphasised the need for NLUs focus on thematic areas and work through PIANGO to consolidate a Pacific position and coordinate the Pacific delegation to international meetings.

Australia (ACFID) said it was disappointing to see that SPREP is not pulling its weight at international meetings. On the subject of Australias' position on climate change, ACFID said Australian NGOs continued to lobby with politicians and will explore ways in which Australian politicians could hear more from Pacific Islanders.

Solomon Islands Development Services Exchange (DSE) need to use indigenous knowledge of the Pacific as part of adoption policies.

New Zealand (CID) suggested the need for more voices to be actively heard at local level in the climate change debate.

Fiji (FCOSS) suggested PIANGO document traditional knowledge on the impact of climate change on flora and vegetation.

Kiribati (KANGO) queried how PIANGO intended to move ahead with climate change advocacy.

Fiji (FCOSS) emphasised the need to focus and articulate our identity as Pacific Island people. In addition, it is important to articulate and focus on the nature of integral human development in the context of trade and climate change. The challenge now is to get information to local level and PIANGO's strength is its local NLUs vis-à-vis dissemination and translation of information into local languages.

Fiji (FCOSS) suggested that Pacific Islanders find a word for climate change in their own languages.

Tonga (CSFT) said that the global map illustrating the regions affected by climate change is a useful tool to provide a global view of the issue and bring the issue closer to the Pacific.

Tuvalu (TANGO) challenged Pacific countries to walk their talk and take action on the climate change issue.

Australia (ACFID) on behalf of NLUs, acknowledged with gratitude, Coordination Sud for enabling Mr Kitale to attend COP15 and also enabling his attendance and information sharing on climate change at the PIANGO Special Council Meeting.

TUCAN (Mr Kitale) said he hoped that PIANGO would take the climate change issue seriously and consider it one of the pillars of its future activities.

PCC said Pacific indigenous peoples have always been a people of adaptation on many levels, in particular to climate and change.

Fiji (FCOSS) how does PIANGO see its partnership with PCC occurring vis-à-vis climate change? Ms Duituturaga explained that alliances and usage of existing expertise were important in order to avoid duplication eg. inviting NLUs to PCC climate change based activities and vice-versa. SUNGO cautioned that the concept may not work for some NLUs who were already affiliated to PCC. Tonga (Chair) said that the concept could work in cases where linkages did not exist.

SESSION 8: REPORT ON AID EFFECTIVENESS MEETING, MEXICO

– *Drew Havea, PIANGO Chairperson*

The PIANGO Chair provided an overview of the CSO aid effectiveness meeting held in Mexico City in January 2010.

PLENARY

New Zealand (CID) has organised three regional consultation meetings with NGO members to discuss what can be extracted from the global process. It is envisaged that a draft framework will be produced in time for the May meeting.

Fiji (FCOSS) said there is a need to study the nature of integrated human development in a Pacific context rather than being pulled by a global agenda.

Ms Duituturaga said there was a need to progress the Pacific's thinking and determine the most appropriate technology and methods to use to secure the Pacific's place on the world map, but without the world view being imposed on us. PIANGO's connection with CID and ACFID will also act as an additional sense of security.

The PIANGO Chair said PIANGO would compile some information to suggest ways that NLUs can effectively participate in the May meeting.

NZ (CID) being part of the process is a first step in getting prepared for the Seoul meeting in October 2011.

Australia (ACFID) accountability to beneficiaries has been identified as a gap which needs to be addressed by CSOs.

SESSION 9: THE WAY FORWARD

– Emele Duituturaga, PIANGO, Interim Executive Director

Ms Duituturaga presented a draft PIANGO Work Plan for the period 2011-2015 based on the PIANGO Strategic Plan 2006-2010 and on PIANGO's proposed activities and actions as mandated by the Special Council Meeting. (*See Annex 2*).

CLOSING

37. NLUs shared their views on the meeting and its outcome. Samoa (SUNGO) thanked Mr Havea and the Board and Ms Duituturaga for their commitment, hard work and belief in PIANGO which had assisted in bringing PIANGO back on its feet. Samoa thanked Ms Duituturaga in particular for her energy, wisdom and belief, selfless and voluntary commitment to PIANGO and the nine-month journey in bringing the organisation back on course. Ms Duituturaga in an emotional speech, reiterated her commitment to PIANGO and thanked all the NLUs for their individual support and encouraging emails and the PIANGO Chair for his positive support as well. Mr Havea thanked all NLUs for their belief in PIANGO and for their encouragement and support, in particular during the organisation's testing nine months.

38. The meeting was closed with the Fijian farewell song "Isa Lei" and a prayer by Guam.

