



## **REPORT OF MEETING**

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**PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO OPEN FORUM ON  
DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS  
FOLLOW-UP AND PLANNING MEETING FOR THE  
BUSAN FOURTH HIGH LEVEL FORUM  
ON AID EFFECTIVENESS (HLF4)**

(Suva, Fiji Islands, 25-26 March, 2011)

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Compiled by  
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## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMNS**

ACFID	–	Australian Council for International Development.
CID	–	Council for International Development
CHOGM	-	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
COP	-	Conference of the Parties
CROP	-	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CSFT	–	Civil Society Forum of Tonga
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
DSE	–	Development Services Exchange
FCOSS	–	Fiji Council for Social Services
GFG	–	Global Facilitation Group
HLF4	–	Fourth High Level Forum
INGO	-	International Non Government Organisation
MDGs	-	Millennium Development Goals
MNCL	-	Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership
NLU	–	National Liaison Unit
NGO	–	Non Government Organisation
OECD	-	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIANGO	–	Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations
PIFS	–	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting for the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) was held at the Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji Islands, from 25-26 March, 2011. The meeting was organised by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) and funded by the Global Open Forum Consortium through InterAction - the United States umbrella NGO. The meeting was attended by regional CSO representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.
2. The Regional Open Forum discussed a range of issues related to making development assistance more effective in terms of NGO accountability, creation of an enabling environment and political spaces for civil society and the democratic ownership of development at the national level. The Pacific regional meeting also discussed application of the Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness in a Pacific context and sought to further develop the draft international Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness for adoption at the second Open Forum General Assembly to be held in Cambodia in June 2011.
3. The *Outcomes Statement* (Annex 1) endorsed at the end of the meeting called on donors to move away from ad hoc project approaches, to long-term strategic partnerships, based on analysis and planning to support civil society development in each Pacific country, with strong, consistent resourcing and collaboration. The meeting expressed its desire for Governments and donors to partner more strategically with CSOs to improve development effectiveness and to realise the goals of the *Pacific Plan* as well as to achieve the *Millennium Development Goals*. The meeting welcomed the commitment by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to collaborate with CSOs to strengthen development cooperation in the Pacific under the *Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination* and looked forward to greater involvement of the non government sector in planning and implementation of development activities, to ensure more broad-based efforts to support development coordination. Representatives at the meeting called on the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to expand its annual High-Level Dialogue between private sector representatives and Forum leaders to include other non-state actors such as CSO umbrella bodies, including PIANGO. In noting the call from PIANGO, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat highlighted the equal importance of strengthening national level dialogue between the non-government sector and Governments as a first step to facilitating ongoing dialogue at the regional level.

## II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### AGENDA ITEM 1: OFFICIAL OPENING

1. The PIANGO interim Executive Director, Ms Emele Duituturaga-Jale, welcomed participants to the *Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting* and introduced the PIANGO Board Members: Mr Moale Vagi (PIANGO Vice Chairperson and MNCL representative) and Mrs Lorine Tevi (FCOSS).<sup>1</sup> Mrs Tevi led the meeting in devotion which was followed by an official welcome address by Mr Hassan Khan (FCOSS) representing Fiji in its capacity as host country. Speaking on behalf of PIANGO, Mr Khan acknowledged, with thanks, the presence of Mr Vagi as PIANGO Acting Chair, noting with regret the absence of the PIANGO Chairperson, Mr Drew Havea who was unable to attend the meeting due to competing commitments. Mr Khan said that PIANGO had been through a challenging period in its existence, where solidarity and commitment were key requirements to enable the organisation to progress.

2. The PIANGO Vice Chairperson thanked participants for their commitment in attending the meeting. He re-visited the outcomes of the PIANGO Special Council Meeting in 2010, where National Liaison Units (NLUs) had re-stated the need for PIANGO to continue its role as the peak NGO coordinating body in the Pacific. The Special Council meeting had also devolved the Graduate Diploma Programme (GDP) over to NLUs to manage. The past year had also seen PIANGO shift its focus from a programme-oriented role to that of a regional platform and global gateway for Pacific NGOs on thematic issues. Mr Vagi said PIANGO was not a by-product of donors and it genuinely represented the culture, heritage, identity and hopes of Pacific peoples. PIANGO is currently represented on various consultation groups and global forums and is gaining recognition as a leading regional body on global issues particularly in the areas of CSO accountability and development effectiveness. He noted with thanks, the hard work of the PIANGO interim Executive Director and management team; Board member Mrs Lorine Tevi; the support of FCOSS and Mr Hassan Khan and the financial assistance of Coordination Sud (France), the Commonwealth Foundation (United Kingdom) and Inter Action (USA) who had demonstrated donor confidence in PIANGO through funding activities in the areas of climate change and development effectiveness.

3. The PIANGO interim Executive Director introduced the agenda and outlined the meeting objectives to:

- (i) Report back from the *First Open Forum General Assembly* held in Istanbul on 28-30 September, 2010. The meeting adopted the *Istanbul Principles* and the draft *International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness*. The *Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting* will discuss application of the *Istanbul Principles* in the Pacific context and

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<sup>1</sup> MNCL – Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership; FCOSS – Fiji Council of Social Services.

further develop the draft *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness* for adoption at the *Second Open Forum General Assembly* in Cambodia from 28-30 June, 2011.

- (ii) Discuss preparations and plans for the *Fourth High Level Forum of Donors on Aid Effectiveness* to be held in Busan, Korea, from 29 November–1 December, 2011. The Cambodia meeting will discuss political strategies on the road to Busan and undertake strategic planning on coordinated engagement with regional governments leading up to the HLF4. In this context, the PIANGO Executive Director will report back on global preparations to date, following the Global Facilitation Group (GFG) meeting in Sweden (14-16 March, 2011).
- (iii) Discuss existing models of accountability mechanisms and their application in terms of compliance with the *Istanbul Principles*. A briefing session on the ACFID<sup>2</sup> Code of Conduct will provide a basis for discussion of a regional framework to be progressed by PIANGO.
- (iv) Discuss proposed plans by CID<sup>3</sup> for a CSO Forum to be held in late August – early September in Auckland, New Zealand, to coincide with the Pacific Forum Leaders meeting from 6-9 September, 2011.
- (v) Progress advocacy strategies between ACFID, CID and PIANGO on common policy issues of concern, such as climate change.

4. All participants then briefly introduced themselves.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: REPORTS FROM NATIONAL LIAISON UNITS (NLUS)**

5. The Chair, Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member (FCOSS) introduced the session.

6. Representatives of PIANGO National Liaison Units (NLUs) from Australia (ACFID), New Zealand (CID), Fiji (FCOSS),<sup>4</sup> Tonga (CSFT),<sup>5</sup> Papua New Guinea (MNCL)<sup>6</sup> and Solomon Islands (DSE)<sup>7</sup> provided progress reports, lessons learned and success stories, noting various challenges in terms of financial sustainability and the need for more effective collaboration between CSOs, governments and development partners.

### ***Discussion***

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<sup>2</sup> ACFID – Australian Council for International Development.

<sup>3</sup> CID – Council for International Development

<sup>4</sup> FCOSS – Fiji Council for Social Services

<sup>5</sup> CSFT – Civil Society Forum of Tonga

<sup>6</sup> MNCL - Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership

<sup>7</sup> DSE - Development Services Exchange

7. Participants noted that some present donor practices and behaviour were not in line with the principles outlined in the *Accra Agenda* and these needed to be illustrated. In this context, the meeting noted the economic policy of New Zealand as regards its withdrawal of funding to CSOs in the Pacific region. The need to reform the aid architecture was highlighted in this context.
8. Other issues highlighted were the importance of donor diversification and the need for CSOs to explore sustainable and alternative forms of increasing revenue such as through new donor players outside of our geographic region (eg. China, Brazil), microfinancing initiatives, and possible collaboration with private Foundations and philanthropic organisations.
9. They emphasised the need for CSOs to be hard hitting in their presentation of the “business case” to ensure that governments and development partners recognise Pacific CSOs as effective and valuable contributors to national and regional economic and social development. This acknowledgement is also necessary in order to progress the *Istanbul Principles*.
10. Participants also called on governments, consultants and donors to recognise the critical role that umbrella NGOs and peak bodies play at national and regional levels in convening, coordinating and developing policy dialogue with communities, donors and governments. They also emphasised the need for stronger collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), international NGOs (INGOs) and the private sector and for continued collaboration and partnerships between ACFID, CID and PIANGO.
11. Participants also highlighted the need for umbrella NGOs to strategically narrow their focus to remain effective and enable them to regularly evaluate their strategic directions and goals. They also noted the need to groom and nurture the next generation of CSO leaders.
12. They strongly emphasised the need to make development assistance more effective in terms of the accountability of NGOs, creation of an enabling environment and the creation of political spaces for civil society, including the democratic ownership of development at national level.
13. Other issues discussed included the need for the development of a Pacific regional CSO database to build and maintain regional partnerships and linkages; how Pacific NLUs, through PIANGO, could assist ACFID in its role in advocating for them with the Australian government. ACFID has a partnership agreement with the Australian government and is collaborating closely with it in preparation for HLF4. Discussions also highlighted the need for the establishment of appropriate support structures to enable CSO concerns to be heard, particularly following high-level regional and global meetings such as HLF4.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES ON CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS & DRAFT INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

14. PIANGO's interim Executive Director introduced the session and backgrounded the Open Forum process on the road to the HLF4 in Busan. She asked participants to study the draft *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness* with a view to endorsing it before the end of the meeting. She said CSOs needed to ask themselves what minimum standards they planned to advocate for at the HLF4 in Busan. Two of the CSO main asks prior to Busan are (i) Convincing governments to endorse the *Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness* and (ii) The establishment of an enabling environment.
15. Busan is not the final destination — it is just a part of the journey. The Pacific region needs to develop a political advocacy strategy prior to HLF4 and in this regard, CSOs need to identify their targets; in the Pacific these would be the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) governments and development partners. The adoption of the *Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness* and *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness* would form part of our political strategy process.

#### ***Discussion***

16. Clarification was sought on the difference between government endorsement and approval of the Istanbul Principles. It was noted that governments could view the implications as heavy and would therefore be cautious of accepting them, as was the case with the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*. PIANGO's interim Executive Director clarified that endorsement was about ownership and not only about approval. She explained that the principles were a framework for countries to adopt and practice within their own national contexts. It was further noted that the Istanbul Principles could be a useful guide for organisations seeking to develop their own Code of Conduct.
17. The meeting congratulated PIANGO for its media coverage of the Global Open Forum in Istanbul in September 2010.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF ACFID CODE OF CONDUCT**

18. The Chair introduced the session and the representative of ACFID who discussed the development and the components of the organisation's Code of Conduct.

The Code forms part of the ACFID Constitution and had been revised over the past three years. It provides a good practice standard; acts to manage reputational risk; increases stakeholder confidence and trust; keeps external regulatory mechanisms at bay; is set by the sector for the sector; contributes to development effectiveness; addresses some of the critique facing aid organisations and assists to position the sector to access greater government funding. The Code covers accountabilities, program principles, relationships with partners, public engagement, organisational information, compliance, implementation guidance and complaints procedures and processes. Adherence to the Code by ACFID members is a requirement of membership. The Code currently permits non ACFID members to be signatories to the Code.

#### ***Discussion***

19. The meeting congratulated ACFID on the development of its revised Code of Conduct and queried whether the Code contained provision for peer assessment. ACFID clarified that at present it did not, although its self assessment process was quite extensive. Furthermore, AusAID accreditation criteria now stipulated the need for compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct. ACFID is happy to provide advice to other countries wishing to develop their own Code of Conduct. A desktop analysis of the ACFID Code was suggested, with the need to bear in mind self-regulatory mechanisms in the Pacific.
20. Given the global focus on development effectiveness, it was agreed that CSOs need to shift away from a loose network to more organised ways of working. Participants agreed that a process needed to be implemented to enable this to occur, in addition to exploring ways for Pacific CSOs to become compliant with the ACFID Code or some regional variant of it. ACFID suggested the possibility of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PIANGO to enable this process to begin, but only following the concurrence of the PIANGO Board. Alternatively, NLUs and PIANGO could develop their own Code linking members and the umbrella organisation together. The possibility of exploring the applicability of existing models from countries such as Cambodia, India and Pakistan was also suggested.
21. The meeting also noted the value of the *Draft International CSO Development Effectiveness Framework* which covers guidelines and indicators, enabling environments for effective CSO contribution to development, particularly standards for governments and donors. On the issue of development assistance, it

was agreed that funding proposals should request that development partners be committed to the Istanbul Principles.

22. Participants also agreed to prioritise the development of a CSO Pacific Regional Code of Conduct to promote transparency and accountability in CSO organisations, and to develop and mentor the next generation of CSO leaders.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: POLITICAL STRATEGY & KEY ASKS ON THE ROAD TO BUSAN**

23. The Chair, Moale Vagi, PIANGO Board Member (MNCL) introduced the session which was conducted by the PIANGO interim Executive Director. The session aimed to brainstorm the Pacific regional strategy for the HLF4 in terms of identifying Key Asks and establishing key partnerships, including identifying the elements of an enabling environment and the reform that CSOs were seeking from governments.
24. The session heard that, as a critical part of the CSO political strategy, it was important to identify those Pacific governments attending the HLF4 and push the Istanbul messages on development effectiveness with relevant government officials prior to the upcoming PIFS Pacific Leaders Meeting in New Zealand in September 2011.
25. The PIFS Regional Aid Effectiveness Workshop was discussed, particularly in the context of the commitment by the PIFS to collaborate with CSOs to strengthen development cooperation in the Pacific under the *Cairns Compact*. Participants agreed on the need for the implementation of actions to realise this, specifically: “Greater involvement of the non government sector in planning and implementation of development activities to ensure more broad based efforts to support development coordination. The following areas of improvement included:
  - (a) Increased transparency in partnership arrangements with government;
  - (b) Improved coordination within the non government sector and with government;
  - (c) Umbrella national non government and private sector organisations to lead in policy engagement, monitoring and reporting of aid flows and tracking the effectiveness of aid;
  - (d) Strengthen regional engagement strategies with regional umbrella non government entities;
  - (e) Coherent funding mechanisms at national and regional levels.”

*(Ref: Paragraph 14 (a)-(e). “Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop.” February 2011, Nadi, Fiji.)*

26. Following the session, participants agreed on a Pacific regional approach for the *Second Global Assembly of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness* (Siem Riep, Cambodia, 28-30 June 2011) in the lead-up to the *Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)* in Busan.
27. They also agreed to strengthen CSO participation at the *Pacific Aid Effectiveness and PIC Partners Meeting* (Nadi, Fiji, 11-15 July, 2011) and the *Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting* (Auckland, New Zealand, 6-9 September, 2011).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: DIALOGUE WITH THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT (PIFS)**

28. The Chair introduced the representative of PIFS, Alfred Schuster, Development Co-operation Adviser. In thanking the Chair, the PIFS representative said his organisation was privileged to be a part of the meeting and hoped that the session could be as interactive as possible.
29. He said aid effectiveness was premised on development effectiveness. Since Accra, CSOs have assumed responsibility to address their own accountability. Endorsement of the Istanbul Principles is what CSOs would be asking of their regional organisations and national governments and debates are ongoing as to whether or not governments should endorse the Principles. CSOs also need to explore the interest in bringing the Istanbul Principles to PIFS high-level meetings.
30. In discussing the enabling environment, the PIANGO interim Executive Director also noted the dis-enabling environment in which CSOs in many countries are often forced to operate. She said the upcoming Second Global Assembly in Cambodia in June was the last global forum before the HLF4 in Busan. In this regard, she noted the possibility of a Pacific CSO gathering in New Zealand in September 2011, to coincide with the PIFS Leaders Meeting. CSOs are also studying various mechanisms of promoting development effectiveness in the region.
31. The PIFS representative responded that there is ongoing debate between partner countries on whether or not focus should be on development effectiveness and there is a shift toward evidence-based actions such as the evaluation of the *Paris Declaration* prior to the HLF4, including ongoing debate on development effectiveness as opposed to aid effectiveness. Some Pacific countries have only just begun to establish aid effectiveness relationships with development partners.
32. PIFS involvement with international preparations to HLF4 consist of:
  - (i) Conducting quantitative evidence-based work to assess progress/strengths/weaknesses/constraints in the application of aid effectiveness principles since Accra and Paris, primarily via a

voluntary government monitoring survey in five Pacific countries<sup>8</sup>. Reports are due to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at the end of March.

- (ii) To explore entry points for the region in terms of the global process. Through PIFS, this process is also an entry point for the Pacific region into the global evaluation process of the implementation of the *Paris Declaration*.
- (iii) PIFS is a member of the Partner Country Contact Group which includes government level representation from all regions.
- (iv) Voluntary peer review process of the *Cairns Compact* gauges the extent to which governments engage with CSOs as per the *Paris Declaration*. The Compact also acts as a vehicle to enable debate on difficult issues between governments and donors. The PIFS PIC Partners Meeting is another avenue for PIFS-CSO engagement through PIANGO or PIPSO. An aid effectiveness workshop is planned to precede this year's PIC Partners Meeting which has been tentatively set for 11-15 July, 2011.

33. The PPAC and Forum Officials Committee (FOC) meetings determine the agenda of the Forum Leaders meeting which is set to take place from 6-9 September, 2011, in Auckland, New Zealand. The OECD meeting is planned for July 2011 in Paris and Better Aid represents the CSO voice in the working party in this platform.

34. ACFID noted that aid effectiveness debates and AusAID research has revealed an interesting convergence, in that, CSOs are actively working in development programs in communities, via an ad hoc, project-based approach — hence a clearer policy of engagement is needed. ACFID sought advice from PIFS on steps CSOs could consider to increase the value of their roles in society and with governments and development partners. CSFT noted the need to see a more supporting role for the PIANGO platform. FCOSS queried whether or not PIFS would be able to assist CSOs with resources to enable them to advance preparations and dialogue in the lead-up to Busan. PIFS responded that submissions endorsed by the PIC Partners Meeting, if reflected in the Outcomes Document, would be taken into consideration. However, it is difficult for the Secretariat to provide any further support in this regard. The PIFS Secretary General is committed to re-establishing the post of Non State Actor Liaison Officer.

35. ACFID queried the format of the survey to determine progress in implementation of the Paris Declaration to which PIFS explained that the survey was structured to contain quantitative questions, however there was no specific reference to CSOs.

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<sup>8</sup> Countries include Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The survey could provide scope for governments to speak to the role of CSOs in achieving indicators, however, this is dependant on the extent of CSO-government engagement in each country. For instance, Samoa has established an independent mechanism to facilitate CSO-government dialogue.

36. PIANGO's interim Executive Director highlighted the need for CSOs to assess their role in MDG tracking and economic development, noting that economic development is one of the four pillars in the Pacific Plan.
37. The Chair thanked the representative of PIFS for his time and for sharing valuable information with the meeting.

### ***Discussion***

Chairperson: Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member, (FCOSS)

38. In a de-brief following the PIFS session, participants thanked PIANGO for initiating the PIFS session and noted its usefulness in terms of identifying CSO political spaces and strategies pre and post Busan. They supported the idea that CSOs conduct their own survey to determine the extent and impact of their outreach and noted that the results would assist with justification and CSO relevance.
39. There was agreement on the need for systematic engagement between CSOs and PIFS, particularly in light of paragraph 14 of the Outcomes Document following the "Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop." February 2011, Nadi, Fiji). (*Refer page 11 for full text*). It was suggested that a formal communication be made to PIFS suggesting a possible mechanism for dialogue between CSOs and PIFS. The Outcomes Statement of this meeting and this year's PIFS 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations could be used to leverage this.
40. PIFS was also encouraged to take CSO views into account in the re-establishment of the post of Non State Actor Liaison Officer.
41. It was noted that the MDGs are already being implemented at national levels and must now feed into the sectoral level.
42. The possibility of holding a CSO Forum in the Auckland later this year had not, as yet, been tabled with the Pacific Regional NGO (PRNGO) Alliance. An alternative to this would be liaison with the NZ CSO focal point as host country with PIANGO assisting with preparations. In this regard, a strategy meeting between CID and relevant partners was suggested to determine a provisional agenda. CID outlined possible avenues for CSO advocacy in Auckland – advocating with the NZ government, partnership with ACFID, the Pacific working group, working through OXFAM and setting up a Pacific CSO booth in Auckland. A further suggestion was to request that PIFS lobby donors for

additional funding for CSO representatives to be present in Auckland during the Forum Leaders Meeting in September. It was suggested a only a small cluster group of CSOs attend the Auckland meeting due to funding and accommodation constraints. PIANGO suggested that its Secretariat be left to organise a joint working group with CID and its team to progress plans for the Auckland CSO Forum. The need for a Pacific identity at the Auckland meeting was highlighted – a CSO space celebrating Pacific solidarity – especially as this is the 40-year anniversary of the Forum Leaders Meetings.

43. While the current regional architecture does not include CSOs, the Pacific Plan provides common ground within which CSOs could collaborate with PIFS and the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: SECOND OPEN FORUM GLOBAL ASSEMBLY, CAMBODIA, JUNE, 2011**

44. The Chair, Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member (FCOSS) introduced the session which was run by the PIANGO interim Executive Director.
45. The second and final Global Assembly of the Open Forum, will take place in Siem Riep, Cambodia, from 28-30 June, 2011. The second assembly follows the first landmark Open Forum Global Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2010. Over 200 CSOs from across the globe are expected to meet to endorse the *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness*. The Istanbul meeting laid the foundation for the International Framework by facilitating the adoption of the *Istanbul Principles of CSO Development Effectiveness*. This second Global Assembly will finalise the Framework as a political statement on the road to the HLF4 in Busan, South Korea, in December 2011.
46. The objectives of the Open Forum at the second Global Assembly are to:
  - (i) Discuss, analyze and get final endorsement for the *International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness*, elaborating on the guidelines, mechanisms and indicators, as well as enabling environment recommendations, based on the consultations and consensus generated from the Open Forum consultation process;
  - (ii) Mobilise CSOs and advocate around the political strategy of the Open Forum towards HLF4;
  - (iii) Explore the emerging activities and commitments at the national, regional and international levels on CSO development effectiveness;
  - (iv) Continue the multi-stakeholder debate with governments, donors and other development actors on CSO development effectiveness and the enabling environment for CSOs.

47. Pacific CSOs need to know what to do to endorse the *Istanbul Principles* and progress the draft International Framework. PIANGO will lobby to have a strong Pacific presence in Cambodia. Those CSOs attending the Cambodia meeting should also be at the HLF4. Interested Pacific CSOs should prioritise obtaining agreement from members on the development of national Codes of Conduct, preferably, before Busan.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: FOURTH HIGH LEVEL FORUM (HLF4), BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA, NOVEMBER 2011**

48. The Chair, Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member (FCOSS) introduced the session which was run by the PIANGO interim Executive Director.

49. The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) will be a milestone for international development, reflecting the collective effort by donors, developing countries and all development stakeholders to implement the international framework to improve the quality of aid: the Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

50. The HLF-4 will be held at the Bexco Convention Centre in Busan, Korea and will have the following purposes:

- (i) Draw conclusions on whether the commitments and targets set for 2010 of the Paris Declaration (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) have been achieved or not, and why;
- (ii) Draw on evidence to identify characteristics of high quality aid to be reaffirmed and taken forward towards implementation by 2015 and beyond;
- (iii) Frame actions around "aid quality in the broader context of development effectiveness" to situate the role and impact of aid in the broader development contexts, challenges and partnerships.

51. The HLF-4 will be a political event involving up to 2000 participants. It will be a multi-stakeholder event, drawing on participants from over 150 countries, including ministers, heads of bilateral and multilateral institutions, developing country governments, partners in south-south cooperation, civil society institutions, parliamentarians, local governments, foundations, the private sector, academia, environment and diverse actors and partnerships.

52. CSOs in the *BetterAid Platform*, with the *Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness*, are calling upon all development actors in the *Working Party on Aid Effectiveness* to work together for an ambitious forward-looking outcome at the Busan High Level Forum that addresses critical issues in development cooperation. Progress in three mutually dependent areas of reform is essential for a meaningful and ambitious *Busan Declaration on Development Effectiveness*:

- a) Complete and deepen current aid effectiveness commitments;
- b) Operationalise development effectiveness;

- c) Promote an equitable and just development cooperation architecture.

### ***Discussion***

53. Selection and criteria for attendees at Busan will be determined through national platforms. Nine Pacific governments will be present in Busan. It was proposed that PIFS be formally approached to include Pacific CSO representatives on government delegations. The PIFS PIC Partners meeting in July is the most important opportunity for CSOs to lobby leaders and officials.
54. Participants developed the following priorities as a way forward:
- (i) Endorse Istanbul Principles
  - (ii) Finalise the draft international framework
  - (iii) Develop a PIANGO Code of Conduct
  - (iv) Engage/formalize engagement with PIFS/Governments and Development partners
  - (v) Input into the Busan Outcome document.
55. Key dates in the Busan HLF4 process:
- (i) 14-15 March, 2011: Open Forum Global Facilitation Group/Better Aid Coordinating Group convene in Harnosard, Sweden
  - (ii) 25-26 March, 2011: Pacific Regional Follow Up Meeting, Suva, Fiji Islands
  - (iii) 3-4 June, 2011: Commonwealth Foundation Pacific Preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) Meeting, Sydney, Australia
  - (iv) 28-30 June, 2011: Second Open Forum Global Assembly, Siem Riep, Cambodia.
  - (v) 9 July, 2011: OECD Meeting, Paris
  - (vi) 11-15 July, 2011: PIFS Aid Effectiveness & PIC Partners Meeting, Nadi, Fiji
  - (vii) 6-9 September, 2011: Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand
  - (viii) 28-30 October, 2011: CHOGM, Perth, Australia
  - (ix) 30 November-1 December: HLF4, Busan, South Korea
  - (x) 29 November-10 December, 2011: Conference of the Parties (COP16), Durban, South Africa.
57. The meeting agreed to endorse the Istanbul Principles, in principle, and agreed that final endorsement would need to be given to PIANGO by April 30. In the interim, NLU's would be encouraged to seek approval/adoption of the Istanbul Principles by their members or the development of their own national Principles, bearing in mind the ideas and concepts embodied in the Istanbul Principles.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF OUTCOMES STATEMENT**

58. The Chair introduced the session and the meeting Rapporteur facilitated the adoption process of the Outcomes statement. Following discussion and agreement, the meeting adopted the Outcomes Statement, with amendments.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSING**

59. The Vice Chair of PIANGO, on behalf of the Board, thanked participants, the PIANGO interim Executive Director and Secretariat for their hard work and commitment to the meeting. The meeting was then closed with a final prayer by Mrs Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member (FCOSS).

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Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting Towards the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)

Suva, Fiji Islands  
25-26 March, 2011

**OUTCOMES STATEMENT**

***Preamble***

*The “Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness Follow-Up and Planning Meeting” for the Busan “Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)” was held in Suva, Republic of the Fiji Islands, from 25-26 March, 2011. It was attended by Australia (ACFID), Fiji (FCOSS), New Zealand (CID), Solomon Islands (DSE), Tonga (CSFT) and PNG (MNCL).<sup>9</sup> The meeting was convened by the Pacific Islands Association of Non Government Organisations (PIANGO) and funded through the Global Open Forum Consortium through InterAction - the United States umbrella NGO. Participants appreciated the attendance of the Development Cooperation Adviser of PIFS for part of the meeting.*

*PIANGO, as the regional NGO coordinating body, has the role of coordinating the Pacific CSO input to the Global CSO Open Forum process on CSO Development Effectiveness. PIANGO is also the Co-chair for the Global Facilitation Group (GFG) leading the global CSO preparations towards HLF 4.*

*The Pacific meeting was part of worldwide consultations via the Open Forum process on Development Effectiveness in the lead-up to the HLF4 in Busan, South Korea, in November, 2011. In the preparations for HLF4, CSOs are assessing whether or not government and donor commitments on CSO recognition made at the HLF3 in Accra, in 2008, have been achieved and lobbying for commitment to more effective, sustainable development assistance and NGO accountability in terms of its real impact on the lives of all people.*

**Outcomes**

The Second Pacific CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness:

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<sup>9</sup> ACFID-Australian Council for International Development; FCOSS-Fiji Council of Social Services; CID-Council for International Development; DSE-Development Service Exchange; CSFT-Civil Society Forum of Tonga; MNCL-Melanesian NGO Centre for Leadership

1. Affirmed the leading role of civil society in the Pacific, and CSOs as a primary means by which citizens and communities:
  - a) organise themselves to provide support to each other;
  - b) provide essential services to the wider population, such as health, education, youth support, and women's rights; and
  - c) work towards building systems of greater accountability at all levels of society.
2. Recognised the critical role that umbrella NGOs play at the national and regional levels in convening, coordinating and developing policy dialogue with communities, donors and governments.
3. Endorsed the *Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness* which stress human rights, gender equality, democratic participation, environmental sustainability, CSO transparency and accountability, equitable CSO partnerships, and mutual learning. The meeting noted the value of the *Draft International CSO Development Effectiveness Framework* which covers guidelines and indicators, enabling environments for effective CSO contribution to development, particularly standards for governments and donors. Pacific Island countries also contributed to the formulation of the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework.
4. Welcomed the commitment by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to collaborate with CSOs to strengthen development cooperation in the Pacific under the *Cairns Compact*. The meeting called for the implementation of actions to realise this end, specifically: "*Greater involvement of the non government sector in planning and implementation of development activities to ensure more broad based efforts to support development coordination. The following areas of improvement included:*
  - (a) *Increased transparency in partnership arrangements with government;*
  - (b) *Improved coordination within the non government sector and with government;*
  - (c) *Umbrella national non government and private sector organisations to lead in policy engagement, monitoring and reporting of aid flows and tracking the effectiveness of aid;*
  - (d) *Strengthen regional engagement strategies with regional umbrella non government entities;*
  - (e) *Coherent funding mechanisms at national and regional levels.*(Ref: Paragraph 14 (a)-(e). "*Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific – Regional Workshop.*" February 2011, Nadi, Fiji.).
5. Called on PIFS to expand its annual High-Level Dialogue between private sector representatives and Forum leaders to include other Non-State Actors (NSAs) such as CSO umbrella bodies, including PIANGO.

6. Agreed to prioritise the development of a CSO Pacific Regional Code of Conduct to promote transparency and accountability in CSO organisations, and to develop and mentor the next generation of CSO leaders.
7. Expressed concern about donor funding cuts to umbrella NGOs and CSOs across the region which have led to a loss of capacity building and governance training, both key priorities for Pacific CSOs.
8. Called upon donors to move from ad hoc project approaches, to long-term strategic partnerships, based on an analysis and planning to support civil society development in each country context, with strong, consistent resourcing and collaboration. Additionally, *Paris Declaration* commitments on donor harmonisation need to be extended to dialogue, resourcing and collaboration with CSOs.
9. Agreed on a Pacific regional approach for the “Second Global Assembly of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness” (Siem Riep, Cambodia, 28-30 June 2011) in the lead-up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan, South Korea.
10. Further agreed to strengthen CSO participation at the “Pacific Aid Effectiveness and PIC Partners Meeting” (Nadi, Fiji, 11-15 July, 2011) and the “Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting” (Auckland, New Zealand, 6-9 September, 2011).
11. In conclusion, the meeting called on governments and donors to partner more strategically with CSOs to improve development effectiveness to realise the *Pacific Plan* and achieve the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*..

Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)  
Suva, Fiji Islands  
26 March, 2011

Pacific Regional CSO Open Forum on Development Effectiveness  
Follow-Up and Planning Meeting Towards the Busan Fourth High Level  
Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4)

25-26 March, 2011

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**25 March, 2011**

- 900.930                      *Devotion*  
*Mrs. Lorine Tevi, PIANGO Board Member, Fiji*
- Welcome Remarks – Host Country*  
*Mr. Hassan Khan, Executive Director, FCOSS*
- Discussion of Meeting Objectives and adoption of Agenda*  
*– Emele Duituturaga-Jale, PIANGO Executive Director*
- 930.1030                      *Introductions, programme sharing and exchange of information –*  
*Opportunities and Challenges*
- 1030-1100                      *MORNING TEA*
- 1100.1200                      *Istanbul Principles and Draft Framework for CSO Development*  
*Effectiveness*
- 1200-1300                      *Discussions on pursuing a regional framework on CSO*  
*Accountability for Development Effectiveness*
- Presentation of ACFID Code of Conduct*
- 1300.1400                      *LUNCH*
- 1400-1530                      *Cont...Discussions on pursuing a regional framework on CSO*  
*Accountability for Development Effectiveness*
- 1530.1700                      *Discussion on Political Strategy “ The Road to Busan ”*  
1700                              *End of Day*

**26 March, 2011**

0900-1000 Proposed Auckland CSO Forum for August/September 2011

*1000.1030 MORNING TEA*

1030-1200 2011-2012 Work Plan for collaboration

*1300 – 1400 LUNCH*

1400 – 1500 Future Directions and Forward Planning

*1530 CLOSING*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**ANNEX 3**

**PIANGO Regional Meeting 25 - 27 March 2011**

**Pacific Theological College, Nasese**

No.	Participants Name	Designate	Email address	Contact Address
<b>Australia</b>				
1	Catherine Blunt	Code of Conduct Manager	<a href="mailto:cblunt@acfid.asn.au">cblunt@acfid.asn.au</a>	Australia Council for International Development, Private Mail Bag 3, Deakin, ACT 2600, Australia
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<b>Fiji</b>				
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<b>Papua New Guinea</b>				
7	Moale Vagi	PIANGO Board Member	- <a href="mailto:moalelaja@yahoo.com">moalelaja@yahoo.com</a>	P. O. Box 3405, Boroko, NCD, Port Moresby, PNG
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8	Emeline Ilolahia	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:csft@kalianet.to">csft@kalianet.to</a>	Civil Society Forum of Tonga, P O Box 644, Nuku'alofa, Tonga
<b>Solomon Is</b>				
9	Collin Ruqebatu	Secretary General	- <a href="mailto:collin.ruqebatu@gmail.com">collin.ruqebatu@gmail.com</a>	Development Services Exchange, P O Box 556, Honiara, Solomon Islands
<b>PIANGO</b>				
10	Debbie Singh	Rapporteur	<a href="mailto:deb.singh@yahoo.com">deb.singh@yahoo.com</a>	
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12	Litiana Domokamica	Admin Assistant	<a href="mailto:litiana@piango.net">litiana@piango.net</a>	P O Box 17780, Suva, Fiji
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